

**Red River Valley Baseball
General Meeting**

East End Community Club

**Winnipeg, MB
September 12, 2019
6:40 – 10:10 pm**

Summary of Action Items:

Action 1	Coaches Evaluations
Lead	Gerry and Russ
Due Date	October 2019

Action 2	Player/Parent AA/AAA Handbook
Lead	Connie
Due Date	January 2020

Action 3	Sponsorship for Code of Conduct signs for RRVB fields & Mybackcheck.com for coach background checks
Lead	C. Berthelette
Due Date	TBD (From March 2019 meeting)

Action 4	Fair Play Guidelines
Lead	Al Mozel
Due Date	TBD

Action 5	
Lead	
Due Date	

Action 6	
Lead	
Due Date	

Action 7	
Lead	
Due Date	

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Board Minutes:

RRVB Board and Community Club Representatives

Name	Present	Regrets	Name	Present	Regrets
D. Cox	X		M. Camire		X
R. Shine	X		A. Kinley	X	
C. Vines	X		S. Fox		X
C. Ouellette	X		T. Mineault	X	
A. Mozel	X		D. Woytowich		X
A. Dolhy	X		M. Peterson	X	
G. Ouellette	X		T. Maines		X
S. Vines		X	N. Plustwa		X
C. Mirwaldt	X		T. Gwynne		X
T. Mirwaldt	X				
J. Higham		X			
C. Berthelette		X			
Guests					

Agenda

Addition to New Business: 2019 Coaches Evaluations

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from March 12, 2019: G. Ouellette made the motion to approve the minutes, C. Mirwaldt seconded, approved.

Correspondence

None

President's Report:

Cox welcomed and thanked the board for all of their hard work during the baseball season.

- Recap of RRVB team accomplishments: Congratulations to East St. Paul for winning the 15U A City Championships, to the Park City Wildcats for winning the 18U A City Championships, and to the 13U AAA team for ranking first place at the Tier 2 Provincial Championships.
- RRVB hosted the Wayne Tucker Tournament, the 13U and 15U City Finals, and ESP hosted the 15U AA Provincials this season. All events were very successful and thank you to all the board members and volunteers who assisted at the events.
- Two Green Team students were hired this season; Zach and Jonah. They did an excellent job at assisting at tournaments and at provincials, maintaining the diamonds, and assisting at the Learn to Play Program. They were extraordinary ambassadors for RRVB and both have expressed an interest to come back next season permitting a Green Team grant is place.
- Cox asked board members to put forward any suggestions to help improve the current registration and tryout processes, the volunteer recruitment process, and the administration of

the AA/AAA programs. Cox reported that only a few board members volunteered at the 15U AA Provincials this season, and in the future we need to have a better turn out, in particular at RRVB events. Cox invited each board member to select a project to complete over the upcoming season to help support the continual growth of the organization.

Member Reports:

1) Secretary

- C. Vines conveyed that emails were directed to the secretary looking for information on summer baseball programs and for Fall Ball as members indicated they did not know who to contact. She suggested it may be beneficial to have a brief description of each board member's role on the website as to help direct questions or concerns to the appropriate board member.
- Project: C. Vines proposed preparing a parent/player handbook for the AA/AAA level, which would include information pertaining to the extra costs and time commitments involved with playing AA/AAA baseball, and the conduct expectations of players and parents. C. Vines will have a draft copy of the handbook completed and distributed to board members by the January meeting for review and approval prior to commencement of tryouts in March 2020.

2) 11U A and AA Convener

- Mozel expressed this was a good season, and he relayed that some coaches were looking for guidelines for implementing Fair Play. He conveyed that communication between parents and the board members were problematic at times this season, and parents may require more insight as to who they should contact on the board in particular situations.
- Project: Mozel's goal this season is to work on Fair Play guidelines and recommendations for RRVB. Further planning will be required when implementing the guidelines (i.e. facilitating communication between coaches and parents about Fair Play practices within RRVB).

3) Equipment Manager

- Mineault reported that a few teams still had equipment and jerseys to be returned. One net was lent out but the coach is tracking it down. Fall camp has some equipment at present.
- Project: To develop an on line merchandise store for the Pioneers through Kahunaverse.

4) Springfield Convener

- Peterson reported that Springfield had a very good year.
- He brought forth to the board several suggestions:
 - Coaches should be submitting evaluations of players to RRVB at the end of each year, to be kept in a perpetual player database that could be added to each season and the information used at future tryouts. Action plan not discussed.
 - That the AA/AAA teams for each age group sport the same style of jersey each season as for both teams to be identified as being at the competitive level within RRVB. Action plan not discussed.
 - That RRVB form a Competitive Committee who meets separately, thereby permitting board meetings to be more streamlined and less time focused on details specific to the AA/AAA teams. The Competitive Committee would be responsible for developing and implementing a policy on competitive play. Action plan not discussed.
- Peterson also invited the board to make use of the available diamonds in Oakbank for fall identification camps.

5) Elmwood Giants

- Successful season for both the Jr. and Sr. Elmwood Giants; the Jr. Giants were the 2019 MJBL Champions and the Sr. Giants were the 2019 Manitoba Senior AAA Provincial Champions.

