

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 10/29/15.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Jason Benner, Rosaria Bria, Mike Deenihan, Joe Fauci, Mike Fenske, Jeff Goodman, Bob Katchko, Nick Montagnese, Jen Hanley, Brett Szczesny, Judy Vivona

League Members: none

Regrets received: Jenn Salvatore, John Tromba, Pete Karukas, Gavin Daly and Karen Montagnese

1. Approval of Minutes

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. – Approval of minutes of 10/13/15 (J. Goodman - motion / B. Katchko - 2nd)

2. President's Report

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- a) Ric Anderson passed out safety flyers which each Board member should have available to them at all times.

Ric Anderson discussed:

- School calendar (we need to reference it while scheduling SALL calendar)
- Constitution (updated version needs to be uploaded to the web site)
- Info from President's meeting – changes to baseball age forthcoming
- The need for each role lead needs to outline 3-5 attainable goals
- Safety is the utmost importance to the league (both physical and mental)

Nick Vivona discussed:

- Organization of the meeting flow:

- Each Board Member will have approximately 2 minutes to give a progress update for their area of responsibility. Each person will be respected and allow to speak uninterrupted.
 - Reminder the meetings will end at 8:30pm and the last 30 minutes to be dedicated to committee chats or open group discussion.
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BOD RESPONSIBILITY UPDATES

Nick Vivona – Vice President and Safety Officer:

- Nothing to update – no incidents since prior meeting

Jenn Salvatore. – Team Parent (as given by Nick V. in her absence):

- Introduction of SALL Parent's Club:
 - o Suggested planning community events to help bring volunteer involvement throughout the year – not just the baseball season.

Mike Deenihan – AA Co-Commissioner / Assistant Treasurer:

- Attended 3 of 5 fall clinics
- Ideas – too many games in AA last year – more clinics possibly before the season starts
- Re: Treasury role – met with Brett at bank – now a co-signer for SALL

Brett Szczesny – Treasurer:

- Finance update (checking acct balance \$15,337 plus \$20,900 in a CD)
- Still need to deposit Fall Ball checks
- We owe for foul poles and balance of equipment
- First draft of 2014-2015 P&L negative \$3K
- Jeff Goodman is no longer a signer on checks
- Port-a-Johns will be removed after Sunday's game (end of Fall Ball)

Jen Hanley – Associate Info Officer:

- Has not met with Gavin yet – working on coordinating schedules
- Passed along pricing and other web site info to Nick Vivona and Ric Anderson

Nick Montagnese – Recruiting:

- Redesigning the flyers
- Color flyers were created by BOD members using their work copiers (Kinko's is expensive) – need to explore other options
- Need to market 'Balanced League'
- Wants to reach out to kids that did not register last year and try to convert for upcoming year

Nick Montagnese (for Karen Montagnese – Player Agent):

- Will send an announcement introducing herself to families as the Player Agent etc.

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Mike Fenske – Coaching Coordinator:

- Requesting every coach has access and utilizes the ‘Little League Coach Resource Center’ on the website
- Will talk to Coaches and Managers for feedback regarding above

Jeff Goodman – Sponsorship / Fundraising:

- Sponsorship
 - o Created an updated letter for current sponsors
 - o Wants to get a head start and send early so people can take as tax deduction
 - o Has had meetings with 3 new potential sponsors (started contacting existing sponsors)
- Fundraising
 - o Possible movie night
 - o Bluefish game
 - o CPK night (or something like that)
- Question to BOD – Opening Day / Picture Day – is this part of his responsibility

Jeff Goodman – Umpire in Chief:

- o Umpires – spoke to Rich Gillespie (Head Umpire)
 - Will create plans for AA and up
 - For AA, if any 14 year old who wants to be junior ump they need to take a class/training
 - Rich Gillespie will staff AAA and Majors

Jeff Goodman – Scheduling:

- Dependent on # of teams in each division
- Has ideas on practice schedules
- Wants to have a plan for practice schedules and rain outs

Jason Brenner – Equipment Manager:

- Will inventory and clean all equipment after all equipment is returned
- Set budget to replace broken items
- Will look into possibly changing uniform design (new fresh look)

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Bob Katchko – Field Commissioner:

- Working on finishing field reconstruction at Vine
- Joe Golia Services donated sod to be installed by the City tomorrow 10/30 – in return Joe Golia will receive team sponsorship and banner for Spring 2016 season
- Will oversee installation of foul poles
- Fall clean up – will remove banners create documentation noting all banner sponsors, disassemble cages/netting and store them
- R. Pompa Services will do leaf removal at Kane

Joe Fauci – A Commissioner:

- Looking for gym etc for managers and coaches of single A team players to meet and teach a fundamentals of baseball clinic.

