



*Santa Monica*  
**LITTLE LEAGUE**



## Board of Directors Minutes

Sep 7, 2016

1. Call to Order

David Harris called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Current Board Members in Attendance: David Harris, Matt Edelman, Jasan Sherman, Andy Anagnos, David Schmillen, Ric Munoz, Elizabeth Bailey, Linda Liberman

New Board Members in Attendance: Tom Bevan, David Reyes, Hisao Kushi, David Eby, Bernard Rahill, Grant Devaul, Stephanie Dupre, Kirk Goldstein

Current Board Members not in Attendance: John Matise, Mark Kapczynski, Jim Ries

New Board Members not in Attendance: Peter McCormick

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Prior Minutes – 5/2/16; 8/2/16

None to approve

4. Fall Ball – Update

Kirk, who had taken over as FB Commissioner, explained that we now have 205 players registered, including some on the wait list. Kirk and David Harris noted that this is a strong improvement from 184 last year. Kirk noted the following team breakdown:

- MP – 2 teams
- AA – 2 teams (was combined with AAA last year)
- AAA – 4 teams
- Majors – 5 teams (up one from last year)
- Juniors – 3 teams (up one from last year)

Kirk also noted that he is working on scheduling interleague play with neighboring leagues.

5. New Board Get Together – Summary

Matt provided a summary of the gathering that took place among many of the newly elected Board Members to discuss the vision for the SMLL 2016-2017 year. He noted that the following primary themes were discussed as priorities:

- Improving the quality of play by developing a “SMLL Way of Coaching”
- Community Development
- Expanding the roster of league volunteers

Jasan raised three of his own early priorities as the incoming President:

- To upgrade the SMLL facilities
- To support Mark with sponsorship
- To get a second batting cage, which Jasan noted will require help from city

## 6. Board Position Transition – Check In

David Reyes expressed concern about being able to handle the administrative aspects of the Player Agent role. Jasan and Hisao agreed that the Registrar can take on more of the administrative duties related to rostering and moving players from one team to another. A discussion ensued. David Harris noted that the dialog is constructive and is the reason why we made the choice last year to have new Board Members elected sooner so they could get involved in their positions for Fall Ball and learn from the experience.

David Schmillen raised the question as to whether it would be better to push Fall Ball games to start one week later so Managers could have more than a few days to get to know their team. David Harris explained that Fall Ball is focused heavily on skill development and not competition such that games starting early is less of a concern. The games can and should be early in the season more like scrimmages and learning experiences.

David Schmillen raised the question as to whether we could start playing on the fields sooner since that is when our permits start. David Harris suggested that is a great point for discussion as an evaluation of Fall Ball in a post-mortem so that it could possibly be addressed leading into next year.

## 7. Public Middle School Baseball

Linda explained that she spoke further with Tyronen Powell about the idea of starting a school-associated Spring baseball league at the Middle School level through SMLL, enabling players to play together from schools such as John Adams, Newroads, Lincoln and Paul Revere. Linda reiterated that it would be separate from the main SMLL program although may compel kids to register for 50-70 who hadn't considered it previously. Linda also explained that the league would not be school-driven because it would not be governed by the school district.

David Harris explained that he also spoke with the person who heads the Crest program and that the person is interested in steering kids to play baseball with SMLL because Crest doesn't have its own baseball program.

David and Jasan then shared that they are discussing with District how to set up the program in a way that follows Little League rules and guidelines.

8. Board Meeting Schedule 2016-17

Matt explained the nature of the upcoming year-long Board Meeting schedule. Ric pointed out that the school district break runs into the first week of January. Matt agreed to discuss the January schedule in more detail with other pertinent Board Members in order to determine the best plan for the Board meeting and the other aspects of the league's operations in January.

9. Board Member Reports

a. President

David noted that there will be multiple park and therefore field closures during the Winter and leading into the Spring. He explained that it will be important to work with the city to ensure we have the necessary field space for the Spring season.

David also shared that for permits going forward, the city is going to include a 'good neighbor' policy.

b. Vice President

Nothing in addition to what was raised in his report or previous comments.

c. Treasurer

David Harris reminded everyone that all financial matters and materials must remain confidential for the Board.

d. Player Agent

Nothing in addition to what was raised in his report or previous comments.

e. Communications

Kirk emphasized the benefit of everyone being able to access the backend of the website and encouraged each Board Member to be trained by Michael.

Michael explained that there will be updates to the Registration process for Spring in order to more effectively categorize players in the proper division.

David Harris and Jasan agreed that the league official email addresses will be updated and switched over at the end of September.

f. Concessions

Nothing in addition to what was raised in her report or previous comments.

g. Equipment

Jasan and Grant explained that uniforms are being distributed tomorrow.

h. Fields

David Schmillen mentioned that there may be a scheduling adjustment to consider that would save the league money related to how we seek permits from the city.

David Schmillen asked Peter Yu to help set up the batting cage sign up process.

i. Registrar

Nothing in addition to what was raised in her report or previous comments.

j. Safety

Nothing in addition to what was raised in her report or previous comments.

k. Sponsorships

Nothing in addition to what was raised in her report or previous comments.

l. Umpires

Andy and Dave noted that the first weekend games are scheduled for Fall Ball.

10. Other league business

None.

11. Good and Welfare

David Harris thanked all Board Members for their service, expressed his pride for the league and all who support it, and his gratitude for having been able to make SMLL such a big part of his life for so many years, especially the last year as President.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.