

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – 03/17/16 @ 7pm

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 03/17/16.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Judy Vivona, Jen Hanley, Mike Fenske, Nick Montagnese, Karen Montagnese, Brett Szczesny, Mike Deenihan, Jenn Salvatore, Pete Karukas, Rosaria Bria, Joe Fauci, John Tromba and Jeff Goodman

League Members: Sheldon Mui, Jessica Fauci, Terry McMahon, Bob Pascarella

Regrets received: Jason Benner and Bob Katchko

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice President – Nick Vivona called the meeting to order at 7:12pm. – Approval of minutes of 3/01/16 (Nick Vivona - motion / Jeff Goodman - 2nd)

2. Safety Report

Nick Vivona stated Try Outs/Evaluations went very well - there have been no safety issues reported.

3. President's Report

Ric Anderson commented on the Town Hall Meeting and how well it was received. He mentioned the discussion / presentation given by Brett Szczesny and John Tromba regarding how the tryout and draft was going to work was very informative.

Some of the topics addressed brought about by questions from the community at the Town Hall Meeting were:

- Is there a draft process for AAA and Majors?
- Field Clean Up
- Practices
- Divisions
- Volunteers
- Who to contact if your child is sick for tryouts?
- How many registered players?
- Who are the Majors Managers?

Joe Fauci suggested community member attendees of the Town Hall Meeting offering feedback / comments which could be posted on the SALL website.

Ric Anderson also suggested offering a Town Hall Meeting for the lower divisions.

John Tromba suggests having such a meeting during one of the rookie clinics to have a more captive audience.

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Ric Anderson asked attending league member Sheldon Mui to offer his feedback having attending the Town Hall Meeting. Sheldon Mui stated he felt the meeting was very productive, informative and very beneficial. He felt it was nice to have the introduction of the Board members to the community.

Ric Anderson noted the Majors draft went well and is complete. AAA draft required more juggling but it all worked out and is final as well. There are many children that did not make the Majors which caused concerns, disappointment and additional Board feedback.

- Karen Montagnese commented stating the phone calls to families telling them they didn't make the upper division helped explain the situation better. Emails do not have the personal touch that a personal explanation can offer.
- Mike Deenihan suggested going forward, maybe the league should make it part of the registration process to notify the registrar's parents if they don't make the upper division they play in the lower division.
- Karen Montagnese noted it's an unfortunate situation when an 11 year old does not make the Majors yet their friends have made Majors.
- Terry McMahan (League Member) expressed his concerns with the Majors tryout/draft. He stated they were told the players would be notified on Tuesday and instead they received an email on Wednesday night. He also stated it was leaked from a Majors Manager – "if you haven't heard by Wednesday, then you're on AAA". He felt the information should have been put out earlier and was made worse by delaying.
- Terry McMahan also stated if there were 5 teams, then the manager's need to come up with 55 kids in the draft up front (these are the players who should be considered for Majors based on skill and age).
- Brett Szczesny commented on the reason for the delayed in notification. Stated once they realized the situation, the Board was required to vote on having either 11 or 12 players on a team – which is what caused the delay in notification. The problem in the Majors level were the numbers were between 5 or 6 teams and you should not rank 55 players upfront. He proceeded to offer an explanation – ranking is completely mixed – players of all different ages. There were a few players (6 or 7) that were in between they will be the call up group as needed to allow exposure and extra play time.

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- Pete Karukas suggested making the decision on the number of teams in the draft room based on the number of kids – not beforehand. He suggested having (if borderline determinations of number of team) a waiting manager/team come to the tryouts and IF they decide to go to (in this year's scenario a 6th team) with another team then that can be done at the tryouts/evaluations).
- Mike Deenihan suggested possibly waiting until registration is closed so the Board will have more exact numbers.

Ric Anderson suggested, based on all the feedback regarding the draft, a focus group is created to help facilitate the process for next season.

Ric Anderson also noted Brian Martin has transferred to Stamford North and the assumption is most of the Challenger division families will be going with him.

Challenger division should be a Stamford (city wide) program and not tied to any specific league. SALL would like to offer to host the division using Kane field for ease of mobility. SALL will continue to investigate options.

- Nick Montagnese asked if Challenger division is leaving SALL, should we look into whether or not the league would lose future funding.
 - o Ric Anderson will look into this.
- Ric Anderson asked the Board if the field permits had been obtained. Scheduling fields for evening game play is limited due to Stamford National and Stamford American both want to utilize Kosciusko Park.
- Ric Anderson also brought up the need to continue to push advertising for our target age group K-3 at all schools. The Board discussed additional email blasts via the elementary school PFO's, possible newspaper ad or flyer distribution to the schools.
 - o The Board discussed the cost of printing – suggested possibly not color print, but using colored paper to save money.
 - Nick Montagnese, the Recruitment Commissioner will spearhead this.

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BOARD ROLES UPDATE

Rosaria Bria – Snack Bars:

- Passed her food preparation test and will be presenting updates at the next meeting.

