



Minutes for Annual Board Meeting

October 16, 2016

Bill Beckert
Kristi Brouker
Chris Caccamo
John Calcavecchia
Chris Clay
Scott DeGrandi
Kevin Finn
Byron Frank
Jim Glaspey
Steve Guglietta
Matt Guglielmo

Mike Gulino
Aaron Jainchill
Alex Kaminski
John Kelly
Larry LaDuke
Mike Magnifico
Dave McCullough
Tim McKenzie
Jamie Moses
John Truhan

Tony Sardilli
John Truhan
Chris Wagner
Kathy Wolkner
Tom Wolkner

Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M.

- 1) Secretary's Report: Dave McCullough – Minutes for the September Board Meeting were motioned and approved.
- 2) Treasurer's Report: Matt Guglielmo – Financial records through September 2016 are closed, expenses for the past 12 months exceeded the prior year by approximately \$23 K, due to capital investments on the fields and facilities and lower than expected registration numbers. Overall the league remains very healthy financially, with upwards of \$73 K in the bank. Please see the report for additional detail. Treasurer's Report motioned and approved.
- 3) Final Committee Reports:
 - a) Clinics and Coaching – Chris Caccamo
 - Many successful clinics this year, including the Big Al ones in March, the ones at New Horizons, and in-season catching clinics. Softball had clinics as well. We will look to maintain or exceed in the coming year to benefit both coaches and players.
 - b) Fields and Facilities – Alex Kaminski
 - Lots of capital improvements on the fields in 2016, ranging from skimming Baily to fence topping to mound repair to dugout enhancements, have left the fields in as good shape as they have been in a few years. Potential installation of turf in the Grouten pitching tunnels and on-deck circles is a possibility as well but more research is required to make sure it can be done within the approved budget.
 - c) Fund Raising – Mike Gulino on behalf of Vin Bergin
 - The primary fund raiser, the raffle, was very successful in the spring. Although it netted less than 2015, that was largely due to having fewer players in the league this spring. In addition to the raffle, we had a several significant sponsorships making for solid year. We will need to maintain focus on this area in 2016-2017.
 - d) Registration & Tryouts – Byron Frank
 - Registration for spring and fall ball was down as compared to the prior year but other towns within the district and other sports in town are also reporting lower numbers. Of some concern is the reduced number of registrants at the lower levels (coach pitch, machine pitch). Tryouts in the spring and for the 10 year old district team went very well, especially with some additional stations for evaluation (pitching, for example).

- e) Uniforms & Equipment – Chris Caccamo and Mike Gulino on behalf of Mike Mihalek
 - The number bag system implemented this year has worked well and we only have 3 bags unaccounted for from 2016 (all are known). Any outstanding equipment from fall ball or the summer tournaments will be collected at fall cleanup day on November 5.
- f) Marketing – Steve Guglietta
 - New lawn signs purchased this year so this year we will just put stickers for updated dates in 2017. This was the first year that the league participated in the Unionville Festival in September, and thanks to the folks (Kristi Brouker, Dave McCullough, Chris St. James) who staffed the booth, which ended up handing out 150 balls and magnets. One key item for discussion and solution in 2017 is an examination of how best to push communications out through the school system.
- g) Safety – Kristi Brouker
 - There were a few injuries reported over the three seasons but nothing too serious to report. The medical kits and informational packets handed out proved to be an improvement over past years. As always, the issues associated with having enough ice packs and where best to keep extras continue to be a challenge and we will need to discuss next year.
- h) Program – Kathy Wolkner
 - Successfully produced this year’s program but would be open for an assistant in 2017. Our thanks to Kathy for her great work (as always) to complete despite late pictures, sliding deadlines, etc.
- i) Concession – Kristi Brouker
 - Running concessions for Lindquist was a huge success financially and as far as appearances go as the host town. We need to consider what we do in 2017, we should definitely do the tournament again but should also consider that approach for the spring, assuming we can determine how best to staff.
- j) Umpire in Chief – Mike Gulino on behalf of Chris Temple.
 - All games were covered in 2016 with a very few exceptions so our thanks to Chris and Marie for their hard work. We will need to determine a revamped umpire training in 2017 to ensure the quality of the umpiring, particularly at the Minors level. Last but not least, all district games that needed umpires were covered, our thanks to the experienced league umpires who stepped up to do that.
- k) Special Events – Calcavecchia
 - A very successful 2016 with recognition day and spotlight, thanks to all who helped make it possible.
- l) Lindquist Tournament – Mike Gulino and Aaron Jainchill
 - Phenomenal job done by Aaron to have a very successful tournament this year, especially since it was the most teams ever to participate. A couple of mid-flight adjustments such as U12 A and B brackets and championships were needed; the concession stand was a rousing success. The tournament turned a profit of \$5 K; most importantly, the kids had fun.

