

Munster Little League
Minutes of the Meeting of Board of Directors
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

The Munster Little League met in regular session on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 via Zoom due to COVID-19. The meeting opened at 7:10 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business.

Attendees: J. Castellano, K. Jurcik, J. Wodynski, G. Gouveia, K. Dempsey, S. Spencer, A. Rubio; C. Mamich, J. Craig, B. Caddick

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President J. Castellano at 7:10pm. A quorum was present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** – J. Castellano presented the meeting agenda. G. Gouveia motions to approve. J. Wodynski 2nds. Motion approved.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – J. Castellano presented the September Regular Meeting, Annual Meeting and Special Meeting minutes. G. Gouveia motions to approve. J. Wodynski 2nds. Motion approved.

IV. Reports –

President Report – J. Castellano - 90% done with 2021 season- Fall and Spring. Did not finish Fall shutdown- will continue on 10/23/21.

Treasurer Report - S. Spencer– All payroll was taken care of by Ben Z. Clean break- will be handing over the laptop and Scott will get things rolling. Figuring out outstanding checks. Overall looked relatively healthy. Bank account standing around \$30K. Close to \$40,000 in bank, but \$7,000 owed to umpires and \$3,000 owed in Fall Ball registration town fees.
\$6,000 owed to MLL from fundraising sponsors. \$2,300 owed to MLL from the Indiana Welcome Center.

J. Castellano waiting for meeting minutes; will take Scott Spencer as the new treasurer, Adam Keefner as new VP and Katie Jurcik as the new Secretary to the bank to show that they are new executive members and authorized signers. Will remove Ben Z. and J. Carroll off the account and add Scott, Adam and Katie. John Wodynski could come off, as he is not an executive member anymore, but will stay on as a signer if needed.

- V. **Annual Meeting – J. Castellano** – the Annual Meeting went well. People do have concerns, and we do drop the ball at times, but we do a great job overall. Not all items will be addressed right away, but we will work on them over the next few months as we discuss positions and get ready for the season. The annual meeting is a good opportunity for people to express views and raise legitimate concerns. The board needs to help each other out as much as we can and communicate effectively. We can't always use the excuse of being a new board and sometimes just take the blame for something that might have gone wrong.
- VI. **Fall Ball Discussion – J. Castellano** - J. Castellano, M. McGee and R. O'Connell have taken it upon themselves to keep everything running this season. Fall Ball season was successful. The teams were pretty equally matched- due to holding evals. Allowing out of towners is a plus- evens out the teams and gives them a chance to play on our fields. Ended the season on Monday, 10/18 with Major Championship. Added C League championship this season- which was a nice addition for the players.

S. Spencer: Fall Ball rules feedback- inconsistent with Minor League rules that we follow in the Spring. A couple of things that were challenging:

- It is better to manage a pitch count, rather than restrict pitchers to 2 innings
- Time limits should be eliminated for all games- not just playoffs
- Sitting rules/playing time- no player can sit 2 innings until every player has sat 1 inning; is consistent but ends up having some of the best players sitting towards the end of the game.

RESPONSES TO FEEDBACK- J. Castellano

- Pitching- used to be pitch count, but no one was patrolling them. Would need to set up a sheet to monitor, so thought it would be easier to limit it to 2 innings and be done. If no limit on innings, some kids are pitching more than others in one game and coming back and pitching the same amount a few days later. Can discuss further when we talk more about Fall Ball for next season.
- Time limits: These games are played on weeknights and some games can end very late and the kids have school the next day. Best to keep the time restriction, as opposed to going the full 6 innings for all games
- Sitting rules: added a few years ago- can take it out, but the point is that Fall Ball is a learning experience and is good to give all kids a chance to play. Can consider taking that out for Major League moving forward; keep it for C League and Minor League.

- VII. 2022 11U State Tournament** – At the last district meeting, we were given outlines for All Star tournaments. Next year (2022), District 1 will have the opportunity to host the 11U State Tournament. Going through the numbers on the 2021 12U State Tournament, MLL we did not end up losing money on hosting. Concern is the volunteer/participation from the board and others in order to take on the enormity of the tournament; it is a big undertaking. The concern with incentivizing parents to help is that if we don't have a team in the tournament, people tend to take vacations and are not available to volunteer.

