

BOD Meeting, 2/8/2021, Elks Club plus ZOOM, 7 p.m.

Attendance

Kevin Boczkowski
Ian Browne
John Burns
Kevin Cloutier
Rich Curran
Keith Gagnon
Pat Goonan(zoom)
Dave Greenwood
Tim Mills
Pat Murphy
Brian Nolan(zoom)
Dennis Roache
Michael Seaton (zoom)
Bill Sittig (zoom)
Brian Taggart

Absent

Keith Barry
Mark Loewen

11:9:1

Opening Day plan

At the last meeting, it was decided there will be no parade this year due to Covid, but all Majors teams will play on Opening Day, April 10. Dennis just wants to get people thinking about what we should do for Opening Day to make it special.

Action: Set plan for Opening Day festivities, etc., between now and the next meeting on Monday, March 8.

1:11:2

Concession agreement

Rich Curran and Dennis met with George and Cheryl from Grand Slam Grill last week. Rich and Dennis want to propose that we amend the contract with them for next year so they pay PLL a total \$4,000 in roughly four payments. This is at a reduced rate from what the original contract stated. The idea for reducing their rent is reduced numbers at the complex due to Covid.

Board passes motion to have Grand Slam Grill pay \$4,000 this season. Will revisit with George and Cheryl at the end of the season.

11:9:4

Fields update/groundskeeper

Tim Mills and Dennis have been working with Charles "Curley Peterson" on securing a deal for him to be the permanent groundskeeper. They are close to getting him on board. Curley has been going through some medical issues but he has doctors appointments this week and should be able to give us a definitive answer.

As for a new landscaper to cut and maintain the fields, Tim said they are working with another company on a proposal. That is one option. The other option would be to have Curley also work as the landscaper. In that case, the league would purchase a commercial grade lawnmower and a couple of other pieces of equipment. He would take on not only maintaining the infields and getting the fields game-ready but also doing the cutting twice a week during the season.

Action: Finalize plans for groundskeeper and landscaper.

11:9:3

Sponsorship update

Dave Greenwood gave an update on Sponsorship revenue thus far. We have 14 sponsors who are in right now, including seven new sponsors. We have a sponsor from last year who doubled their sponsorship payment from last year to this year. Dave sent out an e-mail today and received replies with a lot of promises from previous sponsors that they will renew. Dave asked all the Majors managers to ask their families if any are interested in being league sponsors. Dave has also gone to a lot of local organizations letting them know we've reduced the price of sponsorships to try to get some more community involvement. Dave does have a 5013C letter if anyone needs it for a larger donation. Dave also asked information officer Mike Seaton to send an e-mail out all the league families to gauge interest in sponsorships or if these families might know anyone who wants to sponsor. So far, we're at 20 percent of the number we're looking to hit.

11:9:2

General ledger update

Brian Taggart provided an accounting of the league's finances.

2:8:1

Community preservation act funding

PLL has been approved for a community preservation act award for \$350,000 in funding to renovate Bunker Field and to do the cut into the hill including the retaining wall and the walkway we have up there. There's a final vote that goes before City Council this week of all projects so we're part of that project. Dennis fully anticipates it will be approved and advises that we should accept it. We'll get into more detail once it gets approved. Dennis and Keith Barry will spearhead this project. If anyone else has interest, please let Dennis know. The plan would be to be in construction this summer, if not earlier. The hope is that Bunker will be done by next spring.

Action: Once the city council approves the funding for PLL, the board will vote on whether to accept.

2:8:2

Registration update

Thus far, 270 players have registered, including 68 of those those who signed up for tryouts in the fall. Registrations have been roughly evenly spread across the divisions. There are 63 instructional signups, 73

Majors, 42 Minors and 95 T-ball players signed up so far. We advertised registration in the West Roxbury bulletin.

12:7:1

Majors schedule update

The Majors schedule is done. Commissioner Pat Murphy will update to the website ASAP. Other schedules can't be done until we know how many teams we will have per division.

2:8:3

Practice available at complex?

Last year, Majors teams were granted practice time at the complex leading into the season. Keith Gagnon inquired on whether this would be permitted again this year. The answer is yes, weather permitting! We will have to work around the groundskeeper's schedule.

2:8:4

Revamped Majors playoff format

Kevin Boczkowski and John Picarello, our two longest-tenured Majors managers, had some discussions about a new playoff format. In light of a reduced regular-season schedule this season, the idea is to allow the chance for more games in the playoffs.

Action: Kevin Boczkowski will set up a meeting with all Majors managers and try to finalize a format by the March 8 meeting that the board can vote on.

2:8:5

Update on formats for lower divisions

Keith Gagnon is sticking with pretty much the same format for Minors as last year. He sent Dennis Roache an e-mail of the rules, etc. Everything worked out last year.

Brian Nolan exchanged a couple of e-mails with Pat Murphy because he ran Instructional when we last had the league two years ago. Brian took some of his ideas, and asked some returning coaches for their thoughts. Brian will continue to work on his plan, including how many innings of hitting off the tee, and how many innings kids will pitch, and present something in more detail by the next meeting.

For T-Ball, Bill Sittig would like to play roughly one game a week, and then a formal practice once a week that will be scheduled on the website. One practice per week and one game per week is Bill's general idea. He'll finalize his format as soon as possible.

Action: Division GMs will finalize their formats by the March meeting

2:8:6

ASAP plan update

John Burns will submit it next week. Deadline is March 15. John will train Kevin Cloutier on how to submit it.

1:11:6

First aid training for coaches

John will organize this soon. They are going to do it via zoom. Best way to do it is to have two zoom meetings and every team needs to be represented by one volunteer.

2:8:7

Player Agent list

John says that the player agent list only has six names on it going into next year. John will make a few suggestions on how to supplement it. Rumor has it there are already one or two players defecting the PLL area who were on Majors teams last year. John notes that we should stick to our no 9-year-old rule for as long as we can. We could have an additional tryout in the spring to add to the player agent list. If that doesn't work, making 9-year-olds eligible for Majors would be last-ditch solution. Dennis notes that it could make some sense to call up some Minor League players, but also let them stay on their Minor League teams. He notes if we do this, we would have to get approval from the district.

Action: Majors GM Ian Browne will send an e-mail to all Majors managers asking them to confirm that all of their returning players from last season still plan on coming back. Managers should encourage those players to register.

2:8:8

12-plus one list

Every year at the Draft there is a 12-plus one list which governs how many 12-year-olds each team must take to get to base. There is an ordered list of which teams have to take the remainder and it carries over from year to year. John has the list for next year's draft. The order of teams who would have to take any remainder of 12-year-olds past base is as follows: Phillies, Red Sox, Giants, Athletics, Dodgers, Yankees, Cardinals, Braves.

Board approves that as the official list heading into the next draft.

2:8:9

Umpires update

The Majors will once again use an independent service to schedule umpires. The hope is to once again use Modesto Gomez's service. Dennis recently texted him and didn't hear back. He will follow up with him again soon.

Brian Nolan is in the middle of figuring out how to do Minors umpire training with the pandemic still going on. Brian will reach out to Ed King to see if he is still interested in helping to run the class. Brian notes we need a larger venue in light of Covid. Dave Greenwood says the Elks Club could probably be made available.