- The Learn to Play Program was very successful this season.
- Chalmers is considering having a girls only Mosquito team next year.
- Chalmers plans to keep in touch with the members during the off season to help foster registration numbers for next season.
- The club is finally getting settled after the break in last fall and they are looking at putting a security system in place.
- Kinley proposed having the 18U AA and AAA teams play at the same home diamond. Tom reminded the board that the RM of Springfield recently upgraded the diamond in Dugald with the understanding that it would continue to be the home diamond for the 18 U AA team in future seasons.
- The club will be nominating Corey Gonske for Baseball Manitoba Volunteer of the Year.

6) Rally Cap

- The season went very well and the Rally Cap Jamboree was very successful. C. Ouellette conveyed that some Jamboree parents expressed interest in having a summer program; Cox suggested that for future requests, parents should be directed to the Learn to Play Program.
- Project: C. Ouellette's plan is to continue to learn and work on projects pertinent to the Rally Cap Program.

7) Player and Coach Development

- G. Ouellette reported that he and Al Suggitt have met to discuss player development. Both have expressed the need to develop a player data base to monitor player progress. The said data base would include information from SkillShark, information obtained from end of year coaches meetings, and questionnaires completed by the coaches regarding player performance during the season. Group discussion pursued, and challenges pertaining to the upkeep of an up to date player database were identified. No action plan made regarding the player data base at this time.

8) MBA Competition Committee, Umpire in Chief, Umpire Assignor

- Winnipeg Minor Baseball's next meeting is scheduled for Sept 18. Rule proposal changes to be discussed at the meeting includes having no lead offs at the Pee Wee level.
- T. Mirwaldt reported that the Winnipeg Minor scheduler is retiring.
- The Competition Committee is to meet in October and provincial hosting will be discussed.
- UIC: 42 umpires were in our league this season, which was approximately the same as last year. One umpire was fired this season, and an umpire assignor is needed.

9) Treasurer:

- C. Mirwaldt reported that as of current there was \$41,000 in the account, with \$7000 in cheques having been recently written for a balance of \$34,000. Financial records will be presented at the next board meeting.

10) Vice President

- Shine conveyed that over the past season, he helped to train and support S. Vines with the registration system and process. Shine will assist Shane Fox, Registrar with registration in the upcoming season.
- Shine asked that any coaches and board members provide him with any direct feedback pertaining to the SkillShark evaluation software.
- Project: Baseball Manitoba has moved towards online registration using RAMP. As our STACK contract is now complete, Shine will review the functionality, sustainability, and cost of using RAMP. Shine and S.Vines will meet during the off season to review the registration process and web page design.

11) 13U A and AA Convener

- Dolhy conveyed that the A/AA teams did very well this season, and he fielded several questions this year pertaining to rules.
- Fall Ball is going very well; thirteen 11U and 13U players registered this year. There has been significant coach involvement and the organizers are receiving positive feedback from the parents.

New Business

1. Baseball Manitoba AGM

- The AGM is on November 2, 2019 and will be held in Brandon this year. Cox conveyed that all RRVB board members representing RRVB at the AGM will have their travel fees reimbursed by RRVB.
- The Competition Committee and Grass Root Committee meetings are planned during that weekend and the Baseball Manitoba Awards Banquet is on November 2.
- Cox encouraged the board members to nominate candidates from RRVB for all recognized award categories; Cox and Shine will support nominations by providing letters of recommendations.

2. WABA

- Shine reported there has been a positive response to the newly developed website.

3. Outstanding Registration Balances

- Shine reported that \$ 2600 remains outstanding, primarily from the AA/AAA fees that have not been paid for to date. C. Mirwaldt emailed members still owing which significantly reduced the outstanding amount from over \$5000 to \$2600. RRVB will reach out again to those still owing via email and via telephone calls.

4. 18 U AA

- C. and T. Mirwaldt lead the discussion by relaying to the board that the coaches from this season, Kenny Blocker and Boyd Welsh, were interested in having a winter camp to continue to work with this past season's 18 U AA team.
- Group discussion regarding strategies for player and team retention ensued. Based on this discussion, G. Ouellette will meet with Kenny and Boyd to further discuss and plan the logistics of having an ID and winter camp for this age group, and ideas for team retention.

5. 2020 Provincial Hosting Applications

- Buhler Park expressed interest in forming a partnership with RRVB to submit a proposal to Baseball Manitoba to host the 2020 11UAA, 13UAA, 15UAA Provincial Championships.
- Cox outlined the specifics of the proposal with the board. The board raised concerns regarding the coverage of expenses and the profit RRVB would attain based on the proposed division of gate admission sales between both parties. Based on suggestions brought forth, Cox will make modifications to the proposal and forward to Buhler Park for review.
- Once modifications are made and if agreed upon by Buhler Park, Cox will resend the proposal with amendments to the board. At that time the board will vote on forming said partnership with Buhler Park and submitting the proposal to Baseball Manitoba.
- Provincial hosting applications are due to Baseball Manitoba by October 1, 2019.

6. New Business**a) Coaches Evaluations**

- C. Vines relayed to the board that interest in completing coaches evaluations was expressed from some parents of players on the 15 UAAA team.

- Group discussion ensued, and a decision was made to distribute coaches evaluations this season.
- G. Ouellette and Shine will update last year's evaluation form and forward to RRVB membership by October.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 pm

Recording Secretary – C. Vines

D. Cox, President