Pete Karukas – AAA Commissioner:

- Will reach out to Nick M. for advise (Nick M. commented on how most of the issues are RULES DRIVEN – advise is to learn the Green Book – specifically for AAA and MAJORS)

Gavin Daly – Info Officer:

- Gathering feedback on how site/communication can be improved
- Will email board for their feedback separately
- Requests for Board to let him know which field they will be at for clean-up (if at all)

Ro Bria – Snack bar:

- #1 goal – have snack bars up and running for all games
- Discussed initial clean-up kicked off with Nick Vivona at Vine snack bar
- Needs to discuss budget w/Brett
- Need shelves in 1st base storage room
- Unplugged all electrical equipment
- Discussed press box – organization and suggestions on Spirit Wear
- Disconnected and returned 2 vending machines at Kane (new placement to arrive in Spring)

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Judy Vivona – Secretary / Fundraising:

- Spoke to Roger regarding advice or transfer of necessary information to assume role of Secretary
- Compiled contact information for fundraising events – based on last year’s knowledge, plans on reaching out earlier with contracts etc to plan events.
- Reiterated to President and Vice President the Minutes will be sent for approval and then released with Agenda prior to next meeting.

Ric Anderson – President:

- Discusses the value of teamwork and how the motive is to help support 400+ kids
- Discusses reasons for sign-in sheet
- Reminds all members to ‘stay in your line’ – do your job @ 100%
- Discusses the need for the website to be updated – “it is the portal of communication for SALL”
- Reviewed and discussed draft format of how each team member should document what they’re responsible for (the plan). Will be reviewed with Nick Vivona and then both parties sign off (Judy Vivona suggests SOP – Standard Operating Procedure)
- Explanation of Vice President’s role and utilizing him as the President’s ‘Chief of Staff’

In closing:

- Nick Vivona - Reiterates Ric Anderson’s advice to document your responsibilities and execution of your role
- Judy Vivona – makes suggestion for all documentation for each role to be compiled into a manual of SOP’s for Board positions
- Mike Deenihan – posed a question to Jeff Goodman regarding Saturday/Sunday games for AA/AAA – these games have potential to be big money makers for snack bar
 - o Jeff Goodman responds stating there will be discussion regarding shifting of schedules and other ideas
- Bob Katchko – mentions in the past, T-Ball clinics were run on Friday nights @ Vine (full division effort) – weekends were T-Ball games – he asks can we think about going back to that format?
- Nick Vivona – Press box and storage discussion of how much was spent – approximately \$6800 (\$150/per mo. average for several years)
- BOD – wants to set up a date for the Board to walk the fields... understand where everything is etc.
- Ro Bria - discussed:
 - o Retrieved approximately \$300 from the 2 vending machines @ Kane (had expired soda – had not been touched since 2013)

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- Also approximately \$500 left in both snack bars
- Ro Bria and Nick Vivona suggested the need for a process for handling the money

- Will concession stand have its own credit card/account?
- Nick Vivona shared information regarding issues brought to both he and Jeff Goodman's attention in September (noise in the Vine Road snack bar). Their investigation discovered machines were running (ie: Slurpy), all equipment still plugged in and wires were VERY hot.

- Nick Vivona
 - Shared tentative calendar – review dates – built off last year (subject to change)
 - Asks BOD to think about budgets – would like to have completed by first week of Dec.
 - Would like to check in with each board member more often – possibly weekly to keep VP abreast of what's going on prior to BOD meeting.
 - Census on BOD member availability dates for future meetings
- Board posed the question regarding new little league age change?
- Ro – will concession stand have its own credit card/account

Motion to adjourn meeting – Brett / Bob 2nd

Meeting adjourned