

Marco Island Senior Softball Annual Meeting, March 9, 2020

Commissioner Bill Shurina called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the meeting room of The Mackle Park Community Center.

There were 69 attendees present: 29 members (37%) of the Marco Division, 27 members (35%) of the Island Division, 10 members (25% of the Gulf Coast Division and 3 others

Bill Shurina commented on the relatively small turnout (69 of 194 active members 35%), in spite of the fact that the meeting was well publicized. The number is small even as compared to last year's meeting in which 98 of 189 (52%) of the members participated.

He also took the opportunity to note that there is only a relatively small number of members who participate in the ongoing functions of the league which allow it to run smoothly. He estimated the number at about 10% of the membership.

Bill Shurina thanked John and Marie Remhoff for their always excellent job of organizing and coordinating the Annual Dinner Dance (Senior Prom), which was held on March 7 at the Marco Island Yacht Club, and which again was the highlight of the Senior Softball Social Season and was enjoyed by all.

John Rysak had the winning ticket 50/50 drawing. He then donated the winnings to the local food bank.

Candidates for the 7 open Board of Directors seats then gave short speeches. Ballots were distributed.

Charter

Warren Uhl, the Chairman of the Charter Revision Committee then gave a summary of the rewritten charter which was previously e mailed to all members. He read the accompanying Mission statement and addendum pertaining to local rules.

Motion: Tom Whitlock, Seconded, Ray Zielenski to accept the revised charter as written.
By a show of hands, the motion was **unanimously passed**.

Commissioner Shurina then opened the meeting to comments and issues from the floor.

Pitcher Protection Screen

Tom Buettner opened a discussion of the six foot by three-foot screen eventually placed 15 feet directly in front of the pitcher. He asked specifically of the leagues experience with its use in the 2020 season Gulf Coast Division games, the summer pick-up games, as well as its possible use in the Island and Marco Division games in the future.

Dan Callahan, a pitcher in the Gulf Coast Division and Butch Monson, a manager in the Gulf Coast Division then spoke in favor of the screen, stating that in their opinion the Pitcher Protection Screen was a positive innovation and did not detract from the game. Butch noted that, in fact, there were a number of double plays were carried out without disruption in the division. Although an official count was not made, it was estimated that the screen was hit about once or twice a game.

Commissioner Bill Shurina then voiced a number of disadvantages of the screen's use in the Marco and Island Divisions. He also noted that we have never had a serious injury to a pitcher from a batted ball while there have been significant injuries to players in other aspects of the game. The league also encourages the voluntary use of personal protection equipment and that all pitchers must sign a pitching waiver whether or not they choose to wear personal protection equipment.

Bill Thompson then spoke on the results of the non-binding survey that the Player Personnel Committee sent to all league members in 2019. Results showed an acceptance of the screen in the Gulf Coast Division: (12 For/2 Against /1 No Opinion/1 Other). In the Marco Division the player vote was: (26 For/24 Against/4 No Opinion/7 Other). For the Island Division the Player Response was: (29 For/29 Against/10 No Opinion/5 Other). Another segment of the input, Alumni and New Players voted: (11 For/2 Against/5 No Opinion)

Jerry Engel asked that the Board consider, in some fashion, re-evaluation of the Pitcher Protection Screen for the Island and Marco Divisions.

Playing Field Conditions.

Dave Johnson questioned the conditions of the infield, "like fielding a ball on concrete", and also noted that the outfield grass area is dry and parched.

Bill Shurina commented that he has been in touch with the Parks and Recreation representative from the city and they are aware of the situation. The infield clay which was to have been replaced over the Christmas holidays has been delayed. The sprinkler system which was malfunctioning for quite some time has finally been repaired and should shortly make a difference, at least in the outfield.

Our two groundskeepers continue to do an excellent job of daily grooming of the field within the limits of the above problems which they are faced with. One of them is out at the field on most game mornings at 5:30 AM irrigating the infield. Our issues in no way reflect negatively on either of them.

Pat Reese felt that the league should directly petition City Counsel with our grievances.

At least twice during the meeting, the ability of the league to form a 4th Gulf Coast team was mentioned by non-Gulf Coast Division members. Bill Shurina noted that this is a rather complex issue of allotted field time, scheduling, and recruitment from both Marco Island and outside communities. The Board continues to evaluate the situation and explore options.

Elected Board in decreasing order reflecting the numbers of votes received

Bill Thompson
John Remhoff
Ed Caster
Tom Whitlock
Bill Moors
Warren Uhl
Ray Kane

Please note that there was a tie vote between Mike Schwab and Ray Kane which was resolved, according to Charter rules, by a coin flip in Ray's favor. Mike will serve as alternate.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moors
Tom Whitlock