

## **DRAFT**

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

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held on February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time at the Hill Center. CHLL President Charles Barnett presided over the meeting. Scott Cernich served as Secretary. In attendance were:

Chuck Barnett  
Randy Lange  
David Fox  
Lona Valmoro  
Erica Martin  
Darrel Thompson  
Jason Goldsmith  
Emily Cichy  
Frank Craddock  
Marty Welles

#### **Approve Agenda and Minutes**

Randy Lange added a topic to the agenda to update the board on competition committee progress. The February agenda and January minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Safety/Background Check/Concussion Update**

Chuck Barnett is helping Jake while he's out of town. Chuck has reached out to all registered volunteers to date and sent them the link to the online form for their background check. The board will vote on volunteers with all completed safety components at today's (Feb 2019) meeting.

#### **Registration Update**

Jason Goldsmith gave an update on current registration numbers. Currently there are 300 players registered. This is substantially lower from the numbers at the same time from 2018. Board members who haven't registered as volunteers need to do so asap. There was discussion about how often we should notify league as a reminder, but no decision was made. Chuck Barnett will be sending out the next registration reminder.

#### **Charitable Contributions**

Chuck Barnett proposes CHLL donate a softball registration as part of the Wilson HS Softball Silent Auction. Before a decision was made on that, the board discussed how charitable donations should be handled. Randy Lange suggested the board create a small committee to determine the appropriateness of giving and what amount? Randy suggested creating a new budget item for charitable giving, which the board

should determine how much to allocate. The first step is to write a draft policy for the board to discuss. Randy Lange will lead, David Fox will assist. Regarding the donation to Wilson HS, it was agreed to not offer this.

### **Fundraising Update**

Frank Craddock provided an update on sponsors. He's reached out to all previous sponsors and has received some positive responses. At the same time, some previous sponsors have been hit hard by the economy and the government shutdown. The board discussed whether we should offer a discounted rate, or even pro bono rate for the spring season for our long tenured sponsors who have come on hard times. No decision was made. Frank will distribute the list of sponsors he has not heard from to board members. If any member has a relationship with a given sponsor, please contact them on behalf of the league.

### **Fields Update**

Lona Valmoro provided an update on the field permitting process. We've received about 75% of our permits. In addition to our historical use permits, we received additional permit time at Randall Grass, Watkins, Ft. Lincoln, Amidon, Kingsman, Jackie Robinson, Greenleaf, Jefferson, Benning-Stoddard.

We've also reach agreements with the following school fields: Miner, Easter, Ludlow, Tyler have been locked down. We are still waiting on Payne, Walker-Jones & JO Wilson.

Lona and Chuck heard from schools that we need to ensure the fields have been clear of trash after all Saturday games. We will need to develop a system of trash removal after Chuck Barnett asked if we should we invest in large trash bins for each field. No decision was made. Follow-up discussion on this topic is needed.

### **Administrative Item Update**

- There will be board conference calls scheduled for 2/22 & 3/1 to approve coaches who have their volunteer application process completed.
- Indoor space for Majors workouts has not yet been secured. Randy Lange will contact DC Dynasty for options and availability.
- The league-wide coaches meeting will take place on March 3. Chuck Barnett is coordinating with the Episcopal Church. David Fox and Emily Cichy will distribute equipment and uniforms at that time. All board members should think about topics. Alison Cernich will speak about Health & Safety.
- Adam Meier needs to schedule time and place for umpire training.
- David Fox updated the board on the team store. It is open and fundraising is set at 10% per purchase. Chuck Barnett will announce this in his next league-wide message and David Fox will add this to the website.
- Emily Cichy updated the board on the Nats Relationship. They want each Little League to nominate a "coach of the year" to be invited to a game. The Nats

player visit will be May 18, and the Nats have asked for a backup facility in case of rain. Chuck Barnett will reach out to Greenleaf.

- Chuck will setup access for all board members to the online data repository. Once active you can drop any documents into the repository.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Marty Welles provided the Treasurer's Report. CHLL has a bank balance of \$140,534.92. Marty is meeting with Mandarin Oriental who will ask them to consider CHLL as a recipient to their giving program.

### **Equipment Update**

Chuck Barnett shared that softball is looking for access to pitching machines. Chuck will look into refitting the older machines to fit softballs.

David Fox provided an update on equipment. David reported that our standard order has been placed, including 27" bats for AA.

Emily Cichy provided an update on uniforms. Emily reported that our uniform order has been placed and the Nats will provide jerseys early March. We need to provide team counts by February 18.

