

Executive Meeting Minutes

How: Virtual

When: Monday, February 6, 8:00pm

Who: Mabel League Exec

Ashley Fehr (Chair), Nat Gingerich (Co-Chair), Grace Mathisen (Secretary), Jaydeen Williams (Treasurer), Malloreigh Hamilton (Statistician), Amy Adams (Registrar), Kate Peterson (Fields), Jay Geernaert (Social Media), Cynthia Beebe (Member-at-Large)

1) Call to Order 8:00 am

a) Land Acknowledgement

2) Treasurer Report (Big Congratulations to Nat for getting the CPRA: Reaching Each and Every One Grant!!!)

a) Grant discussion and Growth of the League

- a. Nat is having a meeting later this month with the grant distributors about how the \$20,000.00 will be used. We can probably make reasonable adjustments. How will we meet our commitments within this league. Our access to fields is limited this year, as we have an estimated 20 teams. 18 teams was already a stretch for being able to book fields, as we compete with other leagues for booking diamonds. We could potentially use the money to play at non-traditional facilities. We have 75-80 league games secured, but this doesn't include rain-outs. We will try to grab as many as we can on the 14th.
- b. Other ways we could use the grant is to create clinics for queer youth, subsidizing every plater in the league, or potentially offering equipment upgrades. We could also use the money to play in non-traditional facilities. There's also the possibility of a reconciliation audit.
- c. Financial barriers are real regarding potential players who may not be able to pay team fees. We could help with the subsidy. A lot of teams still need new players.
- d. Can we put aside an amount of money to earn interest? We have to spend the grant but what about our existing money? Grants you have to spend. The Mabel endowment? *Have a conversation with Gulf and Fraser for this.* We have no investment policy. We'd need something registered. Can we put together a committee for how to spend the grant money?
- e. Should that sub-committee be the same as the community fund or is it separate? Nat, Jaydee, maybe Amy, Cynthia. Then they will have a sub-committee. Limited by the scope of our season. We can also choose to run a season as per usual and then use the \$20,000.00 to give back to teams or give to someone else. There is a lot that we can spend on, catcher's gear and better gear. They'll know more when they hear from Noelle.

b) Bank account access: Jaydeen is already on it. Ashley and Grace are getting on it.

c) Participation points: Rebels (107), Fruit Forward (54), Mood Swings (40),

Action Item: Ashley to fix formula in the google sheet version. The upload is having issues. Team Rep meeting will want to know their fees.

3) Sponsorship Package:

- a) Nat got curious about fundraising, put together ways to solidify ourselves in the community. We have Abbeys, but could we get more. Maybe we could distribute these packages to broaden our community connections. What other places could help us out and give us more access to gear? Different areas for more visibility. Can our relationships with sponsors be symbiotic? They could get shoutouts on socials. They would have an opportunity for activation at our events. The value of their sponsorship is worth x amount. We can improve the experience of the league and finding more resources could be more helpful. This is a great start. Our conversation will be different with each sponsor depending on how we could spend the money. We can tell them how we typically spend our money. Current package is missing how we spend the money. Jaydeen would love to see it before it's sent out. Could ask the league to get people's opinions on how we could spend extra money if we had it. Nat loves this idea. We may already have contacts within the community who would be interested.

Action: Jaydeen will give the sponsorship package another review. The deadline to send it out is within the next two weeks.

4) Division Changes Follow Up

- a) Are we beholden to 18 games per team or is there flexibility on that, if needed? Yes, there is flexibility.
- a) Playing up/down rule - how to handle with 4 divisions. No one has an issue that we would split into 4 divisions. Idea is popular with longstanding players. Bylaws don't need to be formally changed to split into four divisions. Either fewer teams, or fewer games per team might be a necessary compromise regarding scheduling.

Competitive can only play one league down. How will interdivisional play work? Nat likes the current rule because intermediate teams play down and up, lower intermediate will play exclusively down, means competitive should never be there. Injury is way more likely between largely different experience levels. Rule is teams can only play down one division. We will need to inform teams especially with the new division structure. A couple of folks will be affected by this. Loophole is double players make their lower team their primary team. This rule is for safety for subbing.

No more than 4 of your players can be on more than 1 team. Mandatory 18 games is not in the rules either. Regarding the expansion of the league, we might have to enforce these rules going forward.

Growth of the League

We're trying to create more room for people to join. It will be nice to have the data. We can pull this from SPN, the country across the sea and the sworn enemy of Florin.

We all like how the potential division is for 20 teams. Heartbreakers would have moved up to intermediate, but Bat Intentions after their performance last year should move up a division. Heartbreakers could have more cross divisional games. Malloreigh made the call that 5 would be the max amount you could play a single team, otherwise the top and bottom teams are playing mostly the same teams, we all agree with this.

