



*Santa Monica*  
**LITTLE LEAGUE**



## Board of Directors Minutes

August 31, 2015

1. Call to order

David Harris called the meeting to order at 6:45pm.

- He noted that this is the last meeting for the current Board and thanked the Board members for all of their hard work throughout the year. He specifically called out members who have decided to step down from the Board and not run for a position in the coming year, including Peter Yu, Richard Lee and Christa Harris.
- David also explained that if he is not elected President for the coming year, he is committed to working with the new President to ensure continuity and a smooth transition and asked that the Board members who are stepping down and any who are not elected for the coming Board to please do the same for the newly elected Board.

Board Member in attendance at the time the meeting was called to order: Matt Edelman, David Harris, Andy Anagnos, Richard Lee, Ric Munoz, Jasan Sherman, Peter Yu, Christa Harris

Board members not in attendance: Stu Grusin, Mavi Livni, Daniel Callahan, Wes Terry

Non-Board Members present: John Matise, Elizabeth Bailey, Tom Kemper, Noah Graff

2. Public comment

None

3. Approval of prior minutes – 7/28 and 8/18

Matt explained that he needed more time to incorporate feedback on the initial draft provided by multiple Board members and therefore would seek approval of the Minutes either by email or at a future meeting.

4. Election Committee Update

a. Candidate Summary

The members of the Election Committee – Matt Edelman, Jasan Sherman, Ric Munoz, Tom Kemper and Noah Graff – reviewed multiple aspects of the candidate recruitment and evaluation process.

i. The Criteria for Evaluation

- Experience in SMLL or related volunteer or professional organizations
- Vision for the league and/or the role of interest
- Willingness to work collaboratively
- Importance of having continuity in at least a handful of Board positions
- Commitment from candidate to remain in their role on the Board for the duration of their one-year term
- Member in Good Standing – Its a requirement of our Constitution that Board Members be Regular Members in good standing. For a person to be eligible to be a Regular Member, our Constitution states that they need to be "actively interested in furthering the objectives of the League." Additionally, though, according to a communication between David Harris and our District Administrator, Marty Hoy, a Regular Member must be a volunteer of some sort. In other words, according to Marty, a parent who takes their child(ren) to practices and games but who has not otherwise volunteered on the field, as a team parent, in the snack bar, etc., cannot run for a position on the Board.

Andy explained that Regular Members will include volunteers from Fall Ball 2014 and others from the past 12 months / our fiscal year.

David explained as a reminder that umpires who were paid and who did not otherwise provide volunteer support to the league would not be allowed to vote.

- ii. The Committee considered all of the candidates it had time to consider before the meeting. There were several indications of interest from candidates in running for Board positions that were received late in the evening on 8/30, which as per the decisions made at the prior Board meeting on 8/18, was the deadline for candidates to submit such indications of interest. For that reason, the Committee did not have time to assess every candidate's qualifications across all of the criteria. However, the Committee felt comfortable based on its familiarity with the individuals whose indications were received so late, and based on a

modicum of additional information learned from some of those candidates during the day on 8/31, making a recommendation for a proposed Slate of Candidates, as per the process approved at the 8/18 Board meeting. The Committee pointed out to the Board members that they should vote on whether to approve the Slate with this knowledge in mind. The recommended candidates were:

- David Harris, President
- Ric Munoz, VP, Baseball Operations
- John Matise, Treasurer
- Matt Edelman, Secretary
- Player Agent, Todd Gelfand
- Jasan Sherman, Equipment
- Elizabeth Bailey, Concessions
- Linda Liberman, Registrar
- Andy Anagnos, Head of Umpires
- Jim Ries, Safety Officer
- Mark Kapczynski, Sponsorships
- David Schmillen, Fields

Andy noted that the Slate had five returning Board members, one veteran of the league with significant past Board experience and seven individuals who would be new to the Board, which he suggested was a good balance. He thanked the Committee, the Board members and wanted to pass along his gratitude to others for successfully bringing so many new people into the process.

- iii. The Committee then explained that certain candidates submitted their indications of interest after the deadline, even though the deadline had been communicated repeatedly through e-blasts and direct emails to individuals who expressed possible interest in running for a Board position. The Committee suggested that the Board discuss whether these candidates should be added to the ballot. A discussion ensued.
  - The Committee suggested that they could ask the individuals who submitted their indications after the deadline why the deadline was missed, and that if the responses were reasonable, the candidates should be able to be added to the ballot. The Board agreed.

