

Marco Island Senior Softball Annual Meeting

March 13, 2017

Commissioner Bill Shurina called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the Wesley United Methodist Church.

There were 127 attendees: 53 from the Island Division, 52 from the Marco Division, 18 from the Gulf Coast Division, and 4 affiliates.

Opening remarks:

The City has not increased the charge for field maintenance for at least twelve years. There will be an increase for the 2018 season. At this time, the amount of the increase has not been determined.

Election Results:

Commissioner: Bill Shurina ran unopposed.

Board of Directors Candidates:

Sixteen candidates contended for nine seats.

Tom Angelo, John DeRosa, Jerry Engle, Jim Green, Ron Irwin, Bill Kaschube,
Charlie Lamb, Bill Moors, Buff Morris, Pat Reese, Chuck Reich, John Remhoff,
Leon Schmitt, Mike Schwab, Warren Uhl, Tom Whitlock.

Elected Officers:

Bill Moors, Ron Irwin, John Remhoff, Bill Kaschube, Tom Angelo,

Tom Whitlock, Chuck Reich, Leon Schmitt, Warren Uhl

Note: John DeRosa and Warren Uhl tied in the voting for the final seat. John DeRosa then withdrew his name.

Age Limit

The age limit of applicants was raised to age 60 last year by vote of the membership. This increase in age is now presently felt to be detrimental to the league due to ageing of the membership, injuries, and applicants dropping out before the start of league play. Prior to the start of the season, the league had significantly less players

available to play than signed up, resulting in a reduction in the number of teams competing and the difficult reworking of the schedule.

Because this was a charter vote, it can only be rescinded by the membership at the annual meeting.

MOTION made by Tom Whitlock, Seconded by Pat Reese. Return the lower age limit to 55 years by the end the season involved. Further, the age limit can be adjusted between 55 and 60 years of age by the board, according to the needs of the league. Players who have ever played in the league are “grandfathered”.

The **motion passed** overwhelmingly by standing vote of the membership.

The floor was then opened to the membership comments and questions.

Time limits on games.

Several games were shortened by time constraints. In addition 4 games ended in a tie. The games were almost exclusively clustered in the Marco Division, occurring at a time when several teams had pitching difficulties. Bill Shurina, using data from the daily score sheets, showed that these games usually featured an inordinate number of walks and most likely an increased number of 3-2 counts. When these teams improved their pitching performances timed out games decreased dramatically.

The comment was made that eliminating the courtesy foul ball would speed up games.

The question was raised of mandating 7 inning games in all divisions.

The board will look at this situation critically in the off-season.

Winterberry Field usage time.

Options suggested to increase the league’s use of Winterberry Park.

- Night games

- Saturday afternoon games

- Use of the Little League Field

- Contract for use of the nearby field in Naples which the league utilizes at times during the summer

The use of Tommie Barfield during school hours is not an option.

The commissioner is in close contact with the Parks and Recreation Dept. There are times that the field is not being utilized but this is not consistent for 6 days/week, or through the three months of the Senior Softball schedule. The use of the field on

anything less than a strict schedule is also problematic because of work, family obligations, and other activities of the membership. Field prep both for the softball league as well as for the other sporting activities is also an issue.

Substitutions

2 suggestions from the floor

Establish a “farm system” among the divisions similar to the “sister team” experiment in 2011.

Allow a manager to replace an injured player with a player from another team who has the same draft status as the injured player.
e.g. If a third round draft choice is unable to play due to injury, he may be substituted for by a third round choice from another team.

It was generally agreed at the meeting that the managers in the Island, Marco, and Gulf Coast Divisions approved of the current substitution rules.

Intentional Walks. The comment was made that some players are given multiple intentional walks in a game.

Suggestion: Unless there are runners at 2nd and 3rd, a second intentional walk to a batter in any one game will incur a penalty. That may be that the next batter must also be given an intentional walk.

Financials

While not discussed at the meeting, the Treasurer provided the following information on the major expenditures by the league during the last year.

Umpires fees to 2/28/17	\$6674.00
Insurance	4605.00
Softballs	2830.72
City of Marco Island	2065.00
Refunds	1360.00
Supplies & Equipment	1355.65
New Public Address System	536.85
ASA fees	450.00
Batting Screens	399.97

There are still outstanding balances for March umpires, City of Marco Island, plaques for winning teams, and some miscellaneous expenses.

The full financial record will be made available to any member who wishes to examine the books. Please contact Bill Kaschube or Bill Shurina

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moors
Tom Whitlock