

Marco Island Senior Softball Annual Meeting and Election March 15. 2021

Commissioner Bill Shurina called the Annual Meeting to order at 3:30 PM outdoors at the Winterberry Drive Ball Park.

There were 147 members present: 59 (77% of Division members) representing the Island Division, 61 (82% of Division members) representing the Marco Division, 24 (72% of Division members) representing the Gulf Coast Division and 3 Others.

Two candidates for Commissioner, Mike Schwab and Bill Shurina made presentations as did 11 candidates for Board of Directors.

Ballots were handed out and returned to the Election Committee for counting.

Election Results

Commissioner

Bill Shurina*
Mike Schwab

Board of Directors

Tom Polston*
Ed Caster*
Bill Moors*
Randy Wesolowski*
Tom Whitlock*
Bill Thompson*
Gary Grefer*
Grady Fuller*
Dan Marinelli*
Warren Uhl - First Alternate
Mitch Eil - Second Alternate

*Elected officer

The Commissioner then asked for issues or questions from the floor.

Mike Shone spoke about a number of issues related to the Board of Directors which he felt should be considered by the next Board. He described the current situation as:

1. The Board consists of 10 members - a Commissioner and nine Director Members.
2. The Commissioner, elected by popular vote every other year at the Annual General Meeting, shall have full voting powers. The Commissioner serves for 2 years.
3. Director members, (9) elected by popular vote at the Annual General Meeting, shall have full voting powers. Director members serve a term of one year with two exceptions. The individual Director member with the largest popular vote count will be designated as the Player Personal Chair, and will serve a two-year term. The Board designated Director of Budget shall also serve a two-year term.

He then outlined the issues that he believed this system raises:

1. An even number of voting members with no tiebreaker provision can (and has) cause(d) a tie vote.
2. Process for choosing the Officers. Should the commissioner be chosen by popular vote or the Board? Should the Player Personnel Chair be the person with the largest popular vote?
3. Board member term lengths and timing-Should terms be for 2 years? Should terms be staggered, i.e., 5 one year and 5 in the next year?
4. No provision to make sure that all divisions are “fairly” represented on the Board-Should it be assured that all divisions have a Board Member? And if so, how many?

Motion: Mike Shone, Seconded Peter Karl. The new Board, that is installed on April 1, 2021 study, evaluate and then make a recommendation with proposed charter revisions that must be sent to all league members at least 2 weeks in advance of the 2022 annual meeting. The study will include, but not limited to, the following:

1. How to have a Board vote that does not end in a tie vote?
2. How should the Commissioner be elected?
3. How should the Player Personal Chair be selected?
4. What should be the length of terms? Should terms be staggered?
5. How to assure that all leagues are fairly represented on the Board?

Motion passed by Voice Vote.

There was an issue with teams losing players between the draft and opening day and as a result, being forced to play the entire season shorthanded

Motion: Dave Coward, Seconded Dan Marinelli. The Board will consider the options for teams losing two or more players before the season starts.

Passed by voice vote.

Chuck Reich then asked the Board to again consider the question of 7 inning vs 9 inning games in the Island Division.

Gary Grefer then opined that if a vote were taken, because of the difference in playing time, the question should be asked of the entire membership, rather than just the Island Division

Peter Karl brought up the issue of a fence of some agreed upon dimension to encircle the outfield.

Gregg Graycerak suggested the formation of a committee, which he would be willing to participate on or chair, to look at recruitment.

Financial: Although there are several bills yet to be paid, the League Treasury has the ability to pay them out of present funds.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Moors

Tom Whitlock

