



Santa Monica
LITTLE LEAGUE



Board of Directors Minutes

November 3, 2015

1. Call to Order

David Harris called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Board members in attendance: David Harris, Andy Anagnos, Mark Kapczynski, David Schmillen, Ric Munoz, Elizabeth Bailey, Jasan Sherman, Michael Balsley, Linda Liberman, John Matise

Board members in attendance by phone: Todd Gelfand

Board members not in attendance: Jim Ries

Non-Board members in attendance: Daniel Campbell, Pete McCormack

2. Public Comment

Daniel Campbell read a prepared statement reiterating a number of requests he had made previously by email, including to receive financial records for the league for the past six years and to have the 8-18-31 meeting minutes revised from a version he believed to be inaccurate and edited improperly. After he finished reading the prepared statement, Daniel placed a copy of the statement and the emails he had written previously on one of the tables, demanding that they be made part of the official minutes, and immediately left the meeting.

Following Mr. Campbell's departure, Andy Anagnos made a public comment expressing his disappointment and displeasure with the conduct of Mr. Campbell since the Annual Meeting, and complementing the patience, integrity and grace of SMLL Secretary Matt Edelman and SMLL President David Harris in their responsiveness and handling of the matter.

3. Approval of Prior Minutes

No minutes were approved based on feedback on the minutes that were reviewed. A discussion ensued about how minutes can be produced and reviewed more efficiently so that approvals can be managed in a more timely manner from meeting to meeting.

Matt will revised past minutes as per the discussion and resubmit for approval.

4. Fall Ball Update

Andy noted that the AAA schedule for the last weekend of Fall Ball needed to be adjusted such that there will be a game under the lights on Fri night the 13th.

5. Spring Registration

Linda expressed the need for more support and training on the systems in place to track and manage registrations. Without full training to date, she had only been able to account for 15 registrations. A discussion ensued in which several Board Members with registration experience, and also David, agreed to work collaboratively with Linda in the coming days and weeks to ensure a complete transfer of knowledge and training across all systems, including Blue Sombrero.

In keeping with discussions from the 10-8 meeting, Ric talked about the basic elements of the marketing and promotional plan. A discussion ensued with multiple Board Members offering ideas and support.

David noted that it has been challenging for a number of Board Members to spend as much time on Registration as in the past given the demands of the protesters and the process related to the 9-15 election, but that it is critical to refocus as much energy as possible on the most important matters - the operations of the league and the Santa Monica kids who want to play baseball.

Ric also explained that youth baseball registrations have been down 18% across the country so the fact that we maintained levels in Spring '15 from Spring '14 was a great achievement.

Regarding Spring '16, Ric explained that our goal would be to maintain the same level as Spring '15, which was 543 registrants. Ric put forth a stretch goal of 600 registrants.

A discussion ensued in which multiple Board Members noted the importance of reaching families outside of the Fall Ball universe, families with kids who would be playing in the youngest divisions – Tball and 5P – and families with young girls who might be interested in baseball at age prior to when youth softball programs are available.

6. Board Member Reports

a. President

David explained that we will spend time in every Board meeting reviewing the To Do List he created, which other Board Members have revised via feedback to him. We then went through the To Do list.

A discussion then took place regarding the possible Town Hall type meeting and the possible Annual Meeting that would be necessary to ratify a new Constitution and possibly hold new elections. A decision was made to have an Open House at Memorial Park on the Saturday of the final weekend of Fall Ball, during which Board Members would be available to the Membership and the

larger community to provide information about multiple topics including: Registration, the new SMLL Constitution, the possible Merger of SM East and SM West, the election situation and volunteer opportunities, particularly in support of Concessions.

Elizabeth offered to be the 'owner' of the Open House and to coordinate with all other necessary Board Members.

An additional decision was made to have a Members Meeting on 12/10, pending having a final decision from Region about new elections. The backup date for the Members Meeting would be 12/17. The agenda for the Members Meeting would be to ratify a new SMLL Constitution and possibly have new elections or a vote of confidence in the current Board.

A discussion ensued about how to ensure that Members would be well informed in advance of the Members Meeting in December.

b. Equipment

Jasan explained that he has someone in mind to help us dispose of our old equipment, which David agreed he should pursue.

Jasan also noted that he has been looking to find a new rep for equipment and has two good options. He will be getting bids from them and also from our old supplier. Jasan's objective is to use a vendor other than BSN, which John agreed would be a good result so that we could avoid the 13% increase in fees that BSN is planning to charge.

Jasan confirmed that he would be ordering uniforms to accommodate the following # of teams:

- 6 Majors
- 6 Minors
- 6 AA
- 8 MP
- 8 5P
- 8 Tball

c. Fields

David S. asked to confirm the dates needed for fields 1-4 for tryouts – Jan 9th and 23rd, for which he would confirm the permits. He also referenced the importance of confirming dates and field requirements for Spring clinics, coach's training and the anticipated schedule for the season. A discussion ensued, after which it was determined that David S. is going to pursue permits to match what we had last year.

David H. asked David S to follow up with the city regarding the scorer's towers.

d. Concessions

Elizabeth reiterated the need for more snack bar volunteers but explained that even without more volunteers, we have been generating encouraging levels of revenue.

David noted that he will put Elizabeth in touch with Stephanie Despres who has agreed to be the league's volunteer coordinator.

A discussion ensued in which multiple Board Members offered ideas on how to best secure enough volunteer support for the snack bar in the Spring.

Elizabeth then explained the need for the front room in the snack bar to be cleaned up and organized. David asked Elizabeth to work with Jim Ries to get the room in shape before the Spring season.

e. Communications

David noted that he has received numerous laudatory comments about the new SMLL website.

Michael explained that the focus for the next couple of months is on Registration and adding more content to the site.

A discussion ensued about ways to capture and create content, and also how to best solicit content from Managers, Members and other participants in the league.

f. Umpires

Andy committed to working on an umpires page for the website.

g. Treasurer

John prepared a document with SMLL budget assumptions that was shared in person.

He explained that the net result would be a \$5K profit for the year, although because of the approval to pay for the shade structure, for which we received a partial donation, we will be breakeven for the year. He noted that this would be a great result in line with prior years and that our cash balance is strong.

John made a motion for the Board to vote on the budget he presented, subject to John and Jasan confirming the equipment expenses. Andy seconded the motion. The vote passed. None opposed.

h. VP Operations

Ric explained that soliciting Commissioners has been challenging, largely because of the protest that is occurring, which has caused members of the community to be express more hesitancy than in the past about volunteering. Ric needs everyone's help in finding great commissioners, especially veterans for the lower divisions.

Ric also updated the Board that Tom Kemper had to resign from being the Minors Commissioner due to other personal commitments.

7. Executive Session

8. Other league business

None.

9. Good and Welfare

None.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05pm.