



Santa Monica
LITTLE LEAGUE



Board of Directors Minutes

February 2, 2016

1. Call to Order

David Harris called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Board Members in attendance: David Harris, Ric Munoz, David Schmillen, Matt Edelman, Michael Balsley, Jim Ries, Andy Anagnos, Jasan Sherman, Elizabeth Bailey, Mark Kapczynski

Board Members not in attendance: Linda Liberman, John Matise, Todd Gelfand

Regular Members in attendance: Daniel Callahan, Noah Graff

2. Public Comment

Noah Graff noted that the Coaches Clinic on Sunday was productive.

Daniel Callahan noted that the people who operate the gym we used for the coaches clinic at Memorial Park were incredibly helpful.

3. Approval of Prior Minutes – 1/5/15

The Minutes from the prior meeting were approved unanimously.

4. Registration Update

Linda explained that we are up to 399 registrants, which is on par with where we were one year ago, as per Linda's report. Also noted is that we are ahead of pace for lower division registrations compared to last year.

David requested that Ric review with Linda where we may be light by division.

David also noted that we are light in Juniors, which is consistent with past years. Ric explained that he is going to contact all of the 12 year-olds and returning Juniors players from last year.

David requested that all Board Members to go back and look at their past rosters and contact lists to continue to push registration. Specifically, David asked for a list of people who registered last year who have not yet registered this year and to assign at least one Board member to contact each family.

A discussion ensued about recruitment strategies.

5. Draft and Team Assignment Plan

Ric and Todd explained that we likely will have 6 majors teams, which would require 72 players. After they are assigned, the rest of the teams would be assigned.

They also estimated that we will have 4 AAA teams and 6 AA teams.

A discussion ensued about what would be the proper assignment of players and balance of teams in each division.

6. Practice and Game Scheduling

Ric explained that he has the field permit schedule from David S. and a spreadsheet listing Majors Managers' practice preferences. He noted that once the Majors practices are set and the remaining field space is clear, there slots will be filled starting with AAA and going down through the divisions.

Ric explained that practice schedules for Majors, AAA and AA will be distributed so they could begin the week of Feb 14th and that lower divisions would be able to begin the week of Feb 21st.

Ric plans to schedule scrimmages for Majors and AAA on Feb 20th.

Andy asked if we will have games on weeknights in between Opening Day and the following weekend so he can anticipate Umpire needs. Ric noted that he expects there will be Majors games.

Andy also pointed out that if there are only 4 AAA teams and 6 Majors teams, there will be one night each week that will be unused.

7. Team Administration

Mark suggested that every team should have a Team Parent who can be the non-baseball contact, ie the volunteer contact for each team to address snack bar duty and sponsorships, etc.

Michael suggested we should have a weekly plan of communications between the VP and the Commissioners and the Managers and the families to keep information flowing about the most important items, particularly in the beginning of the season. Elizabeth and Michael recommended following up on all of the indications of interest during registration from people who wanted to volunteer.

David recommended creating some kind of Coaches packet or information list to help guide the Coaches on how to best get things done for the team throughout the season.

Andy suggested the AYSO model in giving the managers a form that could be filled out for each role needed among the parents to volunteer.

Andy also noted that the draft and the team assignments below Majors should take into account which parents have volunteered to be team parents so that each team had a high likelihood of having parents who can help during the season.

A discussion ensued and it was agreed that we will adopt a uniform model for all teams.

8. Opening Day

Michael explained that he wants to create an event that draws people in from the community and recommended a carnival-like experience.

A discussion ensued.

9. Constitution Update

David H. explained that Western Region has approved our Constitution with the modifications that were emailed out to Members towards the end of the Fall.

He has asked that a Constitution Committee review the Constitution and make any final proposed changes so that the Membership can be familiar with the adjustments in order to vote on approval of the Constitution at the next Annual Meeting.