There's no 21st team. There's a waitlist at this point for new players, approximately 7 of whom could be playing at an intermediate or competitive level. If teams need more, Hummingbirds is one team that may have issues getting more players. Pia is looking for both Sway teams. Cynthia

has friends who want to join. QVH is looking. TBD and Plan B we need a follow up on if they're coming back.

Competitive division always has a hard time finding enough players. This was a sticking point for the Wombats. We want to increase the quality of play/ keep it high, risk of losing players is highest in competitive. Retirement is also a consideration. Encourage competitive players to stay on the list because they are in short supply. Other potential new team would want to be intermediate. We also rely on returning teams knowing their own skill level and us knowing how they can play.

Majority of players who get in touch have no experience. Encouraging new growth is really a question about how many fields we get. New teams isn't a huge wrench.

Forming new rec teams is really important for creating inclusion for the league, but it's not easy. It requires a huge amount of commitment to train new players, as well as having the rare people that step up to be Team Reps, which are vital for new teams. Of the 60 people who signed up as new players last year, only a few committed to being Team Reps for the new rec teams. If no one commits to being Team Reps, there's no new teams. It's also requires time and labour from coaches/leadership/members of the league to train new players in the game, as well as administration for forming the teams. Ashley individually emailed everyone on the registrar list last year which is how they formed Hit Happens.

- a) Mal present matchups draft for group review.
Unanimous agreement for A, B, C, and D. The divisions are officially renamed.

5) Fields

- a) Connaught
Connaught is booked separate. Field bookings are the weekend of the 21st. Folk fest is no longer happening so we can try to snatch those up. SPN we figure out after the first Team Rep meeting.

6) Events

- a) Meet Mabel: It's all set up. 2 different ticket colours for alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. We had 80 people last year. There will be a table at the front for check in. Drink ticket. Balloons for team names would make it easier. Thanks Jay for your time on this! When do we promote this? Ashley gave a few dates.
- a) Kick Off: May 13th is dodgeball finals. May 6th can be the skills clinic. May 13th can be the pitching clinic.
- a) Night at the Nat: Angel still waiting on their contacts.

7) Merch Count

- a) Feb 11th at 2 pm is the date and time that works best. We are men of action. Lies do not become us.

8) Set Agenda for Team Rep Meeting

- a) Important Dates: Exec meeting dates, team rep meeting dates, (Major events: Meet Mabel, Kickoff, The Lil, Finals), Deadlines, Registration, Fees

SPN- Submit for approval on Feb 28th (all teams are finalized by then): This deadline for existing teams coming back will be right before the 14th. No need for a hard deadline if we need to add another team. One team for subs. One team added for the Victoria team.

b. Team Registration

- a. Confirmation of returning teams
- b. Process for new teams

If we are confirmed at 20 teams, no other additional new teams. We will state this at the Team Rep meeting next week.

Process for new players

Must complete the anti-oppression seminar. All new players have to watch the training and anti-oppression seminar. Take a refresher. When do we put it in?

The link to the training is:

https://www.mabelleague.com/may-2022-anti-oppression-seminar/?preview_id=4256&preview_nonce=e6fec455c6&preview=true

The password is mabel2022

c. Call for Committee Membership

- a. Inclusion Committee
- b. Grievance Committee
- c. Event Committee

d. New Division Breakdown: There's teams that said they wouldn't come back depending on the division they're in. We don't have a guarantee about how many teams and games we can have because we don't know until we confirm the fields we want. We can put it on the agenda as: aiming to do it the most logical, but there's size factors since we're competing with other leagues for the fields in the city.

We have a plans regarding division breakdowns depending on which teams are returning (some teams haven't confirmed), and their return will effect other teams committing to the league once more and which divisions they fall in. We'd like 5 teams for division A.

We don't want to make promises we cannot keep. We have plans for different scenarios regarding which teams are returning.

0. New Business:

Website needs to be updated with Minutes and Information!

Ashley will send out the Agenda for the Team Reps tomorrow morning.

1. VWFL cross-league play follow up: Mostly plays at Connaught. We know what concerns come from the competitive teams (Now Division A). We are open to agreement to play if they sign our inclusion policies (they didn't sign our anti-oppression policies in the past) and if it's fair for our teams. Consideration will only be given if the circumstances are acceptable to us. They could enter a team into the LIL. That could be a way to dip our toes into the water regarding cross-league play. Division A Team Reps would have questions and *Exec should have a conversation with them regarding this*. We should wait to ask until after talking to reps. Amy is invited to that conversation. Nat is going to be there. *Ashley will follow up with Katie because Shelley had these conversations previously but it fell apart.*

They may be on the verge of breaking down. This is not for this season, but potentially next year. Doesn't mean we're going to do it. Costs should also not be put on our league.

SGM: The amount is up to \$200 per exec member. It's put into player fees. Exec doesn't have to accept the honorariums if they are uncomfortable with receiving an honorarium. Issued after the AGM is over.

7:30 would be an ideal new time to start meetings.

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 pm.