



*Santa Monica*  
**LITTLE LEAGUE**



**Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes**

**July 25, 2017**

1. Call to Order

Jasan called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Board Members in attendance: Jasan Sherman, Matt Edelman, David Schmillen, David Eby, John Matise, Kirk Goldstein, Mark Kapczynski, Grant Devaul, Bernard Rahill, Peter McCormick

Board Members participating by phone: Tom Bevan

Board Members not in attendance: Hisao Kushi, Stephanie DuPre, Matt Steinhaus, Michael Balsley

Non-Board Members in attendance: Ric Munoz, Beth Clark, Jose Nuno, Eric Mirich

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Prior Minutes

Dave Eby made a motion to approve Minutes from the following meetings: March 27, 2017; May 1, 2017; May 21 Special Purpose Meeting. John Matise seconded the motion. The motion passed. All Minutes were approved.

4. TOC Recap

Kirk explained that one of the Juniors teams lost in the semi-finals; the other lost earlier, both to N Venice teams.

Jasan explained that Ladera won both Majors and Minors, with one of our teams in each division winning its first game.

5. All-Stars Recap

Jasan shared the following results:

- North Venice won Juniors and Seniors
- Culver City won 50/70
- Ladera won Majors

- North Venice won 11U
- Ladera won 10U

Jasan raised the topic that some of the other leagues have abandoned their Fall Ball program and steered their players to an affiliated club program. Kirk and Jasan shared their knowledge of how these leagues often work in collaboration with the club programs. A discussion ensued about the goals of our league with regard to developing players to compete at higher skill levels and focusing our program to yield teams that are competitive for All-Stars.

Kirk noted that our biggest weakness in terms of being competitive at the All-Star level is our two-division format. Matt asked the status of our discussions about eliminating the two-division format through LLI.

Jasan explained that he is working with a couple of other Board Members to press the issue and will be submitting an updated request to LLI within 2-3 weeks after the LL World Series.

## 6. Fall Ball

### a. Registration

- Kirk explained that we have more players registered for Juniors already than he can remember the league having in past years.
- Hisao reported that we have 93 total registrants, which is approximately half way to the total registrations from last year.
- Michael pointed out that the registration fee still is listed at \$175 even though the original schedule called for the fee to have increased to \$190 by this time. A discussion ensued, after which the Board agreed to keep the lower fee until Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, after which it would increase to \$190.

### b. Fall-Stars

- Kirk explained that Culver City might have a team for this program, as might North Venice and Wrigley.
- A discussion ensued about the merits of having a Fall-Stars program. Kirk agreed to collect more information from registered players and families and to propose a final plan to the Board by Aug 15<sup>th</sup>.

### c. Number of Teams

- Kirk shared the previous year's number of teams:
  - 2 MP
  - 2 AA
  - 4 AAA
  - 5 Majors
  - 3 Juniors

### d. Schedule

- Following a discussion about field permits, it was agreed that practices will start on Aug 25<sup>th</sup>.

- Grant agreed to hand out equipment on the 25<sup>th</sup>
- Kirk committed to having teams and schedules by the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Opening Weekend
  - Kirk explained that the weekend after Labor Day would be the first weekend of games
- e. Commissioners
  - Kirk explained that there would not be division commissioners for Fall Ball, in keeping with past years, and that instead he would serve as the Fall Ball Commissioner.
- f. Managers
  - Kirk noted that he is in the process of recruiting Managers, starting with the past Spring Managers.
- g. Player Recruiting
  - Kirk agreed to message all Managers from the Spring to reach out to their families.
  - Kirk committed to discuss FB advertising with Michael.
  - Ric agreed to discuss a communications plan with Hisao and Michael.

## 7. Batting Cage and Sponsorships Update

John noted that the league had secured \$52K in total sponsorships, including of \$25K in batting cage sponsorship commitments, which included a \$20K donation specifically for the cage from an anonymous donor who has suggested the Board name the cage after anyone the league feels is appropriate. John noted that the league would be dipping into cash reserves in the amount of \$20K if we choose to finish the batting cage with a final \$10K spend, which represents a \$13K improvement from where we expected to be as of early May. A discussion ensued.

Jasan agreed to explore an option to complete the batting cage for less money and to work with David Schmillen to consider how to use the space alongside the cage effectively as a pitching warm-up space. The Board collectively agreed not to spend the remaining \$10K until a future date, TBD.

## 8. Snack Shack Update

- a. Staffing/volunteer plan
  - Bernard explained that he is considering better ways to staff the Snack Shack, starting in the Fall and noted that would be revising how Sign-Up Genius works by Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- b. Volunteer penalty fee
  - Bernard mentioned that the Board considered increasing the penalty fee for families who do not fulfill a minimum volunteer commitment. A discussion ensued, with the Board collectively agreeing to revisit this issue at a future meeting when a decision still could be made in time to make possible changes for the Spring season.

## 9. Board Meeting Schedule

Matt reiterated the upcoming schedule:

- a. Tue Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>
- b. Tue Sep 12<sup>th</sup>
- c. Tue Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

Jasan and Michael agreed to discuss a date when the newly formed Board could gather in a more social setting.

#### 10. Additional Board Member Updates

David noted that there will be a new batting cage sign-up website because the company that operated the old one went out of business.

Matt asked about the issues that have been discussed by the city regarding the use of city field space. Ric explained that there is still an outstanding question about whether there will be a softball diamond over the new soccer field at the Civic Center, which could impact what happens to Memorial fields 1-4. Ric agreed to keep Jasan updated with new information as it becomes available.

#### 11. Other league business

- a. Disciplinary Matter Update

Jasan explained that the Board needed to decide whether or not take disciplinary action. A motion was made that the parent who was determined to have violated league rules be banned from SMLL functions for one year. The motion passed. Jasan agreed to inform the parent.

#### 12. Good and Welfare

None.

#### 13. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.