

Saco Little League
Board Meeting Minutes 1/9/24

In Attendance: Jeff Wentworth, Heather McLeod, Justin Huth, Brad Hittle, Nick Laskey, Marc Chappell, Christine Christensen, David Christensen, Shannon Haskell, Jon Quezada, Katie Cross, Warren Cheney, Betsy Uhuad, Brian Thompson, Tricia Welch

Meeting Called to Order: 6:04

Meeting Adjourned:

Agenda Item	Notes
Secretary's Report <i>Shannon Haskell</i>	<i>Approve minutes from last meeting</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justin took minutes last month; weren't sent to the full board to review -Jeff will send out minutes from last month to everyone tonight • Will defer approval of August, October and November minutes to next meeting but need to do it then
Treasurer's Report <i>Warren Cheney</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just under 54K in account • Did over 20K net on trees which was more than last year (37K total is what was brought in); had one person return a tree otherwise trees seemed of good quality • Gave 10-12 trees out for free at the end • 100 wreaths were too many; 75 would be good for next year – weren't a big money maker this year • Only sold one sweatshirt • 2K for registering 24 teams – combined softball/baseball with LL - \$300 credit from last year; can adjust numbers if needed
Field Manager's Report <i>Jeff Wentworth</i>	<i>Summer St/Maremont/Dayton</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everything picked up from Christmas Tree sales – lights down, cleaned up, sign back up • Gates are locked; everything shut down • New fence done at Maremont behind shed; had 4 boards come down with the storm; Jeff removed broken pieces and was able to repair the ones that came down; will paint gray in the spring • Summer St. – tree fell on fence in left center field; removed wood and replaced fence • Less than 1K for both fences • Both fields all buttoned up • Will get mowers tuned up sooner than later
Equipment Manger's Report <i>Dave Brown</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Brown not in attendance • There is equipment we will not use that can be gone through – someone reached out and was interested in catching equipment
Uniform Director's Report <i>Jon Quezada</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Quezada was wondering about opening up in an inhouse on line store • Dave Christensen indicated website isn't set up to do that • Can look at if 3rd party printer (ie Pennell) can set up an online store • This year would like to focus on different merchandise – example long sleeve dri-fit shirts – cost less and can be utilized longer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some thought that we may want to consider getting rid of the inventory we have before purchasing additional merchandise – still have a lot of sweatshirts ○ Inventory won't go bad though and can be sold in future years • Team uniforms discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year ordered too many per team (16 shirts/hats per team) – this year maybe decrease to 12 ○ The sooner the better for ordering uniforms to get colors we want – wants to prioritize colors for sponsors from the board to ensure they get ones that align with their logo • All Star Uniforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Typically manager chooses however Jon would like to consider going with New Balance jerseys – some concern on the cost of

