



Santa Monica
LITTLE LEAGUE



Board of Directors Minutes

May 2, 2016

1. Call to Order

David Harris called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

Board Members in attendance: David Schmillen, Elizabeth Bailey, Jason Sherman, David Harris, Mark Kapczynski, Linda Liberman, John Matise, Matt Edelman, Jim Ries, Andy Anagnos

Board Members participating by phone: Todd Gelfand

Ric Munoz arrived at 7:50pm.

Michael Balsley arrived at 8:05pm.

Non-Board Members in attendance: David Davidson, Noah Graff, Peter McCormick (Peter arrived at 8:45pm).

Elizabeth Bailey left at 9:30pm.

Mark Kapczynski left at 10:10pm.

Jim Ries left at 10:40pm.

A quorum was present throughout the meeting.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Prior Minutes – 4/4/16

Jim moved to approve the Minutes. John seconded the motion. None opposed. The Minutes were approved.

4. Constitution and Elections Update

Matt provided an update on the elections, reiterating that the Annual Meeting and the election process will follow the Green Book and LLI guidelines as closely as possible. David Harris clarified the process by which an individual could become a Regular Member.

Ric and Matt agreed to compare records to finalize the list of all SMLL volunteers.

David Harris reminded everyone that the new draft of the Constitution was written to be as close as possible to the LLI model and that Members would be notified again that they are able to review the draft prior to the Annual Meeting, which was confirmed for June 7th.

David Schmillen raised the question of how many Board Members should be permitted by the Constitution. A discussion ensued. All agreed that the Constitution should be revised before being presented again to Members, stating that SMLL can have more than 13 Board Members, which would enable the Members to vote for a higher number if desired.

John suggested that each Board position should codify its responsibilities to pass on.

David noted that its important to diversify the Board composition and ensure that multiple people know how to serve the league and accomplish the league's business.

5. Awards – Mike White, Kofi, President's

David explained that the Mike White Award is named after a long time volunteer who passed away suddenly. An award was named after him to honor a stand-out volunteer each year who does much more than could ever have been asked or expected of them. David noted that the award is announced on Championship Saturday.

David explained that the Kofi Award is given by the Major Managers in honor of Kofi McPherson, who was a player in SMLL, to the 12 year old that best exemplifies the values of SMLL and the qualities of an SMLL player. David further explained that the Majors Managers each nominate someone from their team, and one player wins from each Majors Division, with all nominees getting a token for being selected by their Managers.

David then explained that the President's Award is an award in the sole discretion of the President to honor someone whom the President believes is most deserving.

Mark Kapeczynski explained that one of our league sponsors, Kind Bar, will be giving out the "Kind Award" to six players, one in each division.

Board Members nominated the following individuals for the Mike White Award:

- Ric Munoz
- Michael Balsley
- Andy Anagnos
- Noah Graff
- David Reyes

Voting took place by secret ballot, with David Harris receiving the ballots. David explained that he will announce the winner on Championship Saturday.

6. Middle Schools Using SMLL Fields

Linda raised the idea that it would be nice to try and enable Middle School kids to use the SMLL fields and play more baseball.

David Harris agreed that it would be a worthwhile initiative but also explained that we would have to work within city parameters.

Noah Graff commented that it would help get more kids involved in the league, especially in Fall Ball.

Andy Anagnos expressed support for the idea and suggested trying to form teams with groups of kids from Middle Schools to help drive Fall Ball registration.

David Harris recommended that Linda work with Andy and David Schmillen to move forward with the idea and that they should begin by discussing the opportunity with representatives at JAMS and Paul Revere.

A discussion ensued.

7. Board Member Reports

a. President

David explained that a resolution was reached with Mitch Miller related to Spring Training. He emphasized that in the future, all arrangements with vendors need to be pre-approved by the Treasurer and the President and memorialized in writing or there is a risk that vendors will not get paid.

Ric and Mark suggested that Spring Training and Coaches Clinics should be a value-add offered to families of SMLL. A discussion ensued.

Andy asked if the dates for All-Stars had been confirmed. David Harris explained that they had not yet been confirmed but that the expectation is that the tournament will start around the week of June 20th. He also explained that the dates for 50/70 and Juniors All-Stars are not yet clear.

b. Vice President

Ric raised the issue of forfeits and the rescheduling of postponed games. He explained that there are two games in the Majors Division that the Board needs to decide whether or not can be postponed.

The Majors Commissioner, Peter McCormack took the floor and explained the scenarios:

- A's vs Angels – a school event caused six players to be absent
- Dodgers vs Orioles – four players were absent due to an Open House

Following a discussion, Andy moved to vote in favor of playing rescheduling the game. John seconded. All Board Members voted in favor, excluding Ric, who abstained.

Ric shared that rained out games are being rescheduled in a manner that attempts to make pitching days of rest as limited an issue as possible.

Ric provided a detailed update about plans for Championship Saturday. A discussion ensued.

