

ULLL Board of Directors

Monday, 1 May 2017

Board Members Present: Kerry Rice, Mario Valenti, Cindy Courchaine, Bill McCleary, Francine Reed, Don Fletcher, Chris Kerley, Carri Michon, Anthony Cusat, Mike Hughes, Randy Nixon

Absent: Amanda Rohs, Spencer Neilson, Mark Roudabaugh,

Public: Sarah Oliver – manager for AA purpose for draft. John Michon-

Area Representative and Committee Reports (as of Sunday, 30 April 2017 at 10 PM) Called to order 7:05pm

1. **Secretary's Report / Minutes from Last Meeting (Francine)** Mario motion to approve Don second All approved

2. **Treasurer's Report (Carri)** –All accounts paid as well as the porta potties. Contracts with them is up this year and will take new bids. Need from Donald finals from each area per player which is 40 per player. Motion to approve Mario second Anthony All Approved.

3. **Player Agent's Report (Cindy)**-Kerry any resolution for player(majors) that had dropped-nothing yet

4. **Vice President's Report (Mario)**

LL Volunteer Forms – As of Thursday, 20 April, all teams are compliant with the ULLL's policy to have all teams (at minimum) with Managers and Asst Coaches registered with the First Advantage system. There are other forms to process, but I have to get another gift card with funds since the one we had purchased for paying for each vol form ran out of funds.

Field Improvements – I've been working with PRCS to address field improvement and maintenance issues and am working to set up a meeting with them later this week. I'm also working with Shawne Patterson to survey each field and develop a master list of field improvements to prioritize and work through. We also sent in the ULLL's summer field allocation request on 30 April in compliance with PRCS's 1 May deadline. Requested Marking Dust and Turface for all Majors fields. If other fields need more marking dust / turface, please let me know soonest.

Little league forms-Kerry

Anthony asked if we could be alerted for drop off for field items. Bill asked about a mix that Mark Bauer had recommended, Mario can look into this.

5. **Committees Reports**

a. **Safety (Amanda)**

It is difficult as the parent of a youth umpire to trust that there will be an AGC at the games, thus leaving us as parents having to stay for the entire game to ensure the protection of our kids. Erik umpired 3 games Saturday at LE1 and we had to be sure that my husband or friends of the other youth umpire, were present at the game. I suggest that we email all families about the shortage of

adult umpires and **that the game will not be played where there are youth umpires and no properly cleared volunteer AGC present at the plate meeting.** I would also suggest that at games where there is a youth umpire behind the plate who is working the game alone that an adult volunteer be placed in the field to assist with those calls. Families/Managers need to know that most Rookie, AA and AAA games will not have an adult umpire so the need for AGC is a must at those levels.

From a safety point, I am still seeing at EVERY game that I have been too or walked by, having issues with bench management, mainly bats being handled by multiple players on the bench. Kids are being careless with the bats on the bench, especially at the Rookie, AA and AAA levels. I suggest that a simple statement of "Bats in the Bucket" be created across the league to help with this issue. If you're not walking up to the plate or carrying a bat back to the dugout, then the bats should be in the bucket (or bat holder if available). It is only a matter of time that a player or bystander is going to be struck with a bat.

Carri is looking for a sign maker for Mario in regards to the bats in the buckets.

b. Umpires (Chris)

Severe lack of umpires (39 active) this season has left me unable to cover all of the games as we have in past seasons. I am proposing we prioritize our umpires to Majors, AAA, AA and Rookie in that order. This means that we will more than likely not have umpires calling Rookie games and sometime not calling AA games. This also means that some of our more inexperienced umpires will be calling AAA (and possibly) Majors games. I request we send an email out to the Managers to let them know we are experiencing an umpire shortage and that they should be prepared to have a parent umpire the game when ULLL umpires are not available. I am willing to hold additional umpire training sessions for those interested in joining our ranks.

Other options include mandating that all AA and Rookie teams provide a volunteer (or paid) umpire to cover their games. Home team would cover the plate and away team the bases. I would like to discuss these proposals at our next board meeting.

Sarah Oliver asks- What does the AGC need to be behind the plate there should be a chest protector, face protection (usually in the sheds) and for the upper level –cup protection.

