

**Munster Little League**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 22, 2022**

The Munster Little League met in regular session on Wednesday, September 22, 2022 at the Rotary Shelter at Community Park, Munster, Indiana. The meeting opened at 7:10 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct annual special business.

**Board Attendees:** J. Castellano, K. Jurcik, K. Dempsey, A. Rubio, G. Gouveia, B. Caddick, M. McGee, J. Wodynski

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President J. Castellano at 7:10 pm. At time of commencement, 17 members were present, which did represent a quorum.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** – J. Castellano presented the meeting agenda. G. Gouveia motions to approve. K. Dempsey 2nd. Motion approved.

III. **Reports –**

**President's Report – J. Castellano** – Numbers have continued to rise- best year yet. Over 400 players registered for Spring this year. Kids want to come back to play, which says a lot about MLL.

-Switched over to Sports Connect from SS Play this season. People like it because of its connection to GameChanger. Also, Sports Connect is linked to LL International, which is also a plus. Scheduling is easier through Sports Connect. We had over 200 games throughout the season. There are some improvements that can be made with the scheduling, but overall, it went smoothly.

-Field maintenance: was great this season. Our grounds crew did a nice job being short handed at times and with the amount of work they needed to do. Michelle did a great job coordinating the crew again this year.

-All-Stars: had 3 District teams make it to the state tournaments; and our youngest divisions did well also.

-Sponsorships: budgets came up to pre-Covid levels this year. Over \$26K in sponsorships for 2022- which helps our overall budget tremendously

-Pitch counts: need to get submitted quicker so we can keep our standings up to date; player evaluations also need to be submitted by all managers. These are used by managers the next season when drafting teams- especially for new coaches moving up divisions.

-Batting Cage nets: need to be replaced. Talking to town about this to get them fixed.

-Field improvements: Mounds for all fields need to be replaced.

-Clear chain of command: John being contacted for a lot of issues; the first stop should be the commissioner of the division first, if needed, can be worked up the chain of command

-Equipment pickup/dropoff: need to have a better process of how we handle this; managers being able to leave them at the field at the last game is preferable.

Tasks for 2023: continue to develop relationships with the Town of Munster and Parks & Recreation; field lights should not used for non-LL games; big expense; lights for batting cages?; shop around for new vendor equipment- have been using either O'Hara's or Lansing Sport Shop- both difficult to work with at times- want the best price/quality we can get; ways to create more participation with membership/parents to help out- p

**Treasurer Report – S. Spencer**

Highlights (financials as of 9/14):

Cash is at \$35K and reflects all received expenses.

Cash at December 2021 was \$18K.

Current cash level provides MLL an appropriate level of "cushion" for unexpected expenses or selected improvements such as bull pen and mound repairs.

Actual total revenue of \$143K favorable to budget and prior year by \$17K. Actual total Falls fees were at budget (\$35K), Sponsorship signs revenue of \$26K is favorable to budget by \$5K. Summer Fees favorable to budget by \$11K at \$81K.

Expenses of \$120K are \$5K favorable to budget, however, we have remaining league expenses such as second half fall ball umpire fees.

IV. **Proposed Constitutional Changes**

No proposed constitutional changes today. By this time of the meeting, we were at 18 members, which is short of the 29 we

would need for an official quorum.

## V. MLL Membership Questions and Comments

REMOTE SCOREBOARD- possibility? Kids like it when the scoreboard works and sometimes parents are intimidated by the process or don't want to be in the pressbox. MLL plans to make sure all fields have remote/WiFi access from the fields by next season.

KIDS PLAYING UP IN HIGHER LEAGUES- does this effect the parent who wants to manage? Would like clarification before the season starts on the rules;for example, managers of 11/12 year olds get precedence over any 10 year olds that might move up.

MANAGER EVALUATION FORM- implement next year? Completed by the other managers and should have weight when managers are selected for the next season.

FALL BALL: games seem to be a bit shorter; any way to increase the time of the games?

ELIMINATE INTENTIONAL WALK IN MAJORS: isn't needed in a competitive league during regular season; want to keep developing the players and keep the elite players wanting to stay in LL. Keep intentional walk for the playoffs; eliminate in regular season or possibly limit to once a game?

ALL STARS: Teams should be the best kids in each league; should not be forced to play down; it has been a rule for quite a few years, but is an ongoing discussion every season.

-Ballots should have the kids name by team, not just player names

REMOVAL OF TOC TEAM: took it away due to the type of tournaments that these teams are playing- the LL players that are not in travel and aren't used to the rules; it still is beneficial for kids that don't make the district teams- it helps develop more players that go on to be very successful after LL is over. Was taken away by Rick Arndt due to not making much off the tournaments; other leagues aren't able to field teams, although we can.

Rudy Ortiz spoke to Dyer and Highland who had interest in doing TOC type of tournament; could be a possibility for next season?

ALL STAR VOTING: Go back to managers/coaches/kids all having 1 vote each- and not have the managers weighted at 3 votes. With the board/managers having a vested interest..... In the past, have had amazing teams that have been successful with each person only having 1 vote- without the question of stacking a team. Was implemented- not to influence the first picks, but to help the last picks

-Possibly take 11 kids on 12U International team instead of 13; up to the manager's discretion

7U ALL STAR TEAM: how much is the league paying for this type of team? The league pays for 2 tournaments- around \$1100. Would it be possible to give C League more games to let all the kids play more and not just the all stars?

## VI. Board Election Discussion -

### Self-nominations for a two-year term:

#### **Self-Nominated - New:**

Kristen Adley, Justin Palas, Dan Panaggio, Russ Rommelfanger

The above members have all been verified to be Munster Little League members in good standing.

#### **Self nominated - Returning:**

Michelle McGee

Rick O'Connell

Motion to accept all self-nominated new and returning Board members: B. Caddick motions to approve; G. Gouveia 2nds; motion passes unanimously.

#### **Board members with one term remaining:**

John Castellano, Kyle Dempsey, Gordy Gouveia, Katie Jurcik, Adam Keefner, Ashley Rubio

#### **Board members that are not returning:**

Brad Caddick

Johnny Craig

Chuck Mamich

John Wodynski

## VII. Adjournment – J. Wodynski motions to adjourn at 8:17 pm B. Caddick 2<sup>nd</sup>s. Motion approved.

**The next regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 via Zoom.**

**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.**