



Board Meeting

October 5, 2016

Board Members Present: Fred Clarke, Lucy Regan, Tim Chin, Larry Holden, Mike Garrett, Ryan Mullenix, Chris Freer, Dave Lilley, Cesar Garcia, Peter Koo, Alan Wittman, Jack Chao, Matt Skally, Elisabeth Carroll

2016 Financial Report

- We spent \$10,000 more than we wanted to. The fields were too expensive and the umpires increased their rates. We estimated we might be \$5,000-\$6,000 over budget, but it was even more than that. Michael will go over details next time.

Vote in Board of Directors

Proposed 2016-2017 Board

- President - Fred Clarke
- Registrar and VP, Big Diamond Baseball – Larry Holden
- Treasurer - Michael Edwards
- Secretary - Elisabeth Carroll
- Umpire in Chief - Cesar Garcia
- Jack Chao - Email Communications
- Safety Officer – Ryan Mullenix
- Field Scheduler - TBD
- VP, Majors – Mike Garrett
- VP, Coast - Paul Santulli
- VP, AAA – Matt Skally
- VP, A & AA – Steve Wilkos
- VP, Tee Ball - Tim Chin
- VP, Softball Upper Divisions - TBD
- VP, Softball Lower Divisions - Ali Edgar
- Player Agent, Baseball Upper Divisions - Peter Koo
- Player Agent, Baseball Lower Divisions – Lucy Regan
- Player Agent, Softball - Scott Collins
- Training – Jay Terry
- Events Coordinator and Fundraising - Chris Freer
- Player & Coach Development, Softball - Scott Collins
- Uniforms - Dave Lilley

- Equipment – Alan Wittman

We have 2 board vacancies that we need to fill. Mark Riley has been field scheduling for 4-5 years and is considering moving on. He is willing to help someone get started if they are willing to take on the field scheduling responsibility. We are also seeking a VP for upper level softball. Jay Terry will be on the board again, but is interested in training someone to takeover evaluations and winter training. Someone who is a parent to a younger player could be an ideal candidate. Mark Gardner will help out on the board. Larry is interested in passing off the big diamond baseball position if there are lots of people who want to help us. Someone who is knowledgeable about advertising would be an asset to add to the board. Motion to approve the board, approved.

2016 Items to Address

- Changes to Little League – Big League
 - There is an international movement to limit little league to kids who are 16 and under.
 - Opening registration – Suggestion to begin the process in the middle of November, maybe the weekend before Thanksgiving. People will have time to read their e-mail and sign up over the weekend.
 - Winter training – We will look into discussing this more at our next board meeting to continue the same opportunities in past years. It is \$100 per hour, 4 hours per Sunday, \$3200 projected cost. Motion to approve, approved.
 - Evaluations – Saturday, January 28, 2017 from 8:00 am to noon.
 - Email – The incoming e-mails are too much for one person to answer so they will be divvied up. Messages that come in will be delivered to Jack. Jack will direct the “traffic” to the VP of the respective group via Bonzi. This will be a lot of e-mail heading to Jack -request to have a separate account set up? Maybe not, he needs to create a filter to divert the messages to his new account. This is a little complicated and will be worked on this week.
 - Fee changes - Since our expenses (field and umpire) have gone up and we are not keeping pace, there is a suggestion that we increase fees (T-ball and above) by \$25. Our registration fees are in the bottom third compared to comparable leagues. We will still give full or partial scholarships in alignment with families eligible for the free and reduced lunch programs at public schools. We will firm this up next month when Michael is here and vote.

- The number of participants doubled last year, awesome! Suggestion - Girls t-ball registration could be \$20 to encourage more participants. Boy's t-ball is currently \$100 and Michael recommends we keep it there. Idea– if you refer a friend, you can get \$25 off. Tim will check out how this financial incentive could work and whether or not Bonzi would support it. Discussion about what is best policy while giving all genders equal access...
- Parent umpire volunteers
 - We don't really have any umpire representation and parents aren't really trained. This impacts our games. All the other leagues contribute umpires in tournaments and are frustrated by us. We need to turn this around by training adults. Idea – If you volunteer to ump games, you could have money from your registration be refunded. Parents are reluctant to volunteer to ump games and a financial incentive could be motivating. Maybe we could refund them \$40 per game. Otherwise we would spend \$80 on hiring someone? This wouldn't impact the funds available for the scholarship fund. We will vote on this at the next meeting – creating an incentive for parents to ump. Some people like doing it and are good at it.
 - We need to coordinate something for high school kids who volunteer – a certificate/scholarship/pay/volunteer hours so they would be recognized. Last year some kids weren't compensated. We want the process to be transparent.
 - Season schedules- playoffs and city tournaments...We would like to have the city tournament/playoffs scheduled ahead of time. No need to rush around at the end of the season trying to figure it out. Knowing ahead of time would help everyone (parents, VPs, coaches, etc.) relax a little.

