

## Armstrong Athletics Board Meeting

February 10, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm by President, Mike Mills.

21 AA Board Members in Attendance: Gabe Lash, Jeff Southworth, Andy Miller, Brian Shaffer, Mike Johns, Jim Morrow, Todd Dosch, Brit Blose, Ericka Atkinson, Dave Zablocki, Mandy Toy, Sean Shaner, Steven Gilliland, Hillary Morrow, Tom Scheeren, Kristen Peat, Mike Rizzo, Julie Pella, Mike Coleman, Brian Harkleroad,

- I. Julie Pella and Mike Mills presented lease for Judd Field as well as the agreement between AA and Legend for field usage. Agreements between AA and Legend was made available to be reviewed during meeting.
  - a. Armstrong Athletics has first priority on field. AA games take priority especially during playoffs.
  - b. Legend uses field on Sundays for practice and scrimmages. Legend agrees to help maintain fields and facilities. Legend asks that AA communicate gate code and provide keys for concession and shed. T. Dosch inquired about Legend contributing to mowing costs now that a company is contracted to maintain field. Pella to discuss with Legend. Legend will provide AA a proposal of other improvements they are willing to make to Judd (ie pitching mound, batting cages, etc).
- II. Mike Johns presented the idea to approach Kittanning City Council regarding usage of fields at Kittanning Community Park. Park includes baseball and softball fields, running water in restrooms, and block concession stands. Johns sits on city council board and report back to AA with more information.
- III. Gabe Lash and Kristen Peat discussed lease agreement with Civic Center. Peat reported that a Civic Center board member spoke of a longer lease agreement so that more repairs and improvements can be made to the facilities AA uses at the Civic Center (ie need running water in concession stand, etc)
- IV. Events pertaining to the merger between AA and FCYBSA
  - a. AA and FCYBSA exec board met Sunday 2/3/19 to discuss terms of merger.
  - b. FCYBSA communicated to AA a vote of 3-2 in favor of merger on 2/5/19
  - c. AA voted on 2/5/19 with a 17-1 in favor of a merger.
  - d. On 2/6/19 President of FCYBSA, Dan Pschirer and AA President, Mike Mills proposed a joint statement regarding merging. A joint meeting between FCYBSA and AA boards was scheduled for 2/10/19 in Armstrong High School
  - e. On 2/7/19 Pschirer contacted Mills and asked AA to remove the Facebook post regarding merger. The reason provided by Pschirer was regarding concerns for the process used during voting on merger and how it relates to their bylaws.
  - f. On 2/9/19 Pschirer contacted Mills stating FCYBSA would not be in attendance at 2/10/19 meeting and will not be proceeding with a merger.
  - g. On 2/10/19 FCYBSA sent the following statement to AA:

*We know this can potentially be the best move for the kids and community, however this is not the best move with the timeline given. We want to make sure this process is done correctly, and not rushed. The verbiage which was used in the voting process was not correct, as well as not specific. That alone can void a vote. As of now, we are focusing on refining our bylaws, as well as preparing for the upcoming baseball/softball season. We look forward to having positive and productive conversations in the future. Best of luck this upcoming season.*

- V. Discussion related to Boundaries between FCYBSA and AA as it relates to Pony baseball:
- a. Background Information: Historically West Armstrong operated under the premise that West Hills attendance area was within WA boundary and Lenape attendance area was within FCYBSA boundary. ARL was unable to provide a map upon the request during the 2018 Spring Season for AA to use for boundary reference during registration. Dec 2018/Jan 2019 a map was provided by ARL denoting a boundary line that runs through the West Hills attendance area. This boundary line will cause approximately 20+ boys to move from AA to FCYBSA. In January 2019 AA made a written request to ARL and FCYBSA to amend the boundary line to reflect Elementary School attendance areas. FCYBSA board did not vote to amend the boundary line and ARL did not agree with the revision without the agreement of FCYBSA.
  - b. Brian Shaffer updated board on conversation with Tom O'Conner at Pony League office. O'Conner Suggested AA create own league. Play in house games as well as approach ARL to play games within their league.
    - i. Scheeren shared concern with older pony boys not having enough teams to play in-house games if the ARL does not welcome our teams to play within their league.
    - ii. Zablocki shared his idea about approaching other organizations about playing 'out of league' games in order to get enough games for the older boys
    - iii. Pella suggested playing LL up to 13 this year and not making the move to pony with the 11/12 boys.
  - c. Mike Mills called J. Hitalski, ARL board member, during AA meeting to discuss resolutions for boundaries. Although a definite answer was not given, Hitalski suggested AA and FCYBSA present a list of players that are impacted by the boundary line to each other as well as ARL. If all 3 organizations are in agreement with the players listed, then we can proceed into the season without penalty.
  - d. Steven Gilliland made a motion for the Spring 2019 Season AA will charter T-ball teams- boys 10u through Little League. AA will form own Pony League following National Pony age cut off dates for Boys 11 and up allowing any boy in Armstrong County to play in the AA League. AA will approach the ARL to play games within their League. If ARL denies AA access to games, then AA will play in house games. Jeff Southworth Seconded the motion. 17-1 Vote in favor of motion (1 member abstained from vote)
- VI. Mike Mills shared communication from Little League regarding our registration process and the number of teams that AA will charter. Mills will call LL, but concern should be resolved.
- VII. AA and FCYBSA are still in conversations regarding combining softball players into joint teams for the spring 2019 season. Todd Dosch made a motion that AA will proceed with merging the USA softball teams within AA and FCYBSA. Dave Zablocki seconded the motion. 19-2 vote in favor of the motion.
- VIII. Upcoming Dates:
- a. Opening Day- Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> (Mandy will file paperwork for ASD facility request)
  - b. Player Evaluations Dates- BOYS: Sunday, March 10 8am start/ GIRLS: Saturday, March 16 1am Start.
- IX. Appointments/Resignations
- a. B. Blöse made the request to resign as Player Agent.

- b. Jeff Southworth made a motion to appoint Steven Gilliland to player agent. Todd Dosch seconded the motion. 18-0 vote in favor (1 member abstained from vote)
- c. Gabe Lash made a motion to appoint Brian Harkleroad to a board position in the ARL. Jeff Southworth seconded the motion.

X. Fundraiser Updates

- a. Tentative plans for team pictures. Atkinson in conversation with L. Johns photography about April 27<sup>th</sup>. Indoor venue not secured to date.
- b. Mandatory Fundraiser- Through vendor, Sean Zippie. Each child would have to sell 3 tickets at \$10/ticket

XI. Facility Updates

- a. Lash and Dosch purchased one shed with dimensions 4x8x8 for Pawkovich field storage.

XII. Communication

- a. AA has been using a secure communication tool Slack to support on-going conversations among board members in between board meetings. All board members have been invited to join Slack via email.

XIII. Future agenda item:

- a. Policy/agreement for travel teams using AA facilities.

XIV. Next Meeting Sunday, 3/3/19 at 7pm

XV. Motion Made to adjourn meeting at 9:20pm by Coleman/Harkleroad.

Respectfully Submitted: Mandy Toy