

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

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held December 2, 2019 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:

Charles Barnett  
Melissa Beard  
Frank Craddock  
Jake Cumsky-Whitlock  
Steven Fall  
Tim Fouts  
David Fox  
Jason Goldsmith  
Lisa Miller  
Becky Skinner  
Justin Sprinzen  
Kevin Starace (by phone)  
Ramin Taheri  
David Toney  
Lona Valmoro

**Donations to Schools**

Lona Valmoro reminded the Board that she will be working on letters to the schools receiving donations. She will submit a draft of the letter to the board, work with Chuck Barnett to get the checks, and deliver the letters in person.

**Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and approved by voice vote.

**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Administrative Calendar**

Briefly discussed the calendar. We are working on scheduling the Majors workout dates at Dynasty. Coach Mac (Home Run baseball) has indicated that he would like to run baseball clinics at Watkins on Sunday. He will apply for a permit. He might also want to make a donation to CHLL to assist with the Payne renovations. David Fox will follow up with him.

**Treasurer's Report**

Chuck Barnett delivered the Treasurer's report. We have about \$58,000 in the bank. We have been approved for a new credit card with a \$10,000 limit. Chuck is finishing the paperwork to get the card. Chuck noted that for about the first six months of our fiscal year, we are usually in the red as we are incurring expenses (e.g., equipment, field fees, pants), but our revenue has not come in yet. He expects us to be in the black around mid-March. It may happen soon, though, as Jason Goldsmith pointed out that the new registration will post payments at least once a week.

We spent about \$9,200 more last year than we brought in. That deficit can be attributed to several factors including the purchase of pitching machines, mounds, and tournament team jerseys; a slight dip in sponsorships; and higher field fees with the addition of the RFK fields.

The Board agreed that at a subsequent meeting, we should discuss registration fees and possibly having graduated registration fees as AAA and Majors have more expenses than other divisions.

David Fox suggested that we need to do a better job of explaining what we spend money on. For example, there seems to be a misperception that we do not have to spend any money on uniforms.

As previously agreed upon, Chuck moved one of the two CHLL CDs into a Money Market account to form the basis of a capital account.

### **Payne Improvements**

Steve Fall discussed the Payne proposal for improvements. While we have received the funds from MLB, he has not heard back from the contractor that he received a bid from for the work. He is going to work on identifying another contractor. He will be reaching out to DGS to talk about starting the work. Ideally, they would do the renovations over winter break, while the students are not at school. The cost of the Payne project will be about \$1,900 more than what MLB provided.

### **Batting Shed Cage**

Steve Fall has been talking with a firm in New Jersey about fabricating an 8' by 40' shed that would have a 6' space set off for batting cage use. The company would deliver and install the shed. We will need to add shelving and lighting ourselves. It is also possible that we could leave the existing shed and continue to use it for batting cage purposes.

### **Social Media Policy**

Melissa Beard reported that the CHLL Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram sites are up and running. She wants to start adding more material and has started to follow our sponsors. Frank Craddock will assist Melissa in connecting with any sponsors that she has not been able to already. Melissa is thinking of ways to generate more traffic on our social media sites.

The Board discussed the proposed social media policy. Our registration process includes the releases needed to post information and pictures on social media platforms. The Board approved the policy with the agreed upon revisions by voice vote.

### **Board Goals**

Jason Goldsmith presented the draft Board goals. Discussion ensued and the Board suggested a few changes to the wording. The Board approved the goals with the agreed upon revisions by voice vote.

### **Recreation Center Teams**

David Fox provided an update on the status of Recreation Center teams playing in games against Little League teams and possibly being eligible for the summer tournaments. DPR would like them to be able to do these things, but the District Administrator is opposed. We will wait for a decision about the District Administrator about how to proceed.

### **Logos**

The Board received 19 logo submissions. Each logo was discussed. The Board agreed to ask the designer of two of the logos for some specific modifications. The other designs may be used on t-shirts, possibly for Opening Day, in Hill Rag ads, and so forth.

## **Registration System**

Jason Goldsmith provided an update on the transition to a new registration system that is operated by Sports Connect. There will be a 3.4% credit card fee that we will have to pay. (There was also a credit card fee under the old system.) It appears that there will also be a \$3 transaction fee that families will have to pay. The fee is per transaction, not per player. Jason will create a code for families needing scholarships to use. It will be easy to find and make the registration process as simple as possible.

The Board discussed adding a late registration fee of \$15 two weeks prior to when the system switches over to wait lists. The addition of the fee was approved by voice vote.

Jason also discussed other aspects of the new registration system. Parents must now agree to each of the policies (e.g., Code of Conduct, Social Media) individually. Practice night conflicts are now limited to a maximum of two nights. School forms will automatically be sent to families by the system. In the future, we will be able to set up payment plans for families.

## **FY2020 Budget**

The Board discussed revisions to the FY2020 budget. It was approved by voice vote.

## **DC Memorial Day Tournament**

The District would like to have a Memorial Day Tournament. NWLL offered to host. We also offered to host at the RFK fields. The District Administrator wants leagues to send existing teams as opposed to “all-star” teams. The leagues indicated they would prefer to send the latter. We are awaiting a decision from the District Administrator about the tournament.

## **Changing the Season Structure**

The Board discussed flipping our season structure to draft teams in the fall and have them stay together through the spring season. Cap City and other leagues structure their seasons this way. We would end up with a shorter fall season that would be supplemented with sandlots and clinics in late August. We would have to wait to do workouts until players had returned from their summer vacations.

Making this change would eliminate the “play up” process in the fall, as all players would play in their spring league age division in the fall. It would give players a chance to adjust to rule changes during a more relaxed fall season instead of having to make a faster adjustment in the spring.

The fall draft would probably be 11 players per team, so that 1-2 players could be added in the spring. Eventually, fall and spring participation will balance out, but the first 1-2 years will be the most difficult. Some options for adding players in the spring include developing reasonable draft orders, having the managers figure out how to add players, and having the Board figure out how to add players. Other leagues recommended that the Board make a determination about how to handle spring rosters on a year-by-year basis. It was also proposed that Single A and AA rosters be shuffled each season.

Some concerns were raised about what would happen over the winter. Some players may have coaches that want to plan several events, while others might not do anything. The board will continue to consider this issue.

It was proposed that we continue to explore changing the season structure and vote on it at the January meeting. If the change is agreed to, the Board can then begin communicating the change in structure and what it involves to the CHLL membership.

## **Sandlot**

It was suggested that we find a more official sounding word to replace “sandlot.” For example, “workout” and “clinic” sound more formal. There was general agreement that the Board would find a different word.

## **10th Anniversary/Opening Day**

We will be able to send an email from the new registration system about Opening Day. It was suggested that

we also send a reminder about the new helmet policy. We will also ask for volunteers for special event planning. Frank Craddock asked that we send a public thank you to the Capitol Hill Community Foundation for their recent award of \$2,500 to support scholarships and equipment purchases.

Opening Day will be on Friday, March 27 at the RFK fields if we can get them. We are planning to have a softball game with league age 12-year old baseball and softball players playing on mixed teams. Discussion ensued about who will be honored at Opening Day, how to highlight our sponsors, and who to invite to the event. Lisa Miller and Lona Valmoro will check on the AV capabilities at RFK. The Board also discussed creating a CHLL Hall of Fame.

**Next Meeting**

The next CHLL Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Frances Taylor Center for Community Life.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. EST.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

---

David Fox, President

---

Rebecca Skinner, Secretary