

Bear River Little League

Board Meeting Minutes

April 16th, 2023, 4:00pm, Trailblazers Pizza

1. Call to order/sign in/thank you cards
 - 1.1. Call to order: 4:11pm
 - 1.2. Roll call, present: Jenn Lukenbill, Eliza Schissel, Lindsey Yurek, Holly Williams, Tony Ciafardoni, Kathleen Russell, Rosa Corrales, Megan Swinney, Matt Zilch, Tara Zilch, Rayna Hess, Chris Murtey, Kelly Brewer, Bethany Heuseveldt, Andrea Guild, Zac Quentmeyer, Wendy StClair (via zoom)
 - 1.3. Jenn to send thank you card to BRHS for donated bases and whiffle balls, and to Russell for drying fields and removing footprints caused by players practicing when fields were wet/muddy and not dragging it afterwards.
2. Review/vote in February 2023 meeting minutes: Rayna motioned, Tara seconded, none opposed, minutes passed.
3. Treasurer Report (Rayna): Account balance: \$14,745. Shows \$20k loss for this month, because registration revenue came in previously, and uniform purchases went out this month. Purchase of all uniforms has been completed. Expense for uniforms was \$25,400 this year compared to \$17,900 last year. Bigger expense this year partly because we ordered more uniforms, having 380 players this year compared to 348 players last year. Jerseys were \$5 to \$8 each. Every team is allowed jerseys for three coaches and we bought jerseys for team moms this year. We need to write check to D11 for \$7 per player (for 380 players). Opening Day snack shack (\$5k) and spirit wear (\$1,900 net) did really well.
4. Presidents Report (Jenn):
 - 4.1. Jenn thanked board for hard work during a challenging year with significant parent issues/complaints. Kelly and Jenn have taken a beating from abusive emails. Special thanks to Tony and Bob, for maintaining fields and porta-potty, and to Tyler for building snack shack shelves and for hanging championship banners moments after Jenn asked him to. Thank to Andrea for everything she does to manage snack shack, and to Megan for ordering uniforms.
 - 4.2. Opening Day recap: Went great, parade went smoothly. Biggest challenge was getting teams to group together and stay put. Can be improved if we get the message to parents to please leave the fields so we can locate players and teams more easily.
 - 4.3. Issue: Drunk parent criticizing Jenn at every game, screaming profanities, and threatening physical violence. Jim has to walk Jenn to car after games. Vote to have Charlie (Player Agent) issue a warning to the parent with his signed contract. Andrea motioned, Megan seconded, none opposed, motion passed to issue written warning to abusive parent.

- 4.4. Volunteer Dinner: May 20th at 6pm. AA game at Majors field that day that can be rescheduled between coaches Ciafardoni and Sowell. Snack shack can be closed that day. Catered dinner and raffle prizes. Holly is going to make two raffle baskets (she likes to) to contribute from our league. Board members and plus one invited. No kids. Chance to give tickets to volunteers that have gone above and beyond to help. We always invite Jim Sarta (umpire) and Randy Harper who came out of retirement to help. Last year we invited past board members since we had event cancelled past two years due to Covid. Email Eliza if plan to attend.
- 4.5. District wanted to pass on that biggest issues at games have been safety related: Players from visiting teams are swinging bats without wearing helmets during warmups. Lots of jewelry is being worn (chains around boys necks especially in AA, nose rings on girls). No jewelry is allowed. Must take off for games. Another violation is that visiting team coaches are leaving dugouts. Umpires are reminding them to return to dugouts.
- 4.6. Things to vote on: A Junior player has requested a transfer to play in a different district. Board voted to deny the transfer in an effort to follow league rules, and an unwillingness to set a precedent.
- 4.7. Upcoming Calendar Items:
- April 28th - Golf Tournament. Still lots of spots available.
 - May 7th - Rivercats Day
 - May 11th - Tournament Draw. Who plays whom. Dates of tourneys TBD
 - May 20th - Volunteer Dinner - 6pm
 - May 21st - BRLL Board meeting - 4pm Trailblazers
 - June 3rd - Closing Ceremonies
 - June 11th - BRLL Board meeting - 4pm Trailblazers
5. Softball (Lindsey and Holly): Scheduled clinic (Sunday, April 23rd) with Jenny Topping (local softball Olympian). Initial session is to teach drills for running practices to managers and coaches. After that the players come and the managers who were trained will run the stations. Jenny will float around to make suggestions. There were 31 players at the previous pitching clinic and it was a great success.
6. Fundraising (Tara):
- 6.1. Rivercats Day update: Have sent out email and put a splash page on website. We aren't personally selling tickets, just sharing QR code instead. Need to really promote this and encourage team moms to promote. Suggestion that team that sells the most tickets get a prize. Suggestion to make a banner and put on side of score shed or snack shack about Rivercats Day. Make it generic and reuse it every year. "See snack shack for details and to purchase tickets." Tony will make it. At the game, the kids get to walk around the whole field.
- 6.2. There will be a raffle at closing ceremonies. Doesn't think any tickets have been sold yet. We don't have to do a raffle, but if we decide we want to, we need to start promoting it. It is not mandatory this year for families to buy tickets, but they can still win same great prizes, and with fewer tickets sold, odds of winning increase. We are going to offer free meal at snack shack at Closing Ceremonies in exchange for parents voting on board positions.

