

## Lincoln Little League

### Board Meeting

September 3, 2023

#### Minutes

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Craig Kersey at 3:01pm.
2. **Members Present:** Craig Kersey, Rachel Parks, Chris Annicella, Amber Hawley, James Walker, Kaushal Diwan, Mark Amioka, Kendrick Kiefert, Lars Ronten, Noah Zaputil, Vanessa Garibay, Claudia Soto, Stephanie Garcia
3. **Members Absent:** Patrick Winters, Susanna Maldonado, Paul Vanderschrier, Nidia Goodell, Jessica Howard, Brian Briley, Jake Hanson, Stephan Bisland
4. **Non-Members Present:** Todd Benzel, Fabiola Balderas, Mark Shephard, Fred Benzel

5. **Approve Minutes:**

There was a motion by Stephanie Garcia with a second by Chris Annicella to approve the August regular meeting minutes. This was board approved.

6. **Guest Announcement:**

- a. Pastors Fred Benzel and Mark Shephard from Grace Life Church visited the board meeting to announce that they will fund a new scoreboard @ Larry Costa Field/McBean.
- b. LLL will name Grace Life Church as the sponsor of the scoreboard as well as hang a sponsorship banner by scoreboard to honor their donation.
- c. Todd Benzel has a friend that will write up a bid on Tuesday, September 5 for cost to install scoreboard.
- d. There was a vote to move the Home Team to the first base line, home team gets advantage of more shade: there was a motion by Noah Zaputil and a second by Stephanie Garcia to move the Home Team. This was board approved.

7. **Financial Update:** Chris Annicella- report sent via email

- a. Fiscal year begins October 1, 2023 – this budget is for 2023-2024
- b. Mark Amioka agrees his budget increase is sufficient.
- c. Noah Zaputil notices that more coaches are asking for catcher's mitts and catcher's gear needs replacing. That in addition to helmet, bat, ball, etc needs there needs to be more money allocated. Suggested \$16,200. Noah would like a process in place to motivate coaches to return all borrowed gear. Possible suggestions: inventory sheets that get signed off, add a charge to TeamSideline
- d. Craig Kersey wants to offer swag for kids to registration process. Possibilities include sunglasses, temporary tattoos, stickers, sweatbands, etc. This creates excitement, community, pride, and care for the league. He proposed adding \$2500 to the budget. There

- was a motion by Craig Kersey and a second by James Walker to add \$2500 to the budget. This was board approved. Any ideas for swag should be emailed to Craig Kersey.
- e. Idea for awards category of budget: board members carry around tokens that can be handed out at games to players that are showing good sports etiquette and sportsmanship. The token can be exchanged for candy at the snack bar.
  - f. Allotment in budget for LL Board equipment if board decides to create a board meeting format where members and parents can join virtually, record and post meetings to promote involvement and add transparency.
  - g. Other potential costs: security cameras, adding blue slats to fields to match blue Lincoln Little League signs, a container for equipment - \$4000 plus delivery but takes away cost of storage rental fee.
  - h. City of Lincoln raising light usage fee from \$10 to \$25. This creates a \$7000 increase from previous light costs. There was a motion by Kaushal Diwan and a second by James Walker to raise the registration rate by \$10 to cover the cost of city use fees going up. Craig will address an explanation of why registration fees have gone up in welcome letter of Spring Season.

#### **8. Fall Season Updates:**

- a. Fall schedule was balanced by number of games played and playing in town/playing out of town. Amber Hawley needs to be included in schedule emails so she can coordinate umpires for games. Mark Amioka needs field numbers included in game schedule to unsure field prep. Nidia should have this information to share.
- b. Fall Ball Opening Day- Saturday, September 9 games running all day at McBean Larry Costa Field. Craig Kersey has 2 girls ready to work at snack bar. Claudia Soto and Fabiola Balderas will decorate the field. Still need someone to grill that day. Also still looking for someone to manage the Snack Bar Board position – having the McBean snack bar going is a great fundraising opportunity for the league.
- c. Noah Zaputil brought in samples of the fall uniforms. Material is nice, numbers can't fall off, LLL logo shows support for league when worn around town, faster turnaround for ordering purposes, offers more customization of colors but teams will be limited by current MLB hat colors and designs. Question was asked about personalizing numbers.
- d. Rule Committee Update – a special guest drafted a simplified rules explanation. Nothing was changed, just condensed for simplification. The guest also proposed a draft for a franchise option for Majors division. (More details in Spring Season notes.)
- e. There was a suggestion that league assesses all 10–11-year-old players. Parents can suggest what division they think their player should play with the understanding that their player could be put in the division the league thinks is best based on the assessment.

#### **9. Spring Season:**

- a. Registration opens Oct. 1. Early registration will be Oct 1 – Oct 31. Early registration offers a \$20 discount. Regular registration will be Nov 1 – Jan 7. No exceptions after Jan 7. Walk-ups will be accepted on assessment day, not enough of them to alter the numbers significantly. Susanna Maldonado will make clear the expectation of registration in an email that there are no exceptions after Jan 7.

- b. Craig has the timeline. It was requested that he add individuals that are responsible for each task to the timeline for new members of the board.
- c. Need a good process to vet good managers – manager selection committee, Kyle is working on a rubric and a parent agreement for game behavior
- d. Working on signs to put up at Singer Field behind home plate. What to put on signs? possibilities include sponsors or positive messaging.
- e. Franchise Discussion: A guest wrote a franchise proposal for the league. Some on the board had seen it and others had not. No conclusions were made. There will be a Special Board Meeting held over Google Meet on Monday, September 18 at 7:30pm. Paul Vanderschrier will send the proposal verbiage to the entire board. Each member needs to review the document and come to the Special Board Meeting with a yes or no vote with their reason for their decision.

10. **Rocklin LL Golf Tournament:** \$500 for a foursome, registration begins at 10am, Lars Ronten is interested: asking others if they want to join him

11. **Board Position Vote:** There was a motion by Craig Kersey and a second by Stephanie Garcia to approve Fabiola Balderas as a board member. She will be working with Claudia Soto in the areas of Fundraising, Events and Sponsors. This was board approved.

**12. General Discussion:**

- a. Wednesday, September 6 Craig Kersey invited to speak at City Hall Meeting. He will be talking to them about making fields adjustable for more flexibility. Specific request to put 90 ft pegs at Foskett fields.
- b. The concern of not having enough fields persists. Discussion to put allocate funds, fundraise, seek contributors, donations to buying land for LLL to own fields or work with city to get more fields – persistence is important. If there is a split, making 2 leagues, the problem will not get better without more fields. Craig would like the district to come talk to the city.
- c. Question: Is there a way to track player stats for All-Star Selection? Kaushal Diwan will be looking into using TeamSideline app for player stats tracking. He will present what he learns at a future meeting.
- d. Suggestion of bringing in a Challenger League that offers an opportunity to youth with special needs to play with LLL. It will add donations and funding to the league in addition to giving those children an opportunity to benefit from organized sports.
- e. What does it take to change the constitution voting rules to include a larger number of board members that come to meetings regularly? Frustrating that time is given to league but by constitution rules vote is not valid.
- f. September 11 – 6-8pm @ Larry Costa Field umpire clinic, invite any interested umpires
- g. Craig Kersey presented the new board hats.

13. **Next Meeting:** October 2, 2023, Bowlero (Strikes) @ 6 pm

14. **Meeting adjourned at:** 5:52 pm