

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – 01/19/16 @ 7pm

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 01/19/16.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Judy Vivona, Rosaria Bria, Nick Montagnese, Mike Fenske, Jason Benner, Brett Szczesny, Mike Deenihan, Jenn Salvatore, Pete Karukas, Joe Fauci, Bob Katchko and Jeff Goodman

League Members: Sheldon Mui (parent)

Regrets received: Karen Montagnese, Jen Hanley and John Tromba

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice President – Nick Vivona called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. – Approval of minutes of 1/07/15 (Nick Vivona - motion / Jenn Salvatore - 2nd)

2. Safety Report

Nick Vivona notified the Board that in all the winter clinics to date there has been zero safety issues or reports. Winter Clinics are following the safety agenda, participants and families are adhering.

3. President's Report

Ric Anderson:

1. President's Report:

- a. Ric Anderson suggests next year the BOD work on booking Stamford High School immediately after BOD election to ensure SALL can get time slots. Economically, it is better to book early for the auxiliary and main gym for \$55 – if you wait too long you will only get whatever is available but for the same price.
- b. Ric Anderson made the following suggestions on how to handle this for next year:
 - i. Vote on who on the Board is the responsible party for obtaining/booking venues;
 - ii. Have the BOD decide themselves next year
 - iii. Create a role 'PERMIT COORDINATOR' for booking venues and obtaining permits
- c. Nick Vivona noted these would be considered 'constitution changes' and we should table the issue for the moment.

2. Ric Anderson has forwarded the past Safety plan to Nick Vivona which will be used going forward. He would like everyone to think about their areas of responsibility, any possible issues that might be a consideration to add to the plan should be forwarded to Nick Vivona.

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3. SALL is officially insured for the upcoming season.
 - a. Nick Montagnese suggested all permits should be posted on-line (website) for Managers/Coaches to access if there's ever a need.
4. Ric Anderson made a suggestion for the league to purchase an overhead projector for the SALL. Pricing research was completed and the cost is approximately \$300-500.
 - a. Nick Montagnese makes a motion / Bob Katchko 2nd motion – Board voted and approved the purchase of an overhead projector.
5. Ric Anderson asks the Board please be mindful of the budget. SALL will be fair and transparent regarding the funds for the league which are to be used for all children and the betterment of their baseball experience. Any area that has not submitted their budget must do so ASAP.
6. Ric Anderson noted he would like to start getting ideas regarding committees for the various areas – he has been in contact with several parents that are interested in participating. There are many committees noted in the constitution and encouraged everyone to review.
7. Jeff Goodman suggested having an independent audit – Ric Anderson suggested having an audit committee per the constitution.

BOARD ROLE UPDATES

Brett Szczesny – Treasurer:

- The main areas of income for SALL are:
 - o Sponsorship
 - o Registration
 - o Snack Bar
 - o Various Fundraising Events
- Major income target areas are Sponsors / Snack Bar then Opening Day and events.
- Major expense target areas are uniforms / umpire fees / equipment and Snack Bar.
- Based on last year, the projected income this year is \$120,000.00.
- There is \$16,576.97 in the checking account; CD = same as last meeting. Everything is up to date all bills have been paid and deposits made (to date).
- Brett Szczesny also wanted the BOD to consider rethinking the discount card marketing and how we can be more effective.

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Mike Fenske – Coaching Coordinator:

- All is going well. Big turn out and can still use more help with the stations. Thanks again, to everyone involved.

Mike Deenihan - Assistant Treasurer & AA Co –Commissioner:

- Reiterated the clinics are going well.

Rosaria Bria – Snack Bar:

- Currently in the planning phases of changes to the snack bar. Also, sold Spirit Wear at the clinics.

Joe Fauci – A Commissioner:

- Would like Jen Hanley (Info Officer) to work with him on releasing an e-blast on booking clinics for 5 and 6 year olds. Need to determine the best place and time. Recommendation is for Saturday scheduling. Joe will speak with Jen for the count of players.

Jenn Salvatore – Team Parent Coordinator:

- Bowling may not be an option. CPK is a good option (January 30 or 31). Possibility of Bingo (need a place and possible prizes).

Pete Karukas - AAA Commissioner:

- Asked about how to obtain copies of the green books.
 - o Ric Anderson has just received the books today and he will distribute them.

Jason Benner – Equipment Manager:

- Reminded the Board to allow ample time for ordering uniforms. Instant Replay stated they will need 6 weeks to process. That said, we need to have a full player count by mid-February.

Nick Montagnese – Recruiting Coordinator:

- The color flyers are ready to for distribution. Asks the board for suggestions on the most cost effective way to print copies.