- iv. David then asked John and Elizabeth to introduce themselves, explaining that after they did so, the Board would need to excuse them from the meeting in order to discuss the Slate.

b. Election Process

After John and Elizabeth introduced themselves, before Elizabeth and John were asked to step out, Elizabeth asked about the process from this point forward. The Election Committee explained the following recommendations:

- i. A new web page will be added to the site for the Election, inclusive of the following:
  - At the top will be a brief explanation of the Election Committee process, including the criteria used to evaluate candidates both for the Slate and the ballot.
  - Also included will be a description of the Election process, which will reference that Election Night is not about campaigning or debates, but rather about voting, as per communications between the Election Committee and past Board members of the League. Questions that Members may have for the candidates can be asked of the candidates directly, as all of the candidates would be asked to provide an email address within their section on the web page.
  - There will also be a concise statement noting that Election Night also is not a time for campaigning on behalf of a candidate; that too must be done prior to Election Night if a Member would like to openly support one or more individuals.
  - There would be no nominations from the floor, a fully accepted practice according to Robert's Rules of Order when a ballot is used.
  - There will be a definition of a Member so that people have an understanding of who can vote. There also will be a link to the current list of Members and an explanation of how someone can become a Member if they are not on the list and otherwise eligible to do so.
    - o An individual who does not see their name on the list can become a Member by having the Manager of the team on

which their child played send the Secretary an email copying the person, verifying that the person volunteered during Fall '14 or Spring or Summer '15. That Manager cannot be running for a Board position; if they are, the person needs to have an email sent by one of the asst coaches (who is not running for a Board position) or the team parent from that team. This is the only way to confirm the person was a volunteer, which is a requirement based on the parameters for Membership explained by Marty Hoy, the District 25 Administrator. Any email validating that a person should be on the Member list must be received by the Secretary no later than Saturday Sep 12th at 11:59pm. No exceptions would be able to be made.

- Beneath all of the above will be a position-by-position list of candidates, showing which of the candidates is on the slate recommended by the Board and which other candidates are running. Each candidate would need to submit a maximum 150-word statement from on their own behalf summarizing their experience, vision and commitment to the league. The 150-word limit is for three purposes: to have all candidates presented similarly; to make it relatively easy for candidates to submit their statements, i.e. they would not have to be too long; to make the full set of statements for all candidates reasonably digestible for Members.
  - The candidates also will need to include their email address so Members can email them with questions, as well as information about whether they have children playing in the league, and if so, in what divisions starting in Spring '16.
- ii. On Election Night, we will have a list of approved Members in alphabetical order so that each Member is able to easily sign in. If a person comes to the meeting who is not on the list, they will not be able to vote.
- iii. Election Night Administration would begin with the Secretary briefly explaining the Elections process that produced the Slate and full ballot. The voting then would proceed as per the process approved by the Board in the 8/18 meeting.

- Members who are eligible to vote will have received a ballot upon arriving listing the Slate and the other candidates. No qualification information or statements will be on the ballot – just names and positions.
- Members will be asked to cast their ballot during the initial portion of the meeting, before presentations of the SMLL State of the League, in order to avoid campaigning during the meeting prior to when the ballots are cast.
- Members will be able to vote yes or no for the Slate. When the votes are counted, if the Slate is approved, the elections will be over and the new Board will be formed.
- If the Slate is voted down, we will have a vote on individual positions. Each candidate will have the opportunity to make a 90 second statement on their own behalf, whether they are running unopposed or in a contested position.
- If someone is running unopposed, if they are not approved by a majority of the Members, that position will remain open for the new Board to fill by appointment.
- There will be ballots used for all voting for all contested positions. For uncontested positions, voting will take place by a show of hands which, as needed, will be counted by the Election Committee.
- Once we have gone through all of the positions, the new Board will be formed.
- Should any Member or candidate not follow the procedures outlined and explained, and then not respond to requests from the Election Committee to follow procedures going forward, they will not be permitted to vote.

David then asked John and Elizabeth to step out of the room, after which a discussion ensued about the Slate and the process outlined by the Election Committee. A vote was taken on presenting the recommended Slate and following the recommended process. The vote passed.

## 5. Fall Ball

### a. Registration

Andy provided a registration update explaining that we're going to have four teams in Majors and Minors based on numbers and will have 2-4 MP teams. We are not going to fully roster the teams so as to keep spots open for late registrants and to enable balancing of the teams at the beginning of the season.

The first official practice will be Sep 8<sup>th</sup>. Equipment will be able to be distributed as of Sep 8<sup>th</sup> but not before. Games will start on the weekend of Sep 12<sup>th</sup>.

Juniors and Machine Pitch officially will start one week later but will have the opportunity to start a week earlier.

Interleague play for Majors, Minors and Juniors will start the weekend of Sep 20<sup>th</sup>.

Andy provided an update on the Selects program being considered by District 25, explaining that there would not be a 9/10 program and the decision still was outstanding regarding having an 11/12 program.

A discussion ensued on the dynamics that decreased registration numbers for the Fall and how to address them in approaching registration for the Spring.

## 6. Board member reports

Only reports requiring discussion are noted below.

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Treasurer
- d. Registrar
- e. Equipment

Jasan explained that he plans to cut the overall order by 1/3 from last year given that we did not use all of the baseballs from last year. The total cost would be \$5K less than what we spent last year. Jasan will discuss with Richard and others.

- f. Fields
- g. Communications
- h. Sponsorships

## 9. Other league business

## 10. Disciplinary Matters

Addressed in an Executive Session closed to the public, other than for individuals who were relevant to the matter discussed.

11. Good and Welfare

12. Adjourn

Matt had to leave the meeting early and asked Peter Yu to take notes until the meeting was adjourned, which Peter did. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47pm.