Kerry Rice suggests a waiver/credit for registration fee for those who umpire 5 or more game, Mario motion and Cindy second. All Approved.(Trained umpire, volunteer form and not to accept payment) Chris Kerley would train 3 hours for those interested, he would give them a rules book and then assign them the 5 games. This would be per season. Kerry would put email out to rookie and AA managers.

c. Coaches (Spencer)

(No Report)

d. Information Officer (Donald)

Working on reschedules following the schedule's release. Kerry worried about getting games in.

e. Sponsorship (Randy)

After one week of the hit-a-thon, we raised only \$1830. Way behind last year's effort. Money from hit a thon to go back to the areas.

6. Area Representative Reports

a. Hamilton Area (Mark)

Equipment and uniforms distributed to teams (Special thanks to Jeremy Bush for all of his help). Concession stand work still under way – awaiting the cabinets and shelving. Purchased / included a tractor in the KC shed. Grass being cut each week at Hamilton complex. Looking into purchasing weighted home plate area tarps and base area for HE 1, looking also to purchase new L-screens (and getting rid of the old ones).

b. Lovettsville Area (Josh)

- Fence repairs were completed on LE1 and Fralin the week of 4/17 by Builders Fence Company. Repairs to LE1 included: replacement of backstop fence, replacement of fencing along first base line, replacement of fence and gates around the dugout outs, adjustment of right field gate and adjustment/replacement of various bad rails and posts. Repairs to Fralin included: replacement of backstop fencing, rehung third base dugout gate and adjustment/replacement of various bad rails and posts.
- Thanks to Anthony Cusat for the recommending Builders Fence Company, they were very responsive and were able to accommodate our schedule. I would recommend Builders Fence Company to any area looking to complete any new or replacement fencing project. Never did receive a return call from Long Fence.
- Completed a field clean-up/project day on 4/15/17. Thanks to the handful of volunteers that showed up to lend a hand. Weed kill was applied to fencing around LE1 and Fralin as well as to the batting cage. A lot of the effort was put into rebuilding the bullpen areas. Dirt mounds were rebuilt, weed kill was applied to the grass areas and then top dressed with stone dust. Both bullpens still need to be sprayed with weed kill and another truck load of stone dust but overall good progress was made. Thanks to Loudoun Milling for donating the stone dust. Equipment shed was cleared of trash and reorganized.
- Still need to rebuild/reattach the first base dugout roof, this may get pushed to after the spring season. Working with Builders Fence Company on an estimate for extending the current batting cage, looking at completing sometime during the summer/before the fall season begins.
- Thanks to PRCS... They pulled out the old player benches at Fralin and replaced them with a set of very nice metal benches.
- Purchased a couple of covers for the mound and home plate area at LE1. The mound cover has been working great, the home plate cover not so much, still working to find a better solution.
- Purchased two new marking dust machines for LE1 and Fralin. Also purchased a new paint line machine.
- Had to replace a section of the floor in the concessions stand. The concessions stand passed Health Department inspection. Overall the condition of the concessions stand is steadily deteriorating and replacement is inevitable within the next 1 to 2 years.

- Planning to hold town Hit-A-Thon event on 5/7 and 5/12. Teams that are unable to attend the town event will be required to complete during one of their practices.

c. Purcellville North (Mike)

(No Report)

d. Purcellville South (Bill)

- Haske Fields and LVCC are without Marking Dust, working to get through the ULLL group order or individually through LCPR
- Uniform orders and replacements/adjustments are near final
- Purchased new L screens, and Limer for Haske Field, moving older machine to LVCC
- Deferred Haske Back Stop Pole repair until after spring season
- Open practice slots on Purcellville South fields are an issue, as Haske Field and FP3 are booked for games most every night

e. Round Hill (Anthony)

Overall Round Hill Youth Sports is off to a good start to the 2017 Season. The following is an update:

