

# Bear River Little League

## Board Meeting Minutes

**November 19, 2023, 4:00pm, via Zoom**

1. Call to order/roll call/thank you cards
  - 1.1 Call to order: 4:08pm.
  - 1.2 Roll call, present: Jenn Lukenbill, Eliza Schissel, Meg Swinney, Rosa Corrales, Matt Zilch, Tara Zilch, Jim Hudson, Scott Parsons, Bob Sharpe, Gianna Cooley, Kathleen Russell, Zac Quentmeyer, Rayna Hess, Holly Williams, Tony Talbott, Wendy Stclair, Brittany Duckett, Lindsey Yurek, Tyler Smith, Charlie Bowers.
  - 1.3 Thank you cards needed: none.
2. Review/vote in October minutes: Bob motioned, Holly seconded, none opposed. October minutes passed.
3. Presidents Report (Jenn):
  - 3.1 By-Laws: Board members reviewed current by-laws and discussed potential changes. Process for selecting TOC teams for AAA and Majors divisions will be further clarified and reflected in by-laws. Question about age limits in divisions and adding Intermediate (50/70) division. Code of Conduct section will need to be updated in by-laws, pursuant to forthcoming Code of Conduct discussion and revision.
  - 3.2 Intermediate (50/70) division: Board discussed pros, cons, and considerations. Jenn sent email to all players league age 13 who would be eligible. Many players responded, and all who responded indicated they would choose to play 50/70 if it is offered. Jenn proposes holding practices on turf field. Without the purchase of a \$5,000 portable turf mound, games will need to be played elsewhere. Other leagues have offered to host all the games, including our “home” games, on their fields. Auburn LL has to pay for use of the fields at Recreation Park, and we would pay for the rental of that field when we are scheduled as the “home” team. Other leagues do not have to pay for the use of their fields, and thus our “home” games on their fields would not incur a cost to us. Jenn proposed we open 50/70 registration and see what enrollment numbers come in. If we end up with too few numbers for juniors and too many for 50/70, we can move some of the 50/70 kids (who are willing) up to Juniors. Board discussed pricing 50/70 and Juniors registration the same, to avoid incentivizing one division over the other, and to simplify financial logistics if we move kids from one division to the other. For practices on the turf field, we will need to buy bases, batting matt, and Conex storage box, so there will be some expense. Dylan Mondo (some of Steve Mondo) will play 50/70 and thinks they can build a practice mound. Players on 50/70 are allowed to be dual-rostered on Juniors, so they could play in the Juniors games and help fill out the roster.
  - 3.3 Registration fee amount for playing All Stars: Will discuss at next meeting.
  - 3.4 Townhall Meeting: Each year Jenn has conducted a live orientation via zoom to provide information and answer questions, open to all families, but particularly geared for new families. In 2022, hundreds of parents attended. In 2023, about 20 parents attended. Should we offer it again this year? Board members suggested, as an alternative, putting more FAQ information on

the website and sending additional informative emails. Jenn feels it is unlikely that parents read those emails. Eliza suggested making a pre-recorded video and posting it on our website to be viewed at any time. Parents who would have been unable to attend it live would still have access to the information, and having the video get more views would make it more worthwhile of Jenn's time. The video could be used in future years.

- 3.5 Code of Conduct: Jenn suggested a three-strike rule, with the hope that tougher consequences will deter bad behavior. Proposed first strike: written warning. Second strike: suspended for one game. Third strike: player is suspended for one game. Board discussed and members were not comfortable with suspending a player for his parent's bad behavior. Instead, the following was proposed: First strike: written warning for parent. Second strike: one game suspension for parent. Third strike: season suspension for parent. Suggestion to add wording that these are the minimum consequences, and the board retains the right to impose greater consequences for particularly egregious behavior. Scott motioned to adopt this new Code of Conduct, Matt seconded, new Code of Conduct passed.
- 3.6 Fall Ball Rundown (Eliza): Great season, ending today. 81 kids played baseball across seven teams (one Juniors, one Majors, one AAA, two AA, and two Farm), plus 13 kids who played softball on the Majors team. Congrats to the AAA team for an undefeated season. The Juniors team was a cautionary tale of the risks of hosting a program with too many external factors beyond our control, including relying on the use of an unmaintained field that we aren't authorized to maintain, and a manager unfamiliar with and uninvested in BRLL. No player or parent complaints came in from any other team, which is a testament to how terrific the managers were. Many thanks to all board members involved with putting on a great season, with biggest thanks to Zac, Tony C., and Tyler for managing teams.
- 3.7 Things to vote on:
  - 3.8 Intermediate (50/70) division. Pros: Many 13-year-olds are not ready to make the big leap from Majors to Juniors, and in trying to do so, they risk getting frustrated and dropping out of baseball. Offering an incremental transition between Majors and Juniors might keep them involved with Little League for longer and ultimately strengthen our Juniors program. Our players would have a better playing experience. Cons: Expense and logistical hurdles of offering new division. The most significant expense (the purchase of a portable mound) would be mitigated by playing games at the fields of our opposing teams of other leagues, with us paying field rental fees instead of buying the mound. Vote to open registration for 50/70: Scott motioned, Bob seconded, majority in favor, motion passed. We will open registration for 50/70.
  - 3.9 Interleaguering with GVLL: We have had persistent, multi-year frustrations with GVLL. Board discussed choosing whether to interleague with them this season. Tony T. motioned not to interleague, Tara seconded, majority in favor, motion passed. We will not interleague with GVLL, meaning BRLL and GVLL teams will not be scheduled to play against each other this season.
  - 3.10 Portapotties: Should we continue to provide portapotties to BRRPD at no cost, in exchange for the use of their turf field? We cannot actually prevent anyone else from using them. It would be too much extra work for the managers to unlock and relock the portapotties for every practice and game, and besides, the locks would get vandalized and broken. The portapotties get a ton of use by the groups using the turf field, the BRLL

and Magnolia students, the high school baseball program, the Juniors Bruins families who park in our lot, and even workers driving by. We can't control who uses them or prevent them from doing so. Better instead to allow these groups to use them, and negotiate for something beneficial in exchange. Proposed to keep the portapotties unlocked and allow BRRPD to use them, and we will be more diligent about making use of the turf field, which we receive at no-cost in exchange. We plan to use the turf field quite a bit this spring for the 50/70 division. Rayna motioned to continue current arrangement, Lindsay seconded, motion passed.

