



Board Meeting

March 7, 2018

Board Members Present: Rob Freytag, Eric Lee, Tim Chin, Kurt Fluegge, Fred Clarke, Lu Zhang, Kevin and Lucy Regan, Larry Holden, Michael Edwards, Elisabeth Carroll

Meeting Start Time: 8:02

Meeting End Time: 9:07

Financial Report : Adjustments to our budget will be made since we have a registration decrease, but fewer expenses as a result. Revenue looks to be down \$10,000. We will save money on ordering fewer uniforms and reserving field less often. Since we are interlocking with Bellevue East, we can share some field costs. Revenue from sponsorships is still unknown, but could be down.

2018 Items to Address

- **Registration:** We had 433 players signed up yesterday. (Last year it was 504ish at this time.) T-ball registrations are expected to continue to trickle in. After we announce the teams, friends of registered players may want to play. Our Coast and Majors numbers look solid, but AAA registration is really low. More active recruiting could have helped, this could be a focus for next year.

Somerset and Newport Heights used to be the feeder programs for Thunderbird with over a hundred kids each. This year we only have one Newport Heights player and a few from Somerset. Newcastle, Pueta, and Jing Mai schools are solid. We have 4 A teams and t-ball numbers are coming up. If the trend continues, we will have a low group next year at Majors.

- **Board of Directors:** Motion made and approved to welcome Rob Freytag to join the board in our A/AA VP position. Rob has two children, ages nine and eleven. Dave has an idea about someone fill the uniform vacancy. We still have board vacancies for sponsorships and a majors VP. (The ideal VP candidate would NOT have a player at that level.)
- **Marketing:** We have been posting and boosting ads on Facebook. People can pick up and display Thunderbird yard signs still.
- **Sponsorships:** We want to have employees with Microsoft, T-Mobile, Alaska Airlines, Boeing, (any company that matches volunteer hours) make sure they submit them to benefit our league.

- **Additional coaches approved:**
A/AA: Tommy Bligh, Ken Hutton, Dan Frumin, Mark Rindy, Bran Chu, Chad Thomas, Jason Cruz, Michael Altfield, Rob Condiotty, Eric Aslakson, Zhifang Yang-Denor

Juniors Baseball: Dave Lilley, Steve Wilkos

Intermediates: Dave Moe, Steve Hoffman, Nick Kelleher

Various Levels: Tim Chin, Kenji Beppo, Rick Seigmeth, Kristie Auld, Stephan Gray, Steve Peterson, Jeff Unay, Mike Nolan, Mike Collier, Ashley Auld, Katie Lee, Bob Hladney

- **Uniforms:** We will be patient and understand that we CAN play games without uniforms. They should be in place by opening day. Uniforms will always be too big. Number one is for the smallest player and the largest will wear twelve.

It is much less expensive for girls to take on MLB names instead of custom names like the Purple Penguins and the Pink Puppies.

Note: When we assign team names, we consider colors and vendor availability. We want to avoid having several teams look the same and not all team names are available for purchase.

- **Opening Day:** Chris is doing a great job managing all the details...

Chris will work with Peter Koo on getting the Scouts for the National Anthem.

Numbers and game schedules are needed so he can schedule team pictures and arrange for packet distribution. We want to include raffle tickets in packets so they can be distribute at the same time. Hopefully we can do this earlier than last year. Michael can send Chris numbers and changes made. AAA and above can be sent tonight or tomorrow. A and AA will be finalized and sent next week.

Chris needs raffle items like baseball caps, restaurant cards, etc. He will get an x-box. Fred will get in touch with Stods. Larry confirmed that the high school teams will be there. Elisabeth will create a Facebook event and Michael will boost it. Jimmy Johns will give out samples and donate proceeds from a specific day to our league. Lu will schedule games starting at noon that day and Chris will figure out the picture schedule.

Chris needs suggestions for the player to throw out the first pitch of the season.

- **Safety meeting:** Ryan will present information about injury prevention with Dan from Peak Sports and Spine. He will be there at 1:30 to be ready for the 2:00 start time. They will go through the safety plan, and then go through required trainings. It has been a little tricky to coordinate volunteers with the right credentials, but it is on track. We need a representative from every team there, hopefully a coach/manager. A team parent could also attend.

Other business

- Fred will e-mail the league with conflict resolution expectations. Families must know that our policy is to communicate/collaborate with the team coach first, then loop in the board if a problem continues.
- Lucy set up three AA teams and four A teams. They have ten or eleven players each, but one team now has nine after a special request. More players are expected and if a team is small, each player will be able to bat more often. Great job responding to parent feedback about making this change. We are going to interlock AA and AAA, may not need to for A.
- There have been more complaints than usual about level assignments. Our policy is that if players want to play up, they must register their interest in doing so. Families should note that it can be beneficial for players to be top players on their team, even if it is at a lower level. Some players wanted to play down, but families should know that we had to make sure all majors teams have exactly twelve players. Given these constraints, we were unable to accommodate all player requests. Careful consideration was given to place each player in the best spot.
- Fred sent out information via e-mail about an upcoming pitching clinic. Coaches will receive info about the catcher's meeting. Only five kids/team may attend.
- Kurt reminded us there is an A/AA coach training on Monday March 12 6-8:30 at Sunset Elementary School MPR in Issaquah. Mark Linden puts on a summer camp, but would like us to provide a field (Robinswood or Lewis Creek). July 23rd-July 26th. He has insurance, instructors, and equipment. We have been partners on training, and fall ball.
- New marketing idea – Michael suggested we could create a Facebook event and send it out through Bonzi for Opening Day. We want to direct more traffic to our Facebook page and promote interaction there. Elisabeth will work on this. Larry has the template for Bonzi mail distribution. Chris wants to include details in the event description about Krispy Kreme Donuts and other vendors.
- Chris reached out to a bat vendor, who now sees an explosion in business since all players are required to have new bats. Michael is investigating bat requirements for t-ball. There is a vendor selling stickers that indicate bats with specific dimensions are approved for t-ball as long as they are paired with a safety ball. We were disappointed to hear that all t-ball bats are required to have the \$5 sticker.

Kevin found that Thunderbird is eligible for 25 free stickers and we could purchase additional stickers for \$2 each. Information is on the USAbaseball website. We need to look at the balls we have in storage. We could order some stickers to be in compliance.

2017-2018 Calendar

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