



GFI AGM Agenda

Tuesday, November 14, 2024

New Century Restaurant

7:00 pm

Attendance:

Regrets:

1. Call to Order

Morgan called the AGM to order at

2. Establish Quorum

3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved by

4. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes

Minutes were circulated at the tables for people to read prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting

5. Unfinished Business from the last General Minutes

No unfinished business

6. Annual Financial Report (Year End)

The Financial Report was presented by Joan Thomas the GFI's Bookkeeper

The Financial Report was circulated and is available upon request

7. President's Report

The President's Report was circulated at the tables for all to read prior to the start of the meeting.

8. Tournament Coordinator Report

The Tournament Coordinator's report was circulated at the tables prior to the start of the meeting.

9. New Business

10. Review Special Resolutions

THAT The Grand Forks International Society 2001 Membership increase the size of the board of directors from 10 to 11; AND THAT the necessary changes be made to the bylaws to reflect this change.

11. Election of Directors

12. Opened Floor to Question and Suggestion Period

13. Adjournment



GFI AGM Minutes

Tuesday, November 07, 2023

Station Pub

7:00 pm

Attendance: Morgan Strohmann, Chris Hammett, Deborah Baker, Alyce Todd, Bud Alcock, Shelly Ehbrecht, James Wilson, Joan Thomas, Becky Cheveldave, Peter Beliveau, Judy Foster, Mary Ann Westaway, Charmaine Mc Carthy, Donna Olson, Marily Jack, Graham Jack

Regrets: Steve Boutang, Kevin McKinnon, Amando Neddo, Jeannette Stoochinoff

1. Call to Order

Morgan called the AGM to order at 7:00 pm

2. Establish Quorum

Quorum was established

3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved by Alyce Todd, 2nd by Chris Hammett AIF – Carried

4. Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes

Minutes were circulated at the tables for people to read prior to the start of the Annual General Meeting

Minutes approved by Bud Alcock, 2nd by Shelly Ehbrecht AIF – Carried

5. Unfinished Business from the last General Minutes

No unfinished business

6. Annual Financial Report (Year End)

The Financial Report was presented by Joan Thomas the GFI's Bookkeeper

The Financial Report was circulated and is available upon request

Presenter gave time for questions

The Financial Report accepted by Chris Hammett, 2nd by Shelly Ehbrecht AIF – Carried

Chris Hammett (GFI Treasurer) added to the Financial Report regarding grants applications.

The Treasurer's Report accepted by Alyce Todd, 2nd by Shelly Ehbrecht AIF – Carried

7. President's Report

The President's Report was circulated at the tables for all to read prior to the start of the meeting.

Please see attached document

Morgan Strohmann gave time for any questions

Report accepted by Bud Alcock, 2nd by Peter

AIF – Carried

8. Tournament Coordinator Report

Steve Boutang was not present but his report was circulated at the tables prior to the start of the meeting

Please see attached document

Report accepted by Shelly Ehbrecht, 2nd by Chris Hammett AIF – Carried

9. Review Special Resolutions

No special resolutions

10. Election of Directors

President – Morgan Strohmann

Vice President – Deborah Baker

Treasurer – Chris Hammett

Secretary - Becky Cheveldave

6 Directors at Large

James Wilson

Shelly Ehbrecht

Alyce Todd

Peter Beliveau

Donna Olson

Charmine McCarthy

11. Opened Floor to Question and Suggestion Period

a. Get rid of Bar-b-que – lost money, safety

b. Volunteer Drive

c. 2024 is the 40th Tournament – Historical Society get involved

d. Promote the GFI

12. Adjournment

Morgan Strohmann adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM

President's Report for the Grand Forks International Baseball Society

November 14, 2024

Dear Members and Supporters,

I am delighted to present the President's Report for the Grand Forks International Baseball Society, reflecting on the remarkable achievements and addressing the challenges we faced during the 2024 tournament.

