

# Bear River Little League Board Meeting Minutes

**December 11, 2023, 6:00pm, via Zoom**

1. Call to order/roll call/thank you cards
  - 1.1 Call to order: 6:06pm.
  - 1.2 Roll call, present: Jenn Lukenbill, Eliza Schissel, Matt Zilch, Tara Zilch, Wendy Stclair, Holly Williams, Charlie Bowers, Chris Murtey, Rayna Hess, Tony Ciafardoni, Brittany Duckett, Lindsey Yurek, Gianna Cooley, Anthony Talbott, Tyler Smith, Bethany Heuseveldt, Zac Quentmeyer, Meg Swinney, Bob Sharpe, Rosa Corrales, Jim Hudson.
  - 1.3 Thank you cards needed: none.
2. Review/vote in November 2023 minutes: Rayna motioned, Bob seconded, none opposed. November minutes passed.
3. Treasurer Report (Rayna): Current balance is \$30,515. Going to finalize and send out budget for the fiscal year. Now would be the time to tell Rayna if we have any expenses to add. Has one outstanding payment (revenue) that needs to go through: \$3k for field usage from Bruins.
4. Presidents Report (Jenn):
  - 4.1 By-Laws: Jenn will send out new by-laws with corrections after winter break. Board will vote on them at January meeting.
  - 4.2 Pros/cons from last year: Each year we like to acknowledge the Juniors players who are aging out and playing their final year by giving them pins. Years ago we did it at closing ceremonies, but we no longer have a speaking program during closing ceremonies so there is not a good opportunity to do it. Tara suggested giving out the pins during the speaking program at opening ceremonies instead. Pins are sitting at Wilson Trophies. They are done and ready and need to be picked up. Anthony offered to pick them up.
  - 4.3 Background checks: Holly's friend is willing to do it if there are not more people than there were last year. Holly will get her the dates to make sure she is available. Opening Ceremonies is set (March 30th) and now that we have our insurance coverage finalized we can submit room reservation forms to Cottage Hill for the managers meeting, usually held the first week of February, subject to the school's availability.
  - 4.4 Document Collection (Katherine): Will be held January 13 (9am-3pm) at Cottage Hill MPR. Board members should plan to be there 8am-3:30pm. Waiting for our payment to Little League International to clear so our insurance is current for next year so she can request the room rental. Tuesday night (the 16th) make-up document collection will be 6-8pm. Board members should be there 5:30pm-9pm. We will vote in the managers after document collection ends. We'll have a pretty good idea of how many managers we'll need by then. Managers can present (in person or on phone) to give speech or have remarks read aloud. We vote in managers only, not coaches. On the 13th all the board members who have kids playing basketball can leave to watch games when they need to. Rayna has the raffle tickets to give out at document collection.

We will have computer and printer there to register people who haven't registered yet. Inform Jenn closer to event if you cannot be there.

4.5 Thank you to Tara for making splash page on website about mandatory raffle tickets. Jenn is getting far fewer questions about it now.

4.6 Things to vote on:

4.6.1 Amount to play All Stars: Last year we charged \$75 to play with a \$100 volunteer check. We didn't used to charge for All Stars but we lost money. It wasn't fair that all BRLL families had to subsidize it for the few who got to pay. \$75 doesn't cover full amount but it's close. We ask All Star families to volunteer at two games, and that is only if we are hosting a tournament. If we aren't hosting tournaments, we don't collect volunteer checks. Holly suggested raising to \$100. Tara suggested since we re-introduced raffle tickets (and some parents are displeased) we may not want to raise All Stars. Bethany agrees. It can already be a hard sell to get families to want to play. Rayna asked if we've ever had an All Star sponsor. When Andy was fundraiser he had dugout sponsors which paid for bottled water during 2021, when having bottled water was required. We put sponsor banners on dugouts. Another company donated all the meat for snack shack for the tournament. Sponsorship recruiting was very successful. Anthony offered to research jersey companies because if we can get price down on jerseys it would help our overall budget. We could do an All Star fundraiser on Sunday after teams are announced, such as fill the bucket or hat. Today, Bruin cheerleaders were outside Holiday Market selling cookies and mistletoe and made several thousand dollars in couple hours. Brittany said that is on her list of fundraising ideas. Board voted to leave registration fee at \$75.

4.6.2 Tournament hosting: When we request tournaments, we get to rank them by order to indicate our preferences. In past we have asked for TOCs because it's first (immediately following regular season) so it's easier to get volunteers when season just keeps going. We have also hosted many All Star tournaments in July and it has worked out well. Jenn's personal experience was it was great to play at home with stands packed and fans cheering on. Lindsey asked if we make money during these tournaments. Jenn said it's not much. They are not successful fundraisers, but they are good for our league's recognition. We hadn't hosted a tournament in a decade before Jenn was president. Could we ask a bathroom company to sponsor by lending a toilet? The company that did county fair is big on supporting youth (Links? in Loomis). Brittany has a friend that owns a bathroom rental she can ask. Zac suggested hosting tournaments every other year to avoid board burnout. We have to host softball tournaments because there are only three leagues that have softball programs. Sections rotates through districts so we won't be offered sections this year (it will be at different district). We don't have to vote yet. We don't have to make a full decision until March. We will vote on it at next meeting.

