

PLL Meeting Minutes from 1/14/19, 7:30 p.m., Sprinkler Fitters Hall

Attendance

Keith Barry
Ian Browne
John Burns
Rich Curran
Dom Fruci
Pat Goonan
Kevin Hemphill
Mark Loewen
Matt Maiona
Tim Mills
Brian Nolan
Tim Mills
Dennis Roache
John Sarro
Mike Seaton
Rick Treseler (by phone)

Absent

Maria-Luisa Plascencia

11:12:10

New website update

Info officer Michael Seaton did a great job getting the league's new website up and running at parkwaylittleleague.org. Michael moved all data over from the old leaguelineup website.

1:14:1

Registration update

Now that the website is live, the board has recommended that registration for the spring season begin immediately. The board decides that registration at regular cost is open until March 15. After March 15, there will be a late fee for any player who registers.

Action: Michael Seaton to get registration up and running.

1:14:2

Opening Day update

John Sarro has submitted all relevant applications for Opening Day logistics to where they need to go. Two bands are all set. Wally the Green Monster is all set. Letters will soon be sent out inviting politicians. The board discusses candidates for Grand Marshal. This should be settle before the next meeting, if not sooner.

11:12:12

Sponsorship update

Dennis Roache updates us that the sponsorship committee recently met. Like last year, the sponsorship committee did a mass distribution of local businesses. Roughly 1,250 businesses in the Parkway area received a brochure. Current sponsors will be targeted to renew, and the committee has some potential new sponsors on the verge of joining. Keith Barry

plans on going in front of local unions in an effort to recruit them for sponsorships.

1:14:3

Community gift update

A new development on the VFW plans on giving a community gift award to Parkway Little League. Dennis said there is a handshake commitment, but that the development has to officially go through first. This is expected to happen at some point during February.

11:12:9

Majors uniforms

Majors teams are all getting new uniforms. Every Major League manager will get a look at the final design. Everything is woven into the shirts and dyed instead of stitched. They should last longer than the old uniforms and also come at a better cost.

For the other divisions, equipment manager Rich Curran said he was waiting to see have a better idea of what our registration numbers are before ordering shirts. Piesco said it will save us money by ordering them as soon as possible. For planning purposes, last year there were six teams in Triple-A, 10 in Double-A, 12 in A, and 16 in T-Ball.

11:12:4

General Ledger update

Treasurer Rick Treseler provided a general ledger update, and copies were presented to the board electronically and by paper at the meeting.

1:14:4

Umpire update

The board earlier approved an extra cost in the 2019 budget to hire out an independent umpire service to schedule and pay all umpires for Majors games. The past few years, Parkway hired their own umpires and paid them. Keith Barry has a quote from one umpire service and will soon compare prices with another service that Joe Gambon recommended. The thought is that the more experienced Parkway umpires could still umpire our games, but would be working for the service instead of for PLL. The hope is that the service will work with Parkway on this. Keith Barry doesn't foresee it being a problem.

As far as umpires for the Minor League games (Triple-A and Double-A), PLL will continue to run that program. Brian Nolan said he sent an e-mail to families of kids who aged out as players last season to see if they have interest in signing up for the umpire training program. Rick Treseler, who runs the umpire program, wants to see how many of last year's umpires are coming back to determine how many new umpires are needed.

1:14:5

Player Injury Committee

Player agent John Burns asks if the board will again have a player injury committee for the Majors Division. It is recommended that John Burns and Majors GM Ian Browne are on this committee, and Pat Murphy will be the third member. The board approves this motion.

Majors assistant coach update

President Keith Barry recommended the following Majors assistant coaches and they were all approved by the board. Athletics, Nick Nasuti and John Sarro. Braves, Michael Seaton and Keith Gagnon, plus Dom Fruci as scorekeeper. Cardinals, Brian Dunning and Dave Fleming. John Burns as scorekeeper. Cubs, John Hauck and Rob Lopez, with John Rimas as scorekeeper. Dodgers, Jim Hoenscheid and Kevin Hemphill, with Matt Maiona as scorekeeper. Giants, Mark Loewen and Paul Minton, with Pat Goonan as scorekeeper. Phillies, Dave Linso and Jim Gaffey. Red Sox, Rich Curran and Martin Mullan, with Tom Cunniffe as scorekeeper. Tigers, Rich McLaughlin. Joe Balzarini will be scorekeeper. Second assistant coach, TBD. Yankees, Denis Roache and Tim Mills. Pat Sullivan as scorekeeper.

11:12:2

New game format at lower levels

A lengthy discussion took place regarding proposed rule changes at Single-A and Double-A. Many points were made by board members and senior members. The decision is that there will be a greater emphasis on tee work and fielding in Single-A and Double-A. In Double-A, the goal is to go with all kids pitch by the second half of the season. In Single-A, the goal is to incorporate coach pitching more in the final half to third of the season. By increasing tee work, batters will improve their hand-eye coordination. In addition, fielding and baserunning will become a far bigger part of the game and the hope is that players will develop in a more efficient way.

The board approves the proposal from Dennis Roache. Dennis said he will be in communication with the division GMs all season, and tweak formats as necessary.

Action: Dennis Roache, in conjunction with division GMs, will incorporate modified game format at A and AA, with greater emphasis on t-work, fielding and baserunning.