

DRAFT

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

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held on March 2 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
Steve Fall
Tim Fouts
David Fox
Jason Goldsmith
Lisa Miller
Becky Skinner
Justin Sprinzen
Kevin Starace
Ramin Taheri
Lona Valmoro

Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved by voice vote.

Meeting Minutes

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

Volunteers

Two volunteers with completed background checks and concussion training were presented for approval. Both were approved by voice vote.

Softball Rules

The House softball rules for AA, AAA, and Majors were presented and discussed. They were approved by voice vote, incorporating suggested changes to the play time limits.

Majors

The board discussed the registration numbers, play ups, low-scoring LA 11 year old players sent to AAA, AAA player call up, and the player evaluation process. There was one low-scoring LA 12 year old player who was given the option to play at the AAA level. The family opted to move him down. The board approved the LA 12 year old playing at the AAA level by voice vote. David Fox will reach out to the District Administrator to complete the relevant paperwork.

Coaches Meeting

The board reviewed the draft agenda for the coaches meeting on Thursday, March 5 at 6:00 pm.

Majors Negro League Hats

Since the inception of the league, CHLL has worked to honor the Negro League baseball teams. CHLL Majors division teams have always taken Negro League baseball team names. For this season, CHLL reached out to the Nats to see if it would be okay if the Majors teams wore Negro League team hats instead of Nats hats. The Nats were supportive of the change. The board approved the funding to purchase the hats by voice vote. The funds will be taken from the player uniforms account.

Tyler

Tyler is asking for a \$3,000 donation to maintain the field. Board members were interested in helping but wanted more information about the entity to which we would be writing a check and the expenses associated with maintaining the field before approving the funds.

CHLL Hall of Fame

The board agreed that it wants to formally start a CHLL Hall of Fame. The official start of the Hall of Fame will date back to Opening Day in 2017 when the league formally recognized Seth Shapiro, Don Montuori, and Becky Skinner for their contributions to the league. The board would like to induct about three more people into the Hall of Fame at Opening Day this year. The board discussed possible nominations, possible gifts for the honorees, and establishing a physical location for the Hall of Fame.

Administrative Calendar

The board reviewed the calendar. The board discussed shifting the Pitch, Hit, and Run competition to Sunday, May 3. David Fox will check with Doug Rawald, who agree to coordinate the event, to see if he can shift to Sunday. David will also reach out to Adam Meier to see if he can run the competition for older players.

Bylaws

The board was reminded about the upcoming call with Jennifer Pharaoh, counsel to CHLL, to discuss the bylaws. If board members have questions about the bylaws, they should try to submit them in advance.

Registration

There were 715 players registered. Single A and Majors have about the same number of player as last spring. The other divisions are seeing increases in registration. For example, softball has over 60 players registered. There have been almost problems with families using the new registration system.

There have been no complaints about the addition of the late fee. The board will revisit overall registration fees for next year at a subsequent meeting.

We have about 48 scholarship players, including 19 players in the Challenger division. We have fewer out-of-boundary players than last year. Registration from Miner and Payne have increased from last year.

Fields

Majors and Challenger practices are set. Softball and baseball Juniors practices are almost set. AA and AAA baseball should have their practice slots in the next day or so. All divisions will have to double up for practices. The weeknight schedule for baseball games is almost done. The schedule for weekend games should be done by next week. It was noted that we do not have the RFK fields on Saturday, May 30. Majors will need to shift their games planned for that day. We still do not have permits for JO Wilson, Payne, and Ludlow.

Payne

Completion of the final phase of work at Payne will be delayed due to permitting issues. DCRA is requiring drawings and that permits be pulled. These requirements were not specified at the beginning of the process. As a result, the covered dugouts will probably not be available until the fall season. Steve Fall will start the permitting process.

Opening Day

Opening Day will be held on Friday, April 3 at 6:00 pm at the RFK fields. The ceremony will start at 6:30 pm. It will consist of short opening remarks, Hall of Fame inductions, and the throwing of the first pitch. The softball game will start at 7:00 pm. The softball players for the game have been identified. The Majors baseball players are being identified. Softball players will provide all of the pitching. There will be fun games in between innings. H Street is going to run a dedicated street car to the field and have a crossing guard at Oklahoma Avenue. There may also be restaurant tie-ins with the restaurants on H Street.

Single A Practices

It was proposed that Single A hold clinic-style practices. Managers and coaches expressed concerns about developing team chemistry, so the idea has been put on hold for this season.

Treasurer's Report

Chuck Barnett delivered the treasurer's report. The league credit card has a balance of about \$5,000. We are still waiting for the first statement. Chuck shared the credit card policy with the board.

To date, we have 29 paid sponsors. We also have just over \$8,000 in registration donations. Our overall balance will go down because we will start paying for equipment, uniforms, and other spring season-related expenses. We are close to our registration revenue target.

We need to set up the porta potties for the season. We need to provide a map of each field with an X where each porta potty should be placed. The porta potty company will need about seven days lead time to get the porta potties in place. The goal is to have porta potties in place by the time practices begin.

We have prepaid for the Memorial Day tournament. CHLL is paying for the permits. We do not have to pay the tournament registration fee.

The board approved moving \$6 from meetings to P.O. Box expenses by voice vote.

Memorial Day Tournament

The Memorial Day tournament will be held at the RFK fields. Only Majors division teams will be participating. We will randomly select one of our teams to participate and randomly select a second team from which to draw additional players as needed. If necessary, we'll then draw players from the other Majors teams to fill slots.

We have purchased the home run fences and confirmed that CHLL will receive a field permit credit at the RFK fields for the purchase. The fences will be stored at RFK, and RFK staff want to learn how to put up the fences. We are going to try to schedule delivery of the fences so that they arrive in time for the Umpires Clinic.

RFK does not do hot concessions at the concession stand. We can bring in a food truck. If we staff the concessions stand, RFK will give the league 50% of the concession sales.

The tournament will be held from 9:00 am – 7:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday and from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm on Monday. The consolation game and finals will be held on Monday. There will be eight teams participating. Each team is guaranteed three games.

The District Administrator is responsible for getting trophies, pins, and umpires.

We need to promote the tournament to the Mayor's office, City Council, and so forth.

Fundraisers

CHLL will earn \$3 for each ticket sold for CHLL Day at the Nats.

The board discussed creating a coupon book that would include coupons from our sponsors and some non-coupon advertising. The board discussed whether the book should be made available for free, a small fee, or a more substantial fee. The board was inclined to give the book away this year and offer every sponsor a page in the book.

The board also discussed holding a Hit-a-Thon, possibly on April 26. Players would raise money by getting hits. Lona Valmoro will look at what fields would be available that day. We will also begin to solicit volunteers to help with the event.

Late Registrations

Two players were admitted late to Majors because there was still a workout they could attend. The board will need to consider how to handle this situation in future years, especially in light of the tremendous growth in registrations. Some suggestions to consider included opening registration early and switching to wait lists earlier. Setting target dates for Majors workouts earlier in the process this year was helpful for the registration

process. In general, we do not accept registrations past the last workout for a given division. Baseball registration will close this coming weekend.

Additional Volunteer Approvals

The board approved three additional volunteers who had completed their background checks and concussion training by voice vote.

Next Meeting

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. EST.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

David Fox, President

Rebecca Skinner, Secretary