7. Facilities (Bob):

- 7.1. Cameras at the field: Tyler got the cameras ready to go. Issue is getting hotspot down there; Jenn is going to call Verizon to set up. We use one for snack shack already and it works. Rayna can get a hotspot on her business account for cheap.
- 7.2. New Fields update: The school district wants to help us with field work. It will need to happen after season ends because otherwise it would disrupt minors and farm. Nevada County Fence quoted \$19,000 for fence and installation. We found company in Sacramento that will provide materials for \$5,000 and we will do labor ourselves. We have to have fence for minors softball. Tee ball fencing will be lower priority. We will build an additional field with 50 foot bases at the right field corner of minors field where the porta-potty is.
- 7.3. The new snack shack should be built and dropped off at Home Depot on May 27th. Couldn't come to an agreement with tuff sheds, so Home Depot said they will build it themselves. They are building ladder, upstairs platform, and upstairs doors. \$28,000 would be full price with delivery would be \$28k, but Home Depot put in writing that they would charge us less than that. The one thing we have to build is exterior stairs. There will be a gigantic window in back so workers can see game, two side windows that open to let in air, and plexiglass in front with flip opening. Tony is going to start on the slab.
- 7.4. The reason porta-potties have not been cleaned often enough is that, during the extended multi-month turf removal, the turf company hasn't given access to the parking lot to the porta-potty service trucks. It is compounded by the fact that the turf workers are using the porta-potties themselves. Jenn called Rusty and said enough is enough with this turf work. We have 20 games on a Saturday and it is not okay to have parking lot blocked. They anticipate two more weeks of turf work, and they will make sure trucks are not blocking parking lot for service trucks. Dumpster will be taken on Friday. Need to monitor gray/waste water tank that collects water from sink at snack shack so we can empty it when it is full.
- 7.5. Would be good to come up with field use plan in the event of rain. Bob is going to be out of town next week and Holly will manage porta-potties in his absence.
- 7.6. (Tony C): Holding a work day on April 23rd. Two tractors are coming. Will pull dirt back from behind backstops and drag farm field completely. Tyler is getting dirt out there to level at same time we have tractors. First field work day was amazing. Biggest turnout ever. Two parents with tractors drove over. Tyler bought a big piece of equipment: a tow-behind blower. Going to use it to clean road and then fill potholes.

8. Snack Shack (Andrea): Opening and closing protocols are working. Volunteers are running it (opening, running, cleaning, closing) completely and Andrea only has to check in, rather than being there full-time herself. Rayna offered to put sign up saying to text her if they need cash in register. Andrea has been calling volunteers in advance to remind them of their shifts to make sure they will come. All next week is covered except for tomorrow (Monday). As hard as it has been to implement the new plan (where each team takes on two games) it has been such a relief for Andrea. Proposes that managers have a key to snack shack once cameras are in operation.

9. Membership (Kathleen): Most documents have been received.
10. Player Agent (Charlie): Charlie is absent; no update.
11. Coaching (Kelly): With weather causing so many rainouts, we have been prioritizing field time for the older players, who pay much more in registration costs. (The higher divisions cost more to play.) Some parents of the younger players are dissatisfied, but we are doing everything we can to maximize the playing opportunities that exist between rainouts for all players.
12. Volunteer (Megan): 95% of volunteer checks have been received. Jenn will get involved for any that aren't in by now. Suggestion to assign snack shack shifts to those families. Tara would like to do spirit wear booth every Saturday but she doesn't want to take volunteers from snack shack. One team mom reported that she was trying really hard to get volunteers for snack shack, but she had no way of looking up to see who on her team had signed up for it. Can set it up next year that team mom gets CC'd (a redirect receipt) if a volunteer from their team signs up.
13. Umpire-in-Chief (Scott): Scott reported that he allowed junior and major players to umpire their same division for baseball and softball since no one is signing up to umpire softball. Have gotten feedback from other leagues that our umpires are doing well.
14. Safety (Jim): No serious injuries have been reported.
15. Equipment (Matt): Matt asked if anyone needs key to anything and if our chalk supplies are sufficient. There have been reports that our chalk machine does not work. It does work, but you have to push down so the wheels can grab. A lot of coaches are out of game balls; Matt has more at his house that he will bring to the CONEX box.
16. Open issues:
 - 16.1. Closing Ceremonies: Have raffle tickets, will require people vote for new board, free BBQ
 - 16.2. Next year's board: Inform Jenn if you plan to run for election for same position or for different position, or if you plan to exit the board. All positions are always open. We need to notify entire league (May 3rd) which positions have no candidates, one month in advance.
 - 16.3. Picture Day (Holly): Megan met with photographer. Holly is going to email him our schedule. May 30th, begins at 9am. Photographer doesn't want youngest teams scheduled consecutively.
17. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.