



# *Santa Monica* **LITTLE LEAGUE**



## **Board of Directors Minutes**

**Oct 4, 2016**

### 1. Call to Order

Jasan Sherman called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

Board Members in attendance: Jasan Sherman, Grant Devaul, Stephanie Dupre, Michael Balsley, David Schmillen, Kirk Goldstein, Mark Kapczynski, David Reyes, Hisao Kushi, Peter McCormick, Matt Edelman, Dave Eby, Bernard Rahill

Board Members in attendance starting at 7:15: Tom Bevan

Board Members participating by phone: John Matise

Non-Board Members in attendance: Michael Sigmund, Elizabeth Bailey, Adam Klein, Ric Munoz

Jasan explained that he will make himself available on the third Tuesday of every month to meet with Board Members.

### 2. Public Comment

Michael Sigmund presented the Board with the Seniors Championship banner.

Jasan introduced Adam Klein, SAMO High's new baseball coach. Adam explained that he would like to partner with SMLL in various ways for the mutual benefit of both programs. Adam referenced ideas such as having his experienced players provide instruction as part of coaching clinics.

Jasan explained that SMLL will be starting training sessions for coaches and players in mid-October. He also noted that Adam had introduced him to the local Easton representative who has agreed to participate in the training sessions in some way.

### 3. Approval of Prior Minutes

Matt explained that he would be handling the approval of prior minutes by email due to the fact that prior Board Members would need to vote on them.

### 4. Fall Ball Update

Kirk noted that SMLL exceeded registration for last year. He highlighted other achievements including a robust inter-league schedule, a bigger Juniors program and having brought in two teams who paid full team fees to participate.

Matt asked if we could have a smaller version of Championship Saturday during Fall Ball playoff weekend. Kirk explained that it could be scheduled but would need to be managed and run by a committee. He also noted that we would not be able to have a makeup day in the event of rain.

#### 5. Public Middle School Baseball

Jasan mentioned that he has not discussed further with Linda Liberman but that he would follow up with her.

#### 6. Board Member Roles and Responsibilities

Stephanie asked whether there is a calendar of activities that she can plan around with regard to securing any necessary volunteers. Jasan explained that he is planning to update the President's To Do List in order to create a season-long calendar.

Mark offered to work with Peter, Stephanie and Michael to begin putting together a calendar for all events and activities that could be sponsored that would require volunteers. A discussion ensued.

Matt then suggested that Board Members each could review the Constitution as a way to fully understand their official roles and responsibilities, after which they could draft a modified version to share with the Board. Matt explained that the modified version could become the practical definition for each role.

#### 7. Events Calendar

Jasan asked Peter if he would like to take ownership of the initial Coaching Clinics and Easton demo day. Mark and Peter agreed that Jasan should run with it and bring them in as needed.

Matt raised the idea of SMLL having a tournament day similar to AYSO's five-on-five game day.

Jasan raised the idea of a pancake breakfast fundraiser and also turning Evaluations into more of an event for the whole league.

Mark suggested that the best first step would be to look at a final season-long calendar in order to determine which activities or windows would best lend themselves to holding sponsor-able events.

Michael suggested that the calendar should be locked down by the next Board meeting.

Kirk and Jasan agreed to create the first draft of the season calendar and then give it to the Events Committee for planning.

## 8. Player Agent Role

Jasan explained that David R has expressed concern about being the right person for the Player Agent role and that he would rather support the league by helping and training players and coaches on the field.

Jasan explained that he has been in discussions with Matt Steinhaus about possibly filling the Player Agent role and that if Matt were to accept the position and be approved the Board, David R still would run evaluations, with Hisao managing several administrative components.

Jasan asked if anyone had suggestions for other individuals who might be appropriate to consider for the Player Agent position. A discussion ensued. Jasan explained he would inform the Board after getting a final answer from Matt S.

## 9. Evaluations Planning

Jasan asked David R. to put together a plan for Evaluations, with the goal of presenting it by the next Board meeting.

