

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Board Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 1/22/15.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Gavin Daly, Conor Farrell, Mike Fenske, Jeff Goodman, Bob Katchko, Brad Van Auken, Judy Vivona, Roger Watson, Nick Montagnese, Nick Vivona, Brett Szczesny, James Restivo

League members: none

Regrets received: John Tromba, Michele Somody

Meeting Commencement

President Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

Brad Van Auken made a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/8/15 meeting. Nick Vivona seconded the motion. The 1/8/15 minutes were approved.

2. Sponsorship Committee Update

Judy Vivona led the Board in a review of the 2015 sponsors. The sponsor listing was divided-up among the Board members for further follow-up.

Ms. Vivona noted that sponsor letters had been sent out and she will be following-up with the sponsors in the coming weeks to ensure they received the letter.

The Board agreed that specific team sponsors would be determined once the number of teams has been established.

The Board discussed the preferred timing of the Modell's 20% discount team week. The Board agreed that the best timing would be mid-February to mid-March. Ms. Vivona will follow-up with Modell's to secure the dates.

Conor Farrell noted that Nutmeg Sporting Goods is also considering offering a discount on merchandise. Nutmeg is located downstairs from the Batter's Box.

Brett Szczesny noted that the Board needs to discuss planned capital improvement projects for the year in conjunction with finalizing the budget.

3. President's Report

Mr. Goodman noted that he had accepted the resignation of the following Board members:

- Jenn Salvatore
- Felix Belgrove

The Board discussed the open responsibilities created by these resignations.

A motion was made by Gavin Daly to elect Nick Montagnese as Recruiting Coordinator. The motion was seconded by James Restivo and approved by all. Nick stated that he would distribute flyers to those that will help visit the schools for recruiting purposes.

James Restivo noted that he can take care of posting the registration signs around town. We obtained the signs from Sign Pro in the prior year.

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The Board also discussed the Player Agent role. The Board will discuss this role further at the next meeting.

Jeff Goodman noted that he had enlisted Tom Green to help with the tryouts and draft.

Mr. Goodman noted that we plan to have an open registration event likely to be held at the Stamford Baptist Church on High Ridge Road. Mr. Goodman noted that recruiting flyers should be printed in English and Spanish.

Recap of District President's Meeting

Mr. Goodman discussed the outcome of the most recent District President's meeting, noting the following:

Waiver for Extra Hitter in Majors

A motion was made by Nick Vivona to apply for a waiver to allow an extra hitter in Majors. The motion was seconded by James Restivo and approved by all.

Coaching Waiver

A motion was made by Bob Katchko to request a waiver of the rule concerning the manager/coach to Board ratio. The rule states, "manager/coach representation on the Board shall not exceed a minority." The motion was seconded by Nick Montagnese and approved by all.

Criteria for Selecting Managers

Ric Anderson cited the need to establish guidelines for selecting Managers and Coaches. Nick Vivona, Majors Commissioner, and Nick Montagnese, AAA Commissioner, will draft the guidelines for review and discussion at the next Board meeting. The Board discussed the following initial thoughts on the guidelines:

- To manage in the Majors, you have to have first coached in the Majors
- Consider prior experience as a Manager/Coach
- Consider track record as a Manager/Coach at lower level
- Consider any prior complaints/issues

Volunteer Forms – Background Checks

Mr. Goodman noted that Volunteer Forms need to be obtained and processed for all volunteers. He noted that this includes umpires as well.

ASAP Plan Submission

SALL can realize a 20% discount on next year's insurance costs if the ASAP plan is submitted by March 13. Ric Anderson will take care of this.

Umpires

James Restivo noted that he will begin contacting umpires. Brett Szczesny will assist James as Brett has the umpire contact listing from the prior year.

"Big Al" Coaching Clinic

Mr. Goodman noted that Stamford National invited other leagues to attend the Big Al baseball clinic on Sunday, March 15, at Westhill High School. There will be two sessions; 9a-12p for the older groups and 1p-4p for the younger groups. After discussion, a motion was made by Nick Vivona to pay \$300 to enable prospective SALL Managers and Coaches to attend the Big Al clinic. The motion was seconded by Brad VanAuken and approved by all.

The Board agreed that the Big Al clinic is supplemental to the Coaching Curriculum being developed by Conor Farrell. Conor discussed the plan which will include a clinic similar to the Big Al clinic. The clinic will include the Coaches performing the drills and learning proper techniques first hand. The dates for these clinics need to be confirmed.

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Travel Baseball

The Board discussed travel baseball. A motion was made by Nick Vivona to elect Nick Montagnese Travel Baseball Commissioner and to have Nick lead an exploratory committee to develop a proposal for 2015 SALL travel baseball. The motion was seconded by Bob Katchko and approved by all. The proposal will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

Jeff noted that March 24 was the date for traveling to McGuane Field in Dairen, to set the travel schedule. The games will likely be played on Friday nights and Sundays.

North Stamford/Springdale League Name

Mr. Goodman noted that North Stamford/Springdale will be asked by the District Administrator to reconsider the name of "Stamford Little League."

End of Spring Season – June 21

Mr. Goodman noted that the Spring season will end on June 21 and the District Tournament will begin that week.

He noted that the City Tournament of Champions may be moved to September. This needs to be discussed further among the leagues.

The other leagues voiced their continued support of the LaMotta tournament. The specific dates need to be determined.

4. Review Budget

Brett Szczesny provided a budget update. Brett handed-out the latest view of the 2015 budget to the Board, for review and comment. Due to time constraints, the 2015 budget discussion was moved to the next meeting.

5. Update on Spring Registration and Communication

Gavin Daly discussed the plan for spring registration. Gavin is in the process of configuring the website for registration.

6. Calendar Review

Ric Anderson led the Board in a discussion of the Calendar of Events. An updated draft calendar will be distributed to the Board members for review and comment. SALL board meeting dates in the near-term were noted as follows:

- February 10
- February 24
- March 12
- March 26
- April 9
- April 23
- May 5
- May 28

7. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Watson - Secretary