Jeff Goodman – Sponsorship / Umpire in Chief / Scheduling:

- Sponsorship:
 - o There are 25-29 team sponsors.
 - o The league is still in need of banner sponsors.
 - o Stamford AC will offer a free month for the families of each team where a player hits a home run.
 - o Brother Jimmy's will donate a case of water for every Majors team at every game.
- Umpires:
 - o The 2nd indoor class had approximately 20 kids in attendance.
 - o April 2nd is the tentative date for the outdoor training.
- Schedules:
 - o Majors & AAA schedules are completed
 - o The feedback from the question posed to the Board was in favor of a Quadruple header at Vine Road field.
 - o AA divisions will get to play at Vine Road field for some games.
 - o Schedules will be 10am and 12 noon for AAA ; 2pm and 4pm for Majors
 - AAA – M/W Sat/Sun am (18 games)
 - Friday nights – rain outs
 - Majors – T/Th. Sat / Sun pm (18 games)
 - o No games Saturday/Sunday of Memorial Day weekend (only Monday games)
 - This is intentionally done in case of rain out and to prevent teams playing 3 consecutive games.
 - This would get the A, AA and T-Ball playing possibly on the main fields as well.
 - o Would like the Board to review the proposed schedule and respond in 24 hours so they can upload to the website and schedule umpires.
 - Nick Montagnese makes a motion on scheduling to guaranteed to be picked randomly by picking team names out of a hat / Brett Szczesny 2nd
 - Board Vote: Motion does not pass.

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Jen Hanley – Information Officer:

- Has been receiving lots of emails after Town Hall meeting.
- Also reminded the Board members to sign up and use “Remind” app.

Joe Fauci – A Commissioner:

- Clinic for 5 and 6 year olds is going well – there are 11 players registered.
- To date, 3 parents requested to Manage and they have already submitted paperwork.

Jenn Salvatore – Lead Team Parent:

- CPK night raised \$100.00 for SALL
- She will reach out to team Mom’s once they’re all set up and in place.

Karen Montagnese – Player Agent (lower levels):

- Nothing to report at this time.

John Tromba – AAA Commissioner:

- Will get together with Mike Deenihan to work on a curriculum.

Mike Deenihan – AAA Commissioner / Co-Treasurer:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Nick Montagnese – Recruiting Coordinator:

- Nothing else to add other than what was previously mentioned (re: flyer investigation etc.).

Mike Fenske – Coaching Coordinator:

- Asked the Information Officer to send an eblast for Big AI training to the league.
- Offered a reminder for everyone to check the little league website (Williamsport) for tips and training guides and also encourages everyone to reference Little League University.

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Pete Karukas – AAA Commissioner:

- Would like to ask the Board for an approval on the slate of AAA Coaches

Team	Manager	Coach #1	Coach #2
Katchko	John Gonzalez	Jon Melton	Matt West
Toyota	Dan Noto	Matt Schoztic	Al Sgritta
Beldotti Bakery	Phil Oliveri	Mike Gatusso	Bob Pascarella
Brother Jimmy's	Ric Anderson	Lou Eveno	Rob Merturi
Rubino	Marc Lechner	Brian Margerum	David Reichelt
VAS Construction	Mike Deenihan	Sheldon Mui	Terry McMahon

- John Tromba motions/Joe 2nd – all in favor – Board approved

Brett Szczesny – Majors Commissioner / Treasurer:

- Commissioner:

- Would like to ask the Board for an approval on the slate of Majors Coaches

Manager	Coach #1	Coach #2	Coach #3	Coach #4	Coach #5
Harry Mascolo	Bob Somody	Nick Montagnese	Bob Katchko	Sheldon Mui	Gavin Daly
Jeff Bernfeld	Vin Murace	Brad Van Auken	Joe Fauci		
Nick Vivona	Mike Fenske	Rodd Salvatore			
Eddie P	Jason Benner	Pete Karukas	M. Otis		
Chris	John Frattaroli	Mike Beldotti			

- Jenn Salvatore motions / Jeff Goodman 2nd – All in favor – Board approves

- Treasurer:

- Budget review shows a negative \$500 but does not include \$10K bequest monies.

Judy Vivona – Fundraising:

- Sending out donation letters to solicit raffle items for Opening Day.
- Will be reaching out to CPK and Brother Jimmy's contacts to work out details of their food donations for Opening Day.

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Joe Fauci commented and asked if a Manager, Assistant Coach or Bench Coach to be All Star representative (4th coach needs waiver) – he asked if Ric Anderson could look into getting clarification on that policy.

Open Discussion:

Bob Pascarella, who came in after the initial discussion about this with Mr. McMahon, expressed concern about Majors draft and wanted to better understand the process.

Brett Szczesny revisited his earlier response and explained for clarification. In total 38 players had to be drafted based on 12 year olds and those who were in Majors previously. There were 17 open slots for Majors – realistic numbers were 35 players all vying for 17 spots.

Email vote for Majors teams having 12 kids on a team:

In prior conversations by the Majors Commissioner, the Majors Managers have unanimously agreed to take 12 rostered kids on each team this year. On 3/8/16 Brett Szczesny, Majors Commissioner motioned the Board via approved email to vote for 12 rostered kids for each Majors team, instead of the 11 on a team the Board voted for earlier. Vote was seconded by John Tromba - Motion denied by the board

Email vote for AAA teams having 12 kids on a team:

At the draft, the AAA managers suggested/decided it's best to have 12 on a team, instead of the 11 on a team as they feel there's a few more kids talent-wise that should be in AAA. On 3/13/16 Karen Montagnese (Player Agent) motioned the Board to have 12 kids on a team in AAA as opposed to the 11 the Board voted on earlier. Vote was seconded by Nick Montagnese-the Motion was approved by the board.

Meeting adjourned 9:12 pm.