

# Agenda

September 30, 2010

I. Introduction – 2<sup>nd</sup> official mtg., intros, same format as last time, go thru updates

II. Areas of Focus

a. Communications -

i. Town – Dawn & Dave go to Parks & Recs weekly mtgs, town is supportive of everything we want to do, will put links onto website, anything we need & they met w/ Frank Gavin re fields – present @ Fun Run, got advertisements, do a campaign w/ cards & magnets; next mtg w/ town is next Thursday

ii. Travel – trying from a rec perspective, we're trying to work together w/ dave & joe re. rules, concepts & drive the whole program in the right direction; Dave F. right now we'll have 3 teams next year 10 & under, 12 & under, 16 & under, travel is not just Nisky, it is from all over, we may not have our own travel 14& under, Joe still looking for a player, just finished tryouts; believes 9 minimum should come from the town (12&under), had lot of out of district players come to tryouts (6 players) – this is good re. perception of Nisky, makes decision making hard, 1 slot left on 12 & under

Joe Lids runs tryouts & mostly kids who tryout come from out of the district (16+) Travel is opportunity for kids in Nisky to play in high level ball outside a rec league; improves their skills for school ball

Joe F. not a lot of advertisers for travel ball – lots of expenses, kids play upwards of \$300/ea.

Joe F. - Lots of kids from rec do Fall Ball, get in a lot of games (approx. 8), practice every week, less competitive (everyone bats), kids don't miss out on competition or intensity b/c it's the same coaches. Practice for spring/summer starts in November @ Rosendale 1x/wk – season goes from 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in June to last wk in August.

Joe F. - Electric City Bombers pays rent & has exclusive rights to field @ River Road Park

Town wants us to extend lease thru Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, so Electric City Bombers would be at a disadvantage.

Dave F. says letter he gets from rec dept that they have exclusive use of the field from April 1<sup>st</sup> - Oct 31<sup>st</sup> on weekends

Dawn – Fall Ball program that anyone can play, Joe F. would be part of it? Joe F. said yes. Trying to set up a Fall Ball for next year.

Dave K says parents ask about Fall Ball so that's why we're planning it.

Dawn – Town said NGSL needs to extend lease to include exclusive rights up to Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Price has not been determined.

Dawn – new field will be facing out past the 200 mark in the field way out from the pavilion. All on level ground. Is designed for Travel & Rec, it's for town residents, not for college level.

Dave K – we're trying

**iii.** Schools – Can use the gym for clinics for new Fall Ball

**iv.** Website – Brand new website, [niskysoftball.org](http://niskysoftball.org) (same as before); positive comments about it; concept behind it we have a section on rec, travel, sponsors, link for how to sign up, etc. Trying to use this as a place to start info flow, sponsors can easily see it/shell is complete, content is approx 80%

Dawn – rules now will be similar to Bethlehem rules

Joe F – concept was to intro skills & rules until kids are 12 & under, doing the steps will work. If concepts are coached correctly, the little ones will understand. WE have mail chimp? – if you want to send out a blast, we have the ability to blast out a lot of messages for free. It looks nice, professional. Going to do a blast to all current players from last yr re. early registration.

Dave K. Can we use town list to do a blast? Other thing is Mohawk Mail thing thru the schools to the word out about the website.

Dave F. – should put schedules upon websites. WE have . Now Ss will play one night a wk & Saturdays.

**v.** Cards/Magnets – see above

**b.** Fields – working on the 4<sup>th</sup> field, will be put in for 6&under and 8&under; we've gotten estimates on backstops & dugouts as well as level the field. We're getting prices , at the very least we need backstops & dugouts. WE were going to do like the other back two fields. No fences right now. Cheapest cost for backstop right now is \$2400 & dugout is \$1400. We will work w/ town on stuff to work a deal w/ them. Talked to Frank Gavin