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Bob Katchko – Field Coordinator:

- Foul poles will be installed within the next 4 weeks. All fences are fixed and gravel will be installed by start of the season.
- He is looking into the possible purchase a new score board at Northrop (via sponsorship).

Jen Hanley – Information Officer (submitted via email):

- All 2016 Spring registration programs are updated and in the system, ready to go live.
- On-going work with Active X to iron out any issues with the website
- There are currently 61 children registered for Winter Clinics

Jeff Goodman – Sponsorship/Fundraising Manager – Umpire in Chief/Scheduling Coordinator:

- Jeff Goodman briefly mentioned the tragic loss of one of the SALL parents and donations can be made to the fund created for the children.
 - o Nick Vivona stated the SALL Board should have a pre-determined, equal, continuous process for donations to SALL families for unfortunate events like this.
 - Ric Anderson made suggestions of:
 - A standard donation amount
 - One year free baseball registration with SALL
 - Free baseball registration for the rest of the child's term with SALL
 - Nick Vivona suggested the children affected have free registration for the rest of their baseball term with SALL and this should be the process going forward for the passing of an immediate family member.
 - Nick Vivona makes a motion to have the child(ren) affected have free registration for the rest of their baseball term with SALL.
 - o Bob Katchko 2nd motion - Board voted and approved.
- Regarding the Junior Umpires: Jeff Goodman noted there are approximately 12-15 kids signed up for first umpire clinic. Anticipation of approximately 20 kids being signed up by first meeting which is scheduled for February 10th @ The Italian Center.
 - o Junior Umpire field training is expected to begin in March.

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- Jeff Goodman mentioned Chief Umpire Rich Gillespie was very appreciative of the Board's vote agreeing to pay the requested fee (as per BOD Meeting on 1/7/16).

- For Scheduling – Jeff Goodman gave a gentle reminder of how important it is to have the total number of teams determined sooner rather than later.

- Jeff Goodman discussed the shortened Spring season and presented game scheduling options in hopes to allow the teams to play 18 games in 7 weeks:
 - o Start the season during the school spring break
 - o AAA and Majors divisions only play a 16 game season
 - Nick Montagnese suggested possibly scheduling Friday night games – Jeff Goodman commented these dates are generally saved in case of rain outs. He also mentioned if the Board cannot agree to any of these recommendations, possibly schedule a few scrimmage games as an opportunity for the players to get more game time.

Jenn Salvatore – Team Parent Coordinator:

- Reached out to Bowlmor regarding a community event. Considering bowling or possible movie night options. A tentative date for next event is January 30th.

- Requested to have a summary of all anticipated fundraisers and the snack bar functions by the last clinic. She would like to share this information with parents to help them better understand the volunteer opportunities.

Judy Vivona – Secretary / Fundraising:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Open Discussion regarding Try Outs / Drafts Process:

- Nick Vivona met with Karen Montagnese - Player Agent of AAA, Pete Karukas - AAA Commissioner, John Tromba - Majors Player Agent and Brett Szczesny - Majors Commissioner on Saturday, 01/16/16 to discuss tryout and draft process. Thoughts were last year went very well. Last year Connor Farrell and his crew were the independent evaluators.

- We suggested having four independent evaluators – each cannot have a child in that particular division. There will be four stations, 1 evaluator per station and we will rank the children similar to

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last year. The respective Commissioner and Player Agent for that division will oversee the evaluators.

- Managers will have input and approval on what type of stations they wish to see.
- We will sign up slots via “signup genius”, as was done last year, with a plan of 16 players for each time slot (four per station) if possible, depending on the amount of registrations and time slots.
- Ric Anderson suggests using the term “assessing” instead of “trying out”.
- It was brought up that maybe returning majors players not try out. Nick Vivona stated new managers and coaches will not see the kids if they are not trying out. Jenn Salvatore agrees, it will be difficult to know the kids if they are not trying out.
- Jeff Goodman asked who will be doing the evaluating. Nick Vivona stated it will be discussed at the next Board meeting.
- Nick Vivona suggests voting on a process and discussion of who the evaluators should be.
- Brett Szczesny stated the independent evaluator(s) would be someone who does not have a player in that division. There is concern there would still be biased.
- Brett Szczesny – Makes a motion of the try out process (March 6th) - how it is defined – having four stations / schedule genius to book time slot / draft results available later – and that the committee will accept comments later on how players will be evaluated. – Bob Katchko 2nd motion – Board votes and agrees.
- Nick Montagnese – makes motion all Managers review evaluators if independent evaluators are used. Bob Katchko 2nd motion – some votes = yes, some abstained – this needs to be submitted to the committee. For now motion on hold.

9:05 – Meeting adjourned