Andy mentioned that it may be worth changing the time of the Annual Meeting to June rather than wait until September. A discussion ensued.

Michael suggested we separate the approval of the Constitution from the Elections in order to not have so much to put in front of the Members all at once.

David explained that we can handle ratification of the Constitution outside of an Annual Meeting, such that it could be handled by ballot on Championship Saturday, which still would separate the Constitution approval from the Elections.

Matt suggested we aim to make a decision about the timing of the Annual Meeting at the next Board meeting.

10. Board Member Reports (as needed)

- a. President
- b. Vice President

Ric explained that he still is looking for Commissioner for 50/70.

Ric also noted that we may need an alternative Majors Manager to replace Michael Carey who has expressed that he may not be able to attend every game

and also may not be able to attend the draft. Ric has a candidate who may be interested, in which case he will ask the Board for a vote.

Matt raised the matter of approving Local Rules. A discussion ensued in which it was reiterated that anything that is not in the Green Book must be approved by LLI through District.

Andy explained there are three audiences for Local Rules – LLI, Umpires and Division constituents. Andy and Ric agreed to work together so that Local Rules are clear for the first two audiences and Ric agreed to handle communications with Commissioners for the third audience.

c. Treasurer

John explained that if we are only a few players behind last year's pace on registration, we are not as far behind as noted in his report.

John reiterated that we have to focus on registrations and sponsorships to make our budget.

David Harris asked if John is taking into account chartering fees. John explained that we likely will be \$2K ahead of plan because of needing to charter only a single league.

d. Player Agent

Todd predicted that we will need to draft 15 ten year-olds to make 6 Majors teams. Doing so then would mean having 6-8 AAA teams.

Matt asked about how many players we would have per team. Todd answered that he wants to keep it to 12 in order not to deprive kids of a fair amount of playing time.

Todd explained that he wants to manage player deployments in a way that would avoid forfeits and has a plan in mind to accomplish that.

A discussion ensued about whether we would have 6 teams in AAA or 8 teams, and then 4 teams in AA or 6. The conclusion was that we will aim for six teams in Majors, AAA and AA.

Todd shared the status of 50/70 registrants, which led to a discussion about having 50/70 be set up as a bonus opportunity such that 12 year olds need to play Majors in order to play 50/70. Todd noted that he will email the families of 12 year olds to let them know about the 50/70 program.

Todd proposed moving Juniors evaluations out 1-2 weeks, which others agreed would be appropriate.

e. Communications

Michael explained that he aims to set up all team pages and get coaches and commissioners engaged before the season begins.

Michael also noted that he is drafting emails for Commissioners to send to Managers to help explain how the team pages work.

f. Concessions

Elizabeth explained that she will coordinate with Mark regarding sponsor value that may be given to donors who provide products to Concessions.

g. Equipment

Jasan explained that this season he will be handing out baseball buckets that were donated from BSN that are meant to be returned at the end of the season so they can be reused.

A discussion took place about the merits of sling machines vs wheel machines for MP and the need for maintenance of whatever machines we use this season.

h. Fields

i. Registrar

j. Safety

Jim explained that he has safety kits to be distributed with the equipment bags and has ice packs to give to each Manager.

Jim also noted that he is set up to do background checks for all volunteer applicants.

k. Sponsorships

Mark talked about the free and paid clinics coming up. He noted that he has 25 paid participants for the Spring Training clinic.

Mark also explained that he emailed 81 volunteers to come to a volunteer gathering on Thu from 6-7pm and asked if Board members could attend.

Mark reported that he successfully has recruited two people to be volunteer team leads.

Mark also noted that he has approximately \$10K of sponsorships that have come in so far.

1. Umpires

Andy noted that we have 31 umpires on our active roster and are getting more referrals each week.

7. Other league business

None.

8. Good and Welfare

Multiple Board Members noted that it was great to see kids on the field during evaluations and to have so many volunteers out there helping.

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11pm.