

Halsey Hall Research Committee – August 21, 2023 Zoom Meeting Minutes

Attendees (13): Stew Thornley, Dave Lande, Bob Komoroski, Howard Luloff, Terry Bohn, Brenda Himrich, Art Mugalian, Gene Gomes, Rich Arpi, Darryl Sannes, Doug Skipper, Glenn Renick, John Gregory

1. Pre-meeting baseball talk

- a. Art asked if the chapter was going to have a baseball card committee. Stew explained that Ed Edmonds was early in the process of starting a chapter baseball card committee or club as noted in the most recent chapter newsletter.

2. Review of July 17 meeting minutes

- a. Gene called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Dave moved to approve the July 17 meeting minutes and Art seconded Dave's motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Fall Chapter Meeting – November 18

- a. Sam Sundermeyer's research presentation on the case for Joe Mauer's election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame is the first research presentation approved to date.
- b. Stew made the following research presentation proposal as noted in the Zoom chat room: "Proposal for Past Speed-up Attempts in Major League Baseball. The pace of games in MLB has been slowing for more than 35 years. Knee-jerk reactions have focused on added time for commercials, although research indicates that this should not have been a factor in regular season games. The presenter has done research and analysis on pace of play, particularly with 1995 attempts to speed up the game, attempts that were quickly abandoned." Gene moved to accept Stew's proposed research presentation and Brenda seconded Gene's motion. The Research Committee unanimously approved it.
- c. Glenn made the following research presentation proposal as noted in the Zoom chat room: "Sticky fingers: The City That Gave Us Early Candy and Gum Baseball Cards. One city, and the surrounding area, generated the majority of baseball cards produced between 1905 and 1925. This presentation will cover the companies and individuals who distributed these card sets and why this area was the center of their production. Included will be a display of actual cards presented in archival holders (devoid of grading slabs)." Doug moved to approve Glenn's proposed research presentation and Gene seconded Doug's motion. The Research Committee unanimously approved Glenn's proposal.
- d. Bob K. sent a letter to Amanda Daley of the Minnesota Twins asking if she would agree to be the featured speaker at the Fall Chapter Meeting. Amanda is the Twins Director of Education and her primary responsibility is the Twins Academy in the Dominican Republic. Bob will advise the Research Committee when Amanda responds to his letter.
- e. Facebook Live set-up
 - i. Committee discussed need for blue tooth or portable microphone with either a battery back-up or plug-in. The cordless microphone is on the agenda for the next board meeting. Gene will research prices for cordless microphone. Brenda will contact Jerry regarding the church's cordless microphone to ask if can be used downstairs and if so, can the chapter use it during the chapter meeting.
 - ii. Brenda stated that the Facebook broadcast would be much better if it was set-up straight on to the speaker and screen. Committee consensus agreed with Brenda.
 - iii. Bob's I-pad used for Facebook Live is an older model. Brenda offered the use of her I-pad for the chapter meeting.

- iv. Committee discussed the need for questions from the audience to be repeated by the presenter or moderator. The presenter typically forgets to do this so it should probably be the responsibility of the moderator or another volunteer.

4. SABR 52

- a. Committees
 - i. Gene said that Scott Bush contacted him and Stew regarding a steering committee of two to five people from the chapter. Scott also said that an events committee or sub-committee is needed
 - ii. Gene received many responses to his e-mail inquiry asking who is interested in serving on committees.
 - iii. Board can decide who serves on committees.
 - iv. Brenda recommended that the steering committee have five members, two of whom can serve as co-chairs.
 - v. Dave recommended that some “new blood” from younger chapter members serve on the committees.
- b. Stew stated that the Minneapolis Water Works is willing to donate 500-600 re-usable water bottles. These can be included in goodie bags and given to speakers.
- c. Stew will continue to work on the flyer. Art and Brenda said that they can help with this.
- d. Events can include Twins and Saints games as they’re both in town during SABR 52. Transportation to and from Target field has to be arranged.
- e. Stew said that the SABR office will do much of the detail work such as logistics.