- Teams fully equipped with practice balls, catchers, equipment and Tees.
 - Sponsorships secured for all teams.
 - Managers and Coaches have all turned in Volunteer Forms.
 - Uniforms have been distributed to all teams.
 - Round Hill 1 Storage/Concession Stand Exterior improvements complete. Invoice paid
 - Health Dept. approval of Concession Stand operation.
 - White Pines along first base line have been pruned
 - Fence repairs along first base line complete. Invoice received, bill due.
 - Mowing services have begun. Tuesday cut day.
 - Painting interior of concession stand in progress.
 - Only one Porta John at Round Hill Complex, normally two. Location of existing potty needs to be relocated to bare spot in grass where it was located last year.
 - Round Hill 3 Shed locks continued to be vandalized and damaged
 - Round Hill Area in need of more marking dust.
 - Progress being made to install scoreboard:
 1. Need to secure donation of steel posts or consider purchase of them.
 2. Identified electrician and contractor to install conduit runs.
 3. Working on installation
 4. Will require 3-4 days of work by various trades.
 5. with assistance from ULLL could have scoreboard installed prior to All Star tournament competition.
- Need another patch for coach pitch.
- Score board? Kerry feels it would be nice to get this done before tournament. Has estimates for score board, wants steel posts and done the right way. Preliminary costs \$12-15,000 to put this in due to machinery, lifts etc. Anthony has contacts willing to help or provide the abilities with a cost of less or donated.

7. Old Business-

Managers/Coaches/AGD/Umpires/Other Volunteers- Mario motion to start in fall season in order to get uniforms each team must have registered volunteers for managers and assistant coaches and in kid pitch division AGD. Second to motion Bill. All Approved. Need 100 gift card to pay for over the 250 limit.

b. Opening Day Ceremonies/Schedules. April 22

c. Rainouts Protocol-Games trump practice; Rookie to Majors rescheduled by Donald. CP/TB rescheduled by area rep with Donald's confirmation. Banneker has no mound or bases wish we had a way to use Mickey Gordon although we gave this up. Mario could put a request in but we need to use it!! Mario will put the feelers out if we can use it on a need basis.

d. Sponsor list-Kerry has final sponsor list from Carri.

e. Purcellville Fireman's Field RFI-no new news responses due late May. Kerry did find out their intent is to find someone to manage the fields/skating rink. Copy of referendum for Haske with the county.

8. New Business

a. AA Rules- as of tonight there is no more soft toss in AA, past mother's day 15th we will lose the 2nd base stealing rule will be gone. Feedback on whether a good idea. Chris feels for next year we should only do 3 soft toss, vs fouling off like a second strike you can keep going.

b. Majors- will not need to start until that weekend. AAA & AA Tournaments schedules- will start the week following memorial day. Major's final on the 10th semi on the 6th first round games the previous weekend. Kerry recommends first round played Friday night the 2nd frees majors up for June 3rd and proposal to have majors on Hamilton days have a pickup game. Carri would like game at 2.

c. AA Tournament Draw- 5 teams each league tournament for each league names go in a hat and drawn American then national. First one goes in bye slot. American Game and RH on the 3^d. Nationals Game 5/31 Lovettsville and other Hamilton.

d. All Star Information/Registration/Commitment Letters- will go out next 48 hours. Cost? Last year \$30 this covers jersey and hat. Kerry feels \$30 enough. Spirit gear for All-stars? Yes Mario

e. All-Star Managers Selection: Next Board Meeting

f. All-star Player selection: Tuesday May 30 or TBD- Allowed to announce on June 1.

g. Fall baseball season: registration, fees, timing- no reason to change fees as far as Kerry is concerned. Diff about fall? Majestic lost contract for minor league baseball gear so may not be able to get minor league shirts. Kerry recommends we get the hats and then get shirts made with names on them. Mario will speak with Abby. Carri would like to see the sponsor's names on the backs. Kerry feels could we tie names of minor teams with the sponsor's names. Anthony proposes change names of majors and minors for the fall so that kids don't feel since they play majors in the fall then they expect to play majors in the spring. Flyer for fall? Yes.

h. Other- Kerry would like us to seriously think about significant field improvements, ex. RH completely fence in both dug outs. Fralen? Rodgers bases on all fields. Anthony and Mario brainstorming for ideas of improvements. Thank you to Sarah for coming-she and her coach good with Mickey Gordan.

9. (closed session) 8:38