



General Membership Meeting Agenda
Guilford Community Center - March 06, 2017

Agenda - DRAFT

Chris opens meeting at 7:30 pm

Present - Joe Barcello; Brett Griffith; Brian Berry; John Jagielski; Paul Scarpa; Mike McDonald; Kevin Spagone; Steve Ruotolo; David Meter; Janice Crabtree; Mark Donovan; Albert Farrar; Dani Howard; Tom Huffman; Chris Loban; Danielle Morgan; Fred Rosa; Mark Sampson; Jori Smith; Jennifer Stanger; Thomas Steffen; Mark White; Lisa Zajkowski

Opening on 2/17 Membership Meeting notes – motioned to accept minutes – unanimously accepted; 0 nays; 0 abstentions .

Lions Club: They have voted and intend to do some work with us to beautify the front of Adams.

VP of Softball: Adam stepped down. Joe Barcello has offered to be the VP of softball. Chris nominates Joe to VP – unanimously voted in; 0 nays; 0 abstentions.

Town Budget Update – Chris: We have been asked to offset the \$24,000. We voted to offset 20% of the cost. We thought this would help pass the budget – this was eliminated from the budget to offset the cuts imposed by the state. This may appear on next April's budget.

District Meeting Update – Mark D: We may still host the state championship. There will be much to plan for if we are hosting this. Mark proposes giving the district staff a deadline to make a decision so we can properly prepare. We need to understand the costs/volunteer strain/what it will bring to the league. Mark will attempt to get an answer from Rick prior to the April meeting.

New Bat Rules 2018 – This applies to baseball only. Mark White has the parameters – may put them on the website. One-Foot-In-The Box: call a strike if you step outside the box. Mike Foley (new district UIC) has agreed to do training for all the new umpires.

New Rules & Guidelines–

- New bat guidelines will be in place in 2018; this applies to baseball only. Janice put the current list of acceptable bats and the 2018 guidelines on the website last month in the League Documents area. She will move them to a more prominent place on the website.
- 6.02c – The Batter: Allows a local league the option to mandate batters keep one foot in the batter's box during their at-bat.
- Summary of new rules and regulations - [Updates and Information on Little League® Regulations, Rules, and Policies](#)
- 2017 Rule Books are in. These will be distributed to coaches and umpires. At April meeting Loban will bring copies for board members who are not coaches or umpires.

Scoreboard Update – Janice: They have been purchased and will be here in three weeks. They came in \$3000 under budget, and will be installed by volunteers. If we can find sponsorship for \$3500 each, we

will be in way under budget. Once it is delivered, we can have them installed. We will have the panels printed locally with either sponsor logos or remembrances printed on current scoreboards.

Action News

Financial Update – Thomas: Balance is just under \$79,000. Thomas will pay the invoice from Community Center for \$325 – Bittner Park electricity. We lost money on each kid for spring training this year.

Spring Training Update – Chris: 40 kids signed up and the feedback has been positive. We have discussed doing some skill specific clinics over the seasons. Maybe send a survey at the end of the session.

Softball Spring Training Update – Jen & Jori: 23 girls have signed up. They made money on this venture – they are running this at pure profit. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Ed Hobson, the only overhead fees are the hourly usage fees at the CT Sportsplex. Registration is open and continues to attract participants.

Spring Ball Registration update, scheduling, Commissioners, Coaches, and player recruiting – Mark W/Jen & Jori: We have about 55% registered thus far, compared to last year. Evaluations are this Saturday, March 11th. Fred will be ordering uniforms by March 20th. Fred offers to send a note to folks who have not registered from last year to get enrollment up.

Paul Scarpa, Mark Donovan, Phil Spagone, Kevin Kikosicki– Commissioners; Coaches – we have volunteers – and we need volunteers.

Mark lists many names of folks who are coaches for the board to vote on – Janice suggests we vote on this as a ‘Board only’ vote at meeting’s end.

