



Board Meeting

July 5, 2017

Board Members Present: Kevin Regan, Mike Garrett, Fred Clarke, Lu Zhang, Jack Chao Elisabeth Carroll, Cesar Garcia, Tim Chin

Start Time: 8:18 End Time: 9:28

Financial Report: was sent out.

- **Items to Address**

- **Sponsorships status:** Nothing to report.
- **All Stars:** We are almost all wrapped up. There has been a glitch in the tournament since Redmond North has been playing juniors who may not meet their minimum game requirements. They will withdraw from the tournament.

Major's team is 2 and 1 so far. Girls' softball is also still playing. The D-9 Washington little league website has pdfs with upcoming games.

Ideas for next year – maybe we can plan ahead so that we can schedule scrimmages/practices earlier. It would be helpful to choose the managers earlier. A few other wrinkles came up that would have been easier to resolve if there was more time. Maybe we have a mandatory meeting for all managers to discuss: budget (jerseys), field coordination, coach selections, etc. Time would make things easier for field scheduling. It would be helpful to get everyone on the same page with expectations. We only had one warm-up practice. There are rules about warm-ups that need to be followed. We could pick the managers sooner, but we can't announce until June 1. Discussion about nomination process, considerations, and commitment for managers. On leadership.org there are recommendations for selection that could help us create a protocol. We can start with what little league says to do and tailor it to what Thunderbird needs to do. Guidelines for next year should be written as soon as possible. Cesar is familiar with resources that are in place to help us and Jack is motivated to make this happen.

- Discussion about what we could do to be more competitive with Mercer Island during the city tournament. We will ask the Bellevue School District if we could rent the batting cages throughout the year. Winter training could be moved there (outside!) instead of Stods. We could have one or two practices each month throughout the year with four or five parents willing to throw with our kids.

One thing we noticed is that the strike zone was much tighter during the tournament compared to during the regular season. During the last few games (at least) we could tighten that up so players are familiar with tournament expectations.

- **Equipment:** Nothing to report.
- **Umpire Status:** We are umping little league all-stars for the first time. Cesar has umped 11 games so far. This is great! We will move to an all-volunteer umpire model next year. Concern about parent umpire volunteers need protection/cup. Is it safer behind the catcher or pitcher? Discussion about pros/cons of each. Parents could choose. We provide all protective gear except umpire shoes and cups.
- **Coach Training:** We will have two or three coach trainings next year. Rules will be established and consequences will be clear. Coaches will be required to sign acknowledgement/agreement to ensure that everyone is on the same page. An ongoing concern is that coaches need to be sure they are not warming up pitchers. The rules may seem silly, but they are there for our insurance.
- **Evaluations:** nothing to report
- **New Board Members:** As kids get older, we need to add members. Eventually we may be missing Jay Terry, Michael Edwards, Dave Lilley, and Larry Holden. We especially need to add members on the softball side. Jack would like to change his role and would consider taking on equipment or uniforms.
- **Other Business**
 - Next year there will be an abundance of players at the 12 year old level who were grandfathered in prior to the age change requirements.
 - T-ball families would like to have a single A experience with similar level players. A solution could be to recruit more players so we don't have to consolidate into one team. Maybe we can brainstorm recruiting ideas. We could play t-ball on turf fields. Revisiting kickball idea...
 - Jack is looking into looking at the laser-grading concept to create a one degree slope on targeted fields for drainage. The cost could potentially

be \$2500 and would be advantageous to us and the city to avoid rainouts. They could increase revenue by having fields that are available more often and we wouldn't have to cancel games due to rain-outs.

- We need to move away from the Bonzi platform. Dick's is willing to host us if we accept their advertising. Cesar is willing to look for a solution. We need to import old information. Our registration process is also linked to Bonzi. This is a big, complicated job. We need the right guy to be in charge of it and it is Cesar.

- **2017 Calendar**

- Board Meetings – first Wednesday each month (Room 1112, NHS, 8pm). Next meeting will be in September.