



*Santa Monica*  
**LITTLE LEAGUE**



**Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes**

**Oct 30, 2017**

1. Call to Order

Jasan called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Board Members in attendance: Jasan Sherman, Matt Edelman, David Schmillen, Michael Balsley, Tom Bevan, Eric Mirich, Beth Clark, Jose Nuno, Bernard Rahill, Peter McCormick, John Matise

Board Members in attendance after the meeting was called to order: Kirk Goldstein

Board Members not in attendance: Grant Devaul, Ric Munoz, Matt Steinhaus

Non-Board Members in attendance: Nikki Kolhoff

2. Public Comment

Nikki Kolhoff explained the situation with the Civic Center field and suggested that SMLL could help rally all of the groups who rely upon public fields for their programs to work together to advocate for a plan and process that would be fair to these programs, compared to the plan being supported by the Coastal Commission.

A discussion ensued.

Jasan suggested forming a committee to consider how the league could impact the situation, with Matt and Ric taking the lead and possibly involving other SMLL veterans who have experience engaging with the City such as David Harris and Jim Ries. A discussion ensued.

3. Board Meeting Schedule

- a. Tue Nov 28<sup>th</sup>
- b. Mon Dec 18<sup>th</sup>
- c. Tue Jan 9<sup>th</sup>

Matt provided access to a shared calendar with all key dates through the Spring season.

Matt noted that the date of the Dec meeting will be moved to Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

4. Division Status with LLI

Jasan recounted the status of his discussions with District 25 and LLI, explaining that the request to remove our division format was approved, but that a clerical discrepancy was discovered by LLI that put a hold on the approval. Jasan noted that he was able to address the clerical discrepancy and is hopeful that the approval will be reinstated.

A discussion then ensued about the implications of a final approval, with the primary issue being that only half the number of players would be on the main All-Star team at each age level instead of having two All-Star teams in the past that accommodated twice the number of players at each age level.

Jasan explained that he expects to have a final answer on Wednesday, at which point he would email the Board.

#### 5. Fall Ball Update

Kirk noted that the Majors and Juniors are set for playoffs, with the final weekend of games being played on the weekend of Nov 18-19<sup>th</sup>.

Kirk also explained that one of the Majors Managers, Bob Digitatto, stepped down and that Beth Clark and Jason Forest stepped in to take over management responsibilities. Matt conducted a vote on the approval of Beth and Jason. Michael made a motion to approve them, which Tom seconded. They were approved.

Jose raised the question of what is fair to umpires when a game is cancelled, which he suggested should be that they are paid if the game is canceled less than 24 hours before the game start time. Beth made a motion for this suggestion to be approved, which Tom seconded. The motion passed.

#### 6. Batting Cage and Sponsorships

Jasan explained that the new batting cage is up and running, with some remaining future upgrades possibly being the addition of turf flooring, a second machine, a box to hold a second machine and pads for the posts inside the cage.

Jasan clarified that the only people allowed to use the cage are league approved volunteers, as opposed to other parents or other members of the SMLL or Santa Monica community.

Peter explained that he had secured a new league sponsor who runs a batting cage facility located across from Randy's donuts.

Jasan explained that we may not need to use only blue banners on the fences, which means we may be able to charge more for banners that include a sponsor's full color logo. A discussion ensued.

#### 7. Spring Season Recruiting

Matt, Jasan and Michael led a discussion about ways to continue improving player registration levels.

#### 8. Spring Season Planning

##### a. Manager and Commissioner Candidates

Kirk explained that he will ask for candidate applications by 11/22.

##### b. Spring Training

Jasan noted that he is in discussions with Adam Klein from SAMO about having the SAMO coaches run Spring Training.

##### c. Coaching Clinics

Jasan explained he is in discussions with Adam Klein from SAMO about having the SAMO coaches run the SMLL Coaching Clinics.

Jasan also noted that he had discussed with Adam Klein the idea of having SAMO coaches run free player clinics throughout the season with SMLL picking up the costs as part of our investment in recruiting and developing the league. A discussion ensued.

John mentioned that it would be important to ensure the coaches of our clinics promote SMLL as opposed to other leagues. A discussion ensued.

##### d. Safety Clinic

Tom explained that the Safety Clinic is planned for the date of the first Coaching Clinic, 1/21.

##### e. Evaluations

Ric explained that he is going to lead Evaluations, with support from David Reyes.

#### 9. Additional Board Member Updates

David noted that he still is waiting to confirm the dates when we need fields for the Spring season.

A discussion of the Spring schedule ensued.

#### 10. Adjourn

Jasan adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.