



## **Board Meeting**

**April 4, 2019**

**Meeting Start Time:** 8:00 pm

**Meeting End Time:** 9:24 pm

**Board Members Present:** Lucy Campbell, Rob Freytag, Michael Edwards, Kurt Fluegge, Jack Chao, Erika Satterlund, Kevin Regan, Tim Chin, Larry Holden, Cesar Garcia, Corinne Crowley, Lucy Regan, Chris Freer, Fred Clarke, Mike Garrett, Elisabeth Carroll

**Approve Coaches:** A Softball – Amberly Eadie (A Angels Softball)

**Umpires Update, Rules:** Cesar explained that we needed to correct a few local rules. He drafted corrections, then distributed them via e-mail. Our proposal was submitted and approved by Chris Martin. There are two issues:

1. In the past we have sometimes declared a tie at the end of a game. According to Little League rules, tied games are unacceptable. The official word is that any tied game must be rescheduled for a different date. This is a tricky idea because field scheduling is extremely difficult and it isn't safe to play baseball/softball in the dark. There isn't an easy solution to this issue. Games could potentially get very long, but we need to determine which team won. An umpire should call the game if it gets too dark.
2. In AA, there are hash marks between second and third, these need to be removed because it isn't easy for anyone to measure and be exact. We shouldn't be using hash marks on our fields.

Motion made to approve Cesar's changes, seconded, approved.

**Lower Divisions Baseball:** Rob has been making schedules. Some of the Bellevue East teams don't have names yet – they are just numbered BE 1, BE2, etc. The schedule can be sent out to people who need the info, even if the names are filled in later.

**Opening Day:** Chris has been working hard on all the details. Notes:

- There aren't as many players as before so there will be more pitcher slots.

- The photo schedule will be put on the website with a shareable link to purchase pictures. We can do an e-mail blast. VPs should blast coaches and coaches can contact families. Ordering pictures ahead of time makes things a lot easier.
- Chris has been putting things together and has the list of prepaid raffle tickets from Soren. He will coordinate the distribution of tickets early in the week prior to opening day. He'll let people know a couple of time options that people could come and pick the team packets up. It is important to let everyone know about their picture times.
- Michael is helping with the 100 dozen Krispy Kremes and coffee order – he needs the phone number of where to order it. Lucy C. will pick the coffee order up. Donuts can be picked up the night before.
- Chris is borrowing 6 tents and 10 tables from his church and this traditionally has been the perfect amount of equipment. Chris arrives at the field VERY early in the morning to set up. He needs help assembling the tents, tables, organizing the coffee and donuts. Signs will be made for the wall so that the teams know where to stand (in the correct order) to be ready for the parade.
- Mark Alcott is our MC (Voice of NHS teams, Husky). He will be there for the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> year. Last year there were some speakers set up so people could hear announcements in the vendor area also. After the parade of teams, Mark will announce everyone as they enter the field. We will need a few people on the field directing them where to sit.
- We have a few camps donated; the Somerset Rec Club donated a pool party. There is also an Xbox, Larry and Kurt are donating Mariner's tickets... We always have red vines licorice. New donations are welcome.
- We can't have any overflow parking into the neighborhood, but the churches are willing to allow us to park in their lots.
- Erika will coordinate with Republic for extra garbage and recycling to be delivered on Friday. In the past, the company could show off their trucks and host curious children. They will have a speaker at the ceremony who should arrive at 9:00 to be ready for the start of the 9:30 ceremony.
- We have some Thunderbird merchandise in unusual sizes to sell at Opening Day. It would be fun to encourage kids to wear their Thunderbird jerseys on their game days.
- Soren created a list of raffle tickets for t-ball. Since teams weren't finalized yet, Chris is still waiting to organize their materials. Registrations have continued to trickle in steadily. The 17<sup>th</sup> could be a good day to deliver picture packets and raffle tickets. Chris would like the spreadsheet in the next six or seven days.
- Chris will forward the photo schedule to Lucy C. He will cross-check it with game schedules and make changes if there are conflicts.
- Lucy mentioned that she thinks Ron is organizing the Cub Scout honor guard. She will check. Chris needs the names of the scouts by April 10<sup>th</sup>. Lucy will coordinate this. Note: Scouts do not need to be baseball players.

