



Parkway Little League

P.O. Box 320152
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Parkway Little League BOD Meeting, 6/11/2018, at Parkway Little League Complex, 7:30 p.m.

Attendance

Present:

Ian Browne
Adam Polgreen
Matt Maiona
Sean Russell
Rob McLaughlin
Maria Luisa Plasencia
Pat Goonan
Gary Russell
Keith Barry
John Burns
Brian Nolan
John Flynn

Absent:

Rick Treseler
Dennis Roache
Rich Curran
John Sarro
Sean Russell

Senior Members: None

6:11:1

Parkway Postseason update: Dates/times for all games have been posted to the website. The six playoff teams are set, including seeding in the American League. Some seeding in the NL is still up for grabs. In Triple-A, the three teams are set. In Double-A, the third spot is up for grabs. Trophies have been ordered in the same style as last season.

6:11:2

Sponsor recognition event on June 23 prior to Parkway Championship Game 2.

Rob McLaughlin and Adam Polgreen have put forth the idea of honoring the sponsors for an on-field event. Rob will send invites to all sponsors ASAP. Additional details to come. Rob is seeking volunteers to help.



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Perhaps Brian Nolan can send out a note to see if we can get some people to help Rob set up tables, organize, etc.

Action: Rob McLaughlin to send invite to all sponsors for a recognition event on June 23, prior to Game 2 of the Parkway Championship series. Adam and Rob to make sure all plaques are ordered and received by June 23. Rain date would be Sunday, June 24.

6:11:3

Institution of Disciplinary policy/committee, and better execution of enforcing code of conduct instituted in 2015:

Adam notes there have been a number of disciplinary matters this season between coaches and umpires, coaches and parents, and players toward umpires, that could have been handled better if we had an actual disciplinary committee. Adam suggests that for the remainder of the 2018 season, the player absence/injury committee - which consists of Adam, Ian Browne and Maria Luisa-Plasencia - form this committee on an interim basis. The board approves the motion. Prior to next season, the board will elect a disciplinary committee.

On a related note, Adam notes that we need to be better about following Little League rules with regard to umpires. Ideally, there would be at least one adult umpire (18 or older) working every Majors game. This is particularly true for second half games with playoff implications. When that is not the case going forward, there will be an adult supervisor/moderator to help support the umpires and coaches. This should avoid the he said/he said disputes there have been this season. Board needs to finalize a plan for how these adults will be assigned, and who the adults are. Board members? Senior Members?

It is also noted that if coach volunteers are indeed swearing at umpires - as was recently alleged in at least one case -- they should be ejected from the game immediately.

5:14:4

Tournament update: The six tournament teams have been formed. Adam is working with coaches on finalizing the books with all relevant documentation for every player. Schedule is finalized. The board approves all tournament costs, covering each team, plus district fees. Board also approves expenses for our own gear, including hats, shirts for the players, polos for the coaches. Also need to set a date for Triple-A All-Star Game.



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5:14:5

Travel Ball update:

There were tryouts for travel ball last weekend at the complex. There were cuts at the 8-year-old and 10-year-old groups. All players who tried out should have been notified, whether or not they made a team. We still need a coach for the 12 B team. Each team should have 14 players.

5:14:6

House Summer League update for August:

There were seven teams last year, four in senior division, three in junior division. Four people who managed last year indicated they'd be willing to return.

There is plenty of discussion on ways to improve this league, such as better consolidation of age groups, more hands-on instruction. John Burns feels strongly that the 8-9 year-olds should be together, separated from the 10-12 year-olds.

It is noted that we still have plenty of money left in the training budget, and that we should bring Dirt Dawgs in for clinics in August, perhaps in conjunction with nights the house summer league is in action.

Brian will soon get registration started for House Summer League, so we can at least gauge what kind of numbers we have.

3:12:5

Update on shrinking Majors to one division, 10 teams.

All paper work has been submitted to Little League for the request of contracting to one league and 10 teams at the Majors level. A motion is put forth that the Majors will be 10 teams in 2019 (and no 9-year-olds permitted to try out) regardless of whether the request to shrink to one league is approved by Little League. The board approves the motion, and the Majors will be 10 teams no matter what in 2019.

Discussion starts on which two teams to eliminate. It is noted that the ideal scenario is that one team in the National League and one in the American League with the most departing 12-year-olds - as well as coaches who aren't interested in returning - are the best teams to eliminate. Discussion will continue and a decision should be made by the July board meeting of which teams will be eliminated.



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Action: Majors going to 10 teams in 2019. Board needs to identify which teams to contract.

6:11:4

Tournament Team player/coach selection Process:

Rob McLaughlin proposes forming a committee to review and make recommendations to the board for written rules on the selection of Tournament players and managers for 2019 and beyond. Rob says the committee should include a minimum of the player agent and two managers from each league, but the majority of the committee should be unaffiliated with a majors team for 2018 and beyond. Departing coaches Rich Myers, John Flynn and John Burns all said they'd be willing to be on this committee. Adam Polgreen, Matt Maiona, Rob McLaughlin and Keith Barry also expressed a desire to be on this committee.

A hard and fast rule needs to be established for appointing tournament team coaches. We are in a bad situation this year, in which All-Star teams were formed and the players weren't able to start practicing because coaches have yet to be selected due to longstanding unwritten rule that the managers in each league who have the best record get to pick which tournament team they want to coach. Several board members say a hard and fast date needs to be established. Example: Manager with the best record on June 1 has first dibs on which Tournament team to coach.

Action: Form committee to review and make recommendations to the board for written rules on selection of Tournament Team Players and Coaches.

6:11:5

Senior Member Volunteer Hours Drive: Rob McLaughlin mentions the need to give non-coaches a chance to get the 20 volunteer hours necessary to apply for senior membership. For the past many years, our senior membership - and even the board - has been almost all coaches. The board is not supposed to be formed by a majority of coaches. Each year, we've needed to get a waiver from the district because there are too many coaches on the board.

There are some upcoming events that we should be able to enlist parent volunteers for, including Sponsorship night, Championship trophy presentation setup, etc.

Action: Identify some methods for volunteers to get the hours necessary for senior membership in ways other than coaching or serving on the board.



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6:11:6

Renovate playing surfaces on Bunker and Praught.

The board agrees that the playing surfaces at Bunker and Praught should be renovated. Keith Barry will seek estimates from contractors and get back to the board.

Action: Keith Barry to provide estimates to the board on what it will cost to renovate field surfaces, including the mounds, at Bunker and Praught.

6:11:7

Capital Projects. Keith provided estimates on getting a new fence to run the length of Baker Street along the complex, and also cutting/trimming trees from the corner up the hill and be behind the Green Monster, and also re-stone dust of Praught. The board approves all estimates for this work.

6:11:8

Raising the cost of play.

Given that the manual work done to support our league is almost exclusively contractor work and not volunteer work, the issue of raising the cost of play is discussed. Adam will research what neighboring Little League programs are charging to play.

Action: Research how Parkway Little League's cost per player compares to neighboring little leagues and decide if we should raise costs per player in 2019.