

## Coginchaug Little League Minutes

12/9/14

Attendees: Scott Strang, Steve DeMartino, Deb Kulpik, Rick Quirk, Renée Donlan, Andy Kleczkowski, Joe Fournier, Rick Mach, Eric Meliso, Carolyn Racki, Bill Biro, Keith Pascarelli, Nick Faiella, John Kelly, Mike Mancini, Jim Caramanello, John Leonard

Call to Order 8:00 pm.

### Treasurer Report:

- Account balance: \$13,356.76.
- All bills paid.

### All Star fees:

Scott would like it to go up. Don't need to cover entire expenses, but \$60 may be OK. Nick isn't convinced on the \$10 increase. Maybe \$55. Nick wants to know how much concessions makes during All-stars, but we don't have that broken out. Scott pointed out \$60 should be good for two years. \$60 was used in the budget. John Kelly motioned for \$60, Bill Biro seconded, majority voted for \$60.

### Registration Fee Proposal:

T-ball and farm: \$85.

Majors and minors: \$125.

50/70: \$135 (\$75 if also in majors)

Juniors: \$110.

Family max: \$350 (except for player on both majors and 50/70).

Discussion: Rick Quirk noted comparisons with other towns: Middletown: \$130. Portland \$110, Madison: \$115. Nick: we have \$13k in the bank, projecting \$14k additional for next year. Do we need to raise fees? Joe: we are worried about falling numbers, does this hurt us? Other discussion: can we start T-ball lower, such as \$75? Scott is worried about demographics in 2-3 years. Question: do we explain where the costs go on registration form? Idea to save expenses: charge ump fees to 50/70 teams who don't have their own fields to host us on?

Vote:

Motion 1: Steve motioned to vote on fees as show above. Nick seconded. Unanimous vote to approve registration fees.

### Age change:

New age chart came out from district. This was earlier than expected. Baseball only. Scott concerned about mismatch with Softball. New rules may result in younger kids being in T-ball. Agreement that we can't fight this change from Little League, so do we change t-ball to 6 year old only? Many possible effects on farm, minors, etc. We don't want to reduce the skill set in the majors. Idea: merge farm and minors, use AA and AAA for different minors skill sets. Main goal needs to be retention of players. Alternative: base teams on age. Not up for vote tonight, but something we need to think about for decision soon. Division directors from Farm and Minors will need to determine the basic design for 2015 in time for January registrations.

### Fundraising:

Committee met 12/1, discussed ideas: t shirt - District 9 shirt instead of Coginchaug so home and visiting teams could buy. Movie night on the field, with concessions open. Use large outdoor screen. Golf outing @ Indian springs. Restaurant appreciation night- Blackbird wasn't interested, Mondo would give back 10%. Comedy night. Photographer to take game pics of your child, CLL would get 10%. Wine tasting. Hiring vendor(s) for opening day. Holiday ornament. Idea: have sign on the town green to advertise our events. Steve will investigate sign. Suggestion: Involve our sponsors more. Estimated 2015 fundraising income: \$3500.

### Open house:

Scott wants to do this Jan 26 or 29. 26 preferred.

### Fields:

Rick called multiple lawn care companies to get quotes. One possibility is to barter for sponsorship, previous sponsorship director did not want to do this. Can we have lawn care company spray herbicides?

### Budget:

Reviewed previously emailed budget proposal.

- Glenn previously suggested we drop concessions to \$30k. Leave expense the same.
- Pitching clinics already set up-baseball. Mike Mancini would like to have a pitching clinic for softball. Add \$1500 to both cost and expense; this should be a break even event.
- Sponsor proposed income down a touch from 2014. We can get more creative with sponsorship levels.
- Registration number assumes 50 fewer players registering for 2015 than 2014 in the budget.
- Billboard expenses is for new sponsors' signs.

- District 9 fees came from Kyle.
- Equipment includes balls, gear, etc. Field maintenance is speedi-dry; keys, lawn care, etc. Budget line item does not include “capital” projects.
- Request: when ordering, ask vendor to put the category on the memo field. Makes it easier to categorize each invoice.
- Operations is stamps, PO box, etc.
- Comment: portable toilet costs seem low.
- Not clear what the training \$ will be used for.
- Trophies went up again. We can reduce. We will drop to \$3k. Question: can we give medals to minors?
- Umpire fees budgeted to increase.
- Uniforms: Scott wants to review this and try to reduce cost per uniform. Goal is to keep it under \$20k.

Joe moved to accept budget as written, with additional cost/expense for softball pitching clinic and trophy dropped to \$3,000. Nick seconded. Unanimous vote for approval.

Meeting adjourned@ 9:50 after motions.