**Softball:** Lucy R. has been working hard on putting her teams together. There have been lots of details with special requests that have been honored.

**Sponsorship:** Erika reports that things are going well; most of the money has come in from teams. We are still waiting on three A teams, and an Intermediate team (Fred's team). All other teams have sent money in so over \$3000 has come in. Erika will send a list to Chris and Larry. Republic continues to be our biggest donor.

**Uniforms:** Jack reports that Smitty made our order easy. Jack picked everything up, delivered uniforms and had everything organized. This process will be repeated with the lower divisions. Since t-ball is getting set up later, Jack is going through Team Connect to match coach names to teams. We could set a date to get all t-ball families their uniforms. Jack requested that all uniforms be printed and ready to pick up on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Tim noted that teams would their uniforms BEFORE opening day so they can wear them. T-ball uniforms don't have names on them. If families want to have names put on their shirt, they could independently take them back to Smitty for printing.

**Other:**

- Kevin has noticed a scheduling issue at the Softball Coast level. Lots of girls play on select teams and the coaches seem to be trying to reschedule games instead of canceling them when there aren't enough players. There is a concern about playing the required number of games to be eligible for all-stars. Coaches prefer to have their whole team play together instead of filling in missing players with our pool. It would be helpful if communication were transparent. Lucy C. suggests that the player agent checks in with the families that might be struggling with the constant rescheduling (those aggravated because they aren't on a select team).
- Rob noted that the Tyee field monitor ended the April 3 game at 7pm while it was still in progress. There was also negative communication about no one being allowed on the field until 5 pm. There were only 2 hours of unlocked field time allowed that night for warm-ups and the game. This wasn't enough time. We will look at our contract because we would like more time. Fred has already contacted the school district to extend the end time.
- We have to move our green boxes. Kurt moved a green box today. If we are using Newport Heights or Eastgate fields, the green boxes are still there, but are empty. Cesar helped two Bellevue East teams at Tyee because they weren't able to access our green boxes. Ryan has been trying to hit all the green boxes to stock them with ice packs. It would be polite to put a key at the green box for other leagues to use for access. Newport Hills has an old key, we need a key box at Tyee, there used to be a key box at Lake Hills, maybe one at Robinswood too.
- Fred is setting up templates for field scheduling to make things easier for next year. If we can find someone who will agree to take this on, they will have some structure to work with. Next year we will start with a schedule and request fields based on the schedule - instead of

requesting fields and then making the schedule? BUT we have to request fields way ahead of time. This is way more complicated than it seems like it should be.

- Lucy C. notes that she gets a lot of messages about things that are broken/need attention. Maybe we could have a google doc where we could collect the information and try to keep track of when things are fixed. It could be a big job to keep track of all of the problems. Alan could potentially need an assistant. Uh oh - the tractor needs to be fixed at Puesta.
- The safety meeting was video-taped. Ryan is working on editing it with his kids to compress it and make it easier to send. Tim Clark did a booster club sponsored event with 35 kids. Lucy C. has been communicating with him about it. Our numbers were also lower? Larry notes that 35 is similar to what has happened in the past. On the softball side Kevin notes that there were 33 people. Maybe we could distribute more flyers in the future?
- Mike suggests that we need to finalize our All-Star policy in regard to strategy and player age. Fred notes that our rules should stand the test of time and not be tailored to a specific group of kids and the desire to win. This year there may be pressure to group kids in an unusual way.
- We will need a second board meeting in May to approve All-Star coaches.
- Cesar notes that we must have parents register as volunteers if they are going to be on the field/in the dugout. Michael notes that this requirement carries more weight when it comes from coaches. Kevin suggests that we have a tablet to pass around so parents can input their volunteer registration at the field. The league doesn't have a budget for technology though. A volunteer could do this with personal equipment if they are interested. There always needs to be an adult in the dugout. It is tricky to know when we are on the field who is registered and who isn't.

Next board meeting will be Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Newport High School, 8:00 pm.