

# SUN CITY SOFTBALL CLUB

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 1, 2024

Magnolia Hall - 6 pm

### AGENDA

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Holly Meckley

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:** Joe Bullock 115+ in attendance

**APPROVAL OF THE December 14, 2023 MINUTES:**

Motion to approve: Andy Neely Seconded: Don Noviello

Holly asked for anyone new who had just joined the club, An ovation occurred as Holly welcomed the new members. She then asked the attendees for their preference for morning or night meetings. The evening timeframe was overwhelmingly requested.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jack Leahy reviewed the financials providing the final numbers for 2023 and the first month's results for 2024. Jack went line by line over the ins and outs of money for the club. \$129,785 in cash receipts reported to Lifestyles, with disbursements of \$106,328. We had an excess of \$23,457 over disbursements. Started 2023 with a balance of \$50,181 and ended at \$73,638. January closed \$33,170 receipts. The ending balance for January is \$79,721.

#### Sun City Softball Club

#### Statements of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2023 and Month Ended January 31, 2024

Cash Receipts		
Concession sales	\$64,536	\$ 60
Banners	18,899	19,295
Sponsors	11,400	4,700
Dues - Current Year	9,105	2,080
Dues - Next Year	10,030	-
Social Events	15,365	7,035
Miscellaneous	<u>449</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>129,785</u>	<u>33,170</u>
Disbursements		
Concession Costs	51,317	1,740
Team Costs	24,082	12,878
Travel Teams	5,262	1,200
Field Maintenance	8,623	72
Social Events	13,692	8,994
Other Expenses	2,740	1,306
Banner Expenses	<u>612</u>	<u>897</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>106,328</u>	<u>27,086</u>
Excess Cash Receipts over Disbursements	23,457	6,084
Cash, Beginning of Period	<u>50,181</u>	<u>73,638</u>
Cash, End of Period	<u>\$73,638</u>	<u>\$ 79,721</u>

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

547 Total Members: at this time last year we had 485 members and finished the year with 553

498 Full Members

49 Associate Members

407 Men

383 Full Members

24 Associate Members

140 Women

115 Full Members

25 Associate Members

**RECOGNITION:** Holly Meckley

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Holly Meckley

**Game Day Committee** - duties explained (see PowerPoint) and mentioned to the membership that a new chair for the committee is still being sought.

**Equipment Managers** - Ken Abshier & Roger Seitz recognized

**Social Committee** - Lorraine Maggiacomo, recognized for her work along with her social committee was also recognized for all the work they did on our annual dinner dance and banquet. Communicated our picnic is scheduled for May 19th at the pavilion.

**Hotdog Program** - Rick LoBue spoke about our new offering of chili & cheese dogs for \$3. Moved away from the grilled onions, raw onions will be offered. Adding new condiment dispensers, to improve the way we fill our dispensers. Opening day is February 24th and the 27th is Weichert Hotdog Day. He is working through the schedule right now to finalize the team and shifts and it will be shared with the managers. He is always looking for volunteers and has had 'chili makers' step up and ask if they could make chili. If anyone else is interested in making chili he is interested in hearing from you. Holly then recognized Rick and his team for doing everything they did and continue to do for this program.

**Field Maintenance & Prep Teams** - All members were recognized for all they do to keep the field in great shape for us to play ball. She recognized all team leads for their work in this area: Steve Murray, Dave Rickman, and Jolene Seitz.

**Player Development** - Don Noviello is the new Chair and he spoke about the program. He communicated they had a few hiccups with the field scheduling due to the pre-season practice schedule but he is happy to announce we will be running the program the next 3 Fridays: 2/9, 2/26, and 2/23, and then will pick it back up on Wednesdays starting 2/28. Encouraged anyone who wants to work out and get better to come out. Club Ratings will now be done by a subset of the Player Development Committee. They have worked out a program where they plan to watch you for two or three weeks and make sure you are ready to play and be rated. The committee of 4-5 will be looking at the players every week and when it comes time to rate will invite the managers to come out to view the rating sessions and take their notes on the players. Reach out to Ron Hidendbrand if you have any questions about the program. The plan is to still separate the women's session from the men's session.

