

Bear River Little League Board Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2024, 4:00pm, Trailblazers

1. Call to order/roll call/thank you cards:
 - 1.1 Call to order: 4:10pm.
 - 1.2 Roll call, present: Jenn Lukenbill, Eliza Schissel, Matt Zilch, Tara Zilch, Wendy Stclair, Holly Williams, Lindsey Yurek, Charlie Bowers, Chris Murtey, Tony Ciafardoni, Brittany Duckett, Anthony Talbott, Zac Quentmeyer, Meg Swinney, Bob Sharpe, Dave Beghetti, Rosa Corrales, Jim Hudson, Scott Parsons, Mat Cena, Gianna Cooley (zoom), Rayna Hess (zoom), Bethany Heuseveldt (zoom).
 - 1.3 Thank you cards needed: Many thank you cards for contributions to new field. Passing around cards to sign.
2. Review/vote in February meeting minutes: Tony C. motions, Tony T. seconds, none oppose, minutes pass.
3. Treasurer Report (Rayna): \$55,196.91 in account as of Friday. Expecting several sizeable expenses to go through soon, including check to D11, reimbursement for field expenses, check for softball seminar, and uniform order expenses.
4. Presidents Report (Jenn):
 - 4.1 D11 presidents have not met since our last board meeting. Next meeting is this Thursday. No report.
 - 4.2 Background checks, update on coaches and team moms: JDP (long form online) is for Little League. LiveScan is for State of California. Both must be completed each year. Many managers have not completed background checks and may not hold practices until they do. Assistant coaches may not be on the field until they have completed background checks. Several managers have not sent us a list of their assistant coaches. We do not know if assistant coaches have been background checked because we do not know who they are. Working to identify assistant coaches and determine if they have completed background checks.
 - 4.3 Team mom meeting (Tara): It went well. Lasted 35 minutes. Only three team moms did not attend; all others were in attendance. Unable to show presentation due to outdated technology in room. Emailed pdf presentation to all team moms afterwards. LiveScan was there and lots of coaches showed up to get background checked.
 - 4.4 Appropriate behavior as a board member: When we are out in public at any event, even when it is our personal time (and not a BRLL event), we are a representative of BRLL and must conduct ourselves appropriately. Jenn gets a phone call when a board member is behaving badly. Reminder that we have each filled out parent code of

conduct. Must not share criticisms that take place in board meetings. Zip it, lock it, put it in your pocket.

- 4.5 Rule books have arrived. They will be put in score shed tomorrow, labeled with managers' names. Teeball and farm don't have rulebooks. They use rules that are posted on our website.
- 4.6 Jenn filled out application to get free baseball cards from Topps, and we received them. Every team gets a box of baseball cards; each box has 15 packs. Managers to pass out to players. Does softball want baseball cards as well? Yes. Tara will send out email to managers about rulebooks and baseball cards in score shed.
- 4.7 Things to vote on: New verbiage about TOC team selection for by-laws. Megan motions, Charlie seconds, all in favor, none oppose, motion passes to approve new verbiage for by-laws.
- 4.8 Upcoming Calendar Items:
 - Thurs., Mar. 14, 6:30pm, St. Joseph's: Presidents Meeting, incl. UIC, Safety, PA's.
 - Sun., Mar. 17, 1-4pm, Magnolia A06: Rules Clinic for baseball and softball, for AA and higher. One coach per team (and anyone interested in managing All Star team) must attend. Lead by Randy.
 - Sat., Apr. 6: Opening Ceremonies.
 - Sun., Apr. 21: BRLL Board Meeting.
 - Sun., Apr. 28: Team Photos.
 - Sun., May 19: BRLL Board Meeting.
 - Sat., Jun. 8: Closing Ceremonies.
5. Softball Update (Holly): High school offering clinic this Saturday. 35 girls (almost half of all registered softball players) are signed up.
6. Coaching Coordinator (Tara): Field use issue with tee ball manager not knowing where tee ball practices are to be held. Tee ball teams practice in minors outfield. Some teams are sharing fields due to rain. We scooped up every spare time slot on turf field to offer to softball teams, who don't get to use high school field until late in the evening. Every manager has done mandated reporter and concussion training. Some assistant coaches have not. California law requires every team to have assistant coach in addition to manager complete training. Managers must submit certificates in order to be eligible to manage an All Stars team. New field is usable so we can schedule practices on it. When fields are closed, teams may practice on basketball blacktop at Cottage Hill but at no other Cottage Hill spaces. Cannot be on Cottage Hill or Magnolia fields or blacktops until Magnolia is out at 3:15pm. Will inform managers that picture day is April 28th. Team Moms already know.
7. Fundraising (Brittany): "Fill the calendar" is underway. May 8th is Trailblazers pizza night. Rivercats Day is May 19th. Tickets are \$18 (seated) or \$11 (lawn). We could raise prices and

receive a kickback from the Rivercats. We have done that in the past but have never received a check from the Rivercats. Board decided not to raise prices this year for a kickback that is unlikely to arrive.

