

# MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD FOR COLUMBIA LITTLE LEAGUE

March 9, 2025

An in-person meeting of the board members of Columbia Little League was held in the clubhouse March 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM pacific time.

**Board Members present:** Chris DiPalma, Lauren DiPalma, Joella Neubauer, Joe Huffman, Machel DeLeon, Tim Melcher, Kirstyn Griswold, Kindra Christian, Justin Cvitkovitch, Dan Highfill, Celine Negrete, Wynne Hurly, Celina Thompson, Brittany Christ, Tanya Cardoza, Dale Robertson

**Board Members absent:** Dan Piovesan, Doug Single

**Guest Present:** None

## **Call to Order**

Chris DiPalma President of Columbia Little League called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM Pacific Time. Lauren DiPalma Secretary of Columbia Little League recorded the minutes.

## **Reports from Board Members**

- Reading of the February meeting minutes was waived. Motion to approve minutes as written by Justin, Dan H. 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.
- Dan H. requested the December meeting minutes be reopened and amended to add him as interim coaching coordinator, which he believed was missed. Machel motioned to reopen and amend December meeting minutes. Tim 2<sup>nd</sup>. After board review of the December and January meeting minutes it was found that it was correctly listed in the January minutes. Machel and Tim rescinded their motions.
- President's report was provided by Chris.
  - Financial safeguards at CLL include two signatures required on all checks, one from a primary signatory (Chris, Dan P, Kirstyn), and one from another board member. There are currently only 2 debit cards (Chris and Dan H.). Transactions are monitored by treasurer (Celine), who does not write checks or have direct access to the bank account. Full bank statement is provided to the board monthly, including scans of all cleared checks.
- Vice President's reports
  - Softball report was provided by Joella. Joella contacted all managers. Hoping to get a few more minors softball sign-ups to have two teams.
  - Baseball report was provided by Dale. Dale indicated that he plans to request a special meeting on the topic of bylaws, constitution and league mission.
  - Teeball and coach pitch report was provided by Joe. Joe is exploring 'Quickball' in place of teeball in the future
- Treasurers report provided by Celine
  - As of March 7, 2025, the bank balance is \$63,955.06
  - All bills are paid.
  - Upcoming expenses: Hood cleaning, health department permit, Mike Ray memorial (previously approved), uniforms
- Concessions report was provided by Celina. Shopping day planned for April 6. Celina and Richard repainted the floors and cleaned behind the grill. Online ordering is set-up, but still needs to be tested.
- Sponsorship report was provided Wynne. Presented Hit-a-thon day-of plan with the board. Would like to keep Hit-a-thon pledges open further into the season after Hit-a-thon event, probably mid-May. Received a few sponsors so far.
- Safety report was provided by Kindra. Yard signs are in and were presented to the board. Four board

members are missing abuse awareness. A Safety Awareness Plan (ASAP) has been updated and was emailed to board members for review. Justin motioned to approve the ASAP. Dan H. 2nd. All in favor.

- Player Agent report was provided by Kirstyn. 278 players have registered to date. Minor baseball draft occurred last week. Major baseball draft is scheduled for tomorrow. Goal is to have all teams done and all binders out this week.
- Coaching report was provided by Dan H. Most teams have managers. May need a 2nd minor softball manager if 3 more players sign up. Interviews occurred for Major baseball managers. Coaches clinic TBD.
- Umpiring report was provided by Tim. 3 VR trainings are set for junior umpires - 3/14, 3/20 & 4/4, 6-8 pm. 4/19 new umpire training. District 4 umpire training every Thursday night.
- Equipment report was provided by Chris. Uniforms have been ordered.

### **Old Business**

- Chris relayed District 4 has requested to move 8-10 softball state tournament up to 6/28-7/3. Tim motioned to approve the new dates. Joella 2nd. All in favor with 1 abstention by Dan H.
- Tee ball and coach pitch bench covers update provided by Tim. Construction date 3/29-3/30 or 4/5-4/6.
- Mike Ray Memorial update provided by Tim. Plaque is ordered and we are sending payment. Hoping to unveil at opening day. The board would like to include a flag pole with the memorial. Justin motioned to approve a 18'-20' flag pole. Celina 2nd. All in favor with 1 abstention by Dan H. Justin motioned to approve \$1500 budget for flag pole in addition to previously approved budget for memorial. Celine 2nd. All in favor with 1 abstention by Dan H.
- Office computer installation date TBD
- Field cleanup day is moved to March 22nd (previous backup date). Alcoa fields will be on a different date.
- Hit-a-thon prizes were presented by Wynne and proposed keeping the dollar amounts the same for this year: \$300 Visa gift card for top earner, \$200 Visa gift card for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, \$250 pizza party for top earning team, ice cream party for any team with 80+% participation. Celina motioned to approve prizes as presented. Joella 2nd. All in favor with 1 abstention by Dan H.
- Important Dates:
  - Field Cleanup Day – March 22; Alcoa TBD.
  - Opening Day: April 12
  - Picture Day and Hit-A-Thon: April 26
  - Closing ceremonies: June 7

