



*Parkway Little League*  
P.O. Box 320152  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Meeting Minutes for 11/9/16 – 7:30 p.m.  
Parkway Little League Complex Clubhouse

**Attendance**

Present  
Ian Browne  
John Burns  
John Flynn  
Pat Goonan  
Matt Maiona  
Pat Murphy  
Rich Myers  
Brian Nolan  
Adam Polgreen  
Gary Russell  
John Sarro  
Bob Todd  
Rick Treseler

**Absent**

Mike Barone  
Jim Gallagher  
Rob McLaughlin  
Sean Russell

**Senior Members in attendance**

Rich Curran  
Mike Gallagher  
Mike Moxley  
Lenny Johnson  
Stephen Mitchell

**11:9:1**

**Finance update:** Treasurer Bobby Todd gave an update on the league's finances and an update of outstanding bills. Todd provided a general ledger as well.



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**11:9:2**

**Player Agent Update:** Player agent Jim Gallagher is not present at the meeting, but Adam Polgreen updated that there is still one family trying to get their son moved to different Majors team than the one he was drafted by. Adam suggests the parents give the team a shot. If a trade can't be worked out, the player would have to play for the team that drafted him or play in Triple-A.

**11:9:3**

**Plans for Opening Day:** Typically, the Opening Day parade is the Saturday before April vacation. However, that is Easter Weekend this year. Thus, the board has decided to move forward with Saturday, April 8 for the Opening Day parade and Opening Night party. The parade will go off rain or shine.

**Action:** Opening Day coordinator John Flynn can begin preparations for April 8.

**11:9:4**

**Schedule update:** Commissioner Matt Maiona will start preparing a draft of the Majors schedule, now that he knows that Opening Day is April 8. Probably won't have any games Easter weekend - April 14-16 - due to Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter. Rick Treseler reminds Maiona that the lights won't go on until early May. Maiona hopes to present a draft of the Majors schedule by the December board meeting.

**Action:** Maiona to prepare draft of Majors schedule by December.

**11:9:5**

**Spring Registration:** Last year, spring registration was launched on Jan. 12. We will shoot for January 10. Brian Nolan will get notice out to local media once registration is live.

**11:9:6**

**Sponsorship update:** Rick Treseler and Mike Barone are spearheading sponsorships. Mike, not present at the meeting, instructed Rick to prepare an introduction letter that will go out to current sponsors. After that, they will try to identify some new sponsors. Adam Polgreen suggests the board be advised of who all the sponsors and potential sponsors are. Other board members or senior members might be able to suggest some new sponsors based on relationships they have. Polgreen suggests starting some campaigns to keep some of our sponsors more involved, similar to what goes



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on at Parkway Hockey and Softball. Senior Member Mike Moxley notes that he is a sponsor of the league, and he'd like to help expand our outreach.

**Action:** Treseler/Barone to get invites out to all current sponsors and expand the search for new sponsors.

**11:9:7**

**Field improvements;** The new bleachers have been delivered. Pat Murphy will lead a four or five-man crew to help put them together. John Sarro, Brian Nolan and Rick Treseler all volunteered to help. Pat will propose a date in the near future.

Mats for the batting cage were also delivered, and we also received new bases and a new home plate.

Polgreen and Treseler also discussed making some improvements to the scorers boxes and Praught and Bunker. Adam said we need to present some options to the board.

**Action:** Pat Murphy to spearhead installation of bleachers, with help from other members.

**11:9:8**

**Equipment update:** Pat Goonan retrieved Majors Cubs uniforms and equipment. He has 10 shirts. There are a couple of shirts outstanding that Pat will collect.

**11:9:9**

**Participation in the Corrib Charitable Trust:** Adam recently forwarded an e-mail from Rick Deraney on the contribution PLL received, and Deraney noted that the contribution was less this year because the Corrib Trust made a donation for the McDonough bleachers. Adam suggests we "double down" on our efforts to help raise money for the Corrib Road Race. Several members at the meeting agree that this relationship is important, and we should continue to try to improve it.

**11:9:10**

**Donated registrations:** Holy Name requested a donated registration for their Bazaar that is taking place soon. The board approves the motion to donate the registration. Bobby Todd will get in touch with Holy Name to let them know. This caps Parkway's donated registrations for this year, barring an extenuating or extraordinary circumstance.



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**11:9:11**

**Triple-A and Double-A format.** There are several board members who would like to see the new Triple-A and Double-A format from last year continue on, and get better as we learned from the experiences of last year. Under this setup, eight and nine-year-olds are automatically in Double-A. Ten and 11-year-olds are all in Triple-A. Last year, Double-A had training clinics. Triple-A did not.