Successes of the 2024 Tournament

This year's tournament was a resounding success, marked by several key achievements that have set a new standard for our future events:

1. **Increased Souvenir Sales:** Our souvenir sales saw a significant boost this year. Fans were eager to purchase memorabilia, including hats, t-shirts, and other branded items, to commemorate their experience. This surge in sales can be attributed to our 40th anniversary.
2. **BBQ and Concessions:** The BBQ and Hardball stands were a highlight of the event, drawing large crowds and generating positive revenue. The variety of food options, including a local burger and classic favourites, were well-received by attendees. The success of our concessions is a testament to the hard work of our coordinators, volunteers and the quality of the offerings.

Financial Position

I am pleased to report that the Grand Forks International Baseball Society is in a strong financial position to continue for years to come. This financial stability allows us to plan confidently for future tournaments and invest in improvements that will enhance the experience for all participants and spectators.

Challenges and Future Needs

Despite our many successes, we faced some challenges this year that we must address to ensure the continued success of our tournament:

- **Field Materials and Absorbent:** Due to unforeseen weather conditions, we had to use all of our field materials and absorbent to maintain the playing surfaces. This has depleted our stock, and we will need to make a significant purchase in 2025 to replenish these essential supplies. Ensuring that we have adequate materials on hand is crucial for the smooth operation of our events, regardless of weather conditions.

- **Amount of Teams:** It has been a constant recommendation from volunteers and fans to see more teams at the Tournament, it is always possible to have more teams attend the event; however, we as a society need to be prepared to source the additional volunteers required to put on the extra games and this has been increasingly difficult in years past. If we can receive commitment from more volunteers the likelihood of more teams increases.

Collaboration with the City of Grand Forks

Looking ahead, the City of Grand Forks will be working closely with us on field conditioning in 2025. Field conditioning will see the diamond a more vibrant red colour for 2025. As always the City's support ensures the field remains in top condition, providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants. We are grateful for their collaboration and look forward to a continued partnership.

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members, coordinators, volunteers, and supporters for their dedication and hard work. The success of the 2024 tournament would not have been possible without your unwavering commitment. Your efforts have made this event a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Looking Forward

As we look forward to 2025, we are committed to building on the successes of this year and addressing the challenges we faced. Our focus will be on enhancing the overall experience for participants and spectators, ensuring long-term financial stability, and fostering strong community partnerships. With your continued support, I am confident that we can achieve these goals and make the Grand Forks International Baseball Tournament a continued tradition.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of the 2024 tournament. Together, we have made significant strides, and I am excited about what the future holds for our society. Let's continue to work together to promote baseball and create lasting memories for our community.

Sincerely,

Morgan Strohmman

President and Operations Coordinator, Grand Forks International Baseball Society

GFI Tournament Co-Ordinators Report

The 2024 GFI, our 40th event, was a mixture of sadness and overwhelming gratitude from my standpoint.

We lost our founder Larry Seminoff, following a brief illness, just a couple of days prior to the opening pitch.

It for sure cast a pall on the start of the event, but it allowed us to formally recognize Larry for his years of dedication and contributions to this wonderful event. A recognition that was long due to him, but one he always turned down while he was alive. He never wanted the attention drawn to him when he always said the event was about the baseball players and the volunteers.

Thanks to Morgan Strohman and Chris Hammett who worked diligently with the family and local service providers to plan, on very short notice, the proper addition to our Memorial board and to Deb Baker for assisting me in preparing the short eulogy I felt blessed to read at the Opening Ceremonies.

On to Baseball! The GFI was a smaller event than in the past. There were several teams who we wanted to attend, but who just could not make it work with their schedules. As such we had an 8 team event, which was won for the first time by the Seattle Blackfins in just their third appearance. The Blackfins were runners up the past 2 tries, so they were for sure the fan favourites and did not disappoint once getting to the final.

