

TOMAHAWK EAST LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING
RAILWAY BAR & GRILL, SLEEPY EYE
Sunday, January 25, 2009

The annual meeting of the Tomahawk East League was called to order at 2:10 p.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at the Railway Bar & Grill in Sleepy Eye by President Myron Seidl. Roll call was taken with all 12 teams present.

The minutes from the Tomahawk East roster meeting of June 30, 2008 were read by League Secretary-Treasurer Terry Helget. Motion by Steve Helget of Springfield, 2nd by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth to accept the minutes of June 30, 2008. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented by League Secretary-Treasurer Terry Helget. An ending balance of \$45.52 as of December 31, 2008 was reported. Motion by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark, 2nd by Jeremy Drexler of Hanska to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Myron then reviewed some of the highlights from the most recent MBA board minutes. Of note was the MBA extending the player radius for 2009 to 30 miles (up from 25 miles). This distance will now be measured from the ballpark to the player's residence via GPS. Also, any first time rural player must garner a release from the community closest to his residence before he may sign with another team within the 30-mile radius. Another new mandate from the MBA is that if a player is released from a team, he may not resign with that same team later in that same season. Base coaches will be required to wear helmets while in the coaching boxes in 2009. The rules regarding the new release requirements for rural players generated a lot of questions that hope to be clarified by the MBA by the scheduling meeting in March.

A motion was made by John Branstad of St. James, 2nd by Steve Kloeckl of Searles to keep league dues at \$50 for regular members in 2009. Motion carried.

Motion by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by Jeremy Drexler of Hanska to keep 2009 admission prices at \$3 for adults and \$2 for students aged 17 and under which is what they were last year. It is assumed children under the age of 6 or so who are not in school would be free. Motion carried.

Spouse passes for 2009 were approved with a motion by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by Steve Helget of Springfield. Motion carried.

The League Directory was updated for 2009.

A motion was made by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark, 2nd by Bob Weber of New Ulm for teams to continue to use either Diamond D-1 Pro, Wilson A1010, or Rawlings R100HS baseballs for the 2009 season. Motion carried.

Myron asked Lowell Mathiowetz of South Central Umpires Association if the umpire group had set any prices for 2009. Lowell indicated the umpires have yet to meet for 2009 and could not give an indication as to what rates may be in 2009. Lowell did say he expects the number of umpires in 2009 to be similar to 2008.

Myron asked the team representatives if they knew of any new advertisers for either the poster or pocket schedules. By general consensus, poster ads will remain at \$70 and pocket schedule ads will remain at \$60.

Steve Helget reported that last year's All Star Game in Springfield went very well despite a few last minute changes and a fair amount of work.

A motion was made by Tony Stadtherr of Gibbon, 2nd by Jeremy Drexler of Hanska to begin the 2009 season on Sunday, May 10th and end on Tuesday July 21st. Motion carried. Teams who wish to start their seasons before May 10th may still do so however.

Divisions for 2009 were set up as follows (after breaking ties by giving Sleepy Eye the higher seed over Essig because technically they would have advanced farther in the playoffs had they not been disqualified after the second round of playoffs and after Stark won the coin flip over Leavenworth) using the final league records from 2008:

<u>American</u>	<u>National</u>
1 Lamberton	2 New Ulm Brewers
4 Springfield	3 St. James
5 Sleepy Eye	6 Essig
8 Hanska	7 Searles
9 Stark	10 Leavenworth
12 Gibbon	11 Redwood Falls

After the divisions were set up for 2009 using the criteria in place from the past, Derrick Jenniges of Lamberton proposed an idea of splitting the league into three 4-team divisions with the idea that perhaps the MBA would be more inclined to send at least one (if not all three) divisions to separate regions. After much discussion whereby eight of the 12 teams in the league were in favor of pursuing more research on this topic, the league members asked the Tomahawk East League officers to discuss this possibility with members of the MBA before the scheduling meeting of the TEL in March.

After nominations for President, Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth made a motion, 2nd by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Myron Seidl for President. Motion carried. Myron Seidl is President for 2009.

After nominations for Vice President, Bob VanHee of Redwood Falls made a motion, 2nd by Steve Kloeckl of Searles to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ralph Zwaschka for Vice President. Motion carried. Ralph Zwaschka is Vice President for 2009.

After nominations for Secretary-Treasurer, Bob VanHee of Redwood Falls made a motion, 2nd by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Helget for Secretary-Treasurer and that his salary for 2009 remain at \$200. Motion carried. Terry Helget is Secretary-Treasurer for 2009.

The scheduling meeting of the Tomahawk East League was set for Monday, March 16, 2009 at the Railway Bar & Grill in Sleepy Eye at 7:30 p.m.

Bob VanHee mentioned that his son Jeff is trying to revive amateur baseball in Madelia and if successful, might look to join the Tomahawk East League at some date in the future.

Motion by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by John Branstad of St. James to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Helget
Secretary-Treasurer