

16" SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME MINUTES, February 14, 2009

Members In attendance: See sign in sheet. Presided over by President, Gary Thorsen

DINNER INFO

Art:

Silent Auction 4K, 1K for consignment made 3K363 on 50/50 raffle tickets over \$1000, (TV & GPs about 400).

5 bricks bought at dinner. \$750 more committed to. Sold clocks, hats, etc.

All total, success.

Largest and nicest ad book yet! Thanks to Gary Thorsen.

Gary:

535 people at dinner. 40 ads just from Forest Park! Gary congratulated FP on the excellent sense of community and togetherness as well as the effort on part of the municipality. Thanks!

Read thank you letter from Ben Reilly.

Comments and suggestions:

- Noise level at upper level is a problem.
- Changing venue due to stairs, older people, noise control, etc.
- Or move to next room, which is one level. Would be more expensive to add drapes, etc to make it banquet ready, but will consider.
- Geo suggested Rosemont, Mickey suggested Sox Park. Mickey will contact Spidale. Debby will contact Drury Lane. Rich H. suggested near Forest Park but Larry didn't feel there was anything big enough. (Revival center?)
- Bill & Debby suggested having speakers on the top level. Debby will ask Geo to see about speakers on top level.
- Larry said people come to the dinner to see old friends; some don't care about the ceremony.
- Lots less walk ups this year due to pre-purchase discount. Will continue to do that.
- Need to work on distribution of books. Ron suggested stub on ticket for ad book.
- Art is going to order more ad books; Debby needs 30 for next year's packets. 25-50 additional for fund solicitation.

NEW BUSINESS:

REPLACEMENT OF ERA CHAIRMAN 1964-1979

Frank Lentine was suggested and approached and he will take over as Chairman. (Formally Champ).

Need to get Frank Lentine the rules and procedures.

BALLOT

Bill eliminated the inductees and the people who don't have bios. That leaves two people on the entire ballot that have the proper nomination form in.

If chairpersons want to keep people on the ballot, they need to get bios and/or nomination form to get/keep on ballot.

Any new nominations due May 1st. NOMINATIONS CAN BE MADE BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AT: 16inchsoftballhof.com. DOWNLOAD THE NOMINATION FORM AND SEND IT IN!

Mickey turned in team nomination for Crush.

Once names are submitted, ballot need to be printed by a date TBA.

MARK:

Outdoor park: Ready to go. License agreement needs to be adjusted with dates, etc.

RON:

Discussion with Larry about insurance and taxes. Construction can be done specifically by HOF, Jim Washer, atty for FP, said we don't have to do prevailing wage. Ron stated we will still adhere to prevailing wage.

FGM has done surveys and are getting close to get going. They know our time frame, so they are on it. Want it done by July 1.

Larry said July 1 would be great, July 4th, 10k people walk through for fireworks!

Sagalos would serve as GC, will be discussed in closed session.

Saturday, March 21st groundbreaking scheduled. Ron can't make it, but maybe only day that could be scheduled.

April 4th? Forest Park Easter egg hunt at 10am. 10:30 groundbreaking ceremony. CONFIRMED! Get on the website! And Debby will get on ilsoftballreport.com and email blast.

HOF Sponsored events

- Softball tournament like Grant Park. Irv has already listed the qualifiers on the ilsoftballreport.com and there are not a lot of dates left. For 2009, not a big one. Next year?
- Golf outing. Bill said he'd like to do this. Mickey would you help? Mickey suggested weekday since it's cheaper. Bill and Mickey will talk and have two proposals for us next meeting. Cost, ppl, etc?
- Gary would like to meet with Tom Levar. Joe Sarna would like to be invited to those talks about tourneys. Could include all levels of classifications.
- Need to hook up with an organization. Art contacted Boys and Girls Clubs. They have a Lincoln Park league. There are 32 locations of B&G clubs. Jr. High and HS play in LP league, runs about 5-6 weeks over summer. Art suggested we sponsor a tourney at FP for those kids. Aug. 8 or 9, FP is avail. Will provide bats, balls, refreshments, etc. We need umpires, etc. balls, bats. At least one bat per team to take home. Could be 20-24 teams. We'd like to get sponsors to provide t-shirts, etc.
- Bill: It's in our Business Plan and it's part of our non for profit.
- Ron says August is better for Boys and Girls Club tourney so things with museum would be over. Maybe current teams or players would come out and help. Art will continue talks.

Website updates to 150K. ☺

Bill suggested we have regular Board meeting dates. Will be discussed.

Would it be appropriate to have minutes on the website? Can Debby email Al? Al says yes. Debby will email minutes to be posted.

Tony Ward said that past inductees are not in attendance, can we have some incentive? Maybe a letter and personal contact? Letters have been sent out and about 45 letters returned undeliverable. Need to get current whereabouts.

Irv suggested naming all past inductees when we introduce the new inductees. We will check time frame, but great idea.

Jack Dowling suggested inviting HS kids to tourneys. Contact coaches to see if they can give kids dates of tourneys. Jack will get coaches names to get info out to kids.

Mark:

As a spinoff of winning field of dreams, Bob Ancona wants to have a banner at the fields specifically showing all HOF members that played in Mt. Prospect since 1980, over the last 28 years. We need to make sure he doesn't miss anyone.

Field of Dreams Award

What is it? Park who has contributed to the development of Softball through the years. How the fields promoted the game.

*We realize this could be many fields, but this is a new award and one field will be honored each year.

Darren Palandri of Chicagoball.com wants to assist. His site is geared toward espn.com. Shows team standings, stats, etc. Can help each other out.

- Has flyer about bricks, link to us, money thermometer
- Split ad revenue to buy a brick. Wants to get stats to put on his site to help sell ads, etc.
- Ron suggested going to the Westchester meeting to promote to teams. Get stats, etc. He wants leagues employees to get him stats. Ron mentioned meeting again. Monday, 8:00pm.
- Art will email Darren Larry's email for stats from Forest Park.
- Darren is doing an excellent job with his site, but would like to display all team stats.

We will be advertising through Irv's and Darren's sites.

There were several names suggested for consideration into the hall. ANYONE WISHING TO NOMINATE, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE FOR THE PROPER FORM. Thanks!

Next meeting: March 14th, 10:00am

Motioned to adjourn: Art Lurie

Seconded: Mike Coyne

Meeting end: 10:48 am