

Stamford American Little League (SALL)
Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes – 04/26/16 @ 7pm

A meeting of the SALL Board of Directors was held at the Italian Center in Stamford, CT, on 04/26/16.

In attendance:

Board members: Ric Anderson, Nick Vivona, Judy Vivona, Jeff Goodman, Brett Szczesny, Jen Hanley, Karen Montagnese, Nick Montagnese, Mike Deenihan, Bob Katchko, Jenn Salvatore and Rosaria Bria

League Members: Sheldon Mui, Irene Van Auken and Matt Shoztic

Regrets received: Jason Benner, Mike Fenske and John Tromba

Meeting called to order @ 7:18pm

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be approved via email due to late distribution.

2. Safety Report

Ric Anderson offered the following:

- One player on a AAA team had gotten hit in the head with a ball. Player appeared to be fine at the game – Ric Anderson followed-up with the parents later that evening who also confirmed he was fine.
- One player was hit by a pitch at home plate – again player was fine.
- At the AAA Beldotti game played at Northrop – there was severe sun glare in the outfield and two players were warming up having a catch. One player underestimated the ball due to the sun glare and got him in the eye with the ball. Parents took player to be medically evaluated and it was determined the player has 2 small fractures of his eye socket.

3. President's Report

Ric Anderson offered the following:

- There are still some general fencing issues that need to get addressed as well as the cage at Vine Road field.
 - o Bob Katchko stated the fence at Kane field is fixed – Vine Road field will be completed this upcoming week.
- At Northrop field, there is a huge issue with a bees nest under the press box. Bob Katchko will need to coordinate having the nest removed.
- There was mention of the Northrop dugouts being in need of more special attention with regards to clean up. They need to be addressed as they will look sloppy.

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- There was miscommunication with the City of Stamford Parks and Recreation on Saturday, April 23rd with the weather issues. There was a Rookie clinic at Kane which took place. Ric Anderson and several others went to evaluate the Vine Road field and worked at cleaning and prepping it for game play. The SALL Field Commissioner contacted someone in charge with the City Parks & Recreation and they informed him “if you can clean the fields, you can use them – we are not coming out”. Fields were prepared and cleaned and games went on. The Kane field Clinic went on as well. Subsequently, the City contacted SALL and was upset that games took place as they had noted on their website that morning that all city games were cancelled.
- The bathroom at Vine Road field has become an issue. It is difficult to maintain and the community has not been conscientious of their actions either. Bob Katchko, Field Commissioner, recommended a cleaning company who will maintain/clean the bathroom twice weekly in exchange for a sponsor banner.
 - o Board all agreed for Bob Katchko to pursue this option.
- There was a lot of good feedback from SALL families with regards to Opening Day – everyone enjoyed themselves.

4. Vice President’s Report

Nick Vivona offered the following:

- Nick attended a meeting with the City of Stamford Parks and Recreation and shared that the issues with Kane field have been resolved.
- Going forward (as always, the process with the Parks and Recreations Commissions), anything SALL needs to do on the fields needs to go through the process of getting appropriate approvals from the City first.
- The Parks and Recreations Commission has approved Nick Vivona’s request to hang the SALL Championship banners on the fences above the dugouts facing the field and were very appreciative they were asked for permission beforehand.
- The Parks and Recreations Commission regulated the advertising sign that goes up on the sides of the 1st base / 3rd base dugouts of Vine to be “the same size as banners”. Again, they appreciated being asked for permission beforehand.
- There needs to be an addendum to the previous meeting’s minutes regarding the T-Ball Commissioner.
 - o Jeff Goodman nominated Bob Katchko as T-Ball Commissioner
 - Bob Katchko respectfully declined

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- Nick recommended Randy Hoffman, a SALL family member, as the T-Ball Commissioner
 - o Jenn Salvatore made a motion → Karen Montagnese 2nd the motion
 - Board voted – all in favor and approved of Randy Hoffman as T-Ball Commissioner
 - o Joe Fauci makes a motion that all A ball and T-Ball Managers and Coaches have team shirts (a total of 42 shirts needed) → Bob Katchko 2nd the motion
 - Board voted – all in favor of all A and T-Ball Managers and Coaches getting team shirts.
- Nick Vivona notes there needs to be a decision on a Friendship Commissioner.
 - o Joe Fauci nominates Bob Katchko to be Friendship Commissioner
 - Bob Katchko respectfully declines
 - o Ric Anderson nominates Mike Deenihan to be Friendship Commissioner → Bob Katchko 2nd the motion → Mike Deenihan accepts the nomination
 - Board voted – all in favor and approved of Mike Deenihan as Friendship Commissioner.
- Nick Vivona discussed the Protest Committee. The current required members of the Protest Committee are:
 - o Division Commissioners
 - o Umpire in Chief
 - o Player Agents
 - o There is a suggestion to have smaller committees for each division and if a member of each of the committees is affected / involved in the issue, they will need to recuse themselves.
- Bob Katchko nominates Joe Fauci for the Protest Committee → Brett Szczesny 2nd nomination
 - o Joe Fauci accepts the nomination
 - Board voted – all approved of Joe Fauci being a member of the Protest Committee

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BOARD ROLES UPDATE

Karen Montagnese – Player Agent (lower divisions):

- To date all teams in AAA division have 12 players. There could be safety issues when there is a need to have a permanent ‘call-up’ from AAA to the Majors or AA to AAA with players that may not be prepared for the more aggressive type of ball playing. Some issues to address:
 - Is it mandatory to fill the void for one-off situations?
 - If you know it is going to be a permanent situation is it mandatory to use the call up?
 - Can you play if teams are unbalanced?
 - Jeff Goodman noted from the green book “all teams of a particular division must carry the same number of players. Playing ability is not a reason to not take a call up” (regulation 3 – ‘the teams’ sub-letter a: and d: on page 30 of the green book).

