



## America's Finest City Softball League Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Time:** 6:30pm PST

**Location:** Google Meet

**Type of Meeting:** Monthly Board Meeting

**Meeting Facilitator:** Douglas Hotaling

**Invitees:** Joel Trambley – Open Commissioner  
Jessica Sica – Women+ Commissioner  
David Carlos – Assistant Commissioner  
Joel Lillegraven – Treasurer  
Douglas Hotaling – Secretary  
Bart Bauer – Open Operations  
Sara Sica – Women+ Operations  
Michael McCarthy – Open Division Rep  
Shelly Brilmyer – Women+ Division Rep  
Veronica Rivera – Marketing Coordinator  
David Drew - Social Media / Events Coordinator  
Sandi Diaz – UIC (Optional)  
Collin Brown - Intern

### I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm PST.

### **Roll Call**

Joel Trambley – Open Commissioner  
Jessica Sica – Women+ Commissioner  
David Carlos – Assistant Commissioner  
Joel Lillegraven – Treasurer  
Douglas Hotaling – Secretary  
Bart Bauer – Open Operations  
~~Sara Sica – Women+ Operations~~  
~~Michael McCarthy – Open Division Rep~~  
Shelly Brilmyer – Women+ Division Rep  
Veronica Rivera – Marketing Coordinator



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David Drew - Social Media / Events Coordinator  
~~Sandi Diaz - UIC (Optional)~~  
Collin Brown - Intern

### II. Introduction of Intern

Collin Brown was introduced to the Board. He has already begun working on league projects and the ASNA Work Series. Board members introduced themselves.

### III. Code of Conduct Violation

A request was made to move New Business B. Code of Conduct Violation to the beginning of the meeting. David Carlos reviewed the report of the Code of Conduct violations of Shelly Brilmeyer. The committee findings were that there were 2 violations that were validated. The two violations were reviewed and discussed. There was previously a Special Board Meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to review the findings.

Shelly Brilmeyer responded on the timing of the violation. She felt that the claims were untrue. If participants felt that were not getting enough play time, they could have chosen to leave the team. Shelly claims that two participants she asked to be contacted, were not contacted. Shelly felt that the new language in the Policies and Procedure will make it easier to conclude the validity of violation. Shelly felt that the findings of what she said were not true. Shelly acknowledged that she would take the suspension.

There is faith in the process and documentation. It was felt that Shelly's language in her response was not sensitive language. The abusive language described should not be used by a Board member. There were multiple accusations from multiple people in multiple ways. This encompassed email, conversations and text messages.

The question was called.

**MOTION** to suspend Shelly Brilmeyer from participating as coach, player, or any rostered member of any AFCSL team from 2/9/2023 through 12/31/2023. Furthermore, if there are further complaints brought to the board regarding Shelly's behavior towards any member of AFCSL or any other violation of the Code of Conduct during the suspension period, the board can take further action up to and including expulsion from the league.



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**SECONDED.**

**APPROVED** 5 in favor (including Shelly Brilmyer), 4 abstentions.

Shelly Brilmyer left the meeting.

#### IV. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

##### a. **Approval of January 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION** to approve the January 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting minutes.

**SECONDED.**

**APPROVED** unanimously.

#### V. **Old Business**

##### a. **Board Retreat – Board Member Goals**

Board members were reminded to update the shared document with their two goals for the 2023 season.

##### b. **Ratings Deadline / Changes**

Bart Bauer had a discussion with Joel Trambly as to the NAGAAA perspective and what they would allow.

##### c. **Umpire Scholarship**

The deadline has passed and this will need to be revisited at the end of this year.

##### d. **Sweetwater Valley Tournament**

This is a fundraising opportunity for team and can be addressed at the Managers Meeting or once the season starts.

##### e. **League Document Updates**

###### i. **Recent Policies & Procedures Revisions**

Jessica Sica reviewed her changes to the Policies and Procedures. There was concern that additional changes should be made, but these can be made at a later time.

**MOTION** to approve the updates to the Policies and Procedures.

**SECONDED.**

**APPROVED** 6 in favor, 2 abstentions.

#### 1. **Safety Update**



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Further review will be needed to include addressing this.

### ii. Code of Conduct

Jessica Sica reviewed her changes to the Code of Conduct. Bart Bauer had an exchange with a manager that felt that the language was vague and open to interpretation. This may be brought up at the Managers Meeting. It was felt that we could be vague as long as there are no mandatory consequences. The language uses "may" and "could". This gives us flexibility. As long as we have a process, we are fine.

**MOTION** to approve the updates to the Code of Conduct.

**SECONDED.**

**APPROVED** unanimously.

### f. Annual Calendar

David Carlos has been working on an annual calendar. Board members should send him any dates and deadlines they would like included on the annual calendar.

### g. Spring 2023 Season

#### i. General Discussion

There a new potential A/B team. They would play part-time to qualify for the GSWS. This is not the team from Denver. Details are forthcoming. David Carlos is still looking for one field for June. We may need an additional field in the last weeks of play to assist with umpire scheduling. Monteville is available for a rain out. We are looking at Fallbrook as an additional field.

#### ii. Managers Meeting

Douglas Hotaling will create an agenda based on previous Manager's Meetings. Joel Lillegraven has provided an edited PowerPoint based on our presentation on Zoom last year for the Board to review.

#### iii. ADA Cards

For the Spring season we usually provide umpires with an ADA list. For the Autumn Classic, we provide ADA cards to be presented to umpires at each game. I was decided we would provide ADA cards for the 2023 Spring Season. ADA card colors could change each season.