**Q:** Has there been any discussion about having sessions scheduled for those who work?

**A:** It's hard to please and meet the needs of everyone. We understand that some members work, we held weekend sessions three times last season and the attendance was low. We had more

instructors than attendees. We may try to schedule a few weekend sessions in the Spring if field time permits.

**Umpire in Chief** - John Meckley, announced he held the first of two umpires meetings scheduled. He also announced a few new umpires have joined the crew as well as a couple of returning umpires. Returning this season are Bob Black, and Bill Wagner. The new umpires are Troy Willard and Mike Maguire. He also stated that umpires are willing to umpire scrimmage games but would prefer a scrimmage were run as a normal game, meaning 3 outs an inning instead of teams batting their whole lineup. He does have a couple of umpires willing to do those types of games and encouraged managers to reach out to him to schedule an umpire for those activities.

He announced a couple of rule changes. The Weekend League is moving to a 12" ball, ladies are allowed to slide, and the 12-run rule is in effect for all leagues. Also in the Weekend League, all outfielders are required to be behind the 160-line until the ball is hit. If a team manager believes a player was in front of the 160-line before the hit he must appeal to the base umpire. If the umpire sees it they can make the call.

There will be seven games on Saturday and the umpires are asking how are we going to keep these games moving, we can have pitchers only have 1 practice pitch, disallowing practice between innings after the first inning. The umpires are asking all players and managers to keep things moving. John mentions encouraging all managers to have their teams arrive early. They would like to at least early in the season to start games early if required players are in attendance. Three umpires were requested but he is moving forward with scheduling two umpires if a third is in attendance and willing to volunteer as a third umpire.

**Q:** The short fielder rover position was removed but it wasn't reflected in the recent rules update.

**A:** Edie had yet to update the most recent approved verbiage as submitted from the weekend league to the Rules Committee. It has since been updated and posted to the Website.

**Q:** How far back may an infielder play?

**A:** An infielder can play anywhere on the field including the outfield grass at any depth according to USA softball rules.

**Q:** Will the lines be painted before the start of the season?

**A:** Yes, they will be painted and maintained by the Field Maintenance team.

**Member Comment:** The intent of the rule to move outfielders including the rover behind the 160-line was to eliminate the rover position. The rules document update did not reflect that there should be no shifting of fielders from the infield to the outfield which results in a fielder playing in a location that used to be considered the rover position. There were additional comments made by managers in attendance that they did not rule to prevent an infielder from shifting into the outfield strategically. John the UIC, said he will review the wording of the rule and enforce it as written.

This may require a follow-up with the Weekend League CC to ensure the rule was written as intended.

**Rules Committee:** Holly mentioned we have been discussing this at our Board meetings. The thought is that a rule affecting a particular league would go first to the CC of the league for their review if they feel it's feasible they submit it to the rules committee for review and then based on their comments and recommendation it would then be submitted to the board for final approval.

**Banner Committee:** He thanked his committee for their work on the committee. This year was a tough year between Thanksgiving and the 2nd week in Dec we had 5 sponsors not renew. Bob scrambled and found 5 new sponsors and banners were acquired and hung by January 4th. The revenue from the banners is a lot of money. To make it a little easier, when you visit a banner sponsor, first it would be great to utilize their services and mention that you saw their banner on the outfield fence at Sun City, so they know they got your business as a result of their banner sponsorship. It goes a long way when he goes back to the sponsor to renew and the sponsor say they have received a few clients because of the banner.

**SIDE NOTE:** Bob mentioned the protective net for the pitchers is in disrepair and as a result, a fellow pitching member took a blow to the head after a ball ricocheted off the bar threw the sagging net. He motioned that a new pitcher's screen be purchased and it was seconded by Ron Siebert. Holly took the opportunity to say she was there when the pitcher was hit in the head and as a result started researching right away a possible solution.

**Member Comment:** A new net was ordered for the current pitcher's protective screen. Since the meeting, this has been researched and is in the hands of the Equipment Manager who has ordered a version like below.



