

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

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held on January 6, 2020 at 6:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time at the Frances Taylor Center for Community Life in Washington, DC. CHLL Vice President Jason Goldsmith presided over the opening of the meeting. Becky Skinner served as Secretary. In attendance were:

Melissa Beard  
Frank Craddock  
Jake Cumsky-Whitlock  
Steven Fall  
Tim Fouts  
Jason Goldsmith  
Becky Skinner  
Justin Sprinzen  
Ramin Taheri  
David Toney  
Lona Valmoro

**Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and a discussion of social media issues was added. The agenda was then approved by voice vote.

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the December board meeting and the December 18, 2019 phone meeting were reviewed and approved by voice vote.

**Social Media**

Melissa Beard reported that viewership is going up across all platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). She set up a contest for followers to win tickets to the Winter Festival. The contest closes on Wednesday. She also noted that we could pay a nominal fee to have a specific post (e.g., announcing registration and mentioning CHLL sponsors) be promoted on Facebook and Instagram for a certain number of days. The Board was interested in the proposal and suggested that we determine what post(s) we would want to promote and what outcomes we hope to achieve. Melissa will also reach out to our sponsors to see if they are interested in this type of promotion.

**Administrative Calendar**

Briefly discussed the calendar. Lona Valmoro will establish a Sign Up Genius for Majors workout sessions. Melissa will monitor the sign ups to make sure anyone signing up for a slot has already registered for Majors.

**Registration Update**

Jason Goldsmith provided a registration update. We have over 300 registrations, which is well beyond the number of registrations we had at this time last year. Single A and AA have the most participants so far. Only one person has sent an email about having difficulty with the registration system. Under the new registration system, revenue is coming in weekly.

## **Rules**

Becky Skinner discussed the recommended House rule changes that were proposed at the most recent Commissioners Committee meeting. The substantive changes to the Single A, AA, AAA, and Majors House rules were discussed. The board also discussed how to handle situations where a team does not have nine players. Becky will review the current call up policy, draft a policy for rescheduling games, and present both to the board at the February meeting. The board also discussed whether a mandatory cup requirement was appropriate for male players in Juniors and possibly in Majors as well. The board was interested in making the requirement mandatory for Juniors and continuing to strongly encourage cup use at the Majors level. The board also reviewed the House draft rules. The board felt strongly that the children of managers in Majors should be drafted according to their draft round rather than by the Little League rules that allow the children of Majors managers to be drafted based on a draft round assigned by age (e.g., league age 12 players have to be drafted by the third round). The feeling was that by drafting players by their assigned round, teams would be better balanced. The Single A, AA, AAA, and Majors House rules were approved by voice vote. A mandatory cup rule for all male players in Juniors was approved by voice vote. The House draft rules with the aforementioned change were approved by voice vote.

## **New Commissioners**

The board approved Greg Guthrie as the Single A commissioner and Kevin Moriarty as the AAA commissioner by voice vote.

## **Field Permits and Scheduling**

The DPR spring permitting process is now open. Permit requests are due later this month. RFK field permit requests are due this Friday. We will be asking for time on all weeknights, all day Saturday, and half day Sunday. DCPS school fields are now being permitted through the DPR system. We will not know whether we will continue to have access to school fields until the permits are announced in February. The pricing for the DCPS fields, however, will now be the same as the pricing for the DPR fields. Lona has also reached out to Larry Kaufer, president of SoTH, to discuss field use.

## **Memorial Day Tournament**

The board discussed whether it wants to host the Memorial Day Tournament at the RFK fields. The District Administrator wants to charge each league \$600 for participating. If CHLL hosts the tournament, we would not have to pay this fee. We would, however, have to pay to permit the RFK fields, which is estimated to cost \$2,850 for the three-day period (permits, staffing, and a \$500 refundable deposit for cleaning). The tournament fees would cover the cost of umpires. In order to host the tournament, we would also have to buy home run fencing for two fields. CRYSP has offered to defray our permitting costs based on the fencing costs. CRYSP would then take ownership of the fences, store them, and maintain them. The board approved the hosting of the Memorial Day Tournament by voice vote.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The board reviewed the current financial statement. There is a steady cash inflow as the new registration system provides weekly payments.

## **Payne Improvements**

We were unable to set things up to do the work over the winter break. Steve Fall and David Fox will be reaching out to Payne this week to get the green light to start. Steve is still trying to identify a contractor to do the work.

## **Storage Unit**

The storage unit is being built. We are waiting for information on when it will be ready to be delivered. We might have to pay for an additional month's rent on our current storage facility, depending on when the new unit arrives.

## **Season Structure Changes**

The board briefly discussed changing the season structure. An issue was raised that if the change is made, 4-year olds could participate in Single A in the fall. The board tabled further discussion until the next meeting.

## **Plan for School Outreach**

The board discussed making a big registration push, particularly at schools with low registration numbers. The push will include both a physical presence at specific schools as well as electronic notifications. It was decided that the week of February 3 would be a good target for the outreach. Miner, JO Wilson, and Amidon were selected as the three schools where we would try to get a table and/or handout flyers in person. Lona is going to reach out to all three schools to see if they would be amenable to this. She will also get a CHLL flyer to principals and the PTAs at these schools and other schools within our boundaries. Jason will update the flyer and provide it to Lona.

## **Understanding CHLL Webinar**

It was proposed that the board host a webinar to provide information to the membership about how the league operates. The board did not think there would be a lot of interest in this type of outreach. It was suggested that we include FAQs on our website to address some of the topics that may have been addressed in the webinar.

## **Sponsors**

Frank Craddock indicated that the Sponsorship Committee started the push for sponsors today. He reported that so far we have 10 returning sponsors and that 1 sponsor that has declined to continue. Dick's Sporting Goods wants to continue as a sponsor and asked whether we wanted an equipment donation or the fee. The board agreed that the fee would be more useful, especially since Dick's was unwilling to provide helmets. We are expecting to have 57-60 teams this spring. Sponsorship renewals cost \$800. The fee for new sponsors is currently \$1,200.

## **Next Meeting**

The next CHLL Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 3 at 6:30 pm at the Frances Taylor Center for Community Life.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. EST.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

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David Fox, President

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Rebecca Skinner, Secretary