

# Exton Little League – Board Minutes – January 2014

**Date/Place:** January 14, 2015 – Knights of Columbus, Exton

**Meeting started:** 7:00 PM by Bob Herman

## Attendance

### Members Present:

Bob Herman - President

Tom Pitt - Vice President of Community Relations/Communications

Terry Campbell - Vice President

Carolyn Dowger - Secretary

Eric Longenecker - Vice President of Field Operations

Marcia Wileczek - Director of Community Outreach

Russ Hartz - Vice President of Softball

Greg Pfeifer - Webmaster

Mike Dowger - Field Manager Baseball

Diana Simpson - Treasurer

### Members Absent:

Greg Espenshade - Field Manager Softball

Mark Ronayne - Field Manager Softball

Jim McMonagle - Field Manager Baseball

Tim Fredricks - Asst VP of Baseball

Jeff Bennett - Director of Player development

Mike Scalea - Asst VP of Softball

Mike Macri - Director of Umpires

Dave Stevenson - Vice President of Baseball

## Agenda

### Baseball update – Dave submitted (presented by Bob)

- Registrations
  - Right now baseball is only at roughly 58 registrations across all divisions (teeball – seniors).
  - Registration started late, but will need to make a deliberate push over next two weeks to get numbers up to normal.
    - Expect roughly 450 total
- The new Little League age changes are communicated and posted on website along with a link to the 2015 age chart that helps parents understand league age for spring 2015. Registration system is aligned to that chart.

- Little League will be adopting a calendar year league age across all divisions effective with 2018 season.
- The changes will NOT affect kids in Roberts or Ashburn (May 1 is still the age determination date for kids born May 1, 2005 and earlier).
- For kids born May 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015 the current rules will cause that age group in 2018 to skip from league age 11 to league age 13, so special consideration will be given to the Exton division they play in to ensure they get both a Roberts and Ashburn experience (taking safety into account).
- Clinics
  - We are still working with the WCASD to try and find indoor space.
  - Goal this offseason is to try and understand interest to determine whether conducting future years' sessions at ASBA is viable.
  - The WCASD option allows for a low cost, low risk trial.
    - We've got about 15 coaches who have volunteered, but need to find space.
    - Also need certificate of insurance from little league before school district will allow ANY time to be booked.
      - Bob: This should be here by Friday 16<sup>th</sup>.
    - Availability is very low at school gyms, but will continue to work to likely find three or four dates through February.
    - Plan is to pass along cost
      - Cost will be approx. \$10 per child for all of the sessions.
- Evaluations are February 28<sup>th</sup> at ASBA-Downingtown starting at 2pm.
  - In order to fairly balance teams we will again encourage as close to 100% participation as possible.
  - Will need volunteers to help staff the event. Dave will send out requests for volunteers later this month.
- Coach interviews will be conducted first week of February with decisions finalized by mid-month.
- Expect coaches meeting to be in early March.
  - Coaches meeting will also include an instructional clinic for coaches focused on teaching fundamental skills and conducted by Ryan Wheeler, who is a parent in the league and part of the St. Joseph's University baseball coaching staff.
    - Bob: This may need to move to a Baseball only meeting.
- Weather permitting we hope to start outdoor practices in mid-March.
- Once we get outdoors, we will have a series of outdoor clinics specifically focused on our 9 year old age group, which is undergoing a significant expansion due to the age determination changes. There will be a large number of kids that were league age 7 last year that will be league age 9 this year; so the jump to kid pitch without benefit of additional instructional development will require some

more focus. We will work and focus on kid pitching, hitting against kid pitching; helping kids understand the umpiring, etc.

- All equipment has been inventoried and old and unsafe equipment discarded. We've bagged and tagged all bags by division. Have some gaps and will be ordering some new equipment for spring.
- Home Run Derby date still being finalized
  - Targeting the first Sunday in June.
- 50/70: We would very much like to create a 50/70 division this year for 11-13 year olds interested in it.
  - Creation of that division will be 100% dependent on West Whiteland Twp. and their agreement to convert the 46/60' field at Boot Road Park to also allow for 50/70' play.
  - Terry Campbell has worked with township and they seem willing in concept to move forward. Need an update on what happened at most recent Parks township meeting.
    - Bob: The issue is that there are only two other leagues in our District that currently have 50/70 teams.
    - Terry: The township will convert the field to support 50/70.
    - Mike Dowger: Lower Perk is organizing a Sunday 50/70 league that may be a good way for us to get started.
    - Bob: This needs to go back to Baseball to evaluate and make a decision.
- Anyone interested in volunteering and helping out administratively with baseball (communications, division directors, etc.) should reach out to Dave Stevenson at [dstevensonell@yahoo.com](mailto:dstevensonell@yahoo.com).

### **Softball update – Russ**

- Tentative SB schedule is in place
  - Clinics have started
    - Peirce on Sunday nights
  - Division Director announcements by 1/31
  - 1<sup>st</sup> two weeks in Feb for Coach interviews
    - Bob – They must present volunteer form at the interview
  - Sunday Feb 22 evaluations
  - March 14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> target for first day of practice (weather permitting)
  - Early April for 1<sup>st</sup> games
- 1<sup>st</sup> week of June for playoffs
- Registration is low right now but we expect the normal push at the end
- Softball Committee
  - January – what went well and what needs attention. Normally good ideas come out of here.
- Softball Equipment
  - Looks like we may not need much other than balls

- Total inventory in Russ' garage for counting and safe storage over the winter.
    - Dave has been handling the T-Ball order.
  - Bob: Estimate teams. We need to order all by Jan 20, including uniforms.
    - If we end up with some extra it can be used in the future.
- Field Needs
  - Inflatable tire liners are not working (dropping material) very well. Someone mechanically inclined needs to take a look.
  - Tractor may need a new battery. At the end of last season it was not holding a charge.
  - Can we do anything for drainage on 1<sup>st</sup> base side of both fields?
- General Concerns
  - No one to run the snack shack has come forward as yet.
    - You may have to go to a team volunteer schedule
  - 12 year old level will be way down. Do we go down the road of pairing with another local league if we do not get the numbers
    - Preference would be to keep it in house.
    - We will keep options open pending registration.

### **Field update – Terry**

- Nothing at this point

### **President's Report**

- Reading Phillies
  - Brian McGinley would like to step down from running this.
  - Marcia Wileczek: Can we think about moving this date back?
    - Bob: The thinking was to do this before the teams break apart.
  - Bob: Strongly suggest that we should go back to the method of giving out the tickets to the teams to sell.
    - Marcia: We can run it any way the league wants to.
- Coach Meeting: Targeting March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - This will include our annual Safety presentation

### **Finance - Diana**

- Transition moving forward.
- Bills are getting paid.

### **New Business**

- Opening Day will be around Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup> based on the current calendar.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:04 PM by Bob Herman

**Minutes prepared by:** Tom Pitt