### **New Business**

- Chuck Barnett gave an update on the fields that will undergo maintenance/repair this year. Ludlow-Taylor will work with us in redesigning their field long term. For the spring season Opi is arranging for a load of dirt to fix Lake Ludlow. Amidon will move forward with their storm water renovations. We've asked to make field improvements as part of this work. Kingman will undergo a full renovation and keep 2 backstops. Miner will renovate this summer. Tyler is run through SOTH, who will reseed the grass. We've been asked to pay 50% (approx. \$2,000.00). Payne is willing to let us put money into repairing that field as well. Sometime in February, Opi will tour all the fields to inventory what our priority list would be.
- Chuck nominated the following list of volunteers that have completed their background check, volunteer app with a current concussion certificate. **The list of nominations is as follows, and all received unanimous approval:**
- **Batting Helmet Program.** David Fox suggested the league adopt a program that requires players to bring their own batting helmets. The reasons are health (every year shared helmets result in lice outbreak on teams) and safety (we buy one-size-fits-all, so some kids are wearing unsafe helmets that are too big or improperly fitted. Helmets are also rated for 3 years, so we'd relieve ourselves of the liability if a player uses an older helmet). Our equipment supplier will give our members the same pricing we would pay. We can make this part of registration, as well as posting it to the website. For any player needing a scholarship, the league will provide a helmet. All members

present agreed we should do this, officially for the Fall 2019 season. We will announce this at the March 3 coaches meeting and communicate this to parents during the spring season.

- **Coaches Shirt Program.** David Fox suggested the league provide all coaches with a unique looking shirt. This will pair with the boards effort to certify all managers and coaches, but making it visually obvious who is approved to be on the field. David suggested we use the proceeds from the team store fundraising to offset cost. Frank Craddock was asked if we could find a sponsor for the coach shirts (logo on 50 \* 3 shirts would create more visibility than a single team). Chuck Barnett asked the board if we should spend money on shirts in place of other equipment (e.g., pitcher's mound, pitching machine). Randy Lange suggested we provide coaches with the same shirt as their team. No decision was made.
- **Competition Committee Report.** Randy Lange reported on progress so far in identifying tournament team manager. He reached out to likely candidates and has interest from 2 managers for 10U, 1 manager for 11U but no interest in the 12U tournament. Randy will work with Chuck Barnett to draft language for the next league-wide message to ask for anyone interested to come forward. There was agreement that all candidates should be an experience manager (not a first time manager).
- **World Baseball Coaches Convention Update.** David Fox updated the board on the convention he and Justin Sprinzen attended in January. David shared that the convention was very beneficial, that there were about 2000 coaches, they brought back a large array of new drills and that it was clear CHLL needs to work to develop a real coaching program. The attended sessions were: Hitting Drills: Prepare to Hit Live PROPERLY, Do More with Less: Maximizing Your Indoor Practice Time, Man Behind the Mask: A Drill Series to Improve Your Catcher's Agility, Receiving, Blocking & Throwing, Infield Drills: Developing Infielders with Technique and Quality Drills, Maximizing Your Batting Practice, Drills to Improve First Base Play, Common Hitting Breakdowns and Drills That Address Them, Old School and New School Defensive Positioning, At the Mound with J.A. Happ, Hitting with Mark DeRosa and Talking Baseball with Kevin Cash, Mark DeRosa and J.A. Happ. David suggested we attend again and include all commissioners. Marty Welles suggested we add this to the budget for next year to fray the costs per person.
- **Commissioner Meeting Update.** David Fox updated the board on last week's commissioner meeting. Two topics were brought forward from the board to consider:
  - Commissioners want to set roster size per division to avoid overcrowded teams. The preference is for Majors/AAA to have 12, AA/A – 12 to 14. Commissioners suggested the following options to make this work: Option 1 – Do nothing. Wait until registration closes and decide then. This may result in larger teams than desired. Option 2 – Hard cap of registration (This is not desired by anyone). Option 3 – Try to

find additional Managers if registration grows beyond the planned number of teams. Option 4 – Develop a process to send players down to the lower division. Or call up to upper division if needed right size teams. Need to communicate to parents now. There was consensus by those present that option 1 should be avoided, but we ran out of time to discuss further.

- There is a suggestion to build a AAA call-up program. This would call for a limited number (5-7 AA players that are capable of playing in AAA) to be called up as needed for a single game when a AAA team knows in advance they will have fewer than 9 players for a game. This will not address the game time no shows. It was suggested that the process would be for the Player agent to find an available player based on AA & AAA schedules. Darrel Thompson shared that he did this last year for juniors (calling up a limited number of Majors players) and it worked well. The younger player benefits (and loves) the opportunity of a game at the higher division, and the benefit to the team to avoid forfeiting. We ran out of time to discuss further and make any decision.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the board will be on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the Hill Center.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m. EST.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

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Charles Barnett, President

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Scott Cernich, Secretary