Some senior members and board members in attendance who were affiliated with Triple-A last year think that they should get clinics also. Gary Russell proposed a talent-based draft for Triple-A, in which players could be sent back to Double-A for further training. I was strongly against 10 and 11-year-olds being sent to Double-A. There was a lot of back-and-forth, with both sides giving their opinions. We all agreed to table this until the next meeting.

**Action:** Further revisit Double-A and Triple-A format at the next BOD Meeting, and whether to have a talent-based draft to Triple-A.

**11:9:12**

**Nine-year-olds in the Majors:** Last August, the board voted for nine-year-olds to be allowed to try out for the Majors, continuing a tradition that has been in place for several years at Parkway Little League. Some new members of the board - as well as some senior members - are upset about nine-year-olds in the Majors and feel that older, more deserving kids are being bypassed for Majors teams. John Burns suggested someone bring some data to the next meeting on how many nine-year-olds have been drafted in the Majors the past few years. Each year, the issue of nine-year-olds in the Majors can be revisited. It's too late to change this for 2017, because the draft has already taken place. In addition, Gary Russell felt that players shouldn't be allowed to leapfrog divisions - i.e., going straight from Double-A to the Majors. However, our district administrator said that Little League International will not permit us to prevent players from jumping divisions.

**Action:** Further discuss the merits of allowing nine-year-olds in the Majors at the next meeting and whether deserving 10 and 11-year-olds are being bypassed because of this. Adam Polgreen will talk to other leagues in our district about their policy on nine-year-olds.

**11:9:13**



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**Charter Update:** Adam Polgreen submitted out division format and common pool draft method to the district, and once it is processed, our charter will no longer be on hold.

**11:9:14**

**Term limits for coaches:** Gary Russell proposed a term limit for coaches at three years for all levels. However, the Little League operating manual states that all coaches are hired one year at a time. Each year, the league president is responsible for recommending managers and coaches at all divisions, and the board has to approve those recommendations.

Term limits would not be permissible by Little League international, our district administrator informed me by e-mail earlier this week.

Some members at the meeting expressed frustration at the process for selecting Majors managers and coaches, feeling perhaps there aren't enough opportunities or transparency when openings arise, and perhaps not enough turnover either.

However, others noted that Majors managers often welcome more help and that any willing volunteer should approach the coach that his son or daughter is drafted by. This issue can be discussed again at a further date. It was also noted by some that many of our long-time coaches are invaluable assets and should not be discouraged from continuing the service and expertise they've provided for so long.

**11:9:15**

**Major League rules:** Rob McLaughlin presented an outline for official Majors rules to be approved by the board, but McLaughlin was absent from the meeting. We will table this until the next meeting.

**11:9:16**

**Formation of Parkway Experience Committee:** Adam Polgreen has proposed a new committee that would enhance the opportunities and experience for the league. Including, and not limited to, selling merchandise (T-shirts, sweatshirts), bringing back photo day, promoting the history of the league. Adam will put together a more formal proposal for the next meeting, and solicit volunteers to help run it. Senior member Mike Moxley has already said he'd like to help out.

**11:9:17**

**Winter Clinics:** Rick Treseler has done some due diligence on this, and has a proposal from Dirt Dawgs Sports to host Winter Clinics for Parkway



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players at their facility. The payment from each player would go directly to the facility. Parkway doesn't have to handle any money. The idea would be to also use Dirt Dawgs for our training clinics at the Parkway complex in the spring. It's a nine-week, detailed training program. Rick has sent the documentation from Adam Polgreen, who will evaluate the situation, and get back to the board before we move forward with putting the info on the Website and e-mailing all parents.

**11:9:18**

**Summer Travel Ball:** Table this issue, at which point we will identify some members willing to help run the Summer Travel program. Adam will talk to other leagues to see how they manage their Summer Travel.

11:9:19

**Application for City of Boston field permits:** Adam Polgreen will apply for those in January. He'd like to establish a better relationship with softball, to see what is in everyone's best interests in terms of field usage. Adam will reach out to the PGSL president.

**11:9:20**

**270 Baker Street Development:** Jim Gallagher wasn't at the meeting, but he sent an extensive e-mail to the board on an update on this situation. Parking is a concern and will need to be further addressed to make sure we don't lose parking spots on Baker Street.

**11:9:21**

**Number of teams update:** Rick Treseler, Rob McLaughlin and others will go through data and determine the projected number of teams per league. We can hash this out by e-mail prior to the next meeting.