

MVLL Board Meeting
Minutes for Wednesday, March 9th 2022

Board Present Attendance:

Jake Millman

Michelle Millman

Jeremy Donelson

Walter Brown

Aaron Bennett

Derek Spada

Karen Thomas-Malloy

Lisa Treasure

Paul Vernet

Marty Lynch

Tom Sharon

Guests:

LJ Warren

- Discuss and approve previous board meeting minutes
 - Unable to discuss and approve the December (not compiled yet) and February (received yesterday) board minutes

- League Secretary vacancy
 - There is still an open vacancy for this position. Board members will contact the community to see if there is any interest.

- This position is a required position to fulfill Little League standards. Jake Millman volunteered to take notes for this meeting.
- Umpire Coordinator vacancy
 - Dan Phillips has stepped down from the board. If we cannot obtain an umpire coordinator, it was recommended that coaches obtain the umpires, however this is a lot of work.
 - LJ Warren said that the league will have more umpires available. They will be new to the league and to expect mistakes.
 - Derek expressed concern about the effectiveness of the umpires last year.
- Financial Review & Registration Data
 - Balance in bank: \$22,718.00
 - The increase in balance is due to registrations.
 - Jake asked if/when taxes were filed and Jeremy indicated that it is usually in February.
 - Registration data:
 - Baseball: 15 majors, 23 minors, 43 T-ball
 - Softball: 3 majors, 9 minors
 - In order to meet the league expectations of the number of teams per division, the board should look at the current roster data and move players between divisions to support stable teams. For example: There are a small number of T-Ball players from last year's season that could be transferred to coach-pitch minors.
 - The majority of registered T-Ball players are new.

- A hypothetical situation was proposed to remove all coach pitch and have just kid pitch minors baseball. However, there are players that need coach-pitch to develop their skills.
 - The board was informed by LJ Warren that Little League age 12 have to be placed in majors.
 - Marty asked if flyers were distributed to the elementary schools. Jake indicated they were and that we can do another distribution to remind families to register.
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- Concessions / Fundraising / Sponsorships
 - Lisa requested that we make a decision on what fields we are using this season so she can send out the renewals for banners.
 - Marty was curious if the Parent-Teacher Association could help the league with different ways to fundraise as he had seen it be very successful for other causes.
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- Social Media / Website
 - Social media platforms Facebook, Instagram and Twitter were created
 - The website was updated with upcoming clinic information.
 - Marty suggested a 3rd party to update the website. Jeremy stated that our website design is based on themes, there is no html coding. Jeremy would look into new themes. Aaron indicated that the database and infrastructure behind the site is incredibly important (email, participant reports, interfacing with LL International, etc.) that saves us a lot of work.

- One member felt the current website is not mobile friendly.
- LJ Warren mentioned that there is a new updated interface from Little League and he would send the information to Jeremy.
- District 16 Little League news
 - Field inspection
 - LJ stated that our fields are in good condition. When LJ (District 16 VP) and John (District 16 president) do their inspections, they understand that the fields might not be ready yet. They're checking for safety concerns. In the past, leagues would try to remove played games based on field conditions and league standards.
 - Interleague meeting Thursday, March 23rd
 - Aaron mentioned that we are planning to interleague at the majors level with Catskill Mountain LL (in District 8).
 - 50/50 District raffle
 - Knot hole league in Kingston - spare equipment needed
 - MVLL donated our old league equipment to the Town of Roxbury (who do a summer recreation league with the Town of Shandaken). Roxbury was thankful for the donation.
 - Completed safety plan
 - The safety plan was originally rejected for missing one component. It was fixed and the plan was approved. The safety plan will be emailed and hardcopies will be distributed to the fields with updated emergency and board contacts.

- The required League Safety meeting is TBD.
 - Little League Rulebook app \$1.99
 - League dues are \$25.00 / team for minors/majors
 - New patch for uniforms for All Stars only
 - Kid Pitch leagues will follow full baseball rules
- Clinic @ Onteora HS gym
 - March 12th - Baseball Minors 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
 - April 2nd for Baseball Minors 10:00 am - 11:30 am and Baseball Majors 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
 - Aaron created a plan for the clinic with 4 stations and coach responsibilities for each station. He discussed the amount of groups, equipment needed, and time frame for each station. (See attached clinic plan)
 - Jake asked which board members could attend, and the majority of the board indicated they could. .
 - Q&A for families
 - We would have Q&A for families at the beginning of the clinic while kids are doing warm-ups. Once the clinic begins, Jake could take further questions from families.
 - Registration
 - Jake will bring his laptop for on the spot registrations if needed, as players must be registered to participate.
 - Evaluate players
 - Marty asked if we need to evaluate each player with a numerical criteria/ranking. Aaron indicated that while we have done this occasionally in the past, for this

clinic coaches and board members know the majority of the players and their skill-set.

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- Aaron will be there at 9:00 am to set up so long as the gym will be open that early. Jake will inquire with the school.

- Spring 2022 Season:

- Fields discussion

- The board had a long discussion on the pro's and con's of not using Grant Avery Field as we had previously talked about, but had not made a decision about.