3.11 Nicole Jones and Michelle Missman responded to our email recruiting a Spiritwear Director as a new board position. They would like to work together. They would not attend meetings and would be non-voting members. Tara motioned, Holly seconded, none opposed. Nicole and Michelle were elected Spiritwear Directors.

3.12 Upcoming Calendar Items:

- Sat., Dec. 2, Auburn LL office: Presidents Training (9am), PA Training (11am).
- Mon., Dec. 11, 6pm, zoom: BRLL Board meeting.
- Thurs., Jan. 11, 6:30pm, St. Joseph's: Presidents meeting, incl. UIC, Safety, PA's.
- Sat., Jan. 13: Document Collection.
- Sun., Jan. 28 (make-up Tues., Jan. 30), Turf Field: Try-Outs (Evaluations). Draft to follow.
- 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.

4. Softball (Holly): Today was the last game scheduled for Fall Ball, but it got rained out. Worked with manager during the season to provide guidance and suggestions for practice drills. Learned that new breakaway bases will cost \$350 per base.
5. Fundraising: Welcome Brittany! Tara, Rayna, Gianna, and Brittany will work together to delegate roles, now that we have a full team in place.
6. Treasurer Report (Rayna): Current balance is \$6908.83. We have enough cash to last until registration opens. Working on putting together the budget for next year. Will make new bases (estimated \$3k expense) a budget line. Send any anticipated expenses above \$500 to Rayna with a cost estimate so she can work into budget. Will post new budget in January. The expenses this month were minimal -- renewing team sidelines and basic ongoing bills. Need to send Junior Bruins an invoice for portapotty expenses. Has already added to budget the initial purchase for snack shack.
7. Facilities Report
  - 7.1 Bob: Need to take last year's sponsor signs down to protect them during the winter. Should make a list of them so we have a record of past sponsors. Jenn can keep list of sponsors on BRLL laptop to have for future years, Will remove portapotties from minors field and softball field. Portapotties at majors field and turf field will stay through the winter.

- 7.2 Tyler: Got new fencing up at majors field. Need to change fence at visitor's dugout. Hooked up power and lighting on tractor shed. Had a wheelbarrow donated and Tyler bought a tire for it. Ran into Randy, our soil broker, who told Tyler where he sources crushed lava rock. Delivery cost will be pricey, from \$20 to \$70 to per yard. We will have to have it dumped in parking lot of majors field and move it as soon as we can.
8. Snack Shack (Rosa): Will there be a co-director to assist? Would anyone like to help? Jenn is happy to look for co-director but it wouldn't be another current board member because they are busy in their own roles. Thanked Tyler for getting a slurpee machine and another newer refrigerator.
9. Membership (Kathleen): We will open registration on Black Friday.
10. Player Agent (Charlie): Putting together plans for tryouts once we figure out how to handle softball. Tackle at next meeting.
11. Coaching (Tara): Made a league Instagram account. Trying to be active on social media and post fun and engaging things. Wants to post "games of the week," and "players of the week." Will ask coaches to nominate players of the week.
12. Volunteer (Megan): Has asked Kristy, our uniform vendor, for some different options. The minors jerseys cost more than the button-downs we use for juniors. Getting more breathable options for minors. Trying to get down to \$20 per jersey (right now it is \$50). Going to have proposal and options ready for board to consider at next meeting. Rocklin Pony has vendor for Nike jerseys, at less expense than what we pay. Parents order and jerseys are shipped to houses. Looking into having spiritwear shipped directly to parents and league gets payment.
13. UIC (Scott): Is Jean going to volunteer us to host rules clinic for Jason? Jenn says she was voluntold to host clinics the last few years. It would be nice to use district training and not also do our own. One of the trainings would be game management. Two hands-on clinics and then one district clinic. Scott can come up with dates now that he knows dates of tryouts.
14. Safety (Jim): Checked this morning, doesn't look like there are any new requirements or trainings for coaches this year. Safety plan is due in January.
15. Equipment (Matt): He will get equipment back from Fall Ball coaches after Thanksgiving. Let him know if there is anything we need to order, such as catchers gear.
16. Open Issues:
- 16.6 Photos (Holly): Ran into woman who did photography in 2019 (Amy). She was terrific, great with kids, affordable. Would like to use her again. Will hold Picture Day in late April/early May when weather is nice. Needs idea for date; usually does it on Sunday so won't conflict with games. Amy revamped her business model after her last contract with us and thinks it would be worthwhile for her to work with us again. The complaint the year she did it was there were

not add-ons. Holly is going to ask if she is going to have those items available. Requests for digital file, baseball cards, and magnets to be offered.

16.7 Raffle Tickets (Holly): Going to order 4,000 printed tickets. We had 380 kids last year. That would give us extra. Closing Ceremonies on 6/8/24. Hand them out at document collection. Estimated cost to have them printed: \$175.

16.8 LiveScan (Lindsey): Thinks her friend will do it again at managers meeting and team mom meeting.

16.9 Uniforms: Should we shop around?

17. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:14pm.