Ric provided a detailed update about plans for All-Stars and All-Star Manager Selections. A detailed discussion ensued.

Ric proposed the following individuals to be approved as All-Star Managers

- David Davidson – Majors West
- Jasan Sherman – AAA West
- Kyle Walker – Majors East
- Peter McCormack – AAA East
- David Reyes – Majors West possible team
- Gerald Bender – AAA West

Ric noted that Jim Ries, Kevin Smith and Matt Edelman have agreed to assist.

Ric also asked the Board to enable David Harris and him to make final decisions regarding the assigned Managers.

Matt motioned to vote in favor of the Manager candidates and to provide Ric and David the requested discretion. David asked if we needed a closed-door discussion without candidates in the room. No one requested such a discussion. All Members voted in favor of the motion.

Jasan confirmed that he will be ordering hats for six teams - 3 east and 3 west.

Ric then provided an update for Upper Divisions All-Stars. A discussion ensued. Ric asked for the following individuals to be approved as Managers: Michael Sigmund for Seniors, Ozzie Jimenez for Juniors and Pat Armstrong for 50/70. Matt made a motion to approve. All Members voted in favor of the motion.

Ric explained that he would be discussing the Summer Extras Program outside of the Board meeting with Jasan and Pat Armstrong.

Ric then explained that he would like to have Fall Ball Registration open by the beginning of June and that he would work with Linda and Michael to meet that goal.

Ric noted that combining AAA and AA pools last year did not work out well so the Board and Managers would need to recruit heavily for Fall Ball in order to have enough players for each division. A discussion ensued.

Ric explained that he would send an email to the Board regarding Fall Ball fees and a possible package deal designed to increase Fall Ball registration.

Peter McCormick then provided an update on the state of the Majors Division.

- Peter explained that things are going smoothly and that he is focused on ensuring that Managers of teams with 13 players are providing as much playing time to each player as possible so that all families are happy with their experience.

David Davidson then provided an update on the state of the AA Division.

- David explained that he has been very happy with the umpires and that the division really hit a groove after Spring Break, with games being competitive and balanced. He also noted that teams will be pitching from the full distance for the final few weeks of the season.

A discussion then ensued about the quality of the machines used in MP. Ric and Jasan agreed to discuss offline with the MP division Commissioner.

David S. explained that he needs assistance setting up the batting cage schedule. Jasan volunteered to help. Jim noted that cages are open at Clover and Marine and that it would be great if those could be added into the schedule.

c. Treasurer

John explained that net revenue is down a bit from registration but that we've also been able to control our expenses. He noted that the key to being net profitable is continuing to control umpire expenses, figuring out field permit expenses by releasing fields we don't need, continuing to pull in additional sponsorships (he noted that we are 10% ahead of last year) and continuing to improve upon Concessions profitability.

d. Player Agent

Nothing outside of the report provided.

e. Communications

Michael explained that he would like to put up more SMLL branded banners around fields 5 and 6 to establish our brand more prominently in advance of Championship weekend.

Michael also noted that he plans to provide the local papers (SM Mirror and Daily Press) with photos one week in advance of Championship Saturday to try and generate stories about SMLL for that weekend. David H. offered to talk with the journalists as needed.

Michael explained that he would like to have the schedules and rosters for Fall Ball fully loaded into the website so that we can take advantage of all of the functionality within the platform.

f. Concessions

Elizabeth explained that the concessions stand is profitable with approximately \$2K per week in revenue.

She noted that she is working on incentivizing volunteers with rewards and recognition and had started offering community service hours to older kids, which is helping encourage them to volunteer.

Elizabeth noted that there still is not as much of a commitment from as wide a group of volunteers as would be ideal. She asked the Board Members to do as much as possible to encourage more volunteer support.

g. Equipment

Nothing outside of the report provided and previous comments.

h. Fields

David S. explained that the scoreboard lights go out often, which is an issue he is trying to address.

David also proposed temporary shading solutions for fields 5 and 6.

i. Registrar

Linda noted that we have 515 registered players for Spring. David Harris shared that this is an exceptional accomplishment that all should be proud of on behalf of the League.

j. Safety

Nothing outside of the report provided.

k. Sponsorships

Mark explained that Dodger Day will be on the 15th, with tickets being sold through the 8th.

Mark also noted that he has an initial commitment from the producer of the movie, Little Big League, to doing Movie Night on May 23rd at the ArcLight theater. Mark explained that there would be room for 200 people, all of whom would receive a snack and drink.

Mark also shared that the level of team participation in sponsorship is low, especially in the lower divisions. A discussed ensued.

l. Umpires

Andy shared that he has a dependable group of individuals in the umpire roster and talented younger umpires who are on their way to becoming great umpires.

He noted that there are approximately a dozen umpires who have worked 15-20 games, giving them strong experience for the future.

8. Other league business

None

9. Good and Welfare

None

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:15pm.