5. Research Roundtable – Around the Horn

- a. Rich has re-started the Spread of Baseball in Minnesota project. He estimated that 45 of 87 counties have been researched. A spreadsheet is on Google doc’s and anyone wanting access to the spreadsheet should send an e-mail to Rich. He will set up a visit to the Minnesota History Center library after Labor Day, possibly on September 8.
- b. Bob K. is working on an author presentation after Labor Day. The author, Steve Gietschier, wrote “The Turbulent Mid-Century Years”.
- c. Brenda stated that she misses in-person events such as library events that are open to the public. These are the best ways to recruit new chapter members such as people of color and the young.
- d. Stew said that a new committee may be set up by the board to document activities regarding SABR national recognition. He stated that the chapter need to make sure that the chapter table at Twins Fest qualifies as a SABR Day event.
- e. Howard is working on the categories for the fall chapter meeting quiz. He and Gene will coordinate schedules to load these into a laptop.
- f. Art stated that the next book club book is “Winning Fixes Everything” about the Astros.
- g. Besides the Spread of Baseball, Rich is working on the Rucker archives project.
- h. This winter, Brenda will work on the Spread of Baseball Project.
- i. Stew is involved with the Landmark Committee.
- j. Dave is writing a game story for the Dodger Stadium book.
- k. Glenn is working on the origin of fan-crazed baseball. A resource for this is “The Original Colored House of David” by Martin Quigley. An out of print book, it has great pictures of life on the road for Negro League teams in the 1920s.

6. Trivia Time Quiz, courtesy of Gene Gomes: “Body of Work”

- 1) The last name of the pitcher who holds the record for winning percentage in a season with at least 15 decisions (.947). Career WAR: 20.6 Elroy **Face**
- 2) Nickname of the verbally-combative infielder of the 1928-29 Yankees and the St. Louis Cardinals’ Gas House Gang, among others. He later managed the Dodgers, Giants, Cubs and Astros to a total of 2008 wins. WAR: 4.3 Leo **“The Lip”** Durocher

- 3) Last name of the HOF pitcher who won an MVP and a Cy Young Award in one league– both following three World Series championships for a different team. WAR: 25.6 Rollie **Fingers**
- 4) Last name of the catcher who was an overall #3 draft pick of the Expos, and who later was named Manager of the Year twice in the minors -for the Yankees and Blue Jays' organizations. WAR: 3.3 Barry **Foote**
- 5) Nickname of the third baseman who racked up hits in 12 consecutive at-bats over 14 plate appearances in 1938. He later managed and is noted in baseball history for his controversial attitudes and actions as a GM. WAR: 26.0 Mike "**Pinky**" Higgins
- 6) Last name of the current lefty reliever who graduated from a Minnesota high school, and who pitched in seven postseason games in 2022. WAR: 8.0 Brad **Hand**
- 7) Nickname of the HOF catcher who notched an MVP award and two batting titles. He led his league in grounding into double plays four times. WAR: 37.7 Ernie "**Schnozz**" Lombardi
- 8) Last name of the former Giant who became the right-handed hitting platoon option as DH for the Yankees in 1973. WAR: 24.9 Jim Ray **Hart**
- 9) Last name of the former Cy Young Award winner who played for eleven teams in 21 years, and notched 247 career wins – including a complete game vs. Texas for the Twins in 2017 among his five wins for them that year. WAR: 46.2 Bartolo **Colon**

10th inning: First name/nickname of the 5'8" third baseman who led the NL in double plays six times, fielding pct. five times, and putouts three times. A subject of "*The Glory of Their Times*" book, he also led the league at times in runs, hits, doubles, walks, OBP, OPS, and HBP. He played for six pennant winners and two World Series champs. His last appearance was vs. Yankees in the 1927 Series. WAR: 48.4 **Heine** Groh

7. Next Meetings: September 18, October 16 & November 13 (Monday before the chapter meeting)
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. Next Trivia Time quizzer: Dave