

10-9-2013 East Windsor Little League Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting started with a vote/acknowledgment that current positions (prior Board members and Directors, etc.) would be part of the formal (voting) Board moving forward.

Brian Feeney then led an overview of key league positions and responsibilities, including:

League President – Oversees Board/league and runs meetings
VP Baseball – Historical league knowledge/application
Information Officer – Web site responsibility
Treasurer – Responsible for league fund oversight
Secretary – Minutes from meetings
Softball Director – Oversee league and coordinate with outside town(s)
Umpire Director – Oversee umpires for league
Player Agent – Liaison between parents and coaches (player advocate); tryout coordination for AAA/Majors
Safety Officer – Safety overview to league representatives; plan required by league per year
Coaching Coordinator – Responsible for clinics and overall skill direction by division
Concessions – Snack shack oversight
Juniors Director – Oversee league and coordinate with outside town(s)
Majors Director – Oversee league and coordinate with outside town(s)
AAA Director – Oversee league and coordinate with outside town(s)
AA Baseball Director – Oversee league and coordinate with outside town(s)
Instructional Director – Oversee league and coordinate with outside town(s)

Following a description of the above positions, elections were held and the following people were nominated and approved by the Board:

League President – Brian Feeney
VP Baseball – Chris Mickey
Information Officer – Chris Mickey
Treasurer – Chris Willey
Secretary – Ken Goldstein
Softball Director – TBD but Cecilia Harman if accepted
Umpire Director – TBD but Jeff Zyra if Cecilia Harman is no longer interested in the role
Player Agent – Steve Russotto
League Safety Officer – Mike Parakilas
League Coaching Coordinator – Patrick Lee
Concessions Director – Wendy Parker
Junior Baseball Director – TBD
Majors Baseball Director – Steve Russotto
AAA Baseball Director – Patrick Lee
AA Baseball Director – Ken Goldstein
Instructional Director – Brian Feeney
Equipment Manager Baseball – Dave Bloom (lead)
Equipment Manager Softball – Tim McConnell (lead)
Minors/Rookies Softball Director – Dave Carrado
Fund Raising Director – Chris Willey (but group effort)
Field Maintenance Director – Joe Pellegrini (assist from Dave Bloom)

As part of the board member discussion, the option of looking at an Umpiring service for Majors Baseball, Majors Softball, AAA baseball and Minors softball was discussed. Whether one or two service umpires would be required was discussed. No resolution was made, but it was agreed that we wanted to look into this more and likely include it in our budgeting plans. We would continue to use our local umpires, for AA and Rookie softball and possibly on the bases for the upper level teams.

Following elections, Brian Feeney provided an overview of baseball/softball trends. Overall, we are seeing a steady decrease in players (faster than the population is dropping). There were a variety of suggestions to promote little league more significantly, including social media (Facebook page usage with a link to EWSports web site), Mill Pond Day, earlier signage, clinics (market registration/payment to attend; if no payment, then waiver required to participate) and parks/recreation involvement. Joe Pellegrini also wanted to explore using the BBES for earlier throwing/practice.

Registration fees and process were discussed next. Tentatively, Instructional League will cost \$45 (with the potential for a \$5 discount for on-line registration) and all other leagues will cost \$90 (with the potential for a \$5 discount for on-line registration). The fees were tentative as the group wanted to discuss anticipated budget expenditures for 2014 at the next meeting. Further, Steve Russotto was going to assess fundraiser considerations (e.g., tickets that are sold per player to offset costs; tied into a lottery type give-away with the balance of funds going to the league). Lastly, the group discussed having a team parent (aside from the coaches) that would coordinate snack shack coverage.

Registration dates were discussed and dates for the various leagues were proposed as listed below. Comments were made that Sunday 4/20 is Easter Sunday and that we need to check on the date for 1st Communion.

Proposed 2014 Registration Dates:

Instructional League:

Registration Starts: 12/1/2013

Standard Registration Ends: 4/14

Practices Start Week of 4/21

1st Game / Opening Day Saturday 4/27

Baseball and Softball (Majors / AAA / Minors):

Registration Start: 12/1/2013

Early Registration Ends: 3/1

Close Registration: 3/12

Tryouts: (if required): 03/15/14 - 03/16/14

Draft: 3/18/14 - 03/19/14

04/13/14 – 04/19/14: April School Vacation

04/20/14: Opening Day (First Games)

Baseball AA and Softball Minors:

Registration Starts: 12/1/2013

Early Registration Ends: 3/14

Close Registration: 3/24

Draft / Team Assignments: 3/29

Practices Start Week of 3/31

1st Game / Opening Day Saturday 4/20

Brian Feeney then provided an update about a D8 President's meeting. There is an open dialog about pool versus double elimination play (Brian would be voting for pool play). In addition, All Star commencement dates may align with May 15th for 2014.

At the next meeting, the following issues will be explored:

1. Outstanding Board positions
2. Update of inventory efforts (the group will seek to inventory our existing equipment, uniforms, etc. prior to the next meeting)
3. Budget dialog (once the inventory expectations are understood)
4. Fundraising (generally)

The next meeting is scheduled for November 11th @ 7:30 p.m. (Scout Hall – Checking on availability).