Holly mentioned how important it is to utilize our sponsors she stated our announced games will highlight banner sponsors and encouraged all to utilize them for services and when you do let them know you heard about them via the softball club banner or announcements. It truly does go a long way in ensuring we maintain our sponsors. She also mentioned we lost a few team sponsors this season because the sponsor was never kept informed of how the team was doing. She encouraged managers to build a relationship with their sponsor and keep them informed, invite them to a game, buy them a hotdog, or at minimum email them the game schedule and reach out to them on occasion, to let them know how much we appreciate their sponsorship and how the team they sponsor is doing. She also mentioned if you are a manager and don't want to perform those duties let her know so that she can address it.

**First Aid and Player Safety Committee:** Holly once again thanked Lyn and Dennis McGuire for keeping our supplies up to date. She also mentioned Lyn and Dave Willis held training sessions on the AED machine and CPR. The numbers were not good they only filled 2 of the 4 sessions. Holly

encouraged members to attend those sessions, we need to know how to use that equipment as you never know when you might need to use it.

**Q:** Any interest in holding a refresher class?

**A:** Lyn had mentioned to the Board holding a few refresher courses, but they have not been scheduled yet.

A statement was made that there are AEDs all over the neighborhood and in most public buildings around the area. The training is very useful because you never know when you may be able to assist in saving someone's life.

## **LEAGUE UPDATES:**

**Tue/Thu League** - Tom Battaglia spoke on behalf of the Tue/Thu Competition Committee. He thanked Bob Black for all of his years of service to the club as a Tue/Thu CC member. He communicated the Tu/Th league is fielding 9 teams. Culminating in an 8-team double elimination tournament. Dynamic Dentistry is a returning sponsor now managed by Tab Adkins. Two new managers were added to the league Kevin Thompson for Mark Winn and Don Noviello for Weichert Realtors.

**Weekend League** - Shannon Bullock spoke on behalf of the Weekend League Competition Committee. The weekend league has new CC members, Bob Timpe, Dave Rickman, Jean Esteve, Ralph Rumble, and John Clarke.

### **Registration Update:**

228 people registered for the Saturday League (179 Draft | 49 Sub Pool)  
120 Players Drafted to 10 teams in the Eastern Conference  
47 Players were Drafted to 4 teams in the Western Conference  
73 Players in Sub Pool (including late additions after registration closed)

### **New Playoff Format:**

**East Conference** will be playing a Double-Elimination Playoff, whereby the Top 8 teams will make the playoffs. The players on the two teams who do not enter the playoffs can elect to enter the Sub Pool which will be utilized once regular Sub Pool players are exhausted.

**West Conference** will be playing a longer 12-game Regular Season and a Single-Elimination Playoff.

Both Conferences will have trophies for the winner of their Championship. In addition, we're adding a new title & award plaque for Regular Season Conference Champions.

New sponsors were acquired and referenced in the PowerPoint presentation.

**Q:** Kathy Arbing sent a request regarding the double-elimination format and the fact that the lowest 2 teams' records will not be included and asked why the CC has yet to respond.

**A:** Dave Davis just went out for surgery and the CC acts as a team, they have discussed it but communication typically comes from the chair and he has not gotten around to it yet. Shannon went on to explain the reason for the double-elimination format the way it was communicated with a 9-game season and then a double elimination format for the top 8 teams in the Eastern Conference was they want every game to mean something to the players. They have heard all too many times managers or teammates say this game doesn't matter it only matters once we get to

the payoffs. The CC along with the majority of the managers wants that mentality to shift so that every game DOES matter.

A lively discussion ensued about the format and the fact that not all teams will make the playoffs.

**Member Comment:** The CC may be short-sighted in making the statement that all sub-pool players have to be exhausted before a drafted player from the bottom teams is eligible for the playoffs.

Holly mentioned how large the club is becoming and the fact the Weekend League CC took this on to give everyone a place to play is appreciated.