8. Facilities Report (Tony C.): Dirt infield is complete. New field is ready to use. Adam (who owns asphalt company) sponsored and donated materials. He is going to fix road. District is not cost-sharing expenses because Rusty would have to go through too many insurance hoops to secure funding through district. He wants us to pave walkway to connect existing pathways to field. We will put in walkway if district pays for asphalt. Still have to set mound, home plate, and bases. Backstop and fencing is biggest cost. Brittany going to research grant proposals for building additional fields. Rusty gave us full access at Arete to build new field. We can then move tee ball and farm to Arete. Rusty will give us special lock with code so our managers can access Arete field when gate is closed and locked. Cannot have softball at new field until fences are in place. Tony has a contact who can build a structure similar to a tuff shed for the new snack shack, start to finish in three weeks. Need to do snack shack first and can then do bathroom. BRRPD is working on securing grant to put in their own bathroom, so there are multiple efforts working in parallel to get a bathroom in the area. We can put in a sewer line in a single weekend. Field Workday is on Saturday. Softball clinic is also on Saturday, so parents can help with field while daughters are attending clinic. Minors field is terrible right now; need lots of parents to help. Megan is going to post volunteer slots today.
9. Snack Shack (Rosa): Rayna cleaned snack shack. Considering putting permanent canopy to cover grill area instead of having to put up tents each day. The grill that Gabe donated is on its last legs. Going to ask SPD to donate ice. Will talk to Wendy about getting veggies from SPD. Ali is shadowing Rosa and learning.
10. Volunteer/Membership (Megan): Getting Field Workday shifts posted online. Tracking down volunteer info (assistant coaches, team moms, scorekeepers, etc.) from managers. Going to put in secondary jersey order for new enrollees tomorrow.
11. Player Agent (Charlie): Registration is now completely closed. Charlie will send out email to all managers (minors and above) who are interested in pool play.
12. UIC:
 - 12.1 Umpire trainings (Scott): Umpire mechanics clinic went well. Attended by 33 kids and five adults. Randy led it. Fast-paced, kept kids moving. Everyone who attended must also attend rules clinic on March 17th. Scott will create accounts for them in Arbiter. He has removed from Arbiter the umpires who have not attended clinics the last two years. He only communicates through Arbiter and does not correspond with anyone who does not have an Arbiter account. Scott also works games at other leagues so his

weekends are limited. Other districts' games have begun, which gives Scott and other umpires a chance to refresh skills before our games begin. Jenn will figure out which teams don't have board members on them and will ask managers to assign a parent to the in-game coordinator position. Scott curious how much we spend on umpires each season. Would be good to have an umpire budget to send interested umpires to additional trainings. Scott may hold one additional small clinic that deals with game management (how to handle managers). We might have enough trained AAA players to be able to schedule umpires for AA games.

12.2 Process for umpire payment (Scott): Umpire will have cardboard voucher (available in score shed, Conex box, managers binders, etc.). Umpire responsible to have managers sign off on scores at end of game, and bring voucher to snack shack afterwards to receive cash payment. To accommodate games held on softball field (not near snack shack), umpires can hang on to their vouchers and turn in for payment at any time.

12.3 Game scheduling (Jenn): Juniors and 50/70 game schedules are done. Majors will be done tonight. AAA and AA will be finished in next couple days. Jenn and Jamie (Auburn LL President) will review for scheduling conflicts.

13. Safety (Jim): All managers have completed mandatory concussion training.

14. Equipment (Matt): AA now has new small-sized catcher's gear. We will need to order more balls later in season. There is usually a board member at the fields every evening from 5-9pm (either coaching teams or doing field maintenance), so Matt does not need to go to field every time a manager needs to retrieve gear. Managers can pick up gear when other board members are present. We want to re-key all locks after this season.

15. Open Issues:

15.1 Practice times on majors field: Practice times are scheduled for this season and teams are generally satisfied. Chris' AAA team is the only team practicing from 7-9pm and the parents have not expressed dissatisfaction. Once game schedules are posted, practice times for all teams will likely change. (Many teams will hold fewer practices, and with teams playing away games, time slots may open up.) For next year, several board members expressed their opinions that the older divisions (majors) should have the latest time slots to allow the younger divisions to practice earlier.

15.2 Opening ceremonies: Saturday, April 6. Rain or shine. We will not postpone due to weather, especially this year when opening ceremonies are a week later than usual due to avoiding Easter weekend. There is no time to schedule make-up event. If rain is in forecast, we will put up a lot of easy-up tents and expect fewer families to attend. If games are rained out, we will still hold opening ceremonies. Tara is contacting vendors to invite them to attend. We do not charge them. We will sell spirit wear. Need board members to put up flags to indicate where every team will gather. Jenn will give speech to congratulate teams that won last year (TOCs and All Stars). We will honor

aging-out Juniors from last year and this year. Need lots of help at snack shack.

Fundraising idea: Hold adult fundraising softball tournament. We did so previously, charged \$25 per player, took place on high school varsity field. Pie in the face to raise funds.

15.3 Vote to approve additional costs to complete new field (approximately \$8,000 with fences as the biggest expense): Holly motions, Tony seconds, motion passes.

15.4 Josh (NCLL President) makes game schedules. He is having a hard time scheduling games of upper divisions because there are too many teams and too few fields. Many leagues use same field for juniors and intermediate games, and with additional intermediate teams this year (Auburn grew to two and we now have one) there will be 20 games played. Josh would like to schedule four to six games on our turf field to ease congestion on other fields. (They are aware that our turf field is not regulation; NCLL's intermediate field is also not regulation.) We would need to purchase an expensive portable mound and have buy-in from our coaches to move the (very heavy) mound as field prep. Board will decide at next meeting.

16. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.