



## Board Meeting

June 6, 2018

Meeting Start Time: 8:09 Meeting End Time: 9:18

Board Members Present: Fred Clarke, Rob Freytag, Lucy Campbell, Corinne Crowley, Larry Holden, Soren Llanes, Chris Freer, Mike Garrett, Lu Zhang, Elisabeth Carroll

- **Board of Directors**

- Discussion about possible 2018-2019 needs. It would be great if board members who do not coach could take responsibility for league events. Specific openings may include:
- VP Majors: This position is easy since coaches at this level know what they are doing. The person will primarily collect pitch counts and then nominate an All-Star coach.
- VP Coast –This person will make sure all coaching positions are staffed and encourage those new to coaching.
- VP AAA –This person will coordinate a meeting with all AAA coaches and facilitate training since kids will be pitching for the first time. The coaches need mentoring on “Being the coach of a REAL baseball team.” Kurt can help set up the trainings with Mark Linden. **Corinne volunteered and was approved by the board.**
- Finance: This person should be familiar with balance sheets and money coming in. There isn’t a need to write a lot of checks. **Soren volunteered and was approved by the board.**
- Marketing: Fred is interested in this, but could use additional support.
- Winter Training: We need someone to run the five or six sessions. **Fingers crossed that Kurt will accept this role.**
- Softball VP: This person will attend several meetings at D9 and respond to quite a bit of parent communication.
- President: Fred was president for three years and is ready to move on. The person willing to take this on will have a lot of support.
- Upper Divisions VP: This person will attend meetings at the district level and coordinate schedules with other neighboring leagues.
- Field Scheduling: This job is most time intensive during the first three weeks with city and Bellevue School District communication. Field time should be requested and secured, then games/practices will be blocked out and assigned to teams. Rainouts will need to be rescheduled (usually on Fridays) during the season. This person needs to be willing to ask the same question more than once, put structure into place, enjoy spreadsheets, be firm, friendly and persistent.
- Sponsorships: Chris will most likely be able to support Lucy next year.

**2018 Items to Address**

- Umpires update: We were able to have volunteer umpires for almost all of our championship games. Cesar has done OUTSTANDING work on this. We have been pleasantly surprised and thrilled by the professionalism of the volunteers and cost savings. Cesar did a GREAT job. 😊
- Current All Stars
  - Teams: Are all set, however Ron Hay is unable to be the manager. Steve Baum has been nominated.
  - Affidavits: These have to be done before anyone can play. No exceptions can be made, this is extremely strict. Photocopies are not allowed.
  - Fields: We are square on fields for all-star practices and we will get cage time at Newport High School for baseball and softball.
  - We will put more structure into rules about all-star team assignments and player positions and consider whether or not friend requests/strict age brackets will be honored.
  - We are not able to put together a juniors team for the first time ever. If we would like to have a team next year, we need to be mindful of requirements at the beginning of the season. Players must attend the correct number of games, they need to be tracked, and it needs to be marketed. A paper book needs to be kept to prove eligibility. Bellevue East isn't partnering with us.
  - We will have an intermediates team. They will wear Thunderbird vests and wear individual hats to show what team they are from.
  - Next year we will communicate about our All-Star teams earlier in the season. We could have fliers at Opening Day? We want to let families know about our commitment to their kids, what they can expect from us, what is involved in the all-star program.
- Sponsorships: Michael and Chris both have information.
- Recruiting: We need to work with elementary schools and partner with the PTSAs. Maybe we could create incentives for new player referrals? We want to increase registration for t-ball, machine pitch, and AAA. We could also advertise at daycare centers, preschools, and private schools. Lucy R. is willing to reach out to t-ball families to let them know when the program starts and be a liaison.
- Other business: We can open the Thunderbird amazon store again so teams can buy gear before the all-star tournaments. Fred has the designs and will upload them.
- Brainstorming: What if we cut back the number of games at the A/AA/AAA levels to give players more practice time instead of games? There needs to be more instruction going on so kids understand the game and are more proficient. Parents have requested this and we see the need. Little League Charter Green Book rules require at least 12 games. Maybe when games are rained out, we can replace them with practices? We have been scheduling more games than we need to have, instead we could schedule practices for fly balls, grounders, etc. Pitching and catching are hard to learn and need more time than a few minutes prior to the start of a game. We should communicate this to the person scheduling fields.

- We need to look at a different registration system for next year. We could use team snap or Dick's. Bonzi has turned over twice and there hasn't been any support. Their e-mail template also tends to go directly into spam folders and they haven't been able to resolve it.
- Next month will probably be the last board meeting for the year. We can discuss new board members and all-star policies. We can add structure to the language for rotating players at majors and shore a couple of things up.
- We are supposed to have a rules committee every year that discusses our local rules. All VPs from various levels should be on it, and umpire in chief, and president.
- **2017-2018 Calendar**
  - Board Meetings – first Wednesday each month (Room 1113, NHS, 8pm)