

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – 11/18/15 @ 7pm

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 11/18/15.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Jason Benner, Rosaria Bria, Mike Deenihan, Joe Fauci, Mike Fenske, Karen Montagnese, Jen Hanley, Jenn Salvatore, Brett Szczesny, Pete Karukas, Judy Vivona

League Members: none

Regrets received: John Tromba, Nick Montagnese and Jeff Goodman

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice President – Nick Vivona called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. – Approval of minutes of 10/29/15 (Jenn Salvatore - motion / Joe Fauci - 2nd)

2. President's Report

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- a) Ric Anderson announces resignation of Gavin Daly and discusses the opening of the Info Officer position. Motion to nominate Jen Hanley as Info Officer is made by Joe Fauci / Rosaria Bria 2nd the motion. All approve of Jen Hanley taking over position of Info Officer.

Nick Vivona discussed:

Safety report update:

- An inventory of all safety kits was conducted. We have ample supply but need to be sure they are all distributed and stored in correct locations for new season.

Update from the District President's Meeting of 11/11/15:

- The latest changes in 'baseball age' of a player - all players born in 2005 (calendar year) will now be eligible to play until they are 12 years old.

Nick Vivona asked the Board if they would be interested in having the league name stamped on all balls for AAA and Majors. There is no extra cost but there is a commitment to guarantee an order of 72 dozen balls (which equates to approximately 1-1/2 year of baseballs – full season, summer and fall ball).

- Board voted against pursuing this option.

Nick Vivona asks the Board to forward any rule changes we would like to have implemented into the 'green book' by 11/25/15. These changes will be reviewed/discussed with Perry Pierce (District 1 President).

- Nick Vivona asks Jenn Salvatore to confirm if Brian Martin has intent to continue running the "Challenger" division. Brian Martin has confirmed he will continue.

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- Nick Vivona and Ric Anderson are making plans to attend “My Hometown” Little League seminar in 2016.
 - Nick Vivona states Perry Pierce (District 1 President) is looking to enhance and build a Summer Baseball Program (Friendship). The idea would be:
 - A Division = All Star
 - B Division = Travel Team
 - C Division = Friendship level
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BOARD ROLE UPDATES

Mike Fenske – Coaching Coordinator:

- Working on setting up clinics/format (drills/stations) / safety of the facility etc. / getting volunteers. All details are expected to be completed by Friday, 11/20/15.
- The schedule will be broken out into 8 sessions:
 - o 1/6/16 through 2/24/16 @ 6:00-7:30 pm (for 7 and 8 year olds)
 - o 1/8/16 through 3/04/16 @ 6:00-7:30 pm (for 9 and 10 year olds)
 - o 1/8/16 through 3/04/16 @ 7:30-9:00 pm (for 11 and 12 year olds)

Jen Hanley – Info Officer:

- Met w/Gavin Daly to gain access to website portal
- There are two separate pieces to the website:
 1. Website portal
 2. League Management Software portal
- Discussed details with Active Manager (parent company for website)
 - o Our current product has limitations so options were offered for Jen Hanley to review.
 - o Jen Hanley will be working on creating a beta site to run parallel while updating our current one until it can be transitioned in 2016. In the interim she will continue to update the existing website with required information (Minutes, etc).

Jason Brenner – Equipment Manager:

- Needs to do inventory of equipment on hand and determine how many bags of equipment are needed (based on the number of teams in the 2016 season).
 - o Pete Karukas makes a suggestion to have multiple sizes in each equipment bag to accommodate the different player sizes.

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Jenn S. – Head Team Parent:

- SALL Parent Club – Jenn Salvatore discusses volunteer efforts other than doing snack bar or team Mom and ideas for social events to get families involved such as:
 - o Dinner/movie night/ice cream social etc.
 - o Possible ice cream event @ Monkey Café (also use as an opportunity to have open registration)
- Jenn Salvatore would like to also send out an eblast to the SALL community to ask if any member has a business or services (or is affiliated with one) that could help the league in any way (community give and take).

Pete Karukas – AAA Commissioner:

- No major updates at this time other than he plans on learning the Green Book. Since he has available time, he offers to help other Board members if needed.

Joe Fauci – A Commissioner:

- No update at this time.

Karen Montagnese – Player Agent (AAA and below):

- Karen Montagnese has been doing research on the Player Agent role. There are plans to draft a letter introducing herself to the SALL families which will be sent out via eblast.
- Also plans on attending the Winter Clinics as a way to reach out and introduce herself to the players.

Ro Bria – Snack Bar:

- Discussed field clean-up day at Vine snack bar. Would like to investigate purchasing a lower table to hold the grill and fryer (it is currently a bit too high to cook comfortably).
- Ro Bria and Nick Vivona had started doing inventory of Spirit Wear
- Ro Bria is planning to register for Food Safety class to be taken in Dec/Jan
- The 2016 Snack Bar budget will be completed once all previous invoices/receipts have been reviewed.

Mike Deenihan – AA Co-Commissioner / Assistant Treasurer:

- No update at this time and offers to assist others if needed.
- Mike Deenihan inquires where someone can obtain the information for all the age groups for clinics/registration etc. – wants to know where this information will it be located?

Jen Hanley explains she will be able to export data that will fulfill the request and distribute to the board and target coaches/managers.

Nick Vivona suggests Mike Deenihan and John Tromba look into pitching using the spring loaded pitching machines for AA Division.