**WSL - Leslie Joseph** the CC Chair spoke, they are off to a great start we had 4 teams drafted and we were thinking we might have 5 teams. On Monday night they had their kick-off party. Every season they pay tribute to Peg Welch honoring one of our own with The Peg Welch Team Spirit Award and this year's recipient was Deb Daugherty. Applause in Deb's honor.

Their annual Try It Day was moved to the rain date. They had 40 signed up for the original date and 24 attended the rain date. Noted of those that attended 12 registered for the club and sign up for the league.

Pitcher development is something the ladies' league still works hard on. Before the draft, the practice time was used for pitcher practice to give them live experience as well as pitching clinics/practice at the pitching practice area. We have eight women volunteer for guest pitching for the league.

The two new members of the WSL CC are Jennifer Prell and Sue Summers. They are looking forward to a great season, come out and support them.

#### **FIELD SCHEDULING:**

Joe Bullock spoke indicating during the pre-season, we are utilizing all available time for practices. The schedule is fair and balanced as much as could be. Joe worked with all CC Chairs to get the schedule to meet their needs.

He also noted that during the season if you see an open field slot, feel free to reach out to him to request the time.

**Q:** Why does Tu/Th get so much field time

**A:** This was an inherited system and traditionally Tu/Th got more practice time upfront in pre-season because they never practiced during the season, but last season they were given 4 hours weekly. That is true, each of the 8 teams was given 1 hour every other week. Joe did say changes are required and it will be looked at going forward.

Statement about the Instructional Group being given field time but it was not updated on the schedule. Joe responded that it was updated and posted. The Instructional program was given on 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, and 2/28 in February.

**Q:** Is it correct that some weekend teams will be practicing during the week, in the early morning?

**A:** Yes, after speaking with the Weekend CC and offering them the time, they did elect to take the time and schedule practices for teams.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Holly Meckley

Report on Capital Projects - concession stand, picnic area canopy

Holly has been working with Facilities Management on this project for over a year. She is working to refine the estimate and it will be put out to the club for a vote once this is achieved.

**Q:** Have we consulted with local laws about Licensing or OSHA regulations etc?

**A:** The classification of the building is not changing, the building is not changing to a kitchen as a result of the build.

A lot of talk about the project itself. Comment made we just need refrigeration and storage. We would like to have a much nicer area for our Hot Dog Duty team to make their life easy.

Lowcountry Pickleball tournament April 3-5, can we make sure it is a hot dog day? We confirmed this is a hot dog day!

**Q:** Lights for the field, is that still an option?

**A:** Mitch stated it is still being discussed, Jack Leahy was in a neighborhood meeting with Brad Philips in attendance. Brad mentioned that the lights were still not out of the question. Mitch commented \$179K for lights was the last estimate.

**Q:** Why do Pulte and the association expect us to pay for improvements?

**A:** Holly stated, that all clubs are being asked to fund some of their own projects.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Holly Meckley

Softball Club still needs volunteers - Committee members

Adhoc League Re-engineering Committee - Holly Meckley

Plans for the Summer - Holly, all plans are on hold due to a field closure for June & July.

Membership was very curious about what they would do when they closed it. Holly said she would share with the membership what the plans are.

See Below statement from Common Area Maintenance:

Below is an outline of what is to come:

- As a reminder, communications pertaining to the closure will be emailed beginning late February, and again in March, April, and May.
- The field will close on Monday, June 3, 2024
- Mowing will take place as usual each Monday
- A comprehensive irrigation audit will take place the week of June 3rd
- Aeration will take place on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>
- Light top dressing will take place the week of June 10th
- Fertilization will occur the week of June 17th
- Complete turf rest for the week of June 24th

July will be a repeat of June.

**Member Comment:** Weichert Hot Dog Day: tighten up the rules on how to handle how we issue hot dogs to residents who state their spouse is in the car or unable to get in the line. Holly said we will come up with a plan.

**Q:** Back in May Tom DaParma's committee submitted some recommendations and the question was were any of those implemented?

**A:** Joe stated we are trying to make the club better as we go.

**Member Comment:** Statement made about transparency. The membership wants to know upfront, not after-the-fact things that are decided.