We do have members willing to come back next year to assist with the 11U State Tournament. We also have an outline of how to run it based on the 2021 12U State Tournament we have already hosted.

Timing of the 11U State Tournament? Would be around the same time as this past year's tournament- around last week of July. There was a big gap as to when the team won the District Tournament to when they played the State Tournament.

VIII. 2022 ALL STAR TOURNAMENTS

Picking tournaments that multiple teams can join at the same time. Positives include multiple team discounts; looks better when we are all there at the same time as the same community. However, can be hard to pick a tournament that is geared toward each team. The benefit, especially for first-time All-Star coaches, is to have everything laid out and tournaments booked prior to the All-Star season starting. Board to discuss possible tournaments to join further.

The Conners Tournament (Minors) and Tabers Tournament (Majors)- tournaments run by District 1. Held mid- regular season. It is more or less for teams to play teams they don't get a chance to play. However, not as beneficial for Munster since we have the opportunity to play amongst many other Munster teams, where other towns have to go looking for teams to play. Rich Arnt- runs District 1; really pushing for teams to join these tournaments; gives players who do not do All Stars or other tournaments a chance to play in an environment like that.

November District 1 Meeting (18th) is when we will submit what District or state tournaments we would like to host. The options include:

- 8-10 ALL STARS- District Team
- 9-11 ALL STARS- District Team
- 10-12 ALL STARS- District Team
- 11U STATE TOURNAMENT

*Some of the District Tournaments do overlap; they want to keep the same schedule as 2021 season.

- MLL BOARD WILL NEED TO DECIDE WHAT WE WANT TO PUT IN FOR AT OUR NOVEMBER 10th BOARD MEETING- PRIOR TO THE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING.

- It is doable to host multiple tournaments at the same time- we have the fields, but do we have the manpower/volunteers to help?

- IX. 2022 Budget Discussion** – Will table for now. J. Castellano and S. Spencer to discuss details further. Would like to put together a document on spending, specific line items, etc. Will help streamline expenditures. Will give 2019 budget to review- will have the same line items- to try to align for 2022.

This is the time for board members to think about things they would like to add to list for capital purchases- be ready to discuss at the next board meeting. Items mentioned at this meeting:

- New large ladder
- Batting cages- nets need updating/maintenance; will take them all down during 10/23 cleanup, will tag them before being stored and see what needs replacing/what can be fixed; could cost quite a bit, depending on how many we need to purchase. Would like to lock up the nets like Babe Ruth does- town does not want us to do that.
- We should try to do as much as we can during setup in March to tighten up all of the nets in the cages- to save money, etc.
- 50/70 games on A Field- need new pitchers mound? Build the mound up. Can grade it to spec- C. Mamich can help fix.

Requiring players to purchase their own helmets. maybe there is a sponsor for families that might not be able to afford their own? Give choice at registration: Can you provide your own helmet? If not, would you be willing to use a new one provided by MLL (new ones first, then move on to gently used). Add to registration questions.

- X. 2022 Registration Discussion** – registration should be live by December 5th online- Sunday evening (a week earlier than normal). Will close the week before evals (towards the end of February).

- Sending a lot of reminders via email/social media
- Lawn signs
- Munster Parks & Rec Spring Recreation Guide ad
- Flyers home from school. **Will STM or St. Thomas More allow them to be sent home?**
- Set up table at MHS on a Sunday during basketball to try and get people to sign up in person.
- 2021 registration was online only; does not feel like we lost out on many registrations without having an in-person option

- XI. MLL Constitution** – no items brought to our attention that need to be added. Motion to approve the constitution with no further amendments: J. Wodynski motions to approve ; B. Caddick seconds; Motion approved.

- XII. Community Park Update** – Board members J. Wodynski and K. Jurcik, 2 managers, 2 ground crew members present to shut down the fields on 10/16. Completed roughly 75% of shutdown work. Remaining field shutdown/cleanup to be completed on 10/23.

XIII. Fundraising – J. Wodynski

Working on transitioning to K. Jurcik. \$25,000 in commitments for 2021; \$18,000 collected- \$6,000 outstanding. J. Wodynski will work on collecting the outstanding funds.