Ric recommended having the Volunteer Director engaged early in the Evaluations planning process to recruit volunteers to assist that day. Ric also expressed the importance of having all Managers across all divisions available to help.

Jasan recommended getting the SAMO High coach involved as well and agreed to connect David R with Adam accordingly.

## 10. Volunteer Engagement Practices

Previously addressed.

## 11. Concessions Planning

Bernard explained that the set up of having only one person available to open and close the snack bar is not viable and that he would like to figure out a better system.

Elizabeth suggested that it was never meant to be one person's responsibility and that having at least three people rotating would be a much better approach. Elizabeth explained that volunteering is more than just handing out packaged goods in that running the Snack Shack is like running a small restaurant. Elizabeth also noted that there are reasons why access to the Snack Shack is needed outside of just providing snacks.

A discussion ensued.

Matt agreed to work with Bernard and Stephanie to devise a system that would be more reflective of the realities of the needs of the operation.

Grant asked whether or not it would be an option to have some or all of the operations for the Snack Shack serviced by people or vendors who could be paid by SMLL. Jasan asked if the entire service could be outsourced. Matt agreed to chase down the answers to these questions.

## 12. Communications Planning

Michael noted that several people need to weigh in to finalize the season-long calendar and that he would need input in order to provide an accurate calendar on the site and in email blasts.

Matt asked if it would be helpful to establish a Calendar Committee for this purpose. Jasan agreed that doing so would be a good idea and asked Kirk, John, Michael and Hisao to join the Committee, which thereafter was formed.

Kirk raised the topic of finalizing Spring registration fees and timing, which the Committee agreed to address and propose to the Board.

## 13. Coaching Clinics

Jasan shared the upcoming dates and times for Fall Ball Training Sessions:

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – 9:30-11:30

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10-1:30

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – 9:30-11:30

Matt asked if the sessions would be for kids and/or for coaches. Jasan noted that they would be only for kids and specifically only for those players who had registered for Fall Ball.

## 14. Umpire Wages

Jasan mentioned that Andy had told him that SMLL umpires are among the lowest paid umpires in our Region. Dave Eby explained other leagues pay \$5-10 more to their umpires either in cash or in-kind benefits such as food from snack bars.

Jasan suggested we should adjust our fees to be more in line with other local leagues.

John noted that Andy did a great job managing umpire expenses compared to the prior year by being smart about how umpires were scheduled. He explained that if the same care is taken for the umpires program going forward, an increase in fees would be feasible for the league budget.

A discussion ensued.

Jasan motioned to raise the fee by \$5 per umpire per game. Michael seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention by Dave Eby.

15. Board Meeting Schedule 2016-17

The schedule proposed by Matt was confirmed.

16. Board Member Updates

Tom raised the question of how to address situations when homeless people cause problems at practices or games. Jasan noted that anyone who encounters a problem should send him pictures and/or comments so that he could notify SMPD. Jasan explained that calling the SMPD non-emergency # has not been effective.

Mark asked what can be done in the moment when there is a problem. Jasan suggested that the only solution is to call 911.

David S emphasized that SMLL Members and families should not engage at all if a homeless person were to begin to cause problems at or near the fields. David S and Grant noted that the strong recommendation from neighborhood watch programs and SMPD is to call 911.

Tom also raised the issue of parental supervision in the Snack Shack and noted that he will be requiring anyone who is working in the Snack Shack who is under 14 years old will need to be with a parent or other adult.

Tom also noted that he needs to schedule first aid training. Tom, David S and David R agreed to organize the training in association with a session on overall field prep for Spring Managers and assistant coaches.

David S. raised the idea of having safety kits in each dugout or equipment shed that are mounted. David and Tom agreed to investigate and hopefully work out.

17. Other league business

None

18. Good and Welfare

Jasan noted the potential benefits of having SAMO High's new baseball coach so interested in building a strong partnering with SMLL.

19. Adjourn

Jasan adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm