

Annual Meeting March 12, 2024

Commissioner Tom Polston called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM at the Winterberry Ballpark.

There were 76 players present.

Commissioner Polston explained that four of the five present Board members who were up for re-election submitted their names and that only one player, Gary Revall, placed his name for consideration before the March 4 deadline to submit nominations. As a consequence, there were a total of 5 candidates for 5 open Board slots making an election unnecessary.

Commissioner Polston thanked each Board member individually with special mention to Mitch Eil for his diligent work on the Senior Prom after John Toti's need to vacate the Chair of the Social Committee to care for his wife, who is quite ill.

Also, thanks to Randy Wesolowski and Craig Cunningham for their work in establishing and continually improving the Game Changer System.

Tom then spoke of the establishing of a league fund to contribute to favorite charities of members who have recently passed away. Particular mention was made of the Donald F. O'Connell Foundation.

Bill Thompson, Chairman of the Player Personnel Committee, read a letter from Ray Kane, thanking all those who helped in his recent medical issue and to all well wishers

Shortly before the meeting, the Board received word that Ray's Triple Bypass Surgery was successful and that he was resting in recovery.

In reviewing this year's applications:

There were 36 players from the 2023 season who did not return.

There were 17 new players and 19 alumni who returned.

The league rostered 212 players.

One player from out of the area was denied entry when the quota was filled.

The average age increased slightly to 70.2 years

Bill Thompson thanked this season's managers for taking on a sometimes difficult but overall rewarding and appreciated task. The league will likely lose at least 2 managers who will shift to playing status only. The Player Personnel Committee encourages all who are interested to apply for managerial positions in all divisions for the 2025 season.

Special kudos to Mick Keller, manager of Crazy Flamingo, who permanently lost 3 key players but still was able to keep his team competitive.

The season ending Senior Picnic will again be held at Mackle Park on March 21 from 3 to 7 PM. A varied buffet from Texas Tony's and live music by local favorite, The Elliott West Band, will be featured. The cost is \$50/person \$100/couple. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 18. Excess funds from last season's picnic were donated to the Food Pantry

Gary Grefer gave the Treasurer's report noting that the league was solvent. A detailed report will be presented at an October 2024 Board meeting after all Umpire and City fees have been paid.

Anyone who wishes to personally examine the books , please contact Gary Grefer.

Commissioner Polston then requested comments and questions from the membership.

Roger Fleming noted the need for more pitchers in the Gulf Coast Division.

Warren Uhl noted that one player was not drafted in any division and the apparent non-support of the individual by the Board.

Roger Fleming responded , that because of a past history of problems, managers were reluctant to draft the individual.

Joe Lazzarotti opined that the new pinch runner rule (unlimited times but only once/inning) took opportunities away from some otherwise qualified pinch runners. Rule should revert to limit of 3 pinch runs by an individual per game.

Joe also felt that the increased defensive inning requirement of 5 innings for the Island Division and 4 for Marco and Gulf Divisions hampered a manager, in that he would need to put players at unfamiliar positions. He suggested that the rule revert to 4 innings for Island and 3 innings for Marco and Gulf Divisions.

Mick Keller asked for clarification of the foul tip rule.

Gary Grefer of the Rules Committee clarified that if, in the umpire's judgment, a foul tip's trajectory changes and is caught, it is an out. If, in his judgment, a caught foul tip's trajectory doesn't change, it is not an out.

The Board will address all the above comments and concerns at one of the Spring Board meetings

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moors
Ed Caster

