

TOMAHAWK EAST LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING
ORCHID INN, SLEEPY EYE
Sunday, January 31, 2016

The annual meeting of the Tomahawk East League was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Orchid Inn 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 29, 2015 were read by League Secretary-Treasurer Terry Helget. A motion was made by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark, 2nd by Steve Kloeckl of Searles to accept the minutes of June 29, 2015. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented by League Secretary-Treasurer Terry Helget. An ending balance of \$216.64 as of December 31, 2015 was reported. A motion was made by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Myron Seidl pointed out that the League spent \$95 on a tree that will serve as a memorial at Sleepy Eye Ballpark to commemorate Ralph Zwaschka's recent passing and for all the work he did over the years for amateur baseball and specifically at the Sleepy Eye Ballpark.

Myron Seidl then thanked his fellow league officers, umpires and the teams of the Tomahawk East for a good 2015 season. He also thanked Essig for a great atmosphere for the 2015 All Star Game and congratulated the New Ulm Brewers, Lambertton Long Sox & Sleepy Eye Indians for qualifying for the 2015 State Class C Tournament in Cold Spring and Watkins.

Craig Hanson then spoke on behalf of KNUJ radio whereby KNUJ is again interested in broadcasting five games on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. during the regular season with the goal of promoting amateur baseball. Craig was confident there would still be plenty of prizes this year and more promotion of amateur baseball. He felt things again went very well in 2015 and hopes the relationship between KNUJ and the league can continue to grow. Craig said KNUJ is asking for a total of \$900 from the league this year. This number is up from \$800 a year ago. The League decided to collect \$135 from each of the five host organizations and \$30 from the teams not hosting radio games in 2016 (Lamberton does not participate based on geography). This is an increase of \$5 per team from 2015. The League will pay the remaining \$45 to KNUJ. The five teams hosting radio games in 2016 will be Gibbon, Hanska, Leavenworth, Sleepy Eye, and Springfield. If a sixth radio game is broadcast in 2016, Essig will host that game. A motion was made by Kyle Helget of Essig, 2nd by Al Flor of New Ulm that the Tomahawk East League partner with KNUJ to broadcast at least five games on the radio for 2016.

Region 2C Commissioner, Bryce Pack, then presented the 2015 region trophies to New Ulm, Lambertton and Sleepy Eye.

New Ulm Kaiserhoff and Fairfax then made presentations in the hopes of gaining entry into the Tomahawk East League for 2016. New Ulm Kaiserhoff was represented by Bob Skillings and Tim Reinke and Fairfax was represented by Scott Black, Lanny Linsmeier and Craig Buboltz. After the League heard each team's presentation, those two teams were excused from the meeting so the League could discuss their fates. After significant discussion, the League decided to take two separate paper ballot votes. The first vote was to ask each of the 12 teams already in the league how many teams they wanted to add to the league in 2016 if any. The second vote would only be necessary if one team was to be added as a result of the first vote to rank each of the two teams making a presentation in the order of their preference. After tabulating the results of the first vote, it came back 10 votes to add zero teams in 2016 and two votes to add both teams. As a result of this first vote, the Tomahawk East League will not expand in 2016 making the second vote unnecessary. Both New Ulm Kaiserhoff and Fairfax were invited back to the meeting and thanked for their attendance and interest in joining the Tomahawk East League.

Divisions for 2016 were set up as follows using the final league records from 2015:

<u>American Division</u>	<u>National Division</u>
Lamberton Long Sox	Hanska Lakers
Springfield Tigers	New Ulm Brewers
Sleepy Eye Indians	Searles Grizzlies
Essig Bluejays	St. James Express
Stark Longhorns	Gibbon Reds
Leavenworth Orioles	Courtland Cubs

A motion was made by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by Steve Kloeckl of Searles to set league dues at \$50 for permanent members and \$70 for probationary teams for 2016. Motion carried.

Bruce Woitas of South Central Umpires then proposed each team of the Tomahawk East League pay \$50 towards the SCUA to make it so the individual umpires won't have to pay game fees to SCUA anymore in the hopes of encouraging more people to umpire. Currently, umpires in the SCUA pay \$2 per game they umpire to SCUA as a "game fee." A motion was made by Isaac Jenniges of Lamberton, 2nd by Steve Helget of Springfield to have each team pay \$50 to SCUA for scheduling umpires. Motion carried. It was also agreed upon by a motion by Derrick Jenniges of Lamberton, 2nd by Joe Hager of St. James that it will probably be necessary for certain players and/or coaches of the Tomahawk East League to umpire league and playoff games not involving their respective teams so as to have enough quality umpires work games in 2016.

Motion by Doug Radloff of Essig, 2nd by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark to keep 2016 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 2016 were approved with a motion by Derrick Jenniges of Lamberton, 2nd by Al Flor of New Ulm. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Steve Kloeckl of Searles, 2nd by Isaac Jenniges of Lamberton for teams to use flat-seamed baseballs and use either Diamond D-1 Pro LS or Rawlings OLB baseballs for the 2016 season. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by Wade Werner of Gibbon to begin the 2016 season on Sunday, May 8, 2016, and end on Sunday July 24, 2016. Motion carried. Teams who wish to start their seasons before May 8th may still do so however. Also of note, the league is again allowing a reschedule date of Monday, July 25, 2016 or Tuesday, July 26, 2016 as a make-up date for games postponed on Sunday, July 24, 2016 ONLY. Other postponements throughout the season will need to be played before Monday, July 25, 2016.

The 2016 All Star Game was briefly discussed. A motion was made by Steve Helget of Springfield, 2nd by Derrick Jenniges of Lamberton to play the Corn Belt League All Stars in Bird Island on July 1, 2016, with the 2017 All Star Game to be hosted by a team from the Tomahawk East. Motion carried. Myron will talk to Mike Nagel of the Corn Belt League to iron out the details. Springfield expressed interest in hosting the 2017 ASG.

A motion was made by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark, 2nd by Steve Helget of Springfield to pay the MBA \$75 for an ad in their 2016 handbook. Motion carried.

Myron informed the team representatives that no new advertisers for either the poster or pocket schedules are needed. A motion was made by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by Wade Werner of Gibbon that poster schedule ads will remain at \$70 and pocket schedule ads will remain at \$60 for 2016.

Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth then made a motion, 2nd by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark to have each team come up with a \$25 sponsor for the Tomahawk East League web site. Motion carried.

There was a quick discussion on how to keep players and teams eligible when playing Club and amateur teams from other states.

Herb Schaper of New Ulm Sports Central gave a short talk on some ideas he has for a 90th Anniversary celebration of the Tomahawk League in 2018.

After nominations for President, Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth made a motion, 2nd by Isaac Jenniges of Lamberton to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Myron Seidl for President. Motion carried. Myron Seidl is President for 2016.

After nominations for Vice President, Chris Koob of Hanska made a motion, 2nd by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Marty Brandl for Vice President. Motion carried. Marty Brandl is Vice President for 2016.

After nominations for Secretary-Treasurer, Wade Werner of Gibbon made a motion, 2nd by Doug Radloff of Essig to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Helget for Secretary-Treasurer and for his 2016 salary to remain at \$250. Motion carried. Terry Helget is Secretary-Treasurer for 2016.

The scheduling meeting of the Tomahawk East League was set for Sunday, February 28, 2016 at the Orchid Inn at 2:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Leon Hillesheim of Leavenworth, 2nd by Brian Mathiowetz of Stark to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Helget
Secretary-Treasurer