

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 11/18/14.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Felix Belgrove, Gavin Daly, Conor Farrell, Mike Fenske, Jeff Goodman, Bob Katchko, Jenn Salvatore, Michele Somody, Brett Szczesny, John Tromba, Brad Van Auken, Judy Vivona, Nick Vivona, Roger Watson, Nick Montagnese

League members: Mike Dennihan

Regrets received: James Restivo

Meeting Commencement

President Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. Approval of Minutes

After discussion, a motion was made by Nick Vivona to approve the minutes from the 11/6/14 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jenn Salvatore and approved by all. The minutes from the prior meeting were approved as written.

2. President's Report

Mr. Goodman provided the following update:

Follow-up Items from Prior Meeting

- *Update on Health Inspector discussion* – James Restivo will be addressing the open items from the inspection report.
- *Update on gym bookings for winter clinics* – Conor Farrell has booked Davenport for the winter clinics (details included in section 5., below)
- *Port-o-john removal* – Brett Szczesny confirmed that the port-o-johns will be removed by 11/20/14
- *Equipment inventory process and tagging* – John Tromba will be implementing the inventory control process as discussed at the prior meeting.

District President's Meeting

Mr. Goodman attended the District President's meeting on 11/13/14. John Tromba and James Restivo also attended the portion of the meeting pertaining to equipment management. Mr. Goodman shared the following update:

- LL International has updated the rule relative to LL player age. Mr. Goodman shared an age chart showing the impact of the rule change, which now impacts the younger players.
- A Regional Clinic is being held in Bristol on January 24-25, 2015. The Board will discuss sending a delegate to the meeting.
- SALL should consider requiring batting helmets to include a facemask. It was noted that North Stamford/Springdale LL require facemasks on helmets. Facemasks are not required by LL International.
- District tournaments will be moving to a pool play format. This is a state-wide change.
- The District will be coordinating travel play this year (combination of D1 and D2). The Board will discuss our strategy for travel baseball at a December meeting. Travel games will likely be Friday nights and/or Sundays.
- The next District Presidents meeting is December 16.

The Board members raised various questions regarding the above topics, to which Mr. Goodman and others responded.

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3. Treasurer's Report

Brett Szczesny discussed the financial reports from the prior two years, a copy of which had been circulated the Board members prior to the meeting. The Board raised various questions, to which Mr. Szczesny and others responded.

Mr. Szczesny reported that SALL has about \$15.6K in checking and \$20K in savings (CDs).

All budget requests should be submitted to Brett as soon as possible as he will be presenting a draft budget at the 11/25/14 meeting.

4. Fall Ball Hindsight Discussion

President Goodman welcomed Mike Beldotti and thanked him for his service as Fall Ball Commissioner. Mr. Beldotti provided the following recap of the Fall Ball season:

- Consensus was that SALL teams were divided-up fairly
- The teams each played approximately 12 games
- Mike received very positive feedback from the SALL participants
- Player attendance at practices and games was good
- The BVSA clinic was very successful
- Scrimmage games were viewed positively
- Other leagues were not consistent using a balanced approach to dividing-up the teams. Most other leagues had an A, B and C team, which also included six and seven year olds.

He noted that the following should be considered for the next Fall Ball season:

- If we have enough kids (4 teams per division), consider keeping it a house, instructional league and not play other leagues
- End the season in mid-October (the City may require an earlier end date)
- Fields – get in sync with the City regarding any field maintenance activities

The Board members asked a variety of questions, to which Mr. Beldotti and others responded.

Ric Anderson, who served as Fall Ball Player Agent, provided an overview of his interactions with the kids and emphasized the importance of focusing on the kids at all levels and their baseball experience, as we interact with each other and deal with the many administrative aspects of managing the League.

The Board discussed potential opportunities for having players interact more with the Board and obtain player input as relevant decisions are made.

5. Board Member Updates

Next, certain Board members provided a brief update regarding their immediate focus areas, as follows:

Board Member	Current Focus Area
Nick M.	developing insight into AAA Commissioner role
Judy	sponsorships, fundraising and events
Brad	developing insights into T-Ball Commissioner role, rookie clinic
Bob	field improvements
John	equipment and inventory control; has the list of equipment needed for winter clinics
Gavin	analysis of player age distribution based on prior year, registration process, website, "Coaches Corner" could be done on existing website
Felix	developing recruitment strategy for presentation at 11/25 meeting
Nick V.	Majors Commissioner, field improvements, ServSafe requirements and training for the league

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Michele	AA Co-Commissioner (obtained download from Jeff and Nick V. regarding prior year) and Team Parent
Jenn	Player Agent, draft process
Conor/Mike F.	Winter clinics, Skills Curriculum/Framework
Mike Beldotti	Following-up on scholarship money from Old-timers Club

Throughout the updates, the Board members asked a variety of questions and discussed various alternatives to the questions raised.

Winter Clinic Dates:

The dates of the winter clinics were discussed as follows:

January 9, 16 - 6:00pm - 8:00pm

January 23, 30 – 5:30-7:15p and 7:15-9:00p

February 6, 20, 27 – 5:30-7:15p and 7:15-9:00p

March 6 – 5:30-7:15p and 7:15-9:00p

Lights

Additionally, the Board discussed an idea to request the City to install lights at one of the SALL fields. Nick Montagnese made a motion to approve the formation of an exploratory Committee to prepare a proposal documenting the specific request for lights at a SALL field. The proposal will then be brought to the Board for consideration. The motion was seconded by John Tromba and approved by all. Mr. Tromba stated he would have the proposal for Board consideration at the December 4 meeting. The proposal could potentially be presented to the Parks and Recreation Committee at its December 17 meeting.

6. Review of Bylaws (Roger Watson)

Due to time constraints, the discussion of the bylaws was deferred to the 11/25/14 meeting. Mr. Goodman asked that all comments relating to the Bylaws be sent to Roger Watson by Friday, 11/21/14, for incorporation into an updated draft document.

7. Safety Officer Report (Ric Anderson)

Ric Anderson discussed a "Safety Checklist" that will be provided to each manager. He also noted that he is forming a Safety Committee.

8. Other Business

None

9. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 25

Key items to be reviewed:

- Bylaws Update – Roger
- 2014-2015 Budget Presentation – Brett
- Player Recruiting Strategy – Felix
- Discuss Committee assignments- Jeff

10. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Watson - Secretary