

April 11th S&F Minutes

Jim Maguire, Pres. opened the meeting, with all member communities present.

- The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written.
- The Treasurer reported the current balance of \$841.41 after all seasonal awards were presented. This amount nicely exceeds our budget plan of over \$500.
- The Divisional winners for the 2015-16 season were announced:
 - Div 1 - Del Webb
 - Div 2 - Water Oak
 - Div 3 - Holiday Travel
 - Div 4 - Hawthorn
 - Div 5 - Pennebrooke
 - Div 6 - Continental CC
- The group acknowledged the contribution of our web master, Maryann Bubelnik. We all understand the need for this critical communication link. Maryann asked for any suggestions or areas for improvement be brought to her attention; the system is adaptable.
- Jim DeLucia reported the Del Webb post season tournament was a success.
- The Summer Glenn 70's tournament was won by the Plantation at Leesburg team with a 3 and 0 record. SG suggested that if any other community that would like to sponsor the event, let them know. A request was made to improve the communications about the tournament with more advance notice.
- The Division Reps reported on each Division:
 - Div 1 – OK
 - Div 2 - A very competitive Div; it went well
 - Div 3 - A slow start and once changes (i.e., team's movement) were made mid-season, OK
 - Div 4 - Ok, except for the neck injury incident. One team dropped.
 - Div 5 - Ok, no problems
 - Div 6 - OK, but some problems with teams not reporting results.
- A better definition of responsibilities for Park Reps, Divisional Reps, and Managers is in the works; Don Sprout to follow and will be posted on the web site..
- A Divisional Review Committee has been formed and consists of our Pres., VP, and several Division Reps and Park Reps. This committee will meet beginning in Sept. with the objective of eliminating the many hassles that have historically occurred in October. The final committee membership will be announced soon by Jim M. Future proposals for changes in divisional alignment should be address to Jim M. and he will bring them to the committee. See Maguire's email on this subject for additional details.
- We will have a S&F Summer season again this year. We agreed to begin the third week of May with five or six teams and finish the first part of August with time off over the Fourth of July holiday. There will be no makeup dates. The teams included are Del Webb, Stonecrest, Water Oak, Spruce Creek, Summer Glenn (? maybe?) and Plantation. Final rosters to Jim M. by early May; via email and he'll distribute. If a player who wants to play doesn't have a team contact Jim M. Games will be played on Tuesday and Friday mornings. See Maguire's email on this subject for additional details.

- The Easton bats that have been outlawed by ASA will not be permitted in our League. We will stick with the use of ASA approved bats only.
- We voted to allow pitchers screens at the pitchers option. We further voted that a ball that hits the screen is a dead ball. Additional rules will be issued to define the screen size, location relative to the pitchers rubber and pitchers position relative to screen after the pitch. These rules will apply to the entire League; i.e. all Divisions. Jim M. will distribute info on where to purchase the approved screens. See Maguire's email on this subject for additional details.
- An Umpire Review Board has been created. This is the result of many complaints across the League. If there is a problem, the community; in most cases a team manager, involved must submit a written summary to Jim Maguire with copies to the Division and Park Reps. Jim M. and Don Sprout will screen all complaints and submit them to the Committee as needed, if the situation is not handled at the local level. If there is a second complaint in two years, the Committee will recommend action to the Community involved. If more three complaints in two years, the League will require that Umpire be suspended for two years. See Maguire's email on this subject for additional details.
- It was reiterated that the Umpires need to control the game with includes knowing the rules, and taking action when required. There was an agreement we need more umpire clinics with actual walk through examples of various situations. Jim M. will follow up to set these up.
- We agreed to abide by the rules and use a strict interpretation of the existing League and SSUSA rules.
- We agreed to a six Division League for next season. Jim M. proposed a starting point based on the results of last season with movement of the Division's last and first place team up or down according to our existing rules. If there is a problem with the "starting point", a written request should be sent to the Divisional Review Committee via Jim M. Their decision will be final and complete by the end of September.
- We agreed to a mid-season (Christmas break) Divisional adjustment with approval of the S&F Seeding Committee. A request for this realignment should be made through your Park Rep to Jim M. for the Committee consideration.
- The Flip Flop rule was reviewed and there appears to be some continuing misunderstanding. We'll need to include this rule in the upcoming umpire's clinics.
- Al Smith, Stonecrest, presented a realignment proposal for future consideration. He proposes we have three Conferences and North and South Divisions. He suggests this will deal more effectively with the travel issues we have all heard about. Further, he proposes we have three partial season: fall (Sept to Dec.), winter (January to March), and spring (April to June). This would allow those communities that have late snowbird arrivals to adjust their participation. This proposal will be referred to the S&F Seeding committee.
- A proposal to allow runners to overrun second and third base in all cases (to avoid injury) was not approved.
- A proposal to allow use of Trump (cheaper and travels further) vs Zulu balls was not approved.
- All proposals for rules changes should go to the Rules Committee via the Park Rep.

- The League will continue to define residence as it has in the past. A player who resides in a member community cannot play in another member community if the residential community has a team, without a special exception.
- The next League meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 1 pm at Continental CC. There will be a second meeting in later October; date to be defined.

Paul Carfagna and Jim Maguire for Greg Alms; Secretary