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Brett Szczesny – Treasurer:

- There is currently \$13,845.80 in the checking account. Brett Szczesny will meet with Mike Deenihan after meeting to review the role of Treasurer.
- Brett Szczesny spoke w/ Ro Bria regarding snack bar budget – which will be submitted when all invoices/receipts are reviewed.
- Brett Szczesny distributed the Final P&L for last year's budget (detailed version). He asked if anyone needs assistance setting a budget for the upcoming 2016 season, to please reach out to him.
- Brett Szczesny received a hand written note in mail box from a 7 or 8 year old Fall Ball player who was complimenting Mike Deenihan and requested for him to be his coach going forward.
- Brett Szczesny updated the BOD on the receipt of a decree. The court approved the Theodore Geriak donation which was in his will. Upon Mr. Geriak's death, the will went through probate which was causing the delays. The court has approved and SALL will be receiving the \$10,000 donation.
- Brett Szczesny requested all reimbursement approval amounts to change and reminded everyone, you need to provide receipts to receive reimbursement. If an invoice is provided, it will be paid, but there will not be any cash transactions (ie: Snack Bar).
- Brett Szczesny also requested any and all deposits/checks etc need to be submitted to him as soon as possible.
- Brett Szczesny is planning on setting up a dummy fund for the Snack Bar which will have a debit card for tracking purposes, (looking into Little League approval). He would like to check with Little League for approval and if approved, it will be implemented.

Judy Vivona – Secretary and Fundraising:

- Judy Vivona has updated contract template for Discount cards – and solicitation letters for donations of raffle items.
- Judy Vivona discussed the Discount Card program of 2015. She explained the cost might be too high and would like the BOD to reconsider lowering the price as well as consider the number of cards ordered in the 2016 year.
- Judy Vivona also stated she is updating an organization chart in Power Point of BOD roles/contact sheet.

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Nick Vivona – Acknowledgements

- Nick Vivona made the following acknowledgements for the “Field Clean Up” weekend:
 - o Northrop field clean-up:
 - Participants were Nick Vivona and Mike Gattuso
 - o Vine Road field clean-up:
 - Participants were Jason Brenner, Pete Karukas, Mike Gattuso, John Tromba, Mike Deenihan and Mike Fenske
 - o Kane field clean up:
 - Participants were Danny Noto, Ric Anderson and son Remi, Jen Hanley and son Joey, Sheldon Moi, Brett Szczesny, Jeff Bernfield and son, Bob Katchko, John Tromba and son, Mike Fenske, Mike Deenihan and son
 - o Snack bar clean-up at Vine:
 - Participants were Ro Bria, Judy Vivona, Karen Montagnese and Nick Vivona
- Nick Vivona also stated that all banners were photographed and rolled for storage.
- Nick Vivona reminds all that the scoreboard Katchko sign is covered yet?
- Nick Vivona asks for BOD for volunteers installing the 20 ft. foul poles at Northrop and Vine.

PLEASE NOTE Mike Fenske, Jason Benner and Pete Karukas excused themselves from the meeting at 8pm

Introduction of Perry Pierce - District Admin (District 1 – there are 12 in district):

- o District 1 is Greenwich – Ridgefield (combo some softball, some baseball and softball)
- o Perry Pierce explains he is the liaison between District 1 Little Leagues and Williamsport and offers some background do his role and how It relates to individual leagues as well as describes the once a month “President’s Only” meetings.

Perry Pierce was asked to clarify the new Little League age. He explained an announcement was made on Friday, November 13, 2015 explaining all children born in 2015 will be able to play through their 12th year. He suggests that if anyone needs further clarification they can refer to www.littleleague.org .

Perry Pierce also explained that both he and Nick Vivona had been approached by 2 people in Stamford expressing a desire to have the little leagues offer softball (estimating approximately 100 girls but an immediate guaranteed 20). He is asking would SALL be interested and if so, would they

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charter the program (if agree, Perry Pierce would meet with the City to discuss). Below are a few facts to consider:

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Offering softball will no increase field use footprint

- There is the possibility one could interpret this idea as an expansion which is an issue with the Sanctioning policy of no new league in town or expansions within authorized footprint.
- May be acceptable with City of Stamford Parks and Recreation since we would be using existing fields.
- A letter will need to be submitted to City of Stamford Parks and Recreation (copying all Presidents of Stamford Little Leagues) outlining:
 - How to Register
 - Strength of Little League by building on the program
 - Envisioning 3 leagues under one umbrella (no boundaries for softball for now)
 - Only needs are a dirt field with no mound
 - Use softball quality fields for practice time between the 3 leagues
 - Games played away (15-20 games per season)
 - Explaining who would own the registration process (this would depend on how many kids)?

Perry Pierce envisions:

- 1 league handle registration
- 1 league handle charter w/Williamsport as well as paying for it

Ric Anderson asks if any women in the City might be interested in spearheading.

- Perry Pierce does not think this is the case and of those who might qualify (via Bobby Valentine's Sports Academy – BVSA, they are heavily involved in New Canaan travel etc.

Perry Pierce goes on to state, Williamsport supports this addition and willing to join Perry when he meets with the City.

The idea of Girls Softball is to start 2016 which means Perry Pierce needs to go to the city on 12/15. This idea was attempted many years ago but at that time the city declined.

Nick Vivona made motion in principal for Stamford American Little League to spearhead a proposal for little league softball to be initiated by Perry Pierce to the City of Stamford Parks and Recreations Commission.

Ro Bria 1st / Brett Szczesny 2nd the motion – the entire BOD was in favor of the motion.

Nick Vivona makes a motion to adjourn – Joe Fauci 2nd the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.