4.7 Upcoming Calendar Items:

- Mon., Jan. 8, 6pm, via Zoom: BRLL Board Meeting
- Thurs., Jan. 11, 6:30pm, St. Joseph's: Presidents meeting, incl. UIC, Safety, PA's.
- Sat., Jan. 13, 9-3pm, Cottage Hill MPR: Document Collection.
- Tues., Jan. 16, 6-8pm, Cottage Hill MPR: Make-up Document Collection.
- Sun., Jan. 21, Turf Field: Softball Tryouts.

- Sun., Jan. 28, Turf Field: Baseball Tryouts.
  - Tues., Jan 30, 6-8pm, Turf Field: Make-up Tryouts (softball and baseball).
  - Sun., Feb. 4, 2pm, Auburn LL office: Softball Inter-League meeting.
  - Sun., Feb. 4, 3pm, Auburn LL office: Baseball Inter-League meeting.
  - Thurs., Feb. 15, 6:30pm, St. Joseph's: Presidents meeting, incl. UIC, Safety, PA's.
  - Sun., Feb. 18, 4pm, Trailblazers Pizza: BRLL Board Meeting.
5. Softball (Holly): 40 players currently registered: three tee ball, four farm, 17 minors, eight majors, eight juniors. Haven't acquired safety release bases yet; waiting to see if we have funds.
  6. Fundraising (Tara and Brittany): Potential "parents night out" event in February. Brittany suggested a pick-a-date to fundraise with a goal per team. She needs the list of previous sponsors; Tara has it. Someone has expressed interest in the top level (\$1,000 All Star) sponsorship. We need to reconcile website information with the sponsor form because the website page lists six options, the form lists three options, and they do not align. Tara wants to meet with Brittany in person to make website changes together to correct the conflicting information. Jenn is open to any changes they want to make on website. Is Rivercats Day Brittany's domain? Yes. Rivercats has said it is a fundraiser, but we have never gotten a check from them. We usually ask them which day the rest of D11 is going and schedule for the same date. How many back-of-jersey sponsorships will we need? Last year we had 30+ teams. Need to compile sponsor list and make list in first-come-first-serve order. Parents want to sponsor their own kid's team. Multiple companies may request the same team, but each team can have only one sponsor. Last year we had a sponsor for every team. Tara matched up sponsors and teams and filled gaps. Sometimes companies (such as SPD) will sponsor without having a child playing or a specific team preference. Some companies sponsored multiple teams, so we may have had 20+ sponsors for 30+ teams. Megan will give Brittany her jersey order spreadsheet and Brittany will add sponsor names.
  7. Facilities Report
    - 7.1 Sponsor Signs (Bob): He has removed the sponsor signs on the majors field outfield fence to protect them during the winter.
    - 7.2 New bathroom update (Tony): Many challenges to overcome. The school initially gave permission for us to tie into the sewer line, but they have not authorized us to proceed with the bathrooms until the new fields are finished. Home Depot said they would build the shell frame for the bathroom, but when they got a building in store, it wasn't the right size. Tuff Shed won't do it without a legal permit. Since the school owns the grounds, they would have to apply for the permit, but they won't do it, and we are not authorized to do it ourselves. Working with Home Depot again to get two buildings that are under the size that would necessitate a permit. It is moving forward.
    - 7.3 New Fields update (Tony): Working on getting material shipped down. Hoping to cut fields during the third week of January if we can get machines lined up and material has arrived. Estimate \$20k for backstop and fencing for two new fields.
  8. Snack Shack (Rosa): None of her kids are playing this year, but she is still going to take charge of snack shack. She is committed to the BRLL board and the position she was elected to. She will be

running the snack shack all the time and will have her kids with her to help, but she would like us to recruit a co-director to assist her. She asked Tara to post position on Facebook and Instagram.

9. Membership (Kathleen): Registration numbers for softball and baseball combined include 17 tee ball, 42 farm, 59 minors (at least 32 are AA and at least seven are AAA, with 18 nine-year-olds who could go either way), 13 majors, 10 intermediate, eight juniors.
10. Player Agent (Charlie): Tryouts will be January 21st (softball) and 28th (baseball), with makeups (for softball and baseball combined) on the 30th. Need to get turf field reserved for all three dates. Charlie will send the daily planned itinerary for each day. Should we add pitching and catching to tryouts? Board felt it would be too complicated and time-consuming. Members suggested ideas to alleviate the long wait for the minors families, such as creating a Signup Genius for parents to register for particular time-slots, dividing the players into two groups (by either age or last name), numbering the groups rather than using color-coded dots so players can estimate their wait time, etc. Board is working to minimize the waiting time for families this year.
11. Coaching (Tara): The following numbers of parents have registered to be considered as managers: two for tee ball, two for farm, four for minors, and two for majors. None yet for intermediate or juniors.
12. Volunteer (Megan): Meg wants to get volunteer slots up early because parents like to sign up while they are registering their players. Charlie will email Megan the itineraries for tryouts so she can post those volunteer opportunities.
13. UIC (Scott): Scott not present. No update.
14. Safety (Jim): No update.
15. Equipment (Matt): We think there are keys floating around from previous seasons that have not been returned. We may change locks if we have someone who can make new keys affordably. Meg offered that her husband can cut keys.
16. Open Issues:
  - 16.1 Photos (Holly): Holly will reach out to Amie (the photographer that we have used previously but not in most recent years) tomorrow to see if she has connections with companies that can do extras. She does take buddy pictures.
  - 16.2 Portapotties: Tyler suggested moving the small portapotty (\$113 per month) by turf field down toward majors field and removing large ADA portapotty (\$413 per month) until spring. Board approved this decision in order to save funds.
17. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.