- i. Sheds/concession stand – Talked to Frank Gavin, he gave a rec to put in a nice size shed, think we'll put it behind the pavilion w/ maybe a window. Can work a deal w/ Frank to have access to materials to keep up the fields (limited individuals). We can keep the materials in the shed. To spend money, we'd be looking into putting it into the shed, not the backstop. Coaches can leave equipment there too. Presence @ Town mtgs is good to build positive relationship. We'll get more bids & will talk about them at the Town mtg (bids for field), we have a price to cut in doors to get on/off field.
- ii. River Road status -
- c. Overall rules – Going to be on the website from Joe Farina. Not a lot of rule changes, not that glaring. Joe F. – take it slowly to institute rule changes. Will clean up rules & send to Dawn this week.
- d. Team level/structure/schedules – Talked about 6U, 8U, 10U, 13U, 17U New levels line up w/ age levels in schools (elem, MS, HS). Idea is each group will play one day during the week (TBA) & on a Saturday.

Eileen - one other person should be on the account as she's the only one right now.

WE have 5985.89, we have no expenses until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dave K – we're trying to rejuvenate & make it larger.

Dave F – kids coming in will play by different rules & will start dominating.

Eileen – email who you'd like to be on the acct, it doesn't have to be done now, but consider it. Eileen will ask about an interest-bearing acct.

- e. Sponsorship – Will be able to see sponsors on the website – 3 levels of sponsorship – Platinum: sponsor a team, get a banner to put @ River Road Park & will have their name & link on our website \$500 – if sponsor does 2 teams, they will get a discount; Gold – sponsor a team, direct link on the website \$300 (no banner); Silver – general donation w/ a link on the website \$150. Nothing on the banners promoting alcohol or tobacco. Increased advertisement, we should see more money coming in, parents should accept, & a kick-off party should offset any concerns by parents re. increased fees. There appeared to be freebies if a coach or on the board, we need to tighten that up. Coaches pay for child but only pay half to ease out the freebies.

Dave K – we should have a coaches' mtg so that we cover the changes that affect the coaches. Should call the coaches, reintroduce ourselves, see who wants to coach & pick a date for a coaches' mtg to get the mtg.

- f. Coordinators – From a board perspective, we were thinking a U6, coordinator would answer questions particular to that age group, have a link to the team, etc. One per division was recommended by Joe F. & Dave F. Need to have a survey, have to find

people willing to do it. Pitching clinic – coaches, having a coaching clinic, have to have coaches willing to put in the changes & there's no sense having a coaching clinic if they don't practice.

Dave K – the scheduling thing, on a weekend, set up a 2 hour block for the game & the first half hour would be practice.

Dave k – when should we do a coaching clinic?

Dave f – maybe January, March

Target a coaching clinic in March.

Dawn – need a pitching clinic

Dave f – concerned about pitching clinic. Pitching is 75-80% of game. Pitching is a 12 month process. 1 night for 1.5 hours for 6 weeks for clinic. Practice has to come at home, need parents interested in helping the kids do this. Cost for clinic is 100 dollars a week for teacher up to 12 kids. Charge the kids \$60. You can tell the kids in Nisky, if they learn to pitch well, they will almost never be cut from a school team

Joe F – can do a catching clinic.

Dawn – what should we do first? WE won't know until they're registered.

Dave F & Joe F – No – just do a clinic by itself.

Dave K – When do you propose doing that?

Joe & Dave f – November. First of the year will bump into practice time kids will need. This would end before the holidays. I think it has to be a Tuesday night b/c that's when the teacher is free. WE'd like Nisky pitchers to learn from one person, someone they could always go back to. We have one teacher that's excellent. It would have to be 7-8:30 pm. She can't do it on a weekend. No younger than 9 & up to 12-13.

Dave f – kids have to be dedicated & practice. Kids have to throw 50-100k pitches before becoming a pitcher.

Dave F- the sooner, the better.

Dave K – as a parent, how do you work during the winter months w/ the kids.

Dave F – indoor parks, inside places. They could practice the skills learned in the clinic inside.

### III. Open items – Pitching/coaching clinics (see above)

**IV. Next Meeting: Tuesday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30pm**