

WSSA

Board of Directors Meeting

May 12, 2020

Directors present for the Zoom meeting: Walter Aaron, David Reardon, Mike Gallagher, Tony Spataro, Skip Flynn, Joe Newcomb, and Gary Kohunsky. Commissioner Walter Aaron called the meeting to order at 5 pm.

Walter began by summarizing a call he had with Andy Johnson, New Hanover County Parks, with regard to the lifting of state/county restrictions as they pertain to WSSA when phase 2 begins (estimated to be May 26). Walter passed along that the fields will not be open until phase 2 is activated, per Johnson. Walter advised Johnson that it is essential that the restrooms be made available after May 26 before WSSA will consider play.

Tony indicated that in conversations with Coastal managers, they are eager to move ahead. He advocates that Spring Training resume for 3 days (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday – presumably May 26, 27 & 28) and then divisions draft. When phase 3 is implemented, or when conditions allow for more than 10 people gathering at one location, practices and regular season play can commence.

Tony stated that he worked up a schedule of play that begins June 1, plays through the summer months, and concludes in October with what could be a 60-game season.

It was suggested that an email be sent to those players who have attended, or signed up for, Spring Training to record their intent to play softball this season once we are given the green light to proceed. If necessary, Spring Training dates could be staggered to limit the number of people at Ogden park at the same time.

Walter indicated that more clarification is needed from the county with regard to what the number of people gathering in *one place* actually means (i.e. per individual field or the 4-field complex).

Joe Newcomb raised a question regarding our liability insurance at what it specifies as exclusions (with reference to pandemic). There was discussion about our current application and hold-harmless waiver in that the board may need to draft an addendum or create a new waiver form before players are allowed on the fields during the 2020 season.

The board felt it was appropriate to communicate now via email and website with all returning players about the current status of the fields – county and city, and to outline the fact that plans for resuming Spring Training and beginning the season are taking shape. In addition, the communication would also state that the board is evaluating acceptable social distancing practices which would be implemented during play. Finally, players should be aware that new rules and guidelines will be made and adjusted on a trial and error basis, and that being flexible will be required of all players.

There was limited discussion about this year's cancelled 25-year anniversary events and the likelihood of them being rescheduled later this year or next. Since there is so much uncertainty due to the pandemic, the only agreed-upon action to be taken by the board now is to contact those contributors who made donations to the anniversary events to explain our actions to cancel and to inquire of them if they would like to have their donations returned. Gary and David will compile the list of donors.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Kohunsky

Secretary/Procurement Officer