**Vision:** Most admired girls fastpitch club in the upper Midwest.

**Mission:** We provide an uncompromising commitment to developing players on and off the field and knowing that the quality of our coaches and the satisfaction of our teams and families is paramount.

**MINUTES**

**December 12, 2021**

1. **Call to Order**

Amy Kimbler called to order the December meeting of the Minnesota Vortex/A’s Board at 7:05 p.m. on Sunday, December 12. This meeting was held virtually.

1. **Roll Call**

Board members present: Mike Carter, Rich Gross, Steve Bartz, Amy KImbler, Becky Smith

Absent: Dan Maus, Jen Arends

1. **Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

October minutes were sent to the board members for review. The board did not meet in Nov.

* Rich Gross made a motion to pass the October minutes.
* Mike Carter seconded.
* All board members in attendance approved the October minutes.
* Amy will publish the October minutes to the website.

1. **Financial Update**

Rich Gross reported:

* Final fall coach payment went out last week.
* Checking and savings account balance is strong; no spend in the last statement period.
* Still a few outstanding player payments. Rich and others are following up.
* Team tournament registrations are starting to come in. Will start to pick up even more in January and February.
* Team Activity Report was reviewed by the board. No areas of concern at this time.

1. **Old Business**

**Fundraising for the Organization**

* **Grants:** Becky Smith reported that nothing applies to us with the Met Council grant. We have two grant applications with Hennepin county and we are waiting to hear back from them. UPDATE AT JANUARY MEETING
* **Amazon Smile:** Amy Kimbler reported that the organization would make 5% on each purchase, not much and may not be worth trying to get something out at this time. Suggest to revisit this idea in the summer. TABLED - REVISIT AT JUNE MEETING
* **Gertens Mums Fundraiser:** Amy Kimbler reported that the potential is high to make over $3,000-$5,000 with about 40 girls participating. With an organization our size, we could do well. This fundraiser would begin in August with forms going out to players. Delivery would occur in mid-September. Suggest to revisit this idea in the spring/summer months. TABLED - REVISIT AT JUNE MEETING
* **Airline/Hotel Donations:** Jen Arends was not at the meeting. UPDATE AT JANUARY MEETING

**Lexi Kretsch Summer Showdown - June 10-13, 2022**

* Mike Carter reported that the tournament was posted to the USSSA website in November. Have over 40 teams registered. Field usage locations are being discussed. Will continue to look into Hamel fields as well as the Corcoran fields.
* Amy Kimbler checked with the city of Bloomington and their Dred Scott fields are not available that weekend.
* Becky Smith updated the dates on the website.
* Mike and Becky will manage the website. Amy will provide sponsor logos to Becky for those who donated $500+ to last year’s tournament.
* Amy will schedule a tournament committee meeting in early January, prior to our next board meeting.

**Coaches**

* We will continue to be competitive and look at ways to compensate and keep good coaches. They are our most valuable asset. We want to continue to be able to keep and recruit good people.
* Ask Dan to look at the coaching packet and check the language regarding confidentiality. UPDATE AT JANUARY MEETING

**Blast Motion Sensors**

* Becky Smith reported that the distribution went well and the devices are in use. CLOSED

**Player Headshot Photos**

* Becky Smith reported that the photos were taken in November and are up on the website. CLOSED

1. **New Business**

**Winter Training Update**

* Becky Smith reported that we are in week 3 now. All is going well. She will send a friendly reminder to all that they need to look ahead and remove their names if they cannot make a session. Removing it at the time of the session or just before does not give someone else time to fill the spot. There are plenty of instructors at each session so players are getting a lot of individual time.
* Mike Carter concurred with Becky. On the evenings when we go late and there are not as many girls in attendance, it may be OK to let some of the instructors leave. Mike and Becky will coordinate this. Special thanks to Becky for the improvements she has made with the logistics of the winter training plan/schedule.

**Team Equipment from Coaches**

* Mike Carter confirmed all equipment has been returned. CLOSED

**Feed My Starving Children**

* Becky Smith reported about 70 people showed up to volunteer. She will post a picture to the website. CLOSED

**Scheduling of Tournaments**

* Garbrecht and Uittenbogaard have provided summer schedules. They are in our tracker. Need to remind other coaches to submit schedules.
* Dan is registering for priority tournaments as requests come in (Colorado Sparkler for Mike’s team, Space Coast World Series for Garbrecht team). Holding off on others until March in case coaches change their mind.

**TCOS Training Center Expansion**

* Steve Bartz reported that we are acquiring the space a month early. Will start updating the space in the next few weeks. Hope to have it functioning in early January.

**League Athletics/Sport Sign Up Play**

* Steve Bartz reported the app has created difficulties for the organization. It works for some but not for all. We need to look at the implications of keeping this or make a change. Steve will continue to look into this. UPDATE AT JANUARY MEETING

**Nutrition and Positivity Education Session - End of January**

* Becky Smith is coordinating this event. Tentative January 30th. One speaker will discuss the benefits of recovery, sleep, hydration, etc. and the other will address the importance of positive self-talk to young women athletes. Board will support as needed.

**College Information Session - February**

* Mike Carter and Becky Smith will coordinate this event. They will take the lead to line up players from prior years. Will plan for an in person event. Typically held the 3rd Sunday night in February. Board will support as needed.

**Heggies Fundraiser - February**

* Nicole Campion to lead this fundraiser. Dan Maus will connect with Nicole to confirm.
* Typically held in February before the high school softball fundraisers begin.

**Tryout T-shirts/Bib Numbers**

* Board will continue to communicate a new process for tryouts with either t-shirts and/or bib numbers (similar to what run races wear). We can customize the bib numbers and re-use or order new each year.
* We could also order inexpensive t-shirts to wear and give to each tryout player.
* Purchasing a heat press was also discussed. Need to determine cost effectiveness and how often it would be used. May be more work than it’s worth and more cost effective to just order t-shirts when needed. Amy will look into costs.

1. **Action Items from Meeting Notes**

* Becky - provide an update from the Hennepin County grants
* Becky - confirm details of nutrition and positive self-talk education session in January
* Becky and Mike - confirm details of college session in February
* Jen - update on information regarding airline/hotel fundraising or donation options
* Amy - post October meeting minutes to the website
* Amy - meet with the Lexi Summer Showdown committee before our next board meeting
* Dan - look at the coaches packet to be sure confidentiality statement included
* Dan - reach out to Nicole Campion to confirm she is willing to be the lead of the Heggies fundraiser; confirm the month of February
* Steve - continue to look at Team App options

1. **Next Meeting**

Sunday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. Location TBD.

1. **Closing**

* Becky Smith made the motion to close the meeting.
* Rich Gross seconded.
* Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted 12/13/21

Amy Kimbler

Secretary, MM Vortex/A’s Board

Future Meeting Topics: [Reference Annual Calendar](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1djWrj7zQbtcgxR--NFDiPyQwOjRG8EvwANVNb8gdB4Q/edit)