

Tolland Little League
Board Meeting Minutes
Draft November 20, 2019

Attendees : Tim Griffin, Elaine Cofrancesco, Joseph Duberek, Gordon Johnson, Roger Neznayko, Jeremy Rainha, Nick Grassi, Keith Anderson, and Jay Lee

Non-Attendees: Victoria Scott, Michele Cady, Jayden Regisford, Robert Shelby, Brian Leibowitz, Bruce Blanchard, PJ Clark, Jenn Dimaso, and Dana Clark

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM
2. Meeting Minutes from October 2019 needed one revision to state Keith Anderson as the Majors Director and Gordon as Communications Director; Roger motioned once revision was made, minutes were to be approved; Jeremy seconded and were unanimously approved by the Board
3. Attendance by the public: There were three individuals who introduced themselves to the TLL Board; Todd Strother, Scott Biondi, Greg Carson and Craig Fair. All have expressed an interest in volunteering this season and shared their prior childrens' experiences within the Tolland Little League.
 - Open Board Positions (Tim): Stated the following positions are currently vacant: Secretary, Umpire-In-Chief, Softball Directors, Division A Director, Fundraising Director and All Star Director.
 - Secretary position will be currently handled by Joe Duberek until a replacement can be identified.
 - Umpire-In-Chief has Jayden transitioning out but is available to assist in this capacity if needed. Tim stated Joe Duberek has agreed to take this role for this season.
 - Softball Director, currently there is only Victoria Scott but she is working on finding additional help.
 - Fundraising Director is to be split away from the Sponsorship role and as of now is currently vacant. Jen DiMaso will take on the role of Sponsorship Relations. Elaine mentioned she was intending on working on a Sponsorship Package which would outline the specifics concerning what actually needed to be done to obtain sponsors. Tim mentioned a tiered sponsor dollar level with an update to the TLL Website be considered
 - Player and Coach Development Director is still vacant; This would include the clinics for coaches and players to be run at the THS
 - All Star Director role is not intended to be assumed by Jeremy Rainha for this season and a replacement is being sought out
 - Jeremy Rainha mentioned for those vacant positions, descriptions for the inherent duties to be performed should be added as well; Sources for this information would come from the TLL Constitution as well as Little League International and all will be posted on the website.
5. Board and/or officer positions elections
 - Tim presented the following names as Umpire-In-Chief Joe Duberek, Communications Director Gordon, and Facilities and Fields Director Eric Burney.
 - Tim asked for a motion to accept all of the names; Roger motioned and Jeremy seconded it; was passed unanimously by the Board

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6. Treasurer's Report (Elaine):

- Presented the financial status report for 2019 and projections for the 2020 season
- Emphasis was stated on fundraising activities and was soliciting ideas/feedback from the Board
- Mention was made of the umpire and equipment categories, which have leveled off from previous years
- Tim stated there is a placeholder for \$13k to cover for \$3k THS Clinics and \$10k for a scoreboard installation at Cross Farms B Field
- Lastly, the development of financial policy and procedures for reimbursement requests is being planned

7. Charter with Little League International:

- Tim stated there was an annual cost of \$3,274 for this and was submitted to LLI and approved
- The effective issuance date is January 1, 2020

8. Softball Fall Clinic (Victoria absent): Tim mentioned the clinic event went very well

9. Fall baseball

- Keith stated there was a total of five teams which participated; 50/70 went very well
- Todd Strother mentioned there should be more emphasis on pitching control and velocity
- Nick Grassi commented the weekends went very well with practices versus went transpired during the weekdays with late games
- Greg Carson made a recommendation to meet with the soccer director to better organize player participation to increase the participation numbers; Jay Lee commented there was soccer schedule clashes and having constructive dialog might help to alleviate this constraint; Jeremy agreed and asked for consideration be given to having the needed discussion with the soccer program director at the appropriate time, but clearly well ahead of the proposed fall calendars

10. Divisions and division descriptions for registration

- Tim provided an overview of a document which has detailed explanations of each division level of play in order to have it approved for an earlier registration timeline; The new document will be uploaded to the website in the future
- Gordon and Jeremy discussed enhancing the registration to include a checkbox for parents to choose Intermediate 50/70; Roger stated Monday nights would be best to have 50/70 play due to availability of softball field at Crandall Park; Jeremy stated it would be prudent to dig deep into the rules if effort was to move forward with the 50/70 concept; Tim agreed and recommended if the demand was there, to dedicate a separate meeting for this sole purpose

11. Registration Timing and Blue Sombrero

- Tim commented we need to monitor to see if there will be any processing fees associated with the new software

12. Fall Equipment – Item skipped due to PJ Clark's absence

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13. Fall Clean up debrief and securing sponsor signs

- Tim commented on how everything went well for the take down of the batting cages and thanked all of the volunteers who made this happen
- Sponsor signs- there is an agreement there needs to be a better means to secure existing sponsor signage

14. Utility baseball and softball field Lower Crandall

- Tim commented how the lower field at Crandall could be converted to a viable 50/70 field provided there was additional skimming of the existing turf area to create a bigger playing field which could be accommodated by the Town; this accommodation would help create a playing area for not only 50/70, but also for all levels of softball and lower level division baseball play; Tim also commented there would be a definite need to install a netting system and mentioned this would be further discussed with Eric Burney so it can be presented to the TLL Board
- The concept of converting the existing men's softball field was presented to the Recreation Council and to the Town Public Works but would not be planned until the Summer of 2021;
- Gordon brought up the drainage concerns with Lions Field, specifically the area in back of first base

15. Planning items:

- The registration banner and sandwich boards were proposed to be set up in mid -January ; Roger commented it might be advantageous to set the banner up earlier before Christmas in order to encourage earlier registration as Xmas presents
- Open hitting at THS back gym is being proposed to commence in early January; Use of social media will communicate this out to residents; Contact to be made to further determine viable dates and times
- Background checks subject was tabled due to Michele Cady absent but there was mention of starting this earlier by using JDP

16. Roger made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jeremy seconded and unanimously voted on at 8:34 PM

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Duberek, Acting Secretary