



GLEN CAIRN LADIES SOFTBALL LEAGUE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WED. SEPT 21, 2016

THE GROUNDS CAFÉ, STITTSVILLE

7:00-9:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Executive: Erika Schom, President; Kim Kirby, V.P.; Sue Kehoe, Treasurer; Deb Ward, Statistician; Lynn Preston, Secretary

Members: Christine Anderson; Sharon Carbonette; Sherrie Larson; Robin Gyimesi; Irene Lajeunesse; Chantelle Denault; Nancy Gervais; Mandy Moskal; Shelley Clarke; Sierra Emmerson; Jamie Carruthers; Joy Thomson; Aline Lafrance; Denise Bogart; Cathy Kelly, Kimberly Medaglia; Carolyn Marcichiw; Kim Wicker; Jennifer Quinn; Linda Wilson; Tracy Scrimshaw; Step Wilson; Leah Mammoletti; Julie Rathwell; Tara English; Wendy Russell; Liz Warren; Maddie Cleroux; JoLynn Ayotte; Ruth Kadolph; Gail Nezan; Liza Regimbal; Karen Wood; Sherry Timmins; Julie Tremblay; Stephanie Quinn; Jennifer Welsh; Jay Thompson Bani Ahara; Heather MacDonald; Kim Bond; Lynn Cameron; MJ Arpin; Janice Emerson; Shealyn Emmerson;

1. **Welcome and Introductions**, Meeting Objectives. Lynn Preston thanked Robert of The Grounds for the use of their restaurant for our meeting. Erika Schom welcomed all, displayed the rules of engagement, and described the agenda.
2. **Minutes of AGM 2015**
Moved by Kim Wicker, **Second** Joy Thomson that the Agenda be accepted as presented.
Lynn reviewed the action items from last year including the need to improve the website (done to a limited extent), the use of Facebook, which needs more improvements; clarifying the use of spare pitchers, the need to purchase new equipment (done), the purchase of new t shirts.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes**
Moved by Irene Lajeunesse, **Seconded** Christine A. that the minutes be accepted as presented.
4. **Financial Report.** Sue Kehoe presented our state of finances (attached). We didn't spend all that was planned on equipment. We have over \$5,000 in the bank due to no rainouts this season, there were no cost increases from the city plus we received a major sponsorship for both tournaments.
5. **Committee Reports**
 - a) **Equipment:** Bani reported that there were some complaints about the new chest protectors and suggested each team be given the money to buy their own or that various sizes of catcher's equipment be purchased and shared by teams. There were more complaints about balls and it was recommended we look for better ones for next year. It was suggested that a good first aid



kit be left at each diamond. She reported that the league needs new bats and encouraged people to buy their own as well. Report attached

- b) Year End Banquet and Awards Committee** Christine reported the theme of this year's banquet is either `Don't Stop the Music` or `Sitcoms` as previously announced. They are looking for skits for teams to perform. She stressed the importance of getting numbers and money in for the banquet. Food is Greek on Wheels, Frankie and Johnnie are the DJs. Each team must provide one prize of at least \$20 value. There will be a dessert buffet and each team must bring at least one. Raffle tickets will be sold for a major door prize. Approximately \$100 will be spent on decorations etc for the party.
 - c) Tournament Committee** Julie T reported that all went well with the tournaments this year. Special thanks to Daryl and others for helping prepare the diamonds. She thanked Don Fournier Ltd for their generous contribution to the tournaments.
 - d) Fundraising** Lynn P reported that we made more money (\$600) in fundraising than we aimed for. While event earnings were less than anticipated, 50/50 earnings were better than expected. We will continue to do fundraising activities over the winter.
6. **2017 Executive** was presented as: Erika Schom, President; MJ Arpin, Vice President; Lynn Preston, Secretary; JoLynn Ayotte, Treasurer; Liza Regimbal, Statistician; Captains: Sherry Timmins, Christine Anderson, Robin Gyimesi, Jennifer Quinn, Erika Smith, Cathy Kelly, Leah Mammoletti, Julie Tremblay, Bani Ahara, Karen Wood.
Kim Kirby congratulated the new executive
 7. **Exiting Executive.** Erika thanked the outgoing members of the executive: Vice President, Kim Kirby; Treasurer, Sue Kehoe; Statistician, Deb Ward; Captain, Julie Rollins. They will be recognized at the banquet
 8. **President Update:** Erika reported on our achievements this year, survey results and moving forward (see attached powerpoint presentation). Achievements in 2016 included:

 - Successful fundraising efforts
 - Great weather ergo no rainouts
 - Increase in fees of \$15 from last year to offset costs of new equipment
 - Decrease in uniform costs
 - New catcher equipment purchased
 - Closer competition than other years
 - Establishment of a relationship with Stittsville Softball Association in BBQ fundraiser and donation of old equipment
 - Introduced on line registration and payment
 - New online surveys, nominations, voting
 - Establishment of a mobile app with schedules on it
 - New website implemented



Success measurements: we need to engage more volunteers, use of social media needs to be improved, a communication plan is needed, financial strength was improved and we must continue to look at new ways to do things.