Softball has been utilizing cold calls– Therese /Fred Ferry/Janice/Joe – They have plenty of majors coaches – they need AA coaches; 34 registered now and 84 registered last year. They do the “Girls Rule” Tournament – May 18-May 21: they will use the money they made through the clinic to fund this venture.

Local Rules Discussion – Chris and Mark W: AAA games have not been capped in the past – Chris motions to cap them at 2 hours. Need to check the rule book. Games cannot be capped in district play, but we can be capped during the regular season.

Summer Ball: Older kids to keep up competitive ball and younger kids work on skill building. Stealing – does it have a place?

Player Evaluations 3/11 7:45a-4p – Mark S: The pancake breakfast was a great success! 60/70 volunteer slots have been filled by students here in town. Still need 10 volunteers at 12:30 slot (AA). Draft is Monday and Tuesday – need to know who is playing. 2 independent evaluators will be at evaluations as well. There will be a clear process for play ups and downs – do we have room? Skill based by evaluations. Fred will be there for uniform sign up. Coaches will receive direction.

- Janice will sell food.
- Evaluations are difficult to plan and draft efforts are thwarted if large # of kids sign up late. Next year early bird registration will end before evaluations to encourage more players to

sign up before evaluations. More emails will be sent to encourage registration before Saturday.

April 1st – PCA, Safety Clinic, and Coach the Coaches: Dani has PCA set for 10-12 – Dave has Safety 1 hour; then Coach the Coaches at the end of the day. Do an email blast after the draft to get as many folks to come as possible.

Operational Update/Opening Day 4/22 – Fred: Opening Day ceremony – 7:30 teams start Huffman to lead the parade. Deep River Fife and Drum scheduled. Announcement of the All Star Teams. We can have local recently deceased grandkids to throw out first pitches. {Fred Rosa will contact former GLL player Donny Papa's grandchildren to throw out first pitches. He is recently deceased and we will honor him for for pitching the first no-hitter in GLL among many other accomplishments.}

- Home Run Derby to be put off for planning purposes. Engravings on trophies are all set. Sponsors will be recognized and offered pics with their teams. Raffle tix will be \$10 – if players sell more than 10/player, these monies will be credited to their GLL accounts. Ex. Family with 2 children sell 25 tickets \$50 credit will be posted to their GLL account to be applied to future league fees. Jeff Ambroziak will announce games.

Training New Umpires – Tom: 10 active youth umpires. David has an adult volunteer. 3 of our former umpires are willing to help us out. Mark D will be calling 4 others. Tom and Lisa will be sending out an ad to the Courier to get the adults to sign up. Foley will be scheduled 2 weeks or so before opening day. Brent is still doing the database – the games have to be loaded into the website prior so that the umpires can sign up easily.

Sponsorship a Must!!! Last year we had \$25,000 – we'd like to keep this support coming. Chris is working with larger companies to sponsor the scoreboards. Since we do not have a Director of Fundraising, board members must share responsibility for approaching local businesses. Please update the shared spreadsheet after approaching anyone so that efforts will not be duplicated.

Vetting all Volunteers – Chris: We have a good amount of volunteers in the system – need to fill out form on the website.

Calendar of Events, Website Changes, FB Usage – Lisa: We have only 200 followers on FB. Worth reaching out to all the places we spend a good amount of money.

Fields and Safety – Dave: 1st Selectman's office would like to use Dan Montgomery's pic for spring issue. There will be some field scheduling issues; please be patient. Clean up weekend – 4/8, 4/9, 4/15 – one of these weekends. Chris advises nothing later than 8th/9th. Rick is considering charging for weekend use of the fields - \$90-\$225 for the weekend set up of the fields. David proposes having a training with Parks and Rec Director on how to take care of fields. This would be to use/benefit the health and longevity of Adams and Bittner. We will need swinging bats/foul ball territory signs. The town approved the work on the shed. Baldwin (needs benches on both sides) – is there money available for this? Fencing needs to be fixed at Bittner.

Equipment Update – Alex: We are in a good place with equipment.

Next meeting Monday April 3rd –

Meeting adjourned 9:45 pm