**Q:** Is there going to be a re-engineering committee?

**A:** A small Committee is being discussed and we have to decide on the exact requested deliverable.

Concern was voiced over the women's program being dissolved. Edie stated that there is no way we are looking to do away with the WSL. Several dedicated members fought hard to develop the women's program and ultimately the league and as long as we have enough women involved to field at least four teams it will remain a league.

The League restructuring committee created in 2023 consisted of ~26 members. Among the suggestions was to have like-rated players playing with like-rated players. However, the only adopted recommendation was to attempt to form a Community League. However, with fewer than 20 interested members, it was hard to put together a successful program.

**Member Comment:** The ladies do not mind the different levels playing together in the WSL.

#### **AWARDS & RECOGNITION:**

Kathy Arbing presented a gift of appreciation to Ward Litzenberg for his countless hours at the field, so we have countless hours of memories. Thanks for all you do! Holly commented Ward goes above and beyond supporting the club with video slide shows for our banquet and picnic and other special events.

**Member Comment:** Chuck Hasenauer should be awarded for his work on the Camera. Chuck then gave a brief camera update. He noted the first camera was installed one year ago this month (February). We have gone through 2 generations of cameras so far. The manufacturer replaced the latest camera for the audio issues we were having. The replacement camera has eliminated the audio issues but not the video glitching. He is testing a new source solution and is hoping it fixes some of our issues. Early testing has shown: 1) video glitching is gone; 2) the clarity of the new feed is occasionally dropping from High to Low; 3) the audio falls behind the video; 4) the blinking scoreboard still exists and is unlikely to be resolved until we get a different camera; 4) we continue to investigate getting a hardwired ethernet run to the camera's location. That may solve some or all of the remaining issues as well as open up the ability to choose from a wider array of cameras. A meeting with Hargray is scheduled for 2/13 to discuss this possibility.

**Travel Team Update:** The 70's men's travel team took 1st in the Tournament of Champions in Tampa, FL. With Ted Creekmore winning the MVP, Bob Black, Gary Bechelli, and John Costabile to All-World Team honors.

#### **Q & A and Other Discussions:**

**Member Comment:**



A statement was made that a lot of decisions were made in the Weekend League by the 6-member CC without the input of the league members themselves. A suggestion: that CC members be voted on instead of appointed so they get the right representation speaking on behalf of the league membership and not just a few.

The statement was made that when a field announcement states the field will be reassessed at a specific time, please try to abide by the time as member groups are awaiting the update. Holly said we need to do a better job on that.

Comment made that a mass email went out to those who did not get drafted in the Eastern Conference and everyone was CC'd. Suggested better attention to detail when communications go out to avoid this type of communication in the future. The Board agreed.

**Player Development Steward:** spoke up asking CCs if they have anyone that needs to be rated we will work to get it achieved.

**Official Scorekeeper program for Weekend and WSL:** has been taken on by Pam Harms. Thank you to Pam for volunteering for that effort. Pam asked for anyone interested in becoming a scorekeeper to reach out to her and she is getting those individuals trained. Thank you to all who volunteer for this important effort.

**Member Comment:** Thanks for all you are trying to get accomplished. We still need announcers so anyone who would like to contribute in this way, feel free to reach out to Holly or Edie and let them know. Holly stated the schedule would go out and a request for volunteers to sign up. We will try to get all games covered but if not we are not going to sweat it.

**Q:** Why do we still have different rating systems?

**A:** The variables present in each league make it difficult for one rating to be used. We don't have an easy answer to the question, although we know it does exist. (e.g: 160-line in both the Weekend League & WSL, the 11" ball, and use of a short fielder in the WSL)

**ADJOURNED @ 8:15 pm:** Motion by Ron Hildenbrand, Seconded by George Kalogeris

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOW-UP:**

The Club Picnic is scheduled for May 19th at the Pavillion - the social committee is at work planning the event.

The next General Membership Meeting will be August 1st at 9 AM - Pinckney Hall Ballroom