2016-2017 Calendar

- Board Meetings – first Wednesday each month (Room 1113, NHS, 8 pm)
- Bellevue and Issaquah School Districts have the same spring break this year. That will simplify scheduling. Conversation about when to have opening day... We had moved the date to coincide with the opening date of t-ball and better weather years ago. This was a popular decision. Maybe we could invite the Mariner Moose. April 22nd 2017 will be opening day.

Agenda Additions

- Equipment – We will get better pricing if we order now. The supplier we have used in the past gives us good prices and we have been happy. Last year we talked about getting all new locks for the boxes, but still need to do this. They are rusty. Our boxes have also been open at the field when Thunderbird events aren't in progress. We

purchased ten sets of catcher's gear last year. We still have to get pre-evaluations – feedback from last year's coaches about their team. We do this for A, AA, and Coast and it has been extremely helpful. Fred can estimate the number of teams we can expect based on last year. Hopefully this year will be bigger.

- Advertising
 - Start thinking about this so we can make a decision at the next board meeting. Do we want signs again? Do we want Mark Gardner's banner over Coal Creek Parkway again? Signs on the cheap.com is a great shopping place. We budget \$1600 for advertising each year. Last year we didn't buy any signs and are getting low on the sandwich board signs. They can disappear quickly but are widely used by groups trying to get their message out, including politicians. Ours have been stolen, misused, and are mostly missing. Conversation about different advertising avenues.
 - The Issaquah School District allows flyers to be sent home with kids advertising programs and parents receive info from all sorts of sports programs. Thunderbird hasn't taken advantage of this opportunity in the past because there is a process to go through, but it is doable. The Bellevue school district does NOT allow flyers to be sent home. If we want to reach eligible families in both districts, we may need to consider advertising through the PTSA in Bellevue and sending papers home in Issaquah. Ideas about advertising on the Nextdoor neighborhood message board and Facebook were also mentioned. Cost is an important consideration, but we really need more information to make decisions. We want the advertisements to coincide with registration openings. It would be great to include a new board member that knows about advertising.
 - Suggestion to not lose focus on marketing baseball, in addition to softball. Last year Newcastle became our biggest school; previously it had been Newport Heights. We especially want to target t-ball, A, and AA.
- Softball Practice: We found a professional softball coach that teaches pitching. Nov 2-end of December at Stods. It is scheduled on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm. We have 3-4 spots open right now. If there is lots of interest we could open up another day. It would be nice to have enough softball team members to support an entire team without having to merge the girls with other leagues.
- Fred can be reached at 323.420.7606 and is open to talk with anyone, answer questions, be friendly and helpful. None of us should feel like we are responsible for more than we can handle.
- Additional Note from Jay (absent tonight) noted that he is willing to plan winter training in conjunction with someone looking toward transitioning responsibility for the administrative side of it. He will also run baseball evaluations, but would like a partner. As part of training, he would like to help with the AAA level early in the

season by attending the first or second practice for each team (possibly scheduling 2 teams together to help “run” a practice with the assigned coaches. He may team with Mark Gardner on this since Mark has written practice plans.

- See Balance Sheet details below:

7:18 AM
09/28/16
Cash Basis

Bellevue Thunderbird Little League
Balance Sheet
As of September 28, 2016

	Sep 28, 16
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1005 - Checking -Sea-first	11,865.87
1030 - Interest Maximizer	75,867.71
Total Checking/Savings	87,733.58
Total Current Assets	87,733.58
TOTAL ASSETS	87,733.58
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
1110 - Fund Balance	104,037.90
Net Income	-16,304.32
Total Equity	87,733.58
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	87,733.58