



Board Meeting

December 6, 2018

Meeting Start Time: 8:07 Meeting End Time: 9:40

Board Members Present: Lucy Campbell, Fred Clarke, Rob Freytag, Lucy Campbell, Corinne Crowley, Larry Holden, Cesar Garcia, Kurt Fluegge, Kevin Regan, Soren Llanes, Michael Edwards, Ryan Mullenix, Erika Satterlund, Tim Chin, Elisabeth Carroll

The November meeting minutes were approved with the caveat that the correct winter training dates need to be finalized. Fred will find out and communicate this to Elisabeth.

D-9 minutes: Lucy D. attended the district little league meeting and shared this information.

- The D-9 league suggests that an average of 7 volunteers on each team should be background checked. They would like list of volunteers who have been cleared and this is the number they are expecting.
- Before the season starts, we should have a written plan about how coaches will be reimbursed for travel.
- Our fees for our "Assessment" AKA Little League Charter have been raised from \$21 to \$28.
- Every league is supposed to sponsor a Challenger Team that includes kids with special needs. We will need kids who are interested – both typically developing and with special needs, then find coaches/adult volunteers. It would be great if we could have two challenger teams and they could interlock with other teams throughout the district for games. Michael has heard about a plan in the past to build a field that would accommodate kids with mobility challenges. Fred confirms that it has been built on the Camp Sambica property.

Financial Report: We will try to vote on the budget next month. Cesar suggests that we follow the lead of other leagues and offer a \$100 gear reimbursement to adults who commit to umping four games. We could type up this offer on the website under the umpire heading. This would be for levels Coast and above. To qualify, they must ump at a game that doesn't involve their own children. We will still provide gear in the green boxes, but they could start building their own set of gear.

Four games = \$100 gear reimbursement, Five games = registration refund. In the past, if families umped five additional games their kids weren't playing in, their registration fee could be refunded. This offer is good for levels AAA and above.

Soren now has the QuickBooks file from Michael and the mail key. The treasurer e-mails will still go to both Michael and Soren. Michael is available for financial suggestions (especially

historical). The new designated signers for the Thunderbird bank account are: Lucy Campbell, Soren Llanes, Larry Holden, and Michael Edwards.

Board Open Positions: See Lucy's Notes... Open Positions: Field Scheduler, VP Softball Upper Division, VP Softball Lower Division, Player Agent Softball, Player Agent Baseball Upper Division, AAA – Rob will do this in addition to A and AA if we don't hear from Mark Knolls again. Alan Wittman might do Softball, Mike Garrett and Fred can pop into the softball meetings when Alan is gone. Lu sent in a preliminary fields request, but we need someone to follow-up.

Rule Review: A board subcommittee met last week to review our league rules to make sure that we are directing coaches on our current processes and intent. We have had several conversations about gathering player statistics at the Majors level and recording win/loss records. Michael noted that maybe we don't need to worry about this/record specifics. We do record the pitch counts, but not the team win/loss records. Motion made and passed to maintain current language/rules on these topics.

Kevin has an idea about tracking playing positions. He would like to keep close track of this. Larry notes that our local rules is not the place to note this policy, but we should address it in our coach's code of conduct.

Rob has done research on game time limits in other leagues. There is a concern that for kids aged 7, 8, and 9 that long games are not ideal. Shorter games would be advantageous because families need to get home for dinner, etc. and make it easier for kids to maintain focus/ready position. Other sports have shorter games – baseball is an outlier. Elisabeth loves long games, but is the only one who feels this way. Motion made and passed:

- No new innings for level A after one hour and thirty minutes (game over one hour and forty five minutes)
- No new innings at AA after one hour and forty five minutes (game over after two hours)
- No new innings at AAA after one hour and forty-five minutes (game over after two hours).

Discussion about the need to schedule practice time after the games have started. Rob suggested that we alternate two games/one practice and repeat this pattern throughout the season.

Registration: 65 kids registered so far compared to 47 last year. Some people are using the coupon and some aren't.

Signs: There are still lots of t-ball signs in some places. Kurt would like to put some at Newcastle (none there). Larry has some single-sided ones, Fred has some double-sided ones.

Marketing: Lucy read in the minutes that we were boosting Facebook posts at this time last year. How has this worked? Elisabeth posts things and sometimes, Fred or Michael chip in their own funds for a boost. They have not requested reimbursement and insist that the amount spent has been small. Lucy noted that if they would like to be reimbursed, we could use our budget.

Sponsorship: Divisional sponsor requirements should stay at \$3000 minimum for now. We would like to honor the rate that past sponsors have contributed. We have benefited from corporate sponsors in the past because of specific Thunderbird contacts with connections. Some contacts are gone now, but others may have arrived. It would be nice to identify and connect with new Thunderbird members who have corporate backing.

Advertising: We had our Facebook post contest to win tickets. Unfortunately, none of us know enough about Facebook settings to allow the public to post on our wall. If we want to do this again next year, we need to resolve this. Soren's son and Nathan's kids dressed up. They noticed that Thunderbird wasn't written on their uniform anywhere. It seemed like kids were just wearing sports gear? Larry has an idea about how to tweak the uniforms for next year.

Corinne received permission from Shannon Gregory to distribute 500 flyers at Somerset. Yay! Erika went to KinderCare, St. Madeline's, and Open Window schools. Great job!

