

Germantown Little League Board Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Impact Sports

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President, Dean Holmes.
2. Roll call of Board Members:

Present: Sunitha Anand, Janet Buskiewicz, Kyle Buskiewicz, Stephanie Cowan, Dean Holmes, Jon Kneser, Brenda Kunz, Nicole Leffler, Brad Netzel, Jay Olszewski (*late arrival*), Jason Otto (*late arrival*), Ken Wagner, Shad Young, Greg Zak.

Absent: Courtney Baran, Tyler Baran, Kelley Lalk, Heidi McKenna, Melissa Nolte, Carrie Passante, Tracy Pawlak, Scott Peterson, Andy Sawyer, John Zobel.
3. Minutes of the March 10, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved as emailed.
4. The agenda was approved as distributed.
5. Dean reported, while going through the process of obtaining our raffle license, he amended the GTLL Constitution & Bylaws to better align with Little League International. This process included outlining league objectives, defining member roles and creating sub-committees that would meet separately from the full Board for planning, requiring reports back to the full Board for voting. Dean plans to post these on the website, for Board Member access only, for review. Dean proposed each sub-committee be given the authority to make necessary and reasonable purchases, without full Board approval, if the amount does not exceed \$300.00 - members present concurred.

Shad questioned what constitutes a “sub-committee” and requested this be clearly defined in the bylaws.

Dean relayed he has been asked by other Little Leagues why GTLL does not post our meeting minutes on our website. To increase our organizations transparency, it was determined to post all regular Board meeting minutes and agendas on our website, for which a new tab must be created.

6. Options/Plans for Opening Day Ceremony were discussed:
 - Instead of starting teams in the outfield to be announced and called to step forward, it was decided to have the teams walk a processional from leftfield, behind home plate, round through the outfield, to end back in leftfield, with the exception of Challengers, who will end at 1st base;
 - To alleviate congestion with team meeting places, it was determined to put team signs on the fence at LL West in the order teams will proceed in when announced;
 - Make improvements to the speaker system;
 - Gil from the Chinooks is committed;
 - Raffle items currently include gift cards from Dominoes & Burghardts, a Mens & Womens GTLL windbreaker & possibly a GTLL concessions' voucher;
 - In support of our GTLL families that have been affected by cancer, GTLL's portion of the 50:50 raffle will be donated to the American Cancer Society;
 - Jason will look into securing Paul Wagner, Germantown alum, to act as catcher for each division's “first pitch”, then have him sign their ball;
 - Due to the unpredictability of weather and time restraints, it was determined to save bouncy houses for possibly the MSS tournament;
 - Help will be needed by 7:30 a.m. that morning;
 - The Opening Day Ceremony agenda will be posted on the website so parents know what to expect – Dean will forward past agendas to Stephanie, for updates.

7. **Reports:**

- a. President – “The website rocks!” - members present concurred. If anyone experiences issues with the website, email Scott & cc Dean. It was requested to formally close registration on the website, as all team equipment has been ordered. 480 kids have registered, to date.
- b. Scheduling – Jon reported he has had minor issues changing over to the new website. He asks that all teams review their schedules from both sites to check for inconsistencies. For changes, managers are asked to look online for open slots, come to agreement between all managers involved, and then email the changes to Jon. Jon explained scheduling games before opening day was necessary as there is limited field use May 2nd due to the High School’s tournament and the loss of a weekend for the MSS tournament. Menomonee Falls handled scheduling for softball – interleague games end June 18th, but additional games amongst GTLL teams will be scheduled through the end of the season. Jon questioned if the new website will inform concessions’ help of rainouts – Dean confirmed it will.
- c. Umpires – Dean reported John Klebesadel will be overseeing umpire training this weekend. Jake Orech and Eric Sawyer underwent Umpire Certification and will assist John with website scheduling, notifications and communications. Umpires will get schedule changes through the website.
- d. AA – Shad suggested that, with AA game play going to machine pitch, coaches should be “coached” to practice going to “soft toss” quicker to improve the player experience. Brad will get machines up and running for practices. It was also suggested to set one up in a cage on a Saturday and leave running all day for practice.
- e. Jaguars Sub-Board – Dave Stroebel stepped down from the Jaguars Board – GTLL will assume administration of this program.
- f. Player Development – Jay attended a meeting with the high school and booster club centered on fundraising. They are looking to get more involvement from GTLL with HS games (i.e. running out to bases with HS players). The HS wants representation on the Jaguars Board – it’s a good opportunity to promote both programs.

The clinics went well – information relayed in the coaches’ clinic is being reflected in practices. Dean asked that Jay attend a few practices here and there.

Dean confirmed Jordan Stine will not be available until at least mid-May to conduct coaching drills, which is too late into the practice-season. Jason will try to secure Dean Haase for this position.

- g. Fields – H & K went through and made initial improvements (cut lips, squared bases, etc.). They will continue work (i.e. topcoats on all fields), and if this results in costs exceeding the budgeted \$5,000.00, they will bill the remainder in fall.

Janet strongly urged that picnic tables and dugouts be repainted. Tyler and “crew” will be asked to address this once the temperature is warm enough to paint.

- h. Sponsorship – Heidi can no longer fill the position of Sponsorship Coordinator. Dean will send an email seeking to fill this position. It is critical that we leverage our sponsorship opportunities.