	<p>approx. \$85 – could consider option of paying to be on all stars to offset, have done that in the past</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jon will start looking into All Star jerseys as well to be in a good place to order those – can't order until have All Star team selected because need name, number and sizes but can be prepared to go ○ Jon also suggested considering reversible jerseys – one color for home and one for away <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon will reach out to vendors for options for both team and All Star and bring back to board
<p>Fundraising <i>Betsy Uhuad & Tricia Welch</i></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calendar Fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Betsy Uhuad will be planning the calendar fundraiser again – and will start to pull together soon ○ Nick Laskey made a suggestion of looking at different prizes (ie Bruce Bolt batting gloves, glove, sunglasses, gift card to the snack shack are options) as a new way to incentivize kids ○ Last year primarily did tshirts and gaming cards which seemed to work well ○ Have to balance the cost of the incentive with how much you are making ○ If have more expensive prizes could set the bar higher and have to sell more then 10 to get a prize ○ Some people don't like fundraising – particularly families with multiple kids in multiple sports – could take option that Jr. Trojans do and just pay \$100 to opt out of fundraising ○ Betsy will look at numbers from last year and put together some options • Sponsorships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last year \$150 for banner, \$600 for team sponsorship – Brad Hittle may be able to do them for cheaper – would like to look into and will get back to the board ○ Sponsors have to repay for banners each year ○ Jeff Wentworth shared that Danny Reali would like to have sign under the scoreboard at Summer St.– Brian reached out to Jamie Gagnon during the meeting – current scoreboards were purchased in 2018 for 3K with a 5 yr guarantee for the sponsors ○ Able to switch sponsors now as 5 years are up ○ Maremont has 2 scorebards currently with 2 sponsors on each (they split the cost and paid 1500 each) ○ Will move Maremont to one sponsor on each scoreboard and charge \$300 for scoreboard sponsors ○ Will offer Summer St to Danny Reali and Brad Hittle will take Maremont for Signorama; will keep 3rd one as an option at this time for someone else to be determined later ○ Motion by Brian Thompson to increase cost of team sponsorship to \$750, includes banner; second by David Christensen; most all in favor • Tricia Welch is taking over team sponsorship oversight - has been getting filled in by Christine Jury, Carrie Lawler and Abby Purvis on how to run sponsorships • Betsy Uhuad– Jack Chevrolet was promised last year first dibs on an open spot for team sponsorships; submitted money last year but it was too late • Trailer out in the field could be another opportunity for a sponsorship – Brad Hittle to get a cost on that • Sevens Barbership has expressed interest in sponsoring a team • Christine Christensen also noted she has someone else who has expressed interest for sponsoring and coaching a team, she believes at the developmental level • Shannon Haskell suggested a Super Bowl square fundraiser – get idea but nobody feels they have capacity to pull it off in time – may be a consideration for next year; quick money maker •
<p>Concessions Update <i>Christine Christensen</i></p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not discuss concessions
<p>Old Business/Outstanding Items <i>Board</i></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early bird special for registration ends at the end of January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ See how numbers are going – send reminders couple of days before then could do a special extension for 2 additional weeks • Could put sign out at field or other places around town like schools, Dyer library, banner across Main Street (Saco Main Street) that registration is now open (Betsy Uhuad to call Saco Main Street), Christine Christensen to contact schools • Already listed on Saco fire station sign • Christine Christensen working on electronic pamphlet for Young and Fairfiled Schools – printed ones would be several hundred dollars and a lot of times paperwork sent home doesn't leave the folders • Can also look at adding information on registration to school FB pages
<p>New Business Jeff/All</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Sox Tickets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Able to get either a block of tickets like last year with a link to purchase or could purchase a block upfront and resell at whatever price point we chose ◦ Elected to go with a block of tickets and a link to purchase ◦ Options were right field grandstand for \$53 or infield grandstand for \$86 – will go with infield grandstand which is what we did last year – having cover for rain and sun is a positive ◦ Date is August 25th • Savannah Banana Tickets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Have requested a block of group tickets ◦ Won't know until the general public does if we will get those ◦ Game is 6/8 • Player clinic dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jeff Wentworth recommends 3 clinics - one with Guides, one with Rats and one with Coastal ◦ Need to have a focus on pitching/catching at one; will do hitting at one and fielding at one ◦ Have an hour for each division – majors, minors, developmental – question if necessary for developmental but it was the most well attended session last year ◦ Clinics are a good opportunity to get all of the medical forms completed ◦ Will do one early March, one late March and one early April ◦ Jeff Wentworth to work with the 3 travel teams on available dates • Manager Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Will get out requests first of February ◦ Need recommendations in prior to 2/13 for voting on in the Feb meeting • Coaching clini <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Will see LL offers, or look at Big Al's ◦ Will aim for mid-March • Safety plan needs to get done and safety manager needs to go through safety course • Evaluation dates first week of April • Dick's Sporting Good discount 2nd week of April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Need to do late enough to have teams determined so know colors for accessories but early enough that there is still available inventory • Umpire clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ One in Windham in mid-March ◦ Not mandatory but recommended ◦ Once date known will put on FB to try to recruit • Season start <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Would like to try to start practices a couple of weeks early this year ◦ Will be weather dependent • Team parent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Recommend reinstating this year to assist coaches • Tuition Sponsorships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Have companies willing to sponsor for tuition (ex TMobile) ◦ Betsy recommends if we do this should send sponsor something acknowledging the person they assisted – discussed including a picture of the child but that may make families uncomfortable as a lot don't like asking for help to begin with

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Should put out a statement that indicates if cost is prohibitive reach out Saco LL - ○ Tricia Welch may hear things through people she works with at school and can provide information ● Playing up and playing down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jeff Wentworth is hearing a lot of buzz about kids in minors wanting to play up ○ Discussed extensively and there are a couple of schools of thought ○ Cons to playing up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is concern for really depleting the quality of the minors program ▪ If you take the top 10 kids and remove them the program will not be as successful ▪ It is good to have skilled kids who can be leaders in that organization – someone younger kids to look up to ▪ There is plenty of time to be challenged in playing – minor level isn't necessarily the time for that ○ Pros to playing up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kids play better when playing with higher skilled kids ▪ If someone has the skill should be able to play up to keep them interested and to keep it competitive ○ Last year approach was people sign up based on their age group and petition the league (players agent, President and/or VP) to play up or down – at evaluations those kids have an * and coaches assess ○ Exceptions have been made in the past if a kid is young for their grade (example age 10 for minors but in 6th grade and wants to play with peers in same grade) or for safety concerns (ie a kid throws so hard at risk of hurting other kids) ○ Ultimately left it that we need to see what registration looks like and then make decision on any changes to the rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was a suggestion of giving consideration for kids who have already done 2 yrs in the majors ▪ There was also a suggestion of having kids who want to play up play as pool players for the majors instead – would give them the additional challenge of playing on majors teams while keeping the integrity of the minors organization; there were a good number of pooled players needed last year
Meeting Adjourn	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brad motion to adjourn 8:07; Brian second; all in favor
Action Items for Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next Meeting 2/13/23
Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review and approve minutes from last several months ● Vote on coaches ● Make decisions on dates for clinics and evaluations ● Tricia Welch to provide updates regarding what we have received for sponsorship requests – be prepared to make decisions if needed ● Jon Quezada to provide updates regarding research/recommendations on uniforms – be prepared to make decisions if able ● Betsy Uhuad to provide update on calendar fundraiser and potential options for prizes <p>If time or potentially for March meeting will need to plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concession planning – discussion of approach to ensure more volunteers this year ● Field management and how that will be handled ● Schedule field clean up days ● Plan opening ceremonies