

KAUAI SENIOR CITIZEN SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 14, 2021
Emergency Meeting Called By President
Hanamaulu Pavilion

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Joe Bertucci. All members were present in person or by proxy, as determined by roll call. Proxies: *Gents, Kuku's* (to Mike Curtis), *Da Killas* (to Mike Curtis).

Approval of Agenda

The Agenda, distributed by email prior to the meeting, was approved. Only further item on the agenda is "League Coordinator."

Proceedings Concerning Agenda Item "League Coordinator"

President Joe Bertucci referenced a letter Mike Curtis wrote to the Kauai Mayor with a copy sent to *The Garden Island* newspaper. He stated that the problems go back at least to the County's several week earlier communication to the Association about the Department of Parks & Recreation's closure of the entrance to the beyond outfield fence area at Hanamaulu.

Joe Bertucci said he sent a letter of apology to County officials after Mike's letter.

Mike's letter was motivated by the closure of the outfield area gate at Hanamaulu again last Saturday gates. Wallace G. Rezentes Jr. at Parks & Rec told Joe that Mike had been given an option. Mike called Wally; Wally was at the Lihue Airport trying to board. According to Wally, Mike yelled at him and hung up on him. Joe noted this type of incident with County officials does not help the image of Senior Softball with the County.

During successive calls he made, Joe learned that other coaches had advised Mike not to send the letter, and inquired of Mike whether he had secured Board approval.

Joe advised Mike to cease contact with the County. Joe stated that according to Russell Wellington, the Dept of Parks & Rec held a meeting Monday, reaching a decision that they would not have further contact with Mike, due to tenor of his calls and letter.

That morning (4/14/21), Joe talked briefly to Mayor Kawakami, who thanked him for the letter of apology. Wally Rezentes also thanked him, as did Russell. There was a telephone call today, for 24 minutes, with several County officials, again to the point that County contact with the Association would be through Joe, not Mike.

Joe stated he was told a permit for 2021 league play would be signed today and would be sent, although the Dept of Parks and Rec has turned down six requests for tournaments so far this year. Joe believes this development may have been aided by the Mayor, after the letter of apology. He thinks the Association is sure of \$5,000 from the County for the State Tournament.

Joe has known from his own calls that the Big Island will have about 18 teams for the Tournament. Probably none will come from Maui. Oahu starts play 4/21, with no spectators. Our Kauai Tournament will be limited by Parks & Rec to 40 teams, to be played at Hanepepe (4 fields), Kaumakani and Eleele.

The Tournament will be an "exception event", given the Association's failure so far to strictly follow the County Covid protocols; specific mention was made of the parties around the games. The County noted that issue, and reminded Joe that players cannot hang around watching other games. Those failures to observe Covid protocols were the reason for the locking of the gates at Hanamaulu and Kapaa.

Joe noted that in order to play softball at the Tournament, the Association must enforce wearing face masks in the dugout and by the catcher and umpires, the six foot requirement, and all other County Covid rules.

Joe believes that we can contact the Department of Education and have the Hanamaulu parking lot open on game days. Kapa'a fields will not be open for parking (or parties) on game days.

Joe concluded by saying he thinks we need to change the League Coordination: the recent problems imply "this is not good stewardship." Joe promised the County we would handle the matter.

There was discussion by members. One disputed Wally's view of his telephone conversation with Mike. Mike was frustrated by a failure to secure a meeting with the Mayor, and was trying to solve the parking situation in sending his letter.

Mike Curtis pointed to the Association's Constitution, and the duties of the President therein. He said there is no express authority in the Constitution for a president to call emergency meetings.

Mike noted that in the permit process with the County, it is express that the County communicate with the League Coordinator. He stated that for 50 years, the Senior Softball league has been using the outside field at Hanamaulu for parking and partying. He did not think it right to alter that on the basis of a permitting law in effect for less than one year. "Are you trying to change our lifestyle?" he asked of the County.

On the issue of his removal, Mike stated, "If you want somebody else running this Tournament, go for it. ... Fire me if you want."

Members noted many past grievances with the Dept of Parks and Rec, and a lack of respect by them for what the Senior Softball teams do for the fields.

One member noted his disappointment that the League Coordinator and President were not in regular communication. Several suggested that they should work together more.

Joe noted that under the Constitution, the League Coordinator should normally obtain the approval of the Board before committing the League to anything.

Members noted that Joe and Mike are not getting along well at this point: the relationship is "dysfunctional" and damaging to the Association.

Mike noted in the conduct complained of, he was challenging Parks & Rec's behavior; he doesn't think our tradition of get-togethers should be shut down for Covid.

Mike said the issue now is "Joe or me."

Joe observed that Big Island will do the State Tournament registration.

A motion was made to remove the League Coordinator. The motion was seconded.

There was further discussion.

Mike said he has good communication with the County. Any problem between the County and Mike arises from Joe, he suggested.

A member noted the County can shut us down at any time. Mike noted he has been at odds with Wally for about six weeks. A member said the all-caps letter reflected poor judgment.

A roll call vote on the motion to remove the League Coordinator was taken (including all proxies). Result: 7 yeas; 8 nays. Motion failed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jed Somit
Secretary