



Board Meeting

December 5th, 2019

Board Members Present: Cesar Garcia, Fred Clarke, Kurt Fluegge, Soren Llanes, Lucy Campbell, Larry Holden, Alan Wittman, Darcey Teets, Lucy Regan, Elisabeth Carroll

Finances:

- The board reviewed the balance sheet from All-Stars. Some families will receive a small credit to reimburse a portion of their travel expenses.
- We could potentially have teams successful enough to travel to games away from home in 2020. It makes sense that we should try to figure out how to fundraise/support players equitably with related expenses. We could potentially have at least one team that is eligible for a game in San Bernadino.
- Our current budget is in the red. We spent \$63,000 on fields (previous field expense \$45,000). We will have to cut back on fields and focus on fundraising. To break even, we need \$14,000 in fundraising and \$9,000 in sponsorship.

Fundraising:

- Soren is familiar with the concept of a Hit-a-thon. It is run similarly to a walk-a-thon. Players receive sponsorships in a flat rate or related to how far they hit the ball. In another league this event is held prior to Opening Day. It would be helpful to look at the communication they send out and all the logistics they use to make it happen.
- Maybe we could use the Newport Softball Field near the end of May. For now we can set a date and use Lewis Creek or Lake Hills as back-up locations.

November Meeting Minutes Approved

D9 Meeting Updates:

- Our constitution was approved and will be resubmitted. There was a meeting two weeks ago to firm up our local rules.
- District 9 complimented us on having the best track record for donations to the Junior Softball World Series. They would like our league to donate \$500 and send it to JSWS 12107 SE 46th Ct. Bellevue, WA 98006. In the past we have made donations, but nothing yet this year. We have money budgeted for this.

Safety Meeting:

- The safety meeting should be the first Saturday in March while the kids are participating in the player clinic at Newport High School.

- We should collaborate with Steve about this date to make sure practices are not scheduled during the meeting time. Upper divisions COULD practice in the afternoon.

Mariner's Games:

- The Little League Mariners Games are Houston (May 3rd), Detroit (May 17th), Atlanta (May 31st).
- Lucy will send coaches a message to choose a team coordinator who will select a date, then contact the Mariner's group sales rep.
- Elisabeth is available to answer questions about logistics and planning. Last year four teams contacted her with questions about purchasing tickets and event tips.

Board Vacancies:

- Lucy sent e-mails to T-ball, Softball, and AA coaches asking for their support with our division VP openings. So far there hasn't been a response. Discussion about how to recruit new people. We need to ask the coaches for younger levels.
- Parents who will be in AAA this year would be ideal board members for A/AA. We need VPs for T-Ball, A/AA baseball, A/AA softball, and a Player Agent (Upper and Lower). Chris Freer is ready to move on from Opening Day. The Safety Officer position will be open after this year.
- Darcey from Bellevue East was confirmed to join the board as Softball VP. He and Scott Collins have been collaborating about training.

Trainings:

- Kurt noticed that the dates on our winter training schedule need to be adjusted so they are on Sundays (not Mondays) and the second Sunday of the February break (not the first).
- Big Al's Training has changed. It used to be face-to-face but switched to online last year. Last year we had a very low turnout. An advantage to the online training is that we can track who took the course. Kurt spent time doing tech support with many people who needed help.
- We need to increase participation in training. If we give people enough time, maybe there will be tons of interest in the online modules. We can offer the opportunity to ALL parents. Coaches need to be trained every other year. There must be a safety representative from each team trained EVERY year.
- Fall ball didn't break even this year. Usually we are able to cover our field expenses, but this year registration was low.
- A little less than 50% of coaches participated in Mark Linden's training. We will need to have him record an attendance list.
- Lucy has been approached about pairing with Bellevue East to collaborate on training t-ball parents. We are happy with our Mark Linden program. Bellevue East has great t-ball numbers and retention.

Registration

- We currently have 47 players, 12 new today (ten girls, thirty seven boys).
- Larry sent out our first registration e-mail today. We will announce it every other week. Our biggest surge is typically right before evaluations.

Blue Sombrero:

- Larry is headed towards JDP for background checks since it will save us a couple thousand dollars. Stack Sports helped us last year and 200 volunteers signed up. If there is a problem with a check, fixing it is a very big problem.

- JDP isn't tied directly into our system so it is less convenient, but we can upload batches of applicants. This would be more work for Larry, but the batch feature could make it a once/week task. Larry is good at this and thinks it could be worth saving money.

Advertising

- Fred made signs. We would like to get them back for next year. Discussion about where to put them where they will stay on display. It would be great to have them all around our neighborhoods. They tend to disappear if we aren't careful with placement.
- Ideal spots could be along Newport Way and the back road by Target.

Equipment

- Alan has lots of equipment in his garage. Approximately half of the bags are there.
- Lucy would like to gather the binders from last year to update the rules. She will ask coaches to drop them off on her porch after shredding their personal info.
- We need to purge a lot of unsafe equipment. There are tons of boxes in the storage unit that need to be broken down.
- The shed at Puesta is very clean and orderly.
- Thunderbird will continue to ask families to provide their own helmet and minimal equipment that meets safety standards.
- Alan is going to ask Jimmy about pricing on balls. We have a very small inventory and need to order more now before prices go up in January. At the beginning of the season each time receives their allocation. Sometimes a team may need additional balls prior to the end of the year.
- We should look at the need for safety bases, catcher's gear, springs for the pitching machines, etc.
- We have lots of old helmets. Some of them are good shape, some of them aren't. Lucy Regan is willing to take extra equipment to a consignment shop if we would like her to do that. Alan will work on going through things with some help.

Umpire News

- Caesar just returned from a week of volunteer umpire training in San Bernadino. It was very intense and wonderful training. He is working on a plan with Wes.
- There will be an outreach clinic the first week in March to train new umpires. It is \$85 for an umpire to be trained for the day. Caesar is looking for volunteers registering to recruit for the training.
- The last two weeks of February might be the best time for Thunderbird clinic. There would also be a D9 clinic and an outreach clinic. Cesar is working on compiling information.
- We need rule books. There is a new app that costs \$2 and covers rule books "For Life." We usually get a pile of them with our charter fee, but will need 20 for coaches. Cesar has time to order them.
- We will also need new umpire shirts and several more gear sets. Last year we had four youth umpires with full gear sets including "plate shoes." It is important for players to have the right shoes or steel-toed work boots. Cesar put gear sets together.
- Hopefully we will be able to have more volunteer umpires this year.
- Fred reports that it is hard to find volunteers for the Juniors games. Our goal is to hopefully not use Umpires Northwest at all.
- Cesar is consistently recognized at the D9 meetings for being a trailblazer. He is building a great program.