Speaking of the final, I was again filled with gratitude for our volunteers. In particular the grounds crew. Weather for the final 2 days was not great and the grounds crew worked very hard to not only make the field playable, but to keep it playable through several weather delays and torrential rains. Although many people thought we were doomed, I can honestly say I knew all along that we would be able to finish because I had faith in our team. I can't say enough good things about Ken Makortoff, Rocky Voiken, and the rest of the GFI grounds crew who year after year after year pour their heart and sweat into making this such an amazing playing surface. We are so very fortunate to have them.

We are also fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer base who help run the park for the week. Having said that, we are always struggling to fill shifts and need more people to increase the tournament size again. Its fine and well to say we want to have more teams and more games, but that means we need to have more volunteers to run the services during those games. If we don't have the Hardball Café or the Tavern open because nobody is volunteering, or we don't have the people to work on the grounds crew, we can't have more games than we did this past year. Its that simple. We can find more teams.... But we can't put on more games unless we have more volunteers to staff them.

The 2025 event, our 41st, is already shaping up rather well. We have a decent bank balance after the financial successes of the post-Covid tournaments. And we have good people on our board who are willing to do work to make future events a success. And we have teams wanting to

come and participate in our tournament. So if we can find more volunteers we will again be able to expand!

The 2025 event will begin on June 22 or 23 and conclude Sunday June 29. We will not be running through Canada Day this year for several reasons.... Most notably, the US teams want to be home for July 4 as most of them host games or tournaments and would not come to the GFI if our dates were not adjusted accordingly. Further, we want to continue our work with the Little League program and the local School District in welcoming players and students to games. The earlier start date this year will allow for that.

I conclude by thanking our team of volunteers, and particularly the people who have served on our board of directors – some for many years. To those who aren't continuing to serve, I thank you for your contributions. They will not be forgotten. For those who want to volunteer to help, please let us know and we will surely be able to find something for you to do!

All of which is Respectfully submitted,

Steve Boutang

GFI Tournament Co-ordinator



Code of Conduct

1. Commitment to the Organization

- **Mission Alignment:** Board members must support and promote the mission, vision, and values of the organization.
- **Active Participation:** Attend all board meetings and participate actively in discussions and decision-making processes.

2. Integrity and Accountability

- **Honesty and Transparency:** Conduct all activities with honesty and transparency.
- **Accountability:** Take responsibility for decisions and actions, ensuring they align with the best interests of the organization.

3. Respect and Professionalism

- **Respect for Others:** Treat fellow board members, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders with respect and courtesy.
- **Professional Conduct:** Maintain a high standard of professionalism in all interactions and activities.

4. Confidentiality

- **Confidential Information:** Respect the confidentiality of sensitive information and do not disclose it without proper authorization.
- **Privacy:** Protect the privacy of individuals associated with the organization.

5. Conflict of Interest

- **Disclosure:** Disclose any potential conflicts of interest and avoid participating in decisions where such conflicts exist.
- **Recusal:** Recuse oneself from discussions and decisions where a conflict of interest is present.

6. Ethical Conduct

- **Ethical Standards:** Uphold the highest standards of ethical conduct in all board-related activities.
- **No Personal Gain:** Avoid using board membership for personal gain or advantage.

7. Inclusivity and Diversity

- **Inclusive Environment:** Promote an inclusive environment that values diversity and ensures equal opportunities for all.
- **Zero Tolerance for Discrimination:** Stand against any form of discrimination or harassment.

8. Board Dynamics

- **Constructive Engagement:** Engage in board discussions constructively, fostering a collaborative and respectful atmosphere.
- **Supportive Environment:** Support fellow board members and work towards consensus in decision-making.

9. Commitment to Continuous Improvement

- **Ongoing Education:** Commit to ongoing education and development to enhance board effectiveness.
- **Feedback and Evaluation:** Participate in regular evaluations of board performance and provide constructive feedback.

10. Community and Representation

- **Positive Representation:** Represent the organization positively in all settings.
- **Community Engagement:** Actively engage with the community to promote the organization's mission and activities.