If we choose not to use this field, this could impact the amount of inter-league games within District 16, as we are asking families to travel longer distances and with the gas prices, we may lose players.

- It is not cost effective to maintain the field, and it is also difficult to run a third snack shack (which is the hardest to operate compared to the others) due to the number of players registered and limit league/parent volunteers.
- Derek stated that the field conditions at Grant Avery seem to affect the game consistently over the years (bad hops, etc.) and how the sun sets (directly in the batters' eyes) impacts the game.
- The Town of Olive is requesting a schedule to see if there are rentals conflicting with games. The Town of Olive's current rental application does state that Little League has priority over rentals. However, the Town

of Olive would like to see a schedule and determine a case-by-case scenario of game/rental conflicts.

- We have been approved for Softball at Phoenicia Elementary School.
 - We would still like to be able to use Grant Avery for practices (if needed)
- Jake made the following motion about fields:
 - Mountain Valley Little League for the 2022 season will use Glenbrook Field and Rick Volz Field for games and practices. Grant Avery can be used just for practices (if needed). Phoenicia Elementary School will be utilized for Softball.
 - 1st motion - Derek
 - 2nd motion - Jeremy
 - The vote was unanimous (Yes)
 - Dirt Discussion
 - Walter shared the quote from Partac Peat Corporation (in NJ) for two, 20-yard loads of dirt to Glen brook and Rick Volz.
 - The quote was: \$4,389.00
 - Walter called 2 different companies.
 - Jake asked what type of vehicle would transport the dirt, as we need to determine access for the vehicle. It was recommended that we dump the dirt at Rick Volz behind the left-center field fence where it had been done previously.
 - Jake will reach out to Vince Christofora from the Friends of Rick Volz to coordinate.

- Marty asked if we could obtain equipment to move the dirt to the Friends of RV's shed. Walter said he would be able to obtain the equipment.
- Walter is waiting for a phone call from Partac Peat Corp. for some additional information on the dirt delivery. Once we get the information needed, we will do an email vote.

Softball Clinic Quote

- Walter stated the following information for Softball clinic:
 - \$100 / hr at DYS in Saugerties; 1.5 hr for minors and 1.5 for majors.
 - We could do 2 clinics (3 hours each)
 - Dates: TBD after board approval
 - We also could have baseball clinics throughout the season of any skill set.
 - Jake made the following motion for softball clinic:
 - Mountain Valley Little League will pay \$600.00 for 2, three-hour clinics for Softball at DYS in Saugerties (Dates TBD).
 - 1st motion - Karen
 - 2nd motion - Lisa
 - The vote was unanimous (Yes)

Uniforms Quote

- Lisa obtained a quote from several business including from Sportswarehouse.us
- Lisa stated the following:
 - \$54.50 if the league picks teams, we receive t-shirts, pants, hat, sponsor, and number. Fully delivered no extra charges.

- If the vendor picks the teams, the same package is \$46.50
- If we don't do a sponsor on the back and just a number on the shirt/jersey, it is \$42.50
- There is also a current special: we can upgrade to a 2 button shirt at no extra cost.
- They also offer a coach package for a shirt and hat for \$32.00. It may be a different shirt and uniform but the same team.
- If the vendor picks everything, we don't worry about out of stock items and saves the league money.
- We are guaranteed by 1st week of April if we order within a week or so.
- The vendor stated that they're very low on XS size and would instead send YS.
- Jeremy stated that we should not exceed \$50.00 for a uniform especially T-Ball because we would lose money on registration.
- Aaron wants Lisa to check to make sure majors would get full length pants and belt loops.
- The board came to a consensus on 2 button shirts at the \$42.50 price.

Concessions / Fundraising / Sponsorships

- With the removal of Grant Avery, we will need to adjust our new banner and renewal forms. To fix the banner forms, we could inquire to Onteora to allow us to hang banners at Phoenicia Elementary School. Also, we could ask the Town of Olive to hang banners at Davis Park.

- Walter stated that instead of sponsorships on jerseys, we could purchase hooded sweatshirts with the sponsor on them.
- Lisa stated that Hudson Valley cards would like to pay the league to hang their banner and to sell baseball cards at league events. The board was in agreement (see attached package).

Field maintenance

- Jake asked Marty if he was able to find a person or company to till the fields. Marty said he was waiting on callbacks.
- Aaron asked if the Ulster County Sheriff office would help assist with tilling and prepping the fields like they had done consistently for several years before the pandemic. Tom said he would check.

Background check for all board members

- Jake will re-check background checks and reach out to any board members that still need to complete it.

Schedule for each division

- Too early to make schedules based on registration numbers.
- Jake asked not to conflict with T-Ball on Tuesdays.
- There are siblings in different divisions and try to avoid conflicts.
- We are hoping to begin the season the week of 4/24 however it was noted that usually it ends up getting bumped out another week due to weather and field conditions.

Open Discussion

- Need to come up with a softball uniform plan.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 6th 2022

Motion to Adjourn:

1st Lisa

2nd Jeremy