



## Board Meeting

April 5, 2017

**Board Members Present:** Cesar Garcia, Kevin Regan, Tim Chin, Paul Santulli, Larry Holden, Peter Koo, Scott Collins, Michael Edwards, Lu Zhang, Dave Lilley, Steve Wilkos, Eric Lee, Lucy Regan, Ryan Mullenix, Elisabeth Carroll, Chris Freer is on speaker phone

**Start Time:** 8:07    **End Time:** 9:34

### **Approval of March minutes- Edits discussed, then approved**

**Financial Report** – Our final registration income was only \$7000 off (smaller decline than expected), if we consider supplemental fall ball income we are only down around \$4000. We lost two sponsors and need to especially push for corporate matching. We need to replace uniform sponsors for next year and should think about that. Some employers are willing to reimburse for volunteer hours – this could help us raise income from our parents. We should communicate this so our volunteers keep track and submit. We know that Nordstrom is starting to participate in May, Microsoft raised their reimbursement rate to \$25. We should put out a message to the league about this.

### **Items to Address**

- **Registration:** We have 507 kids, 40ish kids have enrolled since registration closed last month. We have 4 more t-ball and 4 more t-ball-softball slots open before we run out of jerseys. We have exactly the same number of kids registered for t-ball compared to last year. We also have room for 3 more rookie players. Some of the A/AA parents were surprised that the two groups were merged. We could have done a better job communicating about this. Ideas discussed about transitioning kids from t-ball to machine pitch – show the machine at the end of the t-ball season, invite them to watch a game at the next level... Some machine pitch teams had coach-pitch at the end of the season, but it wasn't consistent and parents were confused. (Thought that kid had participated in coach pitch season when it was really just a game at the end). We are wondering why there is a drop off in enrollment after kids "age out" of t-ball. Kids are starting younger 4 – 5 years old. Idea about kickball... Tim solicited feedback from families that didn't sign-up and found that some moved away, others are putting energy into other sports but none reported a negative experience.
- **Sponsorships:** Status discussed
- **Opening Day:** Chris F. is on speaker phone to discuss details. He will arrive at 6:00 am, vendors will arrive and set up 7-8 am, The ceremony will begin at 9:30 finish at 10:30, Legends Photography will be onsite and give us a \$2 rebate plus a bag tag for kids who order picture packages. Chris will make a schedule for photography and be available March 14, 15, 16<sup>th</sup> at Tyee to pass off photography packets and prepaid

raffle tickets from registration. Coaches or their team representatives will manage pick-up and team distribution, then communicate the picture time to teams. There will also be an online order form and we should encourage people to do this ahead of time. Next year we should consider making an easy online ordering process a priority when choosing a photographer. A, AA, and softball teams don't have game schedules yet so we need to build in some flexibility to picture scheduling. We need the picture schedule by the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> so we can communicate this to our teams. Mark from KOMO will be the master of ceremonies again. The volunteer list is coming together and we are covered on registration staffing. There are raffle prizes like an x-box, baseball camps, we have a need for massage/restaurant gift cards. Email or call if we have other raffle prizes. We will have coffee, hot cocoa for \$1 and snacks. Krispy Kreme donuts \$10/dozen. Jamba juice will be there and give us a percentage of sales. Frank's Franks will be there. Baden (?) is a vendor that is trying to figure out how they will market themselves. DJ Quartz Cards (?) will be there. Peter Koo is working on scout troupes. We need to send out an e-mail blast once/week until the event so everyone knows the date (4/22). We will sell Thunderbird gear via foursquare. We have permission to park at Newport Covenant Church and the church on the North East side. Republic will deliver a container and has been invited to the ceremony since they are our sponsor. They would love to come, but can't make it.

- **Equipment Update:** All teams (except t-ball) should have their equipment. There are a few more sets of catchers gear that have been ordered and we have lots of balls. Hopefully we have enough balls now, but the weather is really hard on them and Tillicum has a construction zone that makes foul ball recovery impossible.
- **Board Member Needs:** We should look for engaged parents and invite them to our meeting. We should send message out to Rookie parents inviting them to participate at the end of this season. We still need: VP AAA and VP Softball – Younger Divisions.
- **Coach Approvals:** We have two new Rookie coaches: Rob Freytag and Dan Moen. At Juniors we have Greg Allan and John Frederickson. T-ball coaches: Melissa Bowers, Michael Collier, Donna Johnson, Chad Garr, Chad Thomas, Greg Doyle, Chiael Altfield, Michael Chu
- **Fields Update:** Our field situation is very dire. Lewis Creek has been swapped out for Lakemont, which isn't usable. Our weekend slots have been switched out for weeknights, making things even more complicated. All rain-outs will be rescheduled in May and subject to the length of the season. Discussion about extending the length of the season beyond May 15<sup>th</sup>. We see empty fields around town and wonder if there are other ways to solve the scheduling difficulties we are having. There is a plan to approach the school board at the meeting in a few weeks. All star teams may start practicing June 1. Mike is absent, but should have input since he is with majors. Are we willing to have random-draw for city tournament? We will move forward with the schedule – the league schedule will start June 1. If you make the all-star team, finish your commitment with your regular season team as needed. Can we schedule make-up games after May 15<sup>th</sup>? Scheduling all the rained out games within the current deadline seems impossible.
- We are having problems with **field monitors**. We requested 5-dusk time slots and our contracts came back with 5:00-7:30. Last night at 7:40 there was a softball game still in progress and a field monitor said that it was time to leave. After spring break the rental time is 5:00-8:00 with games starting at 5:30. We were told last night at Tyee that the team wouldn't be allowed to play there again. Newport Heights' field doesn't seem to be in use and is being monitored. Something strange is going on. A

positive Bellevue School District – Thunderbird partnership is a high priority. We would like to understand how to improve our relationship.

- **Umpire Status & Update:** 20 people attended Cesar's umpire training. We bought 30 rule books, and are working on purchasing uniforms. Sunday April 23 will be the next umpire training. We want everyone trained and equipped with rule books and uniforms by then. Rule books will be provided to managers. There is a rule about warming up pitchers: managers and coaches must NEVER warm-up pitchers. Players must warm up pitchers and wear the catcher's gear including the dangling chin protector. We need to update the umpire page on our website with a link to the rules. Umpires NW wants no new inning to start after 2 hours because of their contract/pay. They want this to be put in our local rules. We could speed up the games by keeping batters in the box and encouraging less practice pitches to speed things up. There is a process to update rules that would begin next year in January if we want things to happen. In the meantime, we can introduce a culture of speeding things up (outfielders don't need to warm up). ☺ New rule at Coast – to clarify when runner can't advance: the runner has to wait if the pitcher is on the mound with the baseball. The runner cannot reach a new base until the pitch crosses the plate. Both managers should agree with each other and the umpire before the game starts. The ground rule double is another field thing has to do with cones/trees – it should be discussed and agreed upon before the game starts.

#### **Other Business:**

- Michael has been approached by a company that sells long sleeve shirts and could put our logo on them. They are inexpensive and could be sold as a fundraiser.
- Need to put safety plan on website and concussion pre-screenings contact.
- Allegro was approached on the late side for sponsorship, they offered first-aid stuff and agreed to provide \$400 of first aid kits. We can really use ice packs. Maybe next year they will be a uniform sponsor.
- Other teams aren't aware of the bat rules.
- A private conversation will be held about a conflict.

#### **2017 Calendar**

- Board Meetings – first Wednesday each month (Room 1112, NHS, 8pm)
- Opening Day Celebration – Saturday, April 22, 2017