



## **Board Meeting**

**October 4, 2017**

Board Members Present: Fred Clarke, Paul Santulli, Steve Wilkos, Larry Holden, Lu Zhang, Chris Freer, Lucy Regan, Elisabeth Carroll

Start Time: 8:03      End Time: 9:10

**Financial Report:** Last year's numbers were reviewed, but field costs from the school district are still outstanding. We are still waiting on invoices from the Bellevue School District from last season. Our projections are approximately \$5000 in the red. Originally, we had thought that we would be down \$10,000, but we spent less on training and equipment than expected. Looking ahead, field fees will most likely go up again. Fields have been improved - Somerset now has turf, Puesta will get turf after this season. Note: Somerset has backstops, but our requests for holes to secure bases were not honored.

### **Items to Address**

- **Board of Directors – open positions**
  - Sponsorships: An ideal candidate would have marketing experience, perhaps PTSA experience.
  - VP AAA: An ideal candidate would have a player at a level OTHER than AAA. Our policy: VP positions should be held by board members with a player outside their level of representation (for example, a Majors VP shouldn't have a player in Majors, but a player at AA would be okay)
  - VP Majors
  - We need to start looking for a new president for next year, in addition to new board members with kids age 10 or younger.
  
- **Responsibilities**
  - Uniforms: Jack has accepted this role.
  - Responding to info@thunderbird e-mails: Elisabeth has accepted responsibility for this. Incoming league messages should be directed to her address: [elisabethcarroll@hotmail.com](mailto:elisabethcarroll@hotmail.com). She will forward messages to the correct board member so they can respond. She will also increase Thunderbird Facebook presence

with positive messaging and explore communicating with Somerset parents via Facebook messaging group.

- Evaluations: Paul can help with this February 3 from 10-12 from 8am to noon. A request was made to eliminate the station that measures pitch speed. We could change it to measure accuracy? We should consider that pitching is the station that typically takes the longest to evaluate and players wait in a long line. How reliable are the results?
- **Bonzi:** We are in the process of making a decision about our options. Dicks bought a company called Blue Sombrero that now offers scheduling similar to Bonzi, but it is free (except credit card fees). Switching could potentially save the league \$1600/year. However, this option doesn't include umpires in scheduling and probably wouldn't populate our old contacts. We could lose our ability to easily reach all our members. Perhaps we could import e-mails, but would lose player registration info. If we switched to Dicks, we would also need to figure out background checks on our own. This would add costs. We would also have to accept Dick's marketing. Team Snap is another alternative. Any movement/website set-up would need to be done prior to the start of registration. Switching platforms would be a big job.
- **Opening registration:** We should be live the week prior to Thanksgiving.
- **Fee changes:** We will look at comparable registration fees in local leagues. Increasing our number of players at the elementary school remains a priority.
- **Parent umpire volunteers:** There is a change coming for All-Star games – we need to supply umpires. We can get word out to parents a month earlier than last year. During the regular season, Cesar proposes that we use all volunteer umpires until playoffs, an exception might be Big Diamond. This would save us \$10,000. There will be a need to provide more training for these volunteers. An idea to consider is that we will have 65-70 twelve year olds this year – this could be a great opportunity to train them as umpires?
- **Season schedules – Playoffs and City Tournaments:** We already have a schedule for All-Stars. It seems to be more spread out/scheduled later in the season than in the past. This allows for more time to practice. We can have teams share fields for practices early in the season. We will look to see if we can schedule the city tournament early too.
- **Opening Day:** It is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. The forecast is for warmth and sun. ☺
- **Registration:** It is unlikely that 11 year olds will be needed for majors teams this year because of the huge number of 12 year olds expected. We should advise parents that “playing up” may not be an option. Idea: Could some strong 12 year old players join slightly older kids at intermediate? Hmmm...

Last year we combined A and AA because of low numbers in both groups. This year we will try to separate it back out. We need more AA kids. We could interlock with neighboring leagues for games. This would be a better choice than combining ages again.

- **Winter training:** We will work with Stods to schedule dates on January 7, 14, 21, February 11, and 25<sup>th</sup>. Note: We will discuss skipping January 28 (Super Bowl) and February 4 (Evaluations weekend). It makes sense to negotiate our contract with advertising benefits.

## **2017 Calendar**

- Board Meetings – first Wednesday each month (Room 1112, NHS, 8pm). Next meeting will be in November. Next meeting we may talk about a capital campaign to construct permanent batting cages locally.