

**Munster Little League**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

The Munster Little League met in regular session on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at the Rotary Shelter at Community Park, Munster, Indiana. The meeting opened at 7:08pm. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct annual special business.

**Board Attendees:** J. Castellano, K. Jurcik, G. Gouveia, M. McGee, K. Dempsey, K. Adley, A. Keefner, D Panaggio

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President J. Castellano at 7:08 pm. At time of commencement, 19 members were present, which did represent a quorum.

II. **Approval of Agenda** – J. Castellano presented the meeting agenda. G. Gouveia motions to approve. K. Adley 2nd. Motion approved.

III. **Reports –**

**President's Report – J. Castellano –**

-Thought the 2023 Spring season went well overall. We created a safe and fun environment for all players.

-Always things to work on (example- scheduling, rules, etc)

-We offered All Stars at every level- starting at 7U. LL defines All Star teams starting at the District level, all others are just additional teams that are not LL All Star teams. We are lucky to have enough players to offer All Star teams to play.

-11U District team was the only one to win a banner this season.

-We hosted the 10U and 12U District tournaments here- the board and grounds crew volunteers were essential in making those tournaments a success. We def need more volunteers from the community if we are going to be able to hold these tournaments again,

IMPROVEMENTS: the town paid for some field upgrading; there were some issues with how it turned out, but the town disagreed and thought it was fine, We are considering splitting some costs with the town to get the materials we want to make our fields look the very best they can!

-We want to improve the netting in the batting cages. They are very torn up and need to be replaced. It is the town's responsibility and we are talking to them about replacing the netting. We do not lock up our batting cages and they are there for the town to use, so they get beat up more and more each year.

-We scheduled 18 games, we had a lot of rain outs with very little places to move them. We had so many players and teams, it makes it hard to schedule everything within the time frame we have to play the games- without having 3-4 games per week.

-OPENING DAY- went great this year. Held picture day in the morning and opening ceremonies in the afternoon with games played throughout the day.

-Town gets upset when the lights are on when no one is playing- we are working on it being better with the scheduling of them

-Fencing around the fields needs to be replaced; town is aware, they say it will be very costly.

-Great year for sponsorships- around \$30K this year

-Grounds crew is awesome and did a fantastic job getting all the fields ready for the games throughout the season. We owe them a big thanks!

THINGS TO WORK ON:

-Managers entering game info into spreadsheets after games so we have it for standings and pitch counts, etc

-Player evaluations after the season; these are very helpful in the next season when drafting teams

-Volunteering- we need more people to step up and volunteer so we don't have to pay the grounds crew to do these jobs

-Chain of command: please reach out to the commissioner for each division first; if not getting an answer, then move it up the chain. All commissioners are bringing issues to the executive board, so we are all informed.

Our numbers are rising where other LL towns are going down. We'd like to keep it that way. Great managing, coaching, players, etc.

**Treasurer Report – D. Panaggio**

Highlights (financials as of 9/):

-We sat down as a group and budgeted an income of \$144K; we eclipsed that (summer fees were a big part of it, as well as sponsorships).

-Raised fees- paying grounds crew more, paying more for goods (baseballs, field chalk, etc); can try to keep fees at the same level for now.

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IV. **Proposed Constitutional Changes**

No proposed constitutional changes today. By this time of the meeting, we were at 19 members, which is short of the 26 we would need for an official quorum.

**V. MLL Membership Questions and Comments**

- Communicate about needing volunteers; there are people willing to help
- Grounds crew needs to do a better job at keeping score at games; lots of issues in Spring/Fall
- C League: added a rule that there could not be more than a double; it was rough to watch
  - o Added it to give the kids the best ability to develop
- Halfway rule- some advocated for it, but in practice, might not be the best idea
- The Board needs to revisit Fall Ball rules for next year; they were not changed along with the Spring rules
- Proposed to revisit the C League base running rules; allow kids to run if it's a baseball play/good baseball fundamentals. If it's a regular play, the runners can advance, but they CAN'T advance on errors (overthrows, etc)
- C LEAGUE- Catcher's position is probably the most worthless position (passed balls, etc); catcher position should be considered outfield/bench position, not infield- so as not to handicap the kids that play it well
- C LEAGUE- Spring and Fall- very few games where any kid after 4-5<sup>th</sup> batter only gets 1 at bat; would be nice to figure out a way to get the kids more at bats; the C League games run too slow (catcher's are not ready, kids not knowing positions, turning over innings taking too long, pitcher's throwing too many warm up throws); the umpires also have to keep the game moving along- 1.5 minutes tops to switch over innings.
- CONCESSION STAND- does MLL get a cut of it? No; it is subcontracted out to Billy Casper Golf- we have no control over it- has been that way for 8+ years. Babe Ruth runs their own and it works well.
- MINORS- kids moving up from lower leagues; if we are going to continue to do that, then it hurts both leagues on either end. The older kids in the correct division are not getting the opportunities to play infield, pitch, etc. If we are going to allow kids to move up, we should send that same amount of kids down to the lower division to not saturate the divisions.
- MANAGER EVALUATION FORM- give it out at the end of the season for parents/players to give constructive criticism about the managers for the Board to use when choosing managers/coaches for the next season.

**VI. Board Election Discussion -**

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

**Self-Nominated - New:**

Robert Bishop (approved), Meagan Bruni (approved), Kyle Cherry (approved), John Jamicich (approved), Beth Matthews (approved), Ray Petrocelli (approved), George Souri (approved)

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

**Self nominated - Returning:**

John Castellano- approved  
Gordy Gouveia- approved  
Katie Jurcik- approved  
Adam Keefner- approved  
Ashely Rubio- approved

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

**Board members with one term remaining:**

Kristen Adley, Justin Palas, Dan Panaggio, Russ Rommelfanger

**Board members that are not returning:**

Kyle Dempsey  
Michelle McGee (1 year on term left)  
Rick O'Connell (1 year on term left)  
Scott Spencer

**VII. Adjournment –** M. McGee motions to adjourn at 8:26 pm K. Dempsey 2<sup>nd</sup>s. Motion approved.

**The next regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023- place TBD.**

**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.**