



Board Meeting

November 8, 2017

Board Members Present at the Mustard Seed: Fred Clarke, Mike Garrett, Larry Holden, Lu Zhang, Chris Freer, Lucy Regan, Kevin Regan, Cesar Garcia, Kurt Fluegge, Jack Chao, Tim Chin, Eric Lee, Michael Edwards, Chris Freer, Elisabeth Carroll

Meeting Start Time 8:09 pm **Meeting End Time** 9:23 pm

Financial Report:

We continue to operate at a deficit. Rates will be raised by \$25 at all levels, excluding t-ball. Ideas:

- We could charge \$20 for winter training in addition to the regular season registration fee. Pros: it would offset our costs, might increase participation (if families want to go since they paid). Cons: It would cost more for families, the expectation might be higher for each session, we don't want to be the most expensive league in our area.
- We could ask people to donate when they register. To explore this, we will set up a pre-checked box with a winter training fee (on the form next to the raffle), and include an optional donation box. Motion made, approved.
- Thunderbird spirit wear could be sold. Families expressed interest in clothing items when it was time for the All-Star games. Pros: we could earn money and families would show spirit. Cons: logistics and minimizing extra inventory. We have had a surplus of Thunderbird caps for years. Since we are a non-profit, there are rules about not running a "store." The ordering period must be limited to a few weeks with a delivery date after that.
- Negotiations can be made with Stods and field rental fees.
- If we continue to eliminate all umpire fees (with a few exceptions noted below), we could potentially break even.
- Any board members needing money for next year (training, equipment, supplies, etc.) should send those requests to Michael (treasurer@bellevuethunderbird.com) for inclusion in the 2018 budget. We would like to vote on the budget at the December meeting.

Board of Directors - open positions

There is a need for someone to take over winter training. We also need a Majors VP. Our last facebook post helped us connect with someone new who might be interested in helping us.

Kurt Fluegge is new to our group. He is considering responsibilities that best match his availability and skill set. Kurt has experience working with Mark Linden.

The following board slate will be proposed to membership for approval:

- Elisabeth Carroll, Secretary
- Jack Chao, Uniforms
- Tim Chin, VP T-Ball
- Fred Clarke, President
- Scott Collins, Player Agent Softball Upper divisions
- Michael Edwards, Treasurer
- Kurt Fluegge, Training
- Chris Freer, Opening Day
- Cesar Garcia, Umpire in Chief
- Peter Koo, Player Agent Baseball Upper Divisions
- Eric Lee, VP Softball Upper Divisions
- Ryan Mullenix, Safety
- Kevin Regan, VP Upper Divisions
- Lucy Regan, Player Agent Baseball Lower Divisions
- Paul Santulli, VP Coast Baseball
- Steve Wilkos, VP A/AA Baseball
- Alan Wittman, Equipment
- Lu Zhang, Fields

2017 Items to Address

- **Opening registration:** we are still shooting for the week prior to Thanksgiving.
- **Winter training:** will be held on Sundays from 5:00 – 9:00 pm at Stods (January 7, 14, 21, February 11, and 25th). Mark Linden offered to help us on January 7th to kick off the first training night and set up stations. Kurt is communicating with him.
- **Evaluations:** will be held Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 8am to noon. We might tweak the pitching station a little since it clogs up. Maybe kids interested in pitching could have a “p” notation on their name tag. If there are some kids NOT interested in pitching, they could skip it. If a player is ill or can’t attend 1/28/2018, we will hold another opportunity – the following Saturday (6 days later) 2/3/2018 from 8:00 am to noon.
- **Conversation about majors:** We can only have 8 12 year olds per team. We have 40 11s and 70 12s. Since there are too many 12 year old kids, this would wipe out our Coast league. We will have to apply for a waiver. Eleven year olds will be discouraged from playing majors this year. They should play Coast.
- **New registration idea** – parents enter child’s age and the league will assign them a level after evaluations. We “bucket” them in one registration category for 9-11 year olds and sort out teams later. At our next meeting, we will look at our rules to make sure we are in compliance. We will have to make a decision about making the fees

consistent for this group. If there is an 11 year old wanting to play up, they may check the “petition to play up” box. We will look at each player individually.

- **Parent umpire volunteers:** Our goal is to have all volunteer umpires. An exception may be for the majors tournament (if required). Also, intermediates and junior levels may require “Big Diamond” qualified umpires. During winter training we will assign an entire cage as a rotation station to train 12 year olds (we have 80 - 90 potential youth umpires). Each 12 year old will have a 20 minute training for five weeks. During our registration process, we will customize the form to include language that mentions we require volunteer umpires. Parents will be aware of expectations.

Parent umpires may stand wherever they want. Their protective gear will be in the locked boxes at each field. We can budget to replace some of the boxes at our parks to get bigger ones that could hold more gear. An inventory of our umpire gear is needed so Alan can place an order to fill in any holes.

- **Storage:** We received notice that our storage facility hours are changing. Our access will be limited since they will soon close at 6pm. This will be a problem for our league. Michael has discussed our concern with the facility and heard that it is a corporate issue, not limited to our location. He is looking into other storage options. We need a unit that is similar in size with drive-up access. Although we can purge many of the items in our current unit, we will have additional items to store when our shed at Puesta is eliminated. We expect this to happen when turf is installed.
- **Bats:** We need to communicate more about the new standards. Parents need repetition of this message. We want to support families who may not be able to afford new bats. If someone needs equipment because of financial hardship, they should contact us. We should communicate this to families and the expectation that loaned equipment must be returned to the league at the conclusion of the season. Coaches need to know that everyone needs a brand new bat, even for practices.
- Lucy expressed interested in organizing an equipment swap where members could buy/sell mitts and cleats. We do not want to facilitate the exchange of old bats since they do not meet new safety standards. Old bats may be used at batting cages, thrown away, or donated to a far-away country.
- **T-ball:** Conversation about registration numbers at A level and the big dip we saw. A priority is to make sure that t-ball is really fun. Steve Linden is a big part of the t-ball budget.
- **Pitching Clinics:** Steve Linden has put on a baseball pitching clinic that increased to three days for older kids. The first two days seem to be the most valuable. We would like to add a softball pitching clinic. Tim has a contact and will follow through to make this happen.

- Board Meetings – first Wednesday each month (Room 1113, NHS, 8pm)