### **New Business**

- Brittany Christ requested a bank debit card as purchasing agent. Tim motioned to approve a debit card for Brittany Christ for \$2,500 daily limit. Tanya 2nd. All in favor with 1 abstention by Dan H.
- Dan H. requested to be removed from the bank account and debit card. Kirstyn motioned to remove Dan H. from bank account and debit card. Tanya 2nd. All in favor.
- Days for games - Chris proposed keeping games on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday. Justin motioned to approve game days as proposed, Joe 2nd. All in favor with 1 abstention by Dan H.
- Audit Committee – skipped
- 2025 spring season manger approval
  - Chris proposed covering all divisions except majors baseball by unanimous consent. Board agreed. Chris nominated the following managers:
    - Sr. Baseball - Tony Munoz
    - Jr. Baseball - Machel DeLeon
    - 50/70 Baseball – Leigh Madamba
    - Minors Baseball - Tim Melcher, Tony Garrett, Jason Tyrus, Mitch Ratigan, Chris Vormestrand
    - AA Baseball - Joe Nelson
    - Coach Baseball - Sarah Jackson, Joe Huffman, Justin Bennett, Garrett Speyer

- Majors Softball – Joella Neubauer
- Minors Softball - Kira Kennedy
- Coach pitch Softball - James O'Brien
- Teeball - Andrew Christian, Nathan Kroll, Michael Matthews, Austin Arnett, Kristin Nevala
- No objections were raised by the board to any of the nominated managers. Kindra motioned to approval all managers as nominated. Brittany 2nd. All in favor.
- Major baseball - Major baseball had 5 managers express interest by sign-up deadline. 35 players signed up, which resulted in 3 teams. Manager interviews were conducted with 4 of 5 interested managers, with the 5th agreeing to manage in another division. Interviews were conducted by interim coaching coordinator Dan Highfill, UIC Tim Melcher, and VP of Baseball Dale Robertson.
  - Chris nominated the following managers for Majors Baseball – Ryan Nikkila, Ryan Bingham, Bill Shorthill
  - Board unanimously agreed to discussion limited to 2 minute comments starting with interview panelists.
    - Dan H indicated that the same 5 questions were asked to all candidates. Dan indicated his support for president's nominations.
    - Tim M indicated his support for president's nominations.
    - Dale R disagrees that the 3 nominated were the most qualified. Believes we should amend bylaws to include qualified individuals who are involved in leadership of other organizations. Would like professional coaches to be able to participate in little league.
    - Justin noted that we cannot amend current bylaws. Any amendments would need to happen next year. Justin requested clarification on whether individuals involved with leadership of other organizations could be volunteers.
    - Joella questioned if the debate was centered around the bylaws on whether they were eligible.
    - Wynne asked for clarification on whether constitution could be changed. And if so, should we change it.
    - Tanya asked for clarification on whether conflict was only with leadership or for any coach of another organization.
    - Celine asked who created the interview questions. Tim answered that he created the questions. Celine noted that the individual in question had coached before, and questioned whether the constitution was not enforced in the past or had changed.
    - Celina questioned whether the interviews occurred prior to the email the board received from one of the candidates
    - Chris then answered the questions:
      - "Member" of Little League is defined as any volunteer
      - Individual in question is listed as 'program director' in a competing baseball organization – leadership position
      - Board cannot change bylaws and constitution until next year. Bylaws and Constitution were approved by board at 2/10/25 meeting. Both Dale and Tim were on the bylaws review committee, along with Chris, Dan P., Kirstyn and Tanya.
      - The individual had managed a team for CLL in the past, which was probably an oversight. District reinforced the interpretation of the constitution that this individual is not eligible to be a member of Little League based on their leadership position with a competing baseball organization, therefore we must follow District 4's guidance now that we have been made aware.
      - The interviews did not occur until the email request
    - Kirstyn motioned to approve majors managers as nominated. Brittany 2nd. All in favor with 1 abstention by Dale.

- Kirstyn motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:38 pm. Wynne 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. Next meeting is Sunday May 4, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lauren DiPalma*

Columbia Little League Secretary