

Mountain Valley Little League Board Minutes

Date: October 19, 2025

Location: Grant Avery Park pavilion

Start time: 4:05pm

Attendance: Adam O'Neal, Keith Hernandez, Brookelynn Starnes Statland, Marty Lynch, Kara Suddock. Aaron Bennett, Lisa Warren, Jake Millman, Kristen Lobb, Elise Collins, Ben Umanov, Lisa Treasure

Vote to approve minutes for September 15 meeting. Ben motions. Kristen seconds. All in favor.

Board business:

Everyone introduces themselves. Aaron gives intro of the purpose of this meeting – to elect new board members and positions for the coming year – and he also explains the urgency of needing parent volunteers to step up to keep the league going at this particular moment in time (likening the decline in parent involvement recently to a similar period in the early 2010s when he first became involved with MVLL). Jake describes the various board positions and their duties, including the five mandatory positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Safety Officer. New faces in attendance (Kara, Brookelynn, Adam and Keith) ask various questions related to the duties of board members and particular positions.

All interested in being a board member are asked to raise hands. All in attendance raise hands except Aaron. Everyone except for Aaron is now a board member.

Kara steps up to be Tee-Ball Coordinator and Secretary. Kristen nominates Kara, Elise seconds. All in favor.

Marty expresses interest in being Player Agent for both softball and baseball. Keith expresses interest as well. Ben nominates Marty for Player Agent. Kristen seconds. All in favor. Elise nominates Keith for player agent. Ben seconds. All in favor. Ben says that Tom Sharon, who is not present, may also be interested in resuming his prior role as player agent; will discuss at next meeting.

Brookelynn express interest in potential marketing / PR role. TBD.

Discussion of potential field coordinator role. Howie Statland, not present, expressed interest at previous meeting. TBD.

Jake expresses interest in reprising his role as Safety Officer. Ben nominates Jake for Safety Office, Adam seconds. All in favor.

Elise expresses willingness to resume role as treasurer. Ben nominates, Kristen seconds. All in favor.

Marty expresses willingness to help with coach training prior to the season in the spring. Perhaps running a clinic. TBD.

Amanda sent an email prior to the meeting expressing a willingness to return as Umpiring Coordinator but to step down as Concessions Coordinator. Ben will reach out to Erica Mahlkuch, mother of player Rowan, and owner of Yum Yum Noodle Bar, about possibly taking on the role of Concessions Coordinator.

Ben expresses willingness to take on President role as long as he has support from other board members particularly in the area of district-related issues and meetings. Jake explains from his prior experience as President that deputizing those tasks would be fine as long as it is communicated to the district, and offers to help himself. Decision on the position of President is tabled until the next meeting.

Keith expresses future interest in Umpiring Coordinator. Jake suggests shadowing Amanda in 2026 in preparation for 2027. Keith is also interested in umpiring or helping train young umpires. Discussion of potential umpire clinic in the spring.

Lisa expresses interest in reprising her role as Sponsorship Coordinator. Elise nominates Lisa, Kristen seconds. All in favor.

Kristen expressed interest in reprising her role as Softball Coordinator. Ben nominates Kristen, Lisa seconds. All in favor.

Positions still needed: President, Vice President, Concessions Coordinator, Coaching Coordinator, Baseball coordinator, and potentially another Player Agent. To be discussed at next meeting.

Ben will circulate descriptions of various board descriptions to group, particularly for the new board members.

Field conditions / fall cleanup:

Rick Volz cleanup. Ben will contact town of Woodstock about field cleanup. Ben will do batting cage cleanup. Aaron informs that MVLL owns the Rick Volz batting cage. Lisa brings up Lowe's grant for potential repair to batting cage. Vince Christophora of Woodstock Hardware reached out about providing a new scoreboard. Aaron suggests Varsity Scoreboards as a vendor.

Grant Avery. Dylan Callahan comments on MVLL social post that he can help spread the new mound of dirt around the baseball infield with his skid steer (he just did the same at Glenbrook). Ben will ask Kayla to reach out to Dylan, who will need as many hands as possible to spread and rake the dirt once it has been moved. Aaron says there may not be enough dirt for the whole field.

Glenbrook dirt is down as per above. Looks good. Is currently soft and needs to settle over the winter.

Amanda emailed that within the next 1-2 weeks she will remove any remaining food and drink from all three snack shacks and make sure they are clean and ready to be put away for the winter.

Need to order hooks and carabiners for winter storage and hanging of banners as discussed at previous meeting. Elise will touch base with Amanda about ordering them. Ben will look at past minutes for more info.

Kristen and Jake each still have two bags of gear from the spring. Ben has one bag for fall. Chloe Leader (baseball coach pitch) has a bag for fall. These will be dropped off at Glenbrook once the fall ball season concludes right after Halloween.

Ben will sort and inventory all gear at Glenbrook once remaining gear bags are returned. Adam offers to help. Will get together on the side to figure out a date. Second week of November potentially. TBD.

Winter clinics:

Ben reports that Tom has booked two dates for Saturday winter evaluation clinics: on February 21 we have one gym at the Onteora HS/MS (unclear which) and on March 7 we have both gyms. Both sessions will be from 8am-1pm to allow extra time for setup and teardown, and baseball and softball.

Tom is also working on booking gym time for weekly clinic dates for the older kids to stay engaged through the cold months. Ben says the program was a big success last year. Kristen needs help if there are going to be softball clinics again — Keith volunteered. Bennett or Woodstock. Jake says maybe Woodstock cafeteria -- let Tom know. Jake and Kristen say it won't be worth doing if there are only 2-3 kids present every week.

Winter clinics free with spring registration like we did last year? Too early to talk about registration. Table discussion until next meeting.

Financial:

Elise presents a preliminary budget for 2026 modeled largely after the 2025 budget. Finances are in good shape. 2024 ending bank balance was \$10k, 2025 ending balance is \$16k, and that's after several years in a row of end-of-season balance declines. She managed conservatively. She did note that will # of registrations was up from 2024 to 2025, income from registration was down. Sibling discount may have been too steep but she needs time to look at the numbers. There may be funds available for extra expenditures next year. Ben motions to approve draft budget. Keith seconds. All in favor.

Folks will come into next meeting with budget questions. Elise will come to next meeting with more info about registration fees and where we could look to improve. Aaron notes that it is a good idea to pay attention to what other leagues are doing, not only as far as registration fees but just generally to stay in the loop on league happenings.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, November 19, 6pm at Boiceville Inn.

Ben motions to adjourn at 5:55pm. Elise seconds. All in favor.