U.S. Cellular has committed to sponsor a field. Roberts has selected the option of a 48”x72” permanent sign for their 5-year field sponsorship. Dean received a quote on this from FastSigns for \$426, which includes a 6 year limited warranty. He also investigated the cost for a non-permanent windscreen on the fence, at a cost of approximately \$400.00. It was recommended to see if FastSigns would be interested in a sponsorship opportunity.

- i. Concessions – Janet met with Courtney and has emailed Dean a list of supplies needed. She has already worked 3 nights of HS softball games and made \$170.00 so far. 75% of last year's concessions workforce has committed to work this year. Janet will continue to email Dean recommendations for improvements.
 - j. MSS Tournament – Kyle reports two spots at the U8 level are still open. Larry Hisle, Jr. will be doing mini-bats as trophies. We will need 75 bats at \$9.00 each. Kyle still needs to secure umpire commitments. He is continuing to develop volunteer needs & positions. Janet requested the game schedule (what teams play at what times) be finalized ASAP so parents can avoid conflicts when selecting slots on Volunteer Spot.
 - k. Financials – Sunitha reported income is at \$95k, an increase of \$30k over last year at this time, most likely due to a slight increase in players and Jaguars revenue. She expects building and field maintenance to be higher than last year.
 - l. Events Coordinator Report – The deadline for determining our ticket commitment for LL Night at the Brewers is expiring – Dean will contact Chris Barlow at Miller Park to see if we can get an extension on that deadline. The goal is to sell 200-300 tickets. It was suggested to look into an alternate Brewers game event (possibly on a Sunday), to include tailgating, to increase family participation in this fundraiser.
 - m. Apparel – Presales were disappointing – only 37 items sold (including 3 hats and 7 window clings). A motion was made and seconded to allow Brenda to select the remaining 102 pieces of merchandise we are responsible for purchasing as inventory. Motion carried. Anticipated costs are expected to be approximately \$1,500.00.
 - n. All-Stars – Dean confirmed practices may begin no earlier than June 15th. Dates for tryouts were discussed. Jon will tentatively block out fields and cages for two separate time slots on Sunday, May 31st. Kyle suggested having an All-Stars “Director” to coordinate tryouts, drills and ratings. Jason volunteered to assist with tryouts but would not commit to the Director position.
 - o. GTLL Future – Jason led discussion on several issues to be aware of that impact GTLL and our future: A sub-board should be created to facilitate communications with Richfield's baseball program, as they are undergoing similar organizational changes - Jay volunteered to head that up; Field clean-up days should be re-implemented to increase parent involvement in the organization; We should be proactive in planning for transition periods amongst key Board positions; Items for our Rummage Sale should be collected in September; Girls' Softball will be one program by the end of the year – Board Members questioned what kind of support is needed from GTLL.
8. Scheduling conflicts for Jaguars tournaments and GTLL games were discussed. Any conflicts should be brought to the player agents. The Board will provide player agents with options for alleviating conflicts. A sub-committee, made up of Dean, Jason, Greg and Jon, was formed to discuss strategies for immediate conflicts.
 9. It was confirmed that GTLL Board meetings be held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. It was agreed, due to numerous items left for discussion and action, Board meetings continue through the season. Therefore, the next GTLL Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.** at Impact Sports.

Items for Follow-Up:

- **Dean to post drafts of the revised Constitution and Bylaws on the website, for review by the Board, with Board Member access only. Guidelines relating to "sub-committees" should be clearly defined.**
- **Minutes and agendas of all future GTLL regular Board meetings to be posted on our website.**
- **Opening Day - Stephanie and Brenda to create team signs for the processional line-up.**
- **Opening Day - Jason to make improvements to the speaker system.**
- **Opening Day - Jason to secure Paul Wagner, Germantown alum, to act as catcher for each division's "first pitch".**
- **Opening Day – Dean to forward Stephanie prior years' agendas, for revisions, prior to posting on the website.**
- **Close registration on the website.**
- **Advise AA coaches on the importance of going to "soft toss" sooner than done in coaches' pitch.**
- **Brad to get pitching machines up and running for practices – possibly set one up in a cage on a Saturday and leave running all day for practice.**
- **Jay to observe random practices.**
- **Jason to secure Dean Haase for coaching assistance at Jaguars' practices.**
- **Coordinate Tyler to paint picnic tables and dugouts once weather permits.**
- **Dean to send an email seeking to fill the Sponsorship Coordinator position.**
- **Investigate if FastSigns would be interested in a sponsorship opportunity.**
- **Kyle to secure umpire commitments for MSS Tournament.**
- **Kyle to finalize MSS Tournament game schedule so Janet can email Volunteer Spot sign-up to parents.**
- **Dean to contact Chris Barlow at Miller Park to see if we can get an extension on Brewers' Night deadline, while the Board continues to investigate alternate Brewers game event options.**
- **Brenda to select the remaining 102 pieces of apparel merchandise we are responsible for purchasing as inventory and will relay final costs to Sunitha.**
- **Jay to organize sub-committee to extend communications to Richfield's baseball program.**
- **The Scheduling Sub-Committee to continue alleviating conflicts between Jaguars and GTLL game commitments.**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephanie Cowan, Recording Secretary