



Santa Monica
LITTLE LEAGUE



Board of Directors Minutes

Aug 2, 2016

1. Call to Order

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

Board Members in attendance starting at 7:10pm: David Harris, Matt Edelman, Jasan Sherman, Mark Kapczynski, Linda Liberman, Ric Munoz

Newly Elected Board Members in attendance starting at 7:10pm: Tom Bevan, Peter McCormick, Stephanie DuPre, Kirk Goldstein, David Reyes

Non Board Members in attendance starting at 7:10pm: David Eby, Scott Gilbert

Board Members in attendance starting at 7:20pm: Andy Anagnos

Board Members in attendance starting at 7:40pm: Elizabeth Bailey. Elizabeth left at 9:10.

Board Members in attendance starting at 8pm: Michael Balsley

Board Members not in attendance: David Schmillen, John Matise, Jim Ries, Todd Gelfand

Newly Elected Board Members not in attendance: Hisao Kushi, Grant DeVaul, Bernard Rahill

2. Public Comment

Kirk commented on having finished the Summer Session, which had 25 kids ages 8-10 participating. Kirk noted that teams played weekly games over about 6 weeks and that the program had been successful overall and included both interleague games and games against the other SMLL team.

3. Approval of Prior Minutes – Annual Election

Minutes from the Annual Election meeting were approved. None opposed or abstained.

4. Elections Update

a. Introduction of Dave Eby

Jasan Sherman had asked Dave Eby to attend the Board meeting and introduce himself as a possible Chief of Umpires Board Member, given that

the individual who had been voted onto the Board in that role during Elections had to resign his position.

Dave shared his experience on the Board for 13 years and as a Coach at every level and as an umpire at every level.

Dave addressed the question as to whether or not there is a conflict if a Chief of Umpires also is being paid to be an umpire for league games and is scheduling all paid umpires. He explained that there is no conflict as far as LLI is concerned.

David Harris strongly emphasized that he would not be concerned about any potential conflicts if Dave Eby were in the Chief of Umpires position based on Dave's experience and understanding of the potential conflicts.

David Harris also emphasized the benefit of Dave's experience on the Board in helping any collection of Board members make more informed decisions.

Dave and Andy Anagnos also explained that in the past, several Chief of Umpires on the Board have been the main umpires on the field in a given year. Andy also noted that the Constitution specifies that the President is the one who approves the umpires, whereas the Chief of Umpires is only responsible for scheduling them.

Jasan noted that he had spoken with multiple individuals including past Presidents before asking Dave to consider the position.

Dave noted that he has a 23-year old son who currently is the senior umpire in the league who also would be scheduled for games.

b. Introduction of Scott Gilbert

Mark and Jasan had asked Scott to attend the meeting in order for the Board Members to get to know him and consider him as a possible Board Member or league official. Scott explained that he is a member of the Masons and that he has been active in generating support for SMLL. He noted that he also has a son in the league.

Scott shared that he is ready to help the League wherever he can and in whatever role would be a good fit for him.

David Harris expressed extreme gratitude for the support from the Masons.

5. Fall Ball

a. Status update

Ric noted that we have 43 registered players compared to 46 last year and 53 the year before at the same time. He shared the total numbers for the past - 254 in 2014, 165 in 2015 – and explained that part of the reason for the drop in 2015 was that Pony instituted its first Fall Ball program that year, which they are doing this year as well.

Ric explained that he has a communication plan mapped out for August that he will review with Michael and Kirk, including a flyer program for the schools. Ric noted that he also spoke with the Girls Fast Pitch SM league about co-marketing.

Ric shared that he has heard from four individuals so far about being Managers for Fall Ball. Linda noted that she heard from one additional person as well.

Ric raised the issue of needing to have a Fall Ball Commissioner. Andy noted that the most important issue for the Fall Ball Commissioner is to figure out how the registrants map out across divisions so that a strong schedule can be developed for both intra- and inter-league games.

David Harris called for a vote to approve Ric as the FB Commissioner. The vote was unanimous in favor, establishing Ric as the Commissioner.

Elizabeth suggested having a Fall Ball movie night before end of Summer. A discussion ensued. David Harris mentioned that we might be able to get the city to lend us their screen, which would require going to Phil Brock who works with the city.

b. New idea

Kirk introduced a new idea designed to increase the number of teams playing in Fall Ball. A discussion ensued during which general enthusiasm was expressed for the idea. Andy recommended talking with someone at District to make them aware of it.

6. Board Member Reports

a. President

• All Stars

- David shared that the SMLL Seniors won District.
 - David noted that as part of the All-Star program, we commit to giving away jerseys to players if they win District. He suggested that the new Board reconsider that decision for expense purposes.
- David explained that there are two issues related to All-Stars that require attention:

1. Quality of play. David noted that the All-Star tournament made it evident that SMLL is a step below several other cities with regard to the quality of play of our teams.
 2. Our division format. David also noted that our league format requires that we have two All-Star teams instead of one, which spreads our most talented players across two teams, whereas other neighboring programs have only one team.
 - David explained that if the new Board wants to address this, it will need to petition LLI.
- Quality of Play Committee
 - David Harris thanked David Reyes for agreeing to Chair a new Quality of Play Committee, which will be tasked with developing a game plan to improve the quality of play across SMLL.
 - David also noted that our Majors Champions were recognized in front of City Hall and that next week, the Minors Champions will be recognized in front of City Hall.

b. Vice President

Nothing in addition to what appears in his report.

c. Treasurer

John explained that SMLL is in strong financial shape with a surplus for the 2015-2016 season. John noted that at the next meeting, he will explain the checks and balances we will have in place going forward, which will include documenting everything in writing.

d. Player Agent

Nothing to report.

e. Communications

Nothing in addition to what appears in his report.

f. Concessions

Elizabeth explained that she continues to ask the city to replace our grill and would like to see us replace the deep fryer.

g. Equipment

Jasan showed samples of the SMLL merchandise that the league is going to try to sell to families. A discussion ensued.

Mark raised the idea of redesigning the SMLL logo. He also raised the concern of pre-ordering and not being able to sell the merchandise. A discussion ensued.

David H. explained that he is comfortable with the league investing a small amount of money, up to \$1000, to see how things sell, and then consider whether it would be prudent to process a larger order.

h. Fields

David S. explained that he is addressing changing out the locks and codes for the towers and cages.

Jasan explained that has called SMPD about troubling activity on the fields but that SMPD has not been responsive. David Harris noted that he is going to provide Jasan with the contact info for our SMPD liaison who happens to have been a SMLL player.

i. Registrar

Linda noted that she is getting messages saying that the website is not letting parents register for the correct age. Michael agreed to investigate.

j. Safety

Nothing in addition to what appears in his report.

k. Sponsorships

Mark explained that we ended up with approximately \$40K in sponsorships for the Spring. Mark noted that we are becoming increasingly dependent upon sponsorship dollars so need to consider creating new programs and establish additional loyalty with sponsors. He also shared the importance of sponsors needing to be shown how their money is used, ie that it goes to scholarships and league operations.

l. Umpires

Nothing in addition to what appears in his report.

7. Other league business

a. Recruiting through Middle Schools

- Linda explained the idea of going to the public Middle Schools to organize a team affiliated with their school but as part of SMLL.
- David H. suggested that we can make this part of the 50-70 program.

- Andy suggested that Linda prepare a formal recommendation for the new Board to consider so that the program can be supported, with priority #1 being to get the players registered and priority #2 being to communicate with families so they can be on teams from the same school.

8. Good and Welfare

None

9. Adjourn

David Harris adjourned the meeting at 9:35pm