Winter Training: Kurt is managing the clinics for pitching, umping, etc. with Mark Linden. Mark Linden's proposed dates are Feb 19-27 (WON'T WORK, needs to be changed to accommodate winter break) and March 3-27th. Mark L. has raised his rates: Baseball coaching clinic (coaches go every 2 years) now costs \$3480. Mark also has fall ball clinics available.

Although we considered hiring Mark L. for the first night of winter training last year, we ended up not doing this. Tim Clark runs the high school booster club that supports players in volunteering for us. We need five or six high school players there plus all our coaches. To make the evening work, board members all attend. Division VPs tell coaches to come. We grab moms and dads from the audience, give quick instruction on how to run their station, then have someone keep track of time/tell everyone when to rotate.

We want to schedule winter training: Jan 6, 13, 20, Feb 10, and Feb 24th. Fred will e-mail Bob Stoddard about these dates right now to see if we can make this work. Volunteers are needed to each manage a winter training evening. The following board members volunteered to take this on: Fred, Mike G. (?), Alan (?), Rob, Kurt – if he is in town. We also need someone standing at the door with the clipboard to check in families. Lucy C. will send out a survey monkey with times that are available so we can sign up.

Corinne is requesting a new blurb to distribute via the Somerset Mom e-mail distribution list about winter training. Fred will write a blurb about winter training and evaluations. Corinne will copy and paste the information to distribute.

Safety: Ryan M. will submit our safety plan this month. He will look deeper at details with a subcommittee meeting soon.

March 2nd will be the safety clinic at Newport High School from 9:30-11:30. This time should be blocked off our field schedule to make sure no team events are scheduled simultaneously. We want all coaches to attend our meeting. The Newport High school team will have been announced by this time and they usually run a little kids clinic that coordinates with the time the parents are required to be at the safety meeting. We should reach out to them and make sure their start time matches ours. For example, they should start at 9:15 so parents can drop off, then get to the safety meeting and make sure it ends after the conclusion of our meeting.

Michael will reach out to Tim Clarke about this to coordinate the times and winter training schedule.

Lucy shared her first time t-ball coaching experience and wants us to remember that new people need details about everything. For example, they don't necessarily even know what a green box is. We must be more accountable in making sure people are receiving training, taking care of concussions/paperwork.

VPs of each division should draft an e-mail about what is and isn't going well safety-wise and send it to Lucy and Ryan. Ryan notes that we have been exploring online self-paced video safety training. We need to address the Lycette law and share info from an EMT. Since scheduling is so tricky and coaches all need to attend, an online format could work well.

Ryan will be revisiting a conversation about AEDs that began last year. We need to be sure that all catcher's masks have throat protectors. These are required and kids who don't have one need to be pulled out. Face guards on helmets should be considered. Seven background checked volunteers should be registered on each team.

Equipment: Alan W. is available via e-mail for any equipment requests. Discussion about green boxes and where they are. Last year the locks were not replaced, it has only been a problem with a few boxes. We could change all the locks. Other baseball teams are using our gear too. The heavy use is shortening its life span. In February, Alan sends out a message asking people to return their gear or let him know if they are coaching again and will keep it.

Ideas: Maybe we can have more people checking the green boxes – a checklist of what should be in each green box. Kevin could go out and check then replenish. We could have a binder for each team with tabs so coaches would have an "idiot's guide" to their team. We could include concussion forms ready to distribute, a tab for parent contact information, etc. Kevin would like to see an instruction sheet that tells coaches what the rules are. The safety rules should be right in their face so everyone would follow them.

Last year Allegro gave us first aid kits. They might be in equipment bags. Ice packs are in the green boxes at Tyee. Michael will reach out to Allegro again and see if they want to continue to be our sponsor.

Evaluations: Will be held on January 27th. A message will come out with information. Kevin will volunteer at volunteer to sign people at evaluations. We need to be very clear about communicating our "play up" process.

To Do:

Lucy C. – find out about who to contact to generate the Challenger Team.

Lucy C. - E-mail Lu and find out if he submitted a request with the city AND school districts or who exactly he communicated with.

Kurt F. – Communicate with Mark Linden about the Feb. 19-27th clinic dates – reschedule to accommodate our winter break.

Elisabeth – make a list of players who communicated with us via Facebook re:wearing uniform to school promotion.

Elisabeth - work with these facebook post ideas: “Hey, did you know that you can be a corporate sponsor and the \$ can go to the league.” “Baseball and Softball do not end at age 12.”

Elisabeth – Send the minutes with new authorized signatures to Michael soon.

Everyone – look for the survey Lucy C. will create about volunteering at winter training. We are all needed to help.

Everyone – register online at the Thunderbird website. All board members are required to have volunteer clearance.

Erika - e-mail Lucy the number of flyers that each school took. Some schools took “a bunch.”

Michael – reach out to Allegro re: sponsorship and replenishment of first aid kits.

Michael – reach out to Tim Clarke to coordinate the time of the high school clinic/pancake breakfast with our safety meeting.

Fred – firm up winter training dates and communicate them to Elisabeth.

VPs of each division – draft an e-mail explaining what IS and ISN’T going well at your level in terms of monitoring safety. Send your summary to both Lucy C. and Ryan M.

Alan – Consider the need to rekey the green boxes.

2018-2019 Calendar

Board Meetings – first Thursday of each month (Room 1113, NHS, New: Meetings will start at 7 pm, except during baseball season when they will start at 8pm) Our next meeting will be Thursday January 3rd at 7 pm.