She reported on the findings of the survey that was sent out. Findings include:

- 70% of league members responded to the survey
- 70% of the league is 41 years of age and older
- 73% said they were happy with the league this year, 24% were neutral
- 80% will return next year
- 62% find the competition level what was expected, 29% find it too high
- 57% find the pitching level in line with expectations
- 53% agreed to not having games on holiday Mondays
- 66% said they did not want to volunteer

There were also many comments on pitching and catching rules, inconsistency of rules, positional play and behaviour (see document for details).

9. New Business

Erika presented the new business action items that will be discussed in the off season based on input from the survey:

- Pitching Mound: use or not use
- Pitching Committee to review pitching rules and propose changes
- Should the designated catcher be reinstated?
- Pitcher and Catcher clinics over the winter?
- Better quality balls for 2017
- Better description of level of play in league for new comers (e.g. recreational but it IS fastball)
- Orientation of new players prior to play
- Raise awareness of code of conduct and implications
- Recruitment and execution plan for 2017

It was agreed that all of the above be investigated or developed in the off season for 2017

10. Open Discussion

- Fastball in relatively new to the Ottawa area so those having played at a higher level should help those not as familiar
- As a league we do not want to turn players away
- Our league players are older. We must attract younger players but not at the risk of pushing out older ones due to a sudden increase in competitiveness
- We must recruit new players but it must be made clear what kind of league we are and what level of competition one can expect. This must be defined



- For new players who may not be a good fit for our league, we must be in a position to suggest to them the other leagues in the area
- Do we want to create more teams to expand the league?
- On line registration was a struggle for some
- New players must be aware of the duration of our league play and timing of tournaments
- This year all spares and those on waiting list were used very early in the season. We need more
- Fewer women seem to be playing softball so we must be aware of that as we move forward. Sometimes pitchers and catchers are hard to find
- The draft could be based to some extent on age with each team having a good mix of ages
- Pitcher catcher rules need clarification
- Offer clinics to new players
- Use people on the wait or spare list as spares before assigned a team
- Need an open web page to discuss issues of the league
- We should obtain feedback from new players, see what kind of experience they had
- Should we include the cost of a pitcher of beer for each team (\$10) for each game in the season? This can be extra incentive to use the Kanata Sports Club after each game
- Not all were in favour of that suggestion i.e. not all drink beer
- Should we add banquet fee to the registration fee?
- We as a league must educate members on role of Kanata Sports Club and how it supports our league. We in turn should give it more support

Parking Lot items identified but not dealt with include:

- Ice packs are not useful. Should we buy ice each game instead?
- Catcher`s equipment: sizing, availability
- AYJackson equipment boxes: we`re having issues sharing with the men
- Move tournament games on Sunday to earlier in the morning on hot days
- Suggest members buy their own bats
- Consider September tournament as play off weekend
- Advertise our league in Glen Cairn Facebook pages and others



Many issues and action items were discussed at the meeting. Throughout the meeting people were encouraged to volunteer to help with some of these issues. The following people volunteered to work on issues. **ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE ARE ASKED AND ENCOURAGED TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH OPERATION OF THE LEAGUE. IF THERE IS AN ITEM YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH, PLEASE CONTACT LYNN PRESTON, SECRETARY.**

| Name | Item of Interest |
|--------------------|--|
| Karen Wood | Pitching Committee |
| Carolyn Marcichiw | Anything |
| Jaime Carruthers | Pitching, catching clinics, committee |
| Mandy Moskal | Pitching, catching clinics, committee |
| Sharon Carbonette | Social Media |
| Steph Wilson | Anything |
| Irene Lajeunesse | Anything |
| Shealyn Emmerson | Pitching committee |
| Nancy Gervais | Anything |
| Wendy Russell | Banquet Committee, Social Media, Advertising |
| Denise Bogart | Recruitment, fundraising |
| Sherrie Larsen | Recruitment |
| Julie Rathwell | Social Media and anything |
| Kim Bond | Pitching Committee and Anything |
| Jolynn Ayotte | Pitching Committee |
| Jackie Banning | Pitching Committee |
| Christine Anderson | Pitching Committee |
| Sierra Emmerson | Website |
| Joy Thomson | Liaison with other leagues, recruitment |
| Jen Welsh | Anything |

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:57