5. Fall Commissioner Reports:

- Softball (Tony Sardilli and Tom Wolkner) – 2016 was a successful season in that every girl that wanted to play was able to do so, even if it meant partnering with a surrounding town to find spots. In 2017, we must re-double our efforts to encourage participation by all girls and ensure retention as girls progress.
- Travel Baseball (Mike Gulino) – Fall 2016 saw strong participation in town and across towns in the district. Thanks to the commissioners for facilitating the setup and for addressing the few issues that surfaced. The fall season is better run now than in past years and we should recommend managing again in 2017.
- In-Town Minors and Machine (Steve Guglietta) – A very successful fall season was had by all with many competitive games and continued development, preparing players to take the next step in the spring.

6. Old Business:

- A reminder that fall cleanup day will be held on Saturday 11/5 from 9:30 to 1:30, if necessary the rain date is Sunday 11/6.

7. New Business: Mike Gulino

- Welcome to Riley Wolf and congratulations to Jon and Jess Wolf who brought her into the world on Monday, October 10.
- Big Diamond Update – A meeting was held with the key stakeholders for juniors and seniors baseball, looking how best to boost our numbers and how to better prepare coaches to make the transition from Little League to Big Diamond. It was a productive session but more discussions are needed to develop a more holistic strategy to retain players and provide an avenue to play baseball.
- State of the League – 4th year as President, 22 board members, with attendance averaging 20-25 people for monthly meetings, we are the envy of many leagues in our district, and have seen a shift from individual work to committee work (a big positive); Lindquist was a great success thanks to Aaron Jainchill; appreciation day and spotlight games were much fun thanks to John Calcavecchia and Bill Beckert and the banquet was a great success due to the hard work of Bill Collins; lots of field improvements like water fountains, bench repair, and new clay, Alex Kaminski did a great job as lead; special thanks to Chris Temple as umpire in chief and Marie Patrick as the Minors Scheduler with more coverage this year than historical levels. Marketing led by Steve Guglietta did a great job, but we need new ideas to retain and increase numbers. As per usual the program was produced well despite late pictures and responses due to Kathy Wolkner's hard work; equipment and uniforms are in good shape thanks to the teamwork of Mike Mihalek and Chris Caccamo; concessions in Lindquist was a huge success and we would like to cover the spring season as well, kudos to Kristi Brouker; all committees were productive, the league is financially solid, finishing the year strong despite some investment expenditures, thanks to Matt for all his work over the past 5 years and wish him the best as he steps down. The key perk of juniors and seniors is keeping people longer – but sometimes we have to say goodbye: Tony Sardilli, Matt Guglietta among others will be missed. Fall season went very well, particularly with District 5 coordination (thanks to the commissioners and Byron); a challenge to address will be to retain coaches at the lower levels as we are already seeing this come to pass; on a related note, we spent \$400 on Big AI Program which has proved to be a great investment. The need to improve retention overall in baseball and softball will be a focal point in 2017; need to raise the quality and quantity of umpires, Mike will meet with Chris Temple to come up with a strategy to address. The league highlights include:
 - o T-ball and Coach Pitch have renewed energy and focus thanks to John Truhan.
 - o Machine Pitch continues to be a hotly debated level within the Board and among parents.
 - o Minors and Majors continue to improve in the quality of the play, with teams highly competitive against other teams in the districts and beyond, numbers are slightly down overall but that can be addressed.
 - o Juniors and Seniors have been somewhat down historically, but are turning a corner both with coaches and players, congratulations on the Vantis championship.
 - o Softball numbers are down but the coaching and development is strong, need to get more girls involved and more parents engaged.

Last but not least, thanks to all volunteers as we would not exist without you, thanks to Executive Board for a strong year. The challenge for anyone who steps up to be considered for election in 2016-2017 will be to maintain the overall health of the league and to continue to grow and improve.

- Public Comment – None at this time.
- Election of New Board – A motion was made and approved to elect all eligible members to the Executive Board for 2016-17. Congratulations to those elected.

8. Next Meetings: Mike Gulino

- The next meeting is the 2017 Executive Board Meeting on Thursday, 10/20/2016 at a TBD location and time; the objective is to elect officers, committee leads, and to have the broader strategy discussions needed to ensure a successful year. The next monthly board meeting will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Farmington Police Station.

2016-17 Executive Board

The following were elected to the 2016-2017 FYBL Executive Board at the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, October 16, 2016:

- Bill Beckert
- Vin Bergin
- Kristi Brouker
- Chris Caccamo
- John Calcavecchia
- Chris Clay
- Scott DeGrandi
- Kevin Finn
- Byron Frank
- Jim Glaspey
- Steve Guglietta
- Mike Gulino
- Chris Hoheb
- Aaron Jainchill
- Alex Kaminski
- John Kelly
- Larry LaDuke
- Mike Magniafico
- Jamie Martin
- Dave McCullough
- Tim McKenzie
- Mike Mihalek
- Jamie Moses
- Robert Tomkiewicz
- John Truhan
- Jon Wolf
- Kathy Wolkner
- Tom Wolkner