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### iv. Financial Assistance Program

Six participants have applied for financial assistance. We have let them know we are reviewing their requests. The EDI Committee will be reviewing the requests. Recipients will be asked to volunteer time in return for financial assistance. Setting a deadline to request financial assistance was suggested. There was further discussion on setting a deadline, as there may be participants that may experience a need for financial assistance (i.e., to replace cleats) during the season. This would be up to the discretion of the Board. We will need to provide a report back to Pride stating how the funds were allocated.

### v. Clinics

The ASANA Winter Meetings coincide with the clinics on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There may be a participation issue for Board members. David Carlos will assist with staffing, if needed.

#### 1. Clinic Player Connections

We are trying to connect more with individuals, organizations and the community. People stay in groups when they feel connected to the organization. There is an opportunity for the Board to foster this connection at the clinics. David Carlos suggested that the Player Representatives should connect with new participants at the clinics or shortly thereafter and keep them engaged and ensure they get placed on a team. The next step would be is to engage them for Opening Day. Towards the middle of the season, the Player Representative would follow up to see how things are going. The participant stays connected to the organization and the Player Representative develops a relationship with the participant. There was concern that some of this may overlap with the duties of Player Operations. A structured communication plan was well received. We should not guarantee that participants get placed on teams, as we do not control the rosters. The end of season awards was well received. It was suggested that we do it again. David Carlos will reach out to the Player Representatives to create some structure of the process and report back to the Board.

### vi. Pub Crawl



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The Pub Crawl is scheduled for Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This is the best date that would not interfere with other scheduled events. David Drew is still working on getting contact information for sponsors. Once that contact has been made, we make a solid plan for the Pub Crawl.

### **vii. Opening Ceremony**

Pride would like to participate in our Opening Ceremonies this year. Veronica Rivera requested that the Board members who assisted in past Opening Ceremonies contact her with any planning suggestions. There was discussion on past Opening Ceremonies. It could be a challenge, as we will be at multiple complexes on Opening Day. David Drew offered to assist Veronica Rivera with planning. A first pitch, Commissioners welcome and national anthem would take place at both fields. It was suggested that we contact elected officials to see if they would attend. Joel Lillegraven offered to assist with this. If we included politicians, we would need to follow proper protocol. It was decided that the we just include Pride representatives. David Drew suggested we find photographers that would be will to donate their time photographing Opening Day events. David Carlos can assist with the photographer(s).

### **viii. Sponsor Bar Sundays**

If the past there have been issues setting up the schedule. Veronica Rivera would like to have the list for Sponsor Bar Sundays and other league events prepared by Opening Day. There was discussion regarding gathering contact information for the sponsor bars. The Opening Party will be at The Hole on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It was suggested that we do a raffle to raise additional funds. Kairoa is interested in hosting our Closing Party again. It would cost \$20 per person for food. There was discussion that it would need to be at a lower cost to stay within our budget. We could also consider sponsorship to assist paying for the Closing Party.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. January 2023 Financial Report**

Joel Lillegraven provided a summary of the income and expenses of the January 2023 financial statements. The income is primarily from participant fees. Our balance is \$76,923.

#### **a. Computers**



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There was concern over the age and number of computers owned by the league. The Treasurer and Secretary have league laptops. They are 6-8 years old. It may be a good investment to update them. There was discussion of whether league provided laptops are needed by other Board positions to complete their duties. Joel Lillegraven will take his laptop in to get an opinion and report back to the Board.

### **B. Code of Conduct Violation**

A request was made to move this item to the beginning of the meeting. See III. Code of Conduct Violation.

### **C. Autumn Classic**

#### **a. Hotel Contract**

The selected hotels are the Marriot Courtyard – Old Town and the Kings Inn. The contracts have been sent out to be signed by the respective Board members. It was clarified that the block was for Thursday night through Sunday night.

### **D. ASANA World Series Update**

New sponsors are US Bank, San Diego Pride, Sycuan and MyPoint Credit Union. US Bank is also going to help with volunteers. The ASANA Winter Meetings will be held in San Diego February 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Marriot Courtyard - Old Town. There are planned events at Societe Brewing Company and Gossip Grill. Joel Lillegraven has sent out a sponsorship package to the Board members and asked Board members to assist in soliciting sponsorships. Joel Lillegraven has also submitted for two grants from the City. There are other in-kind sponsors that have donated product. It was suggested that we solicit donations from political campaigns. There was discussion on possibly soliciting donations from participants once the season starts. There is currently no exclusivity agreement with any of the sponsors.

### **E. AFCSL Gives Back**

It is in the budget for this year. Board members were asked to think about what organizations we would like to contribute to and how we are going to do it.

### **F. Other New Business**

#### **a. Hall of Fame Committee Update**



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The Committee met this week. There was not a quorum to conduct business. A proposed revision to the Hall of Fame Nomination Form is being review by committee members. They are using a Doodle Poll to assist in scheduling the next meeting.

**b. Pride Night**

San Diego Gulls Hockey is For Everyone Night is Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Veronica Rivera will add it to the calendar. There was discussion on the other sports leagues in San Diego and their “inclusion” events.

**c. Women+ Player Representative**

There was discussion over whether there was a need to remove Shelly Brilmyer from office, as she is no longer on a team and in good standing. The Bylaws pertaining to removal from office were reviewed and discussed in detail. Future Bylaws changes may be needed for clarification.

**MOTION** to forward to the Delegates an opinion that Shelly Brilmyer cannot serve on the Board and be removed.

**SECONDED.**

**APPROVED** 6 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm PST.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm PST.