



Board Meeting

April 4, 2018

Board Members Present: Fred Clarke, Chris Freer, Kurt Fluegge, Rob Freytag, Mike Garret, Kevin Regan, Tim Chin, Cesar Garcia, Peter Koo, Erik Lee, Michael Edwards, Lu Zhang, Elisabeth Carroll

Meeting Start Time: 8:02 pm

Meeting End Time: 9:02

Financial Report The optional donation box for winter training was a huge success and raised almost \$1800. This offset almost all of our rental costs at Stods. Not many scholarships were requested, so we may need to increase awareness in the future. More volunteers have registered than in the past (170 so far). This increases our background check costs, but is positive because we want volunteers. We just completed the transaction to donate \$1000 to juniors from last season.

Theo Ziebert's father, Ken, has donated \$500 to Thunderbird Little League to help benefit the youth umpire program. Theo was a youth umpire for the league for many years who passed away a few years ago. This money is appreciated and will be used for additional umpire equipment.

Board of Directors – open positions

- Sponsorships
- Uniforms
- VP Majors

2018 Items to Address

- **Registration:** We have between 440-460 players registered. We have 6 boy teams and 2 girl teams at t-ball. AAA is the smallest registration group in the league, followed by AA. Next year Fred plans to focus his energy on school outreach to recruit more players.
- **Interlock:** We are enjoying our partnership with Renton in our D-7 league. Compromises have been made to mitigate huge scoring differences. Safety is our first priority. Teams are working together (especially at softball) to enforce rules and safety procedures. We want players to have a positive experience. Some coaches are helping with pitching (when needed) to give players the opportunity to get some hits.
- **Opening Day:** Chris has set the photography schedule, but needs the name of each team sponsor. Mark A. will announce the coach and sponsor info as each team parades onto the field. Chris will give Tim the packets for softball and baseball t-ball. Chris needs info from Michael about how many raffle tickets each player pre-purchased. Once Chris has this info, he can put together the packets

and tickets for each team, followed by an e-mail to coaches to come and pick up their envelope for each team.

Intermediate juniors and a few other teams needs to have pictures done by 8:30. There is a Coast game scheduled between two Thunderbird teams during our event, hopefully it can be played at a different time. It would be nice if players could attend the Opening Day celebration. Our intermediates will run on the field and have pictures taken. The first photo slot is scheduled for 8:00 am and the ceremony starts at 9:30 am. Chris has Mark's contract.

The first pitch will be thrown by the Coast State Championship Softball Team. We could mention all the girls on the championship team by name over the intercom. It would be nice to include the championship banner the girls won. Eric will find out about it. Fred will give Chris the volunteer list.

Vendors: coffee, hot cocoa will be \$1, Krispy Kreme doughnuts will be \$10 per dozen, sales will be cash. Jimmy Johns is donating 20% of the net sales of all purchases that reference Thunderbird. Orders can be placed ahead of time so food may be picked up beginning at 10:30 am. DJ Sports Cards will be there, Baden may be coming with Axe Bats. Peter is working with the Scouts to coordinate the Color Guard. We can use the Mormon Church parking lot for overflow parking and are still waiting to hear back from the Newport Covenant Church.

Chris has 8 tents and 11 tables from his church that we can use. We also need speakers... Chris has spoken with Mark about having speakers pointing where needed so people can hear.

Sponsorships: Rover reached out to us and would like to be a division sponsor. A law firm would like to have a link on our website. Chris can use our account at Fast Signs to make banners if needed.

- **Playoffs/City Tournament:** We have brackets set for some levels. Some league tournament games may need to start May 18th. Games already scheduled for mid-May may be shaved off the season. We should keep in mind that our own games count towards the minimum number of 12. Fred will communicate with Bellevue East and West to figure out fields and other league schedules.

Mercer Island suggested that our city tournament start May 30th, but our preference is later (June 2nd or 3rd) to give our teams as much practice time as possible. Discussion about options and pros/cons.

All-Stars start on June 1st. June 18th is the first day for some teams and others start July 6th or 7th. We need to reserve fields for girls softball. Starting June 1st we should book as much field time as possible since we will have nine all-star teams that need fields. Four softball and five baseball teams will need to practice daily. We can return some of our extra field time reserved at Somerset to save money. Lewis Creek is a better option for practice.

- **Umpires:** We have a \$4000 budget for youth umpire scholarships. There is a limit of \$600 per person. In the past we have offered registration refunds to adult umpires who are the “Behind the Plate Umpire” for five games their child is NOT playing in. We will continue with the same incentive. Eleven youth and eight adult umpires are in the volunteer system so far. This is a little lower than last year, but could increase since more have expressed interest.

A parent of a youth umpire expressed interest in wearing a hockey mask to increase behind the plate safety. We have \$1000 budgeted for umpire equipment. The hockey style masks are \$110 and could be safer than just the regular face masks. Proposal for someone willing to ump 10 + games to receive a “take home” set of league equipment. Motion made and passed to increase umpire budget to \$1500. Cesar will purchase the equipment needed.

We still need to figure out something that will help us notify umpires when games are canceled.

- **Safety:** If we see safety violations, we are responsible for making sure they stop immediately (ex: swinging bats).

Reminders:

- Coaches need to check bats before games. If an illegal bat is used, the coach is responsible and must shut it down.
 - Coaches may NOT warm up pitchers.
 - Siblings are NOT allowed in the dugout. (If someone gets hurt, our insurance will not cover it.)
 - Catchers need to wear masks and cups when warming up pitchers (other equipment isn’t required).
 - All players need to wear cups. The coach is responsible for ensuring that all players are “properly equipped.”
 - We need to be very aware of flying balls because last year a coach in a different league was hit in the back of his head near his dugout. He spent six weeks in Harborview and hasn’t fully recovered.
- Fred will send out a reminder about safety rules.

- **Other business:** A partnership with Mark Linden was discussed. Our preference is to consider adding programs like Fall Ball or clinics where we would break even (not lose money). We are happy to communicate baseball/softball opportunities to our community, but don’t have field costs for extra programs budgeted. We were disappointed that only three players attended our catcher’s clinic (five slots per team were allowed). There have been positive programs in the past.

2017-2018 Calendar

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