



Alexandria Little League (A.L.L.)

Regular Board Meeting

February 19, 2013
Lee Center, Alexandria VA

Minutes

In Attendance:

Attending: Owen Barwell, Merrill Biesada, Pete Biesada, Frank Bires, Morgan Broman, Steve Cann, Dave Cheney, Tim Devine, Greg Everett, Scott Fox, Bill Gehrig, Sterling Gilliam, Debbi Kelly, Marc Leon, Brian McPherson, James Meggesto, Thao Miller, Pam Murphy, Brian Morris, LaRae Narkinsky, David Osinski, Melissa Schultz, Mac Slover, and Bill Tabor.

Agenda item #1: Call to Order

Mr. Sterling Gilliam, as President, called the meeting to order at 19:00.

Agenda item #2: Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on January 22nd, 2012 were amended to include the names of opening members of the working committees for the standing Finance and Fields committees. The minutes, as amended, were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda item #3: President's Comments

The President noted that season opening was approaching and thanked attendees in advance of their efforts, and to continue to observe the sensitivity of discussions outside of ALL Board meetings.

Agenda item #4: Calendar Review

The Spring 2013 ALL Calendar for major events was presented for discussion, with a review of near term events.

Action for the President: Assess potential impacts of Spring Break on Coaches' and Managers' Clinics.

Agenda item #5: Report of February, 2013 Youth Sports Advisory Board (YSAB) Meeting

Mr. Brian McPherson reported on the YSAB meeting:

- Encouraged participation in the City of Alexandria Parks and Recreation survey, targeted to be published in April;



- Noted work needed to be completed by Dominion Power was delayed, though with no delay to Simpson Field readiness likely; and
- Mr. Shaun Reynolds had recently been employed by the City of Alexandria, in part to focus efforts to improve the general condition of playing fields.

Agenda item #6: Sponsorship Update

Mr. Scott Fox provided an update on sponsorship, salient points being:

- Request for volunteers to assist and attend the Dick's Sporting Goods discount program on March 9th; and
- Friedman Billings Ramsey confirmed funding \$3K for scholarships and related outreach activities.

Agenda item #7: Registration Numbers Discussion

a. Division Expansion Considerations

The President presented a history of ALL player registrations, showing registered players and number of teams for the 2010 to 2012 seasons, with a forecast for the 2013 season. A thorough discussion on the potential need to expand the number of teams (or not) ensued. The ALL Board balanced the desire to be inclusive of all existing and anticipated new players with maintaining the quality and competitiveness of ALL team play.

A motion to expand the Majors league from seven to eight teams – subject to sufficient player registrants and the successful conclusion of tryouts – was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

b. Tryout Considerations

Mr. Greg Everett provided an update on the format of the upcoming tryouts, to be held at Episcopal High School, March 3rd.

c. Draft Precept Review

Mr. Dave Cheney presented a set of manager and selection guidelines for managers when drafting their teams. Discussion followed, including recognizing the importance of placing players in teams at the skill level to provide an optimal experience for both players and ALL teams (particularly for 9 year olds). The importance of managers and coaches attending the tryouts was emphasized.

Action for the Board: Reconcile and clarify ALL guidelines against those similarly and recently published by the Little League.

Agenda item #8: Manager Selection Committee Report

Ms. Melissa Schultz, representing the Selection Committee, presented and recommended the slate of managers for AA, AAA, and Majors teams to the President. The President accepted the committee's recommendations, and presented the slate to the ALL Board.

A motion to approve the proposed slate was seconded and approved by majority voice vote.



Mr. Marc Leon was proposed as the manager of the Majors expansion team (subject to the provisions motioned and approved herein).

A motion to approve the proposed slate of Majors managers by team was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda item #9: Opening Day / 60th Anniversary of Simpson Field

Ms. LaRae Narkinsky reported on planning for the Opening Day of the season:

- Feature a Player Essay Contest, with submissions titled, “Why I Love Baseball”, with the overall winner to have their essay read during Opening Day celebrations;
- The Nationals’ Screech and Teddy are scheduled make an appearance, with a kids’ race around the field;
- An appeal for a key note speaker, preferably a current or retired baseball player.

Mr. Bill Tabor provided the detailed itinerary and script for the 2012 Opening Day to the President as a starting point for the development of the same for the 2013 opening Day.

It was noted that TC Williams’ Hit-a-Thon competition was also scheduled for 6th April.

The poster celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Simpson Field was shared with the ALL Board as an input to ideas for the same to recognize the 60th anniversary.

Action for the Board: Investigate options for sponsors and a location to for a 60th Anniversary banner.

Agenda item #10: On-line Merchandise Discussion

Ms. Debbi Kelly reported the results of the successful opening window of ALL’s new on-line merchandise store. The store generated approximately \$1,000 in profitable sales. The next window will open on the 10th March, with a merchandise pick-up scheduled for opening Day.

Agenda item #11: Field Committee Discussion

No discussion.

Agenda item #12: Treasurer’s Report.

Ms. Merrill Biesada provided an update on the current financial position. ALL has received and granted eight eligible requests for financial assistance. The ALL Board was reminded that financial assistance is only provided only to families that are resident in zip codes attributed to the City of Alexandria.

Mr. Bill Gehrig provided an update on ascertaining the protection of paid volunteers under current liability insurance provisions.



Agenda items #13: Any other Business and Adjournment

Mr. Bill Tabor made an appeal for any photographs of last year's All Start team to be used in ALL records and promotional materials.

Date of next meeting agreed as March 18th, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 21:12.

Submitted by:

Owen F. Barwell
ALL Board Secretary and Safety Officer.