Need to get fundraising letter ready for next year. Thank you gifts for all 2021 sponsors. **Can we do a small run of the State Tournament bats to give as gifts?** Would be a nice commemoration for this years' sponsors since we hosted the State Tournament. Will get a quote from Schassburger on how much it will cost to make the bats and present at the next meeting for approval. Also, we need to get sponsor logos on our website- important to fulfill that part of our sponsor promise.

XIV. Board Assignments – (updated on 10/20/21; new additions in BOLD)

- a. President – John Castellano
- b. Vice President – Adam Keefner
- c. Treasurer – Scott Spencer
- d. Secretary – Katie Jurcik
- e. Player Agent – **Chuck Mamich**
- f. Commissioner – Tee-Ball – Gordy Gouveia
- g. Commissioner – Prep – Gordy Gouveia
- h. Commissioner – C-League – Johnny Craig
- i. Commissioner – Minor – Kyle Dempsey
- j. Commissioner – Major – Rick O'Connell
- k. Commissioner – Fall Ball – **TABLE FOR NOW- at least 1 board member; possibly open up to parents to help run??**
- l. Commissioner – All-Stars – Brad Caddick
- m. Grounds Director – Michelle McGee
- n. Umpire-in-Chief – Johnny Craig
- o. Safety Officer – John Castellano
- p. Charter Officer – John Castellano
- q. Scheduling Coordinator – Adam Keefner
- r. League Information Officer / Social Media- **Ashley Rubio, Katie Jurcik**
- s. Webmaster – **Katie Jurcik**
- t. Coaching Coordinator (2) – Brad Caddick
- u. Insurance Coordinator – Kyle Dempsey, John Castellano
- v. Membership Coordinator – John Castellano
- w. Fundraising Committee (3+) – Katie Jurcik, Ashley Rubio
- x. Equipment Coordinator (2) – Michelle McGee, Rick O'Connell, Adam Keefner
- y. Player Evaluations Coordinator – Rick O'Connell
- z. Special Events Coordinator – Ashley Rubio, Katie Jurcik
- aa. Uniforms Coordinator – Brad Caddick, Gordy Gouveia
- bb. Trophy/Photo Coordinator – Katie Jurcik (with help)
- cc. Background Checks Coordinator – John Castellano
- dd. IN District # 1 Liaison (2) – Rick O'Connell, Michelle McGee, John Castellano
- ee. Munster Parks/Town Liaison – Brad Caddick
- ff. School Town of Munster Liaison – Adam Keefner, Rick O'Connell
- gg. Practice Schedule Coordinator – Michelle McGee
- hh. Tournament Director (Non-LL Tournaments)- **N/A unless hosting**
- ii. Tournament Director (Dist. # 1) (President, All-Star Commissioner) (2)- **if hosting- John Castellano, Brad Caddick**
- jj. Tournament Committee (Non-LL Tournaments) (Tournament Director and at least 2 other members) (5)- **N/A unless hosting**
- kk. Manager Selection Committee (Only members who are not a Manager/Coach or President) (4+)- **John Wodynski, Brad Caddick, Ashley Rubio, Katie Jurcik**
- ll. All-Star Committee (President, Player Agent, Major Commissioner, Minor Commissioner, All-Star Commissioner) (5) **John Castellano, Chuck Mamich, Rick O'Connell, Kyle Dempsey, Brad Caddick**
- mm. Local Rules Committee (5+)- **John Castellano, Gordy Gouveia, Scott Spencer, Kyle Dempsey, Michelle McGee, John Wodynski**
- nn. Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Player Agent) (5) **John Castellano, Adam Keefner, Scott Spencer, Katie Jurcik, Chuck Mamich**
- oo. Possible 11U State Tournament Committee- **N/A unless hosting**
***with MLL board approval, removed Winter Clinics Coordinator position due to no winter clinic.**

- XV. New Business** – J. Castellano- would like to order banners for 2021 11U State Tournament. Individual player banners and larger banner with team names. By November board meeting, will have total amount to be approved by board.

- XVI. Adjournment** – J. Wodynski motions to adjourn at 9:32 pm. G. Gouveia 2nds. Motion approved.

Next regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 via Zoom Meeting

MLL Meetings are open to the membership and held on the second Wednesday of every month.
MLL financials are available upon written request to the Treasurer.