

DRAFT
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CAPITOL HILL LITTLE LEAGUE (CHLL)

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held on February 3 at 6:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time at the Frances Taylor Center for Community Life in Washington, DC. CHLL President David Fox presided over the opening of the meeting. Becky Skinner served as Secretary. In attendance were:

Chuck Barnett
Melissa Beard
Frank Craddock
Jake Cumsky-Whitlock
Steven Fall
David Fox
Lisa Miller
Becky Skinner
Justin Sprinzen
Kevin Starace
Ramin Taheri
David Toney
Lona Valmoro

Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved by voice vote.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January board meeting were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

Administrative Calendar

The board reviewed the calendar. Two volunteers will be working with Lisa Miller on planning Opening Day. Justin Sprinzen will identify dates for tournament team expression of interest events. Justin will also be reaching out to the membership to explain the tournament team selection process.

Registration

There were 563 players registered. We are currently 89 players under our total registration number for last spring. It appears that players are registering earlier and that the increase in registration numbers over this time last year does not represent substantial new growth in registration numbers. While there are some new players, many of the registered players are returning players. The board discussed the number of players per team in different divisions. The board also discussed the potential need to stack practices.

Outreach

Lona Valmoro has been conducting targeted outreach to the principals and PTAs at Miner, J.O. Wilson, Payne, and Amidon. The schools agreed to send out email messages and send home flyers with students.

DPR Teams

Little League International has not reached a decision about DPR teams joining DC Little Leagues. As such, the various Little Leagues in the city will coordinate with the Recreation Centers this spring to provide games. The DPR teams will play by Little League rules, but they will not register with the leagues or play on

tournament teams. In our boundaries, Greenleaf and Rosedale Recreation Centers will have teams at the AAA level. We will try to give them each one game on Saturdays.

Rules

Becky Skinner is working with the softball commissioner to develop house rules for Majors, AAA, and AA. The process is going well. The board also discussed how to handle game situations in which AAA or Majors teams do not have nine players in Phase I or II. The board agreed by voice vote that during Phase I, if a team does not have nine players for a game, the teams will scrimmage and record pitch counts. The board agreed by voice vote that during Phase II, if a team does not have nine players for a game, the teams may only scrimmage if both teams agree to do so and pitch counts are recorded. Becky and David Fox will draft house rules to reflect these decisions and share the language with the board.

Call-Up Policy

The revised call-up policy was discussed by the board and approved by voice vote.

Field Permits

We have received our DPR permits. We also received everything we asked for at RFK, including Friday nights. There is no word on any DCPS school permits. Lona Valmoro is following up with DPR. If we do not get permits for DCPS fields, we are going to have to double or triple up on practices.

Treasurer's Report

Chuck Barnett provided an overview of the league's current financial situation. The league has received \$6,400 in donations through the registration process. The league has provided \$2,000 for scholarships and \$1,500 for the Challenger Division registrants so far. We have 19 paid sponsors. We have a new league credit card with a \$10,000 monthly limit. David Fox, Lona Valmoro, and Chuck Barnett each have a card. Based on funding that has been received through the registration system, we are at about 60% of what we are expecting to receive this spring. During the off-season, we will explore having sponsor payments be made through the registration system. Pat O'Rourke has completed our 990 form. It will be filed by 2/15. The league earned \$45 last year from the Nats ticket discount.

10-Year Anniversary Patch

David Fox is working on a 10-year anniversary patch that can be ironed onto uniforms. The board approved by voice vote \$735 for 700 patches. The board also discussed getting all-star patches made.

Charitable Gift Solicitation License

A charitable gift solicitation license allows us to solicit fundraising in good standing. Jennifer Pharaoh, board counsel, has submitted the relevant paperwork. The board approved by voice vote moving funds from the meeting account to cover the cost of the license.

Storage Unit

The new storage unit has arrived and is located next to the batting cages. The plan is to move out of the rental facility and into the new unit during the weekend of 2/15. Due to the delay in receiving the storage unit, we have to pay for an extra month at the rental facility. The board approved by voice vote moving funds from the meeting account to cover the cost of February's rent. Lisa Miller has been sorting through all the uniform pieces that were at the rental facility. We are also looking at and organizing field sheds. A question was raised about whether there was any storage available to us at the RFK fields. Chuck Barnett will check on the storage situation at RFK at the next CRYSP meeting.

Home Run Fences

Chuck Barnett has submitted the documentation for fence reimbursement at the RFK fields.

Payne Construction

Steve Fall has been talking with Justin Sprinzen's concrete crew. He is expecting an estimate this week. Steve will work on finding someone else to handle the other parts of the job.

Safety and Volunteer Approval

Becky Skinner will ask the commissioners to make sure that their managers and coaches send Jake their certification for concussion training. They need to do this even if they sent it last year. If the certification will expire during the spring season, they need to redo it. The link to access the training is on the CHLL website. David Fox presented a list of volunteers who had passed their background checks and had current concussion training certification for board consideration. The board approved the volunteers by voice vote. David Fox will provide the list of approved volunteers to the commissioners.

Season Structure Change

The board agreed that a decision on changing the season structure needs to be made soon but should not be rushed. David Fox will invite the current and former presidents of CCLL to talk to the board about how their transition to a fall/spring schedule went. The board committed to making a decision by June or July about whether to change the season structure. Any agreed upon changes would apply to the fall 2021 season. If the board does not agree to change the season structure, the board will consider ways to make the fall season feel more meaningful.

Nationals Team Up

The CHLL selection for volunteer of the year is due in our spring impact report. The report must be submitted before the spring season really gets going. The Nats player visit day will be June 6 at 11:00 am. We must submit a plan for what we would like to do during the visit, which will probably be held at the RFK fields. We must also guarantee at least 100 people will attend. We will need to reschedule some Single A and AA games that day to ensure that players can participate. It was suggested that we do team pictures with the player.

Uniforms

We ordered visors for softball, since the Nats will only provide baseball hats. We also ordered iron-on patches for the hats that have the CHLL logo with a softball instead of a baseball. We also purchased navy blue softball pants. Pants, belts, and socks will be distributed at workout days. CHLL should receive jerseys and hats from the Nationals around the end of February. After sponsor information is printed on the jerseys, the jerseys and hats will be ready for distribution to players.

Sponsors

Most of last year's sponsors have returned for this year. We anticipate needing sponsors for 60 teams this season, so we need at least 10 new sponsors.

Single A Clinic Style Practices

David Fox reported that the Single A commissioner is in favor of running clinic style practices, if there is enough field space to do so.

Clinics

We have both RFK fields from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on Saturday, February 22. Becky Skinner will talk with the commissioners about whether they want to run clinics or scrimmages that day in one-hour sessions. Only

managers and coaches that have been approved by the board may participate in the clinics/scrimmages. Coach Mac (Home Run Baseball) is also interested in donating his time to run clinics.

Next Meeting

The next CHLL Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 2 at 6:30 pm at the Frances Taylor Center for Community Life.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. EST.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

David Fox, President

Rebecca Skinner, Secretary