**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**

**January 16, 2022**

1. **Call to Order**

Amy Kimbler called to order the January meeting of the Minnesota Vortex/A’s Board at 7:03 p.m. on Sunday, January 16. This meeting was held virtually.

1. **Roll Call**

Board members present: Mike Carter, Dan Maus, Jen Arends, Rich Gross, Steve Bartz, Becky Smith, Amy Kimbler

Guest: Morgan Garbrecht

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

December minutes were sent to the board members for review.

* Dan Maus made a motion to pass the December minutes.
* Mike Carter seconded.
* All board members in attendance approved the December minutes.
* Amy will publish the December minutes to the website.

1. **Financial Update**

Minnesota Vortex Treasurer, Rich Gross provided the financial report.

Rich has been in contact with Ellingson and Ellingson regarding 1099s needed. The Team Activity Report and Statement of Activity documents were reviewed and discussed by the board. No areas of concern at this time.

* Dan Maus made the motion to approve the finances as provided and discussed at the meeting.
* Jen Arends seconded.
* All board members approved.
* Motion passed.

1. **Old Business**

**Fundraising for the Organization**

* Hennepin County Grants: Becky Smith reported that we are still waiting to hear back on 2 grants (one for dugouts and one for equipment). Becky is looking at other available grant options. Mike Carter will continue to stay in touch with the organization that runs pull tabs in Loretto. They may be willing to make a donation to our organization.
* Airline/Hotel Donations: Jen Arends reported possible donation options for Delta, Marriott and Hilton.
  + Delta: Donated frequent flier miles. One person can accept up to 60K a year from others. Account needs to be in one person’s name; cannot be an organization name.
  + Marriott Bonvoy: One person can donate a minimum of 1,000 or up to 100,000. Organization can accept the max of 500,000 points. Not tax deductible.
  + Hilton: Point Pooling - up to 11 people and pool together points and accumulate up to 2,000,000 points a year.

Jen will continue looking into these options and will set up a trial with Marriott to start.

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

Amy Kimbler reported that the first planning committee meeting was held virtually on Sunday, January 9. As of 1/16/22, the tournament is full with 108 teams. We are looking for more parent volunteers from each team and more core committee members to help carry additional site lead opportunities for the tournament. We are also looking at alternative field locations to possibly replace using Zane and/or Noble in Brooklyn Park. Looking at fields in Corcoran, Delano, Rockford.

**Coach Manual Update**

Dan Maus reported that there is nothing in the coaches packet now regarding confidentiality. The board discussed adding wording to next year’s coaching manual that:

* Reminds coaches to be respectful and discourages discussing parents/players with others
* Outlines how coach salaries are determined. Board is asked to send any suggestions of verbiage to Dan. Dan will create updated verbiage to the 2022-2023 Coach Manual for the board to review at the next board meeting.

**Scheduling of Tournaments**

Dan Maus reported that we are still waiting for a few teams to give them their tournament plans. Overall we are in good shape with tournament scheduling at this time.

**TCOS Training Center Expansion**

Steve Bartz reported that the bulk of the expansion in the new section of TCOS is complete. There are a few things still left to do but it is operational now and it is great to have expanded opportunities for players.

The board discussed having a grand opening to let people know about the expanded space, possibly on March 5th. We can publicize on our social media platforms and use footage to help in gearing up for tryouts to show our capabilities for training in the off season.

**League Athletics/Sport Sign Up Play**

Steve Bartz reported that has been exploring options. There are many out there. He has a list of options that he will narrow down with input from Becky and Mike.

**Nutrition and Positivity Education Session - January 30**

Becky Smith reported that Troy Trimble will provide an education session on the importance of nutrition. Jen Walter will talk to our players about the benefits of positive self-talk and how it impacts the mental game.

The board discussed sending out a message to players/families about a ‘series’ of education sessions/events for players coming up:

* Nutrition and Positivity (January 30)
* Pitchers/Catchers Education Session - Stan Waldhauser (Feb)
* College Information Session (Feb)
* Grand Opening/Open House of new space (March 5)

1. **New Business**

**Heggies Fundraiser**

Nicole Campion ran this fundraiser in 2021 and is willing to be our point person for this year as well. She has a plan ready to implement. The board approved of her plan:

Email to coaches / team managers – January 24th

Email to players / families – Jan 28th

Start Sales on Jan 28th

End Sales on Feb 17th

Managers get final numbers/money to Nicole by Feb 21st

Final numbers to Heggie’s on or before Feb 25th

Delivery Date will be March 10th – March 16th (weekday or possibly a Sat. am if needed, will confirm with Heggies once approved).

Last year, we sold 2,781 pizzas. Goal is to sell at least 2,800 pizzas this year.

**Field Selections for Summer Practices/Games**

Request has already been submitted for using Chanhassen fields. Steve and Becky will continue to stay on top of this for fields needed this summer.

1. **Open Discussion Items**

* COVID Update: The organization will continue to monitor mask mandates in the cities we use for winter training facility space over the coming months.
* Facility Expansion: Becky and Steve will continue to work on facility space for next year’s winter training. Consider locking in 2 nights at P3.
* Diversity Equity and Inclusion: Dan will continue to interview people of various ethnicities, race, and gender to continue learning and gathering feedback.
* Coach Training: Becky Smith, Morgan Garbrecht, and Jason attended a coach training this weekend. Becky reported that it was a great seminar. The three of them will summarize key points and distribute information to coaches. The board recognizes the importance of our coaches continuing to be developed and equipped with coaching knowledge, new skills, and drills.

1. **Action Items from Meeting Notes**

* Jen - update on Marriott donated hotel points
* Dan - verbiage for coach manual regarding 1) reminding coaches to be respectful with parent/player discussions and 2) how coach salaries are determined
* Steve - continue to look at Team App options

1. **Next Meeting**

Sunday, February 20 - 5 PM at TCOS

1. **Closing**

* Jen Arends made the motion to close the meeting.
* Beck Smith seconded.
* All board members approved.
* Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Submitted 1/17/22

Amy Kimbler

Secretary, MN Vortex/A’s Board

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