

MERIDIAN AREA BOOSTERS

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RED SLATER
PRESIDENT

JAKE FRIEL
TREASURER

JAMIE JAMISON
VICE-PRESIDENT

DAN SLOMERS
SECRETARY

Meridian Area Boosters

Minutes of Meeting 1 Held on January 14, 2008

Meeting Held at St. Fidelis Church at 8:00 p.m.

- 1.) The first special meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. at St. Fidelis Church on Buttercup Road. Jamie Jamison stated that the purpose of the first meeting was to further discuss cooperation with Butler Township Youth Baseball Organization and that no other normal business would be discussed or voted upon. Jake Friel reminded everyone that meetings have been ongoing since October regarding the matter and meeting attendance has remained low except for the past two meetings. Jake Friel reminded everyone that their input is essential on the matter, whether they are eligible to vote or note, and strongly encouraged everyone to voice their feeling and to ask questions tonight.
- 2.) ATTENDANCE REGISTER: A sign-in sheet was passed around for all in attendance to sign. Absent were Tony Slomers who was at work, and Butch Master who was at a Legion meeting. Red Slater was absent.
- 3.) MERIDIAN AND BUTLER TOWNSHIP UNION: Ron Double and Curt Gross of Butler Township Baseball, 12 and under organization were present. The reason was to continue discussions on forming a union and to answer any questions that the Meridian membership may have. There was very lengthy discussion involving the following:
 - Bob Greaves asked if kids in Connoquenessing Elementary School (including Connoquenessing Township and Connoquenessing Borough) would be included in any union. Ron Double explained that they would be. The modified boundary would include Connoquenessing Township and Connoquenessing Borough children.
 - Jim Lyon introduced himself and stated that his children went through both the Meridian and Butler Township Baseball programs. Jim enjoyed both programs and recommended that the union occur as it would be better for baseball for both programs.
 - Kevin Lewis noted the advantages of the union. Better structure and better control of the standards of play would result with the union. Problems are encountered when traveling to outside areas who choose to enforce different rules and standards on which to play.
 - Dan Slomers summarized to Butler Township representatives how the Board, membership, and voting systems operate in Meridian. Stated simply, Meridian

has an at-large membership in which every member can vote, provided they attend at least 6 out of the previous 12 meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

- Dan Slomers asked how Butler Township's Board works. Ron Double stated that they have a 12 member board. At the time of registration, parents have an option of paying a \$5 fee to become part of the association. Only after paying the fee, and only after clearing a background check, can that person be: i.) eligible to coach, ii.) eligible to work the concession stand, iii.) allowed to vote on Board members, or iv.) elected a Board Member. If you are elected onto the Board, there is no limit to your term. Vacancies only occur when one person voluntarily steps down. The 12 member Board then votes amongst themselves annually as to who sits in the various Board positions which include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, Coaching Coordinator, Player Agent, Umpire in Chief, and others).
- Dan Slomers asked how matters are voted on. Ron Double and Curt Gross explained that the Board discusses and votes on many things publically, but there are some matters that the Board reserves the right to discuss and vote on behind closed doors. One member from the Meridian audience expressed his concerns about not having all matters discussed and voted upon openly as Meridian does. Additionally, concerns were expressed about having an unlimited term in office as a Board Member.
- Dan Slomers asked how the sanctioned players are selected. Ron Double stated that at this time, the coaches and the Board work together to select the sanctioned team members.
- Terri Collins expressed her concerns on the fairness of the sanctioning system and how it negatively impacts the regular season and wild-cat all start teams.
- Rob Cumberlidge asked how the union will impact the Girls Softball program. Jake Friel did not believe that there would be any issues that could not be compromised on from both programs.
- The Butler Township representatives left at 9:40 p.m.

- 4.) ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the first special meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 9:41 p.m.

SECRETARY