Ro Bria – Snack Bar:

- There was a \$65 discrepancy with the register totals during the first week (register was short the money).
- The process of hiring someone to fulfill your day/time slot at the snack bar is very time consuming and has become an issue. The demand for hiring is mostly from Majors families – there have been 11 swaps since the season started. There is a shortage of staff to fulfill the volume of requests.
 - Karen Montagnese, on her own, researched to determine the age limitation of personnel who can work front of house vs. back of house.
 - City of Stamford stated back of house minimum age is 16 years old.
 - State of Connecticut stated back of house minimum age is 18 years old.
 - OSHA stated back of house minimum age is 16 years old.
 - Board must discuss and make a determination based on the above information.
 - All scoreboard instructions need to be resent to all AAA and Majors families (they are not familiar with how it works and need printed instructions to assist).

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- Posed a question to the Board – should kids be allowed in the press box?
 - There have been issues with kids not paying attention or being distracted when there are kids in the press box. There has also been issues with food etc. being left in the press box.
 - Board determined if it is the child of a parent working the press box, this is acceptable. Also, the older players from the Majors, if they are assisting in the press box, is acceptable. No more than 2 in the press box at a time – not a social gathering.

Nick Montagnese – Recruiting Officer:

- 1300 flyers were sent out to various schools to help with last minute push for registration for AA, A and T-Ball divisions.

Jen Hanley – Information Officer:

- There have been a lot of issues with 'League One' software – she has been working with them to address the problems.
- SALL has been receiving lots of emails with issues the league should have addressed earlier and been more proactive with communicating.
- Going forward it is suggested the Information Officer position be a 2-person role.

Jenn Salvatore – Lead Team Parent:

- AAA and Majors Team Moms are all established and informed.
- Recently received the rosters for AA and will work with them to get Team Moms set up.
- Challenger: Met with Jon Hoch, Beth Cooper and Brian Martin. An agreement was made to have Stamford North host the Challenger division this year. There will be a free clinic on May 15th and May 22nd for the lower level kids). Brian Martin will work with the older kids. June 4th @ 11am – SALL will host a Challenger game. The Board needs to discuss the plans of that day.

Mike Deenihan – AA Commissioner / Co-Treasurer:

- The AA division has 8 team with a total of 72 players – all have their uniforms and equipment.
- Plans on pushing for the teams using the pitching machines as much as possible.

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Joe Fauci – A Commissioner:

- Met with 6 of the 8 A division Managers.
- Briefly discussed how to handle an unbalance of teams.
- Posed questions regarding helmets and availability of ice packs.
 - o It was noted that each team will have helmets in the equipment bag.
- Referenced that Kane field fencing needed to be fixed as a safety issue.

Brett Szczesny – Treasurer:

- Checking account = \$50,218.11
- Opening Day Income:
 - o Bake Sale = \$507
 - o Spirit Wear = \$850
 - o Discount Cards = \$1035
- Question to the Board – a suggestion was made to possibly do a wooden bat day (to be discussed further).

Judy Vivona – Fundraising / Secretary:

- Thank you to all who volunteered at Opening Day to help make it a successful day for all. Emails will be going out to thank the community as well as Brother Jimmy's and California Pizza Kitchen.

Jeff Goodman – Sponsorship / Umpire in Chief and Scheduling:

- To date there is approximately \$20K in sponsorship – we can still use more banners.
- There have been no complaints with the umpires thus far. There were 8 junior umpires working AAA games – they are pushing to work as much as possible.
- Senior umpires want to train junior umpires to work behind home plate. At the moment SALL only has one set of plate umpire gear at Northrop. Rich Gillespie is asking if the league would be willing to get gear for Kane and Vine as well to allow this training to happen.
 - o Nick Vivona motions for home plate umpire gear be purchased for Kane and Vine Road fields. → Bob Katchko 2nd motion
 - Board voted – all approved the purchase of home plate umpire gear for Kane and Vine Road fields.

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- Hats, jerseys and clickers were purchased for all umpires (thank you to the Fauci family).
- The AA and A schedules are completed – T-Ball is still outstanding.
- Playoff schedule is in progress as well.

Open discussion to the community members:

Matt Shoztic wanted to recommend and offered to spearhead a process to getting a batting cage at Kane and Northrop fields. As Vice President, Nick Vivona offered to assist when dealing with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- The Board agreed and Matt will pursue investigating options.

8:59pm - Meeting goes into Executive Session

9:29pm – Meeting back from Executive session

9:30pm – Meeting adjourned.