

INDIAN VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2013, 7:00PM, INDIAN VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, held at the Kerhonkson Fire House, Kerhonkson, NY.

PRESENT:

John Ellsworth, President/ Safety Officer/ Umpire in Chief
Christopher De Pew, Vice President
Becky Stange, Secretary/ TB&CP Team Coordinator
Matthew Paley, Treasurer
Lorissa Beatty, Fundraising
Thomas Stange, Field and Grounds/ TB&CP Team Coordinator
Heather De Pew, Fundraising
Gregg Kenney, Player Agent
Laura McCarthy, Fundraising
Christopher King, Information Officer
Cathy Bowman, Equipment Manager

ABSENT:

ACTION ON MINUTES:

Mr. Ellsworth questioned if everyone would be agreeable to receiving the minutes each month prior to the meetings to read ahead of time?

Mr. De Pew noted that it was good to receive them prior to the meeting.

The Board was agreeable with this as well.

Mr. De Pew motioned to accept the October 21, 2013 Minutes. Seconded by Mr. Paley. No discussion. All members present in favor.

FIELDS AND GROUNDS

Mr. Ellsworth questioned if anyone heard from Wayne Decker regarding taking down the netting at the field?

Mr. Stange noted that he had not heard from him. He'd been waiting for him to call, but he could take the netting down possibly this weekend. He would let everyone know when he would be there so anyone who could help could come to the field for an hour or so.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that he received a call from Howie Baul. Mr. Baul noted that he went to the concession stand to turn off the water for the winter, and he found that the freezer was still plugged in. Also, the equipment shed was wide open, so if Mr. Stange could check on that when he was at the field this weekend that would be good. Mr. Baul also wanted to let the treasurer know that he bought some things at A & M Hardware for

the end of the season closing of the field. The treasurer would be getting a bill for Anti Freeze and a ½” fitting.

Mr. De Pew noted that they should ask Mr. Baul for checklist for all the things that need to be done at the start and closing of the season. They should also look into changing the locks and/or combinations/ codes.

Mr. Paley noted that he was given the manual on how to change the codes.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that they also needed to change who was allowed to charge things at A & M Hardware. He then asked how the Board felt about having one number for all of the codes or different codes for each lock?

The consensus was to have one code.

INFORMATION OFFICER

Mr. King noted that he has been waiting on an email from Christine Shirk with the contact information for the papers, schools, etc.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that when Mr. King received the information that he should find out from the leagues different contacts as to how much notice they need to advertise or post things.

Mr. King was familiar with working with the Blue Stone Press, but would definitely get that information from the other places he will need to deal with.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that they have used the Freeman in the past as they have free advertising on the sports page for the little leagues on Fridays.

Mr. King also noted that he would be willing to be in charge of the message board in front of the field as well.

Mr. Ellsworth also noted that Carol Dennin, the Director of the Town of Rochester Youth Commission wants the little league to be able to advertise in their flyer. The Youth Commission would need the information by December 4th in order to post January and February registration dates. He further noted that he would get Mr. King the information to be able to access the League's Facebook page so that he could manage that as well.

BY LAWS

Mr. Kenney noted that they were given two different sets of By Laws in their packets with different dates on them.

Mr. Ellsworth responded that the 2013 By Laws were reviewed, but never voted on.

Mr. De Pew noted that everyone should look over them for the next meeting and vote on them next month.

REMAINING BOARD DUTY VACANCIES

Mr. Ellsworth noted that the Board still needed to decide on the vacant Board **duties**:

- **Safety Officer**
- **Team Coordinator**
- **Umpire-In-Chief**
- **Equipment Officer**
- **Fundraising Committee**
- **Concession Stand**

TEAM COORDINATORS:

Mr. & Mrs. Stange volunteered to be the Team Coordinators for Tee Ball and Coach Pitch

UMPIRE IN CHIEF:

Mr. Ellsworth noted that the person that does this job does not necessarily be an umpire. As no one volunteered, the Board would revisit this.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER:

Mrs. Bowman volunteered for this.

FUNDRAISING:

Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. De Pew, and Mrs. Beatty volunteered to head the fundraising for the year.

Mr. De Pew noted that some of the biggest fundraisers are the signage and the sponsors. He noted that he had spoken with Jessica Bollin who had been handling the team sponsors and signage for the last few years and as she was no longer a Board Member, she didn't mind stepping away from it.

Mrs. Beatty noted that she would do it this year.

Mr. De Pew noted that they needed to investigate what they paid for the making of signs. He thinks that the prison could offer a cheaper price and that more businesses should be approached to advertise. It's an easy fundraiser for the league.

Mrs. Beatty noted that they would not be doing the pizza fundraiser this year. It was too much work for too little profit. The same went for the discount cards. They wouldn't be doing those either.

Mr. Ellsworth was really excited for this year with new members and new ideas.

Mr. De Pew noted that it was a good idea to leave it up to Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. McCarthy and Mrs. De Pew to come up with new ideas for fundraising this year. He suggested that they maybe looked into selling league apparel. The youth football league does this and

they make thousands off of it.

Mrs. Beatty agreed that they would come up with new things this year. They made more money from the Mom's Softball Game last year than all of the fundraisers combined.

Mr. De Pew thought that the league should bring 50/50's back for each game.

Mr. Ellsworth would also like to see if they could do the Brooks and Brooks BBQ fundraiser that they had talked about last year.

The Board agreed.

CONCESSION STAND:

Before anyone volunteered, Mr. De Pew noted that this position was dependent on what the Board decided to do with the concession stand. They had some options:

1. The league could farm it out to a third party to run entirely
2. The league could raise registration to pay people to work it- (this would be in lieu of the option for the buyout)
3. The league could continue to run it as it always has in the past

Mr. De Pew continued to note that as a Board Member it was an absolute nuisance because when you had field duty, you could not be anywhere except for in the concession stand for the entire night. A lot of times there wouldn't be any games on the other fields or kids playing on the field dirt pile or fooling around with the batting cage and as the person on field duty, you couldn't oversee any of that because you were stuck in the concession stand. They needed to eliminate the problems for managers having to find parents to work in the stand. And while the concept of the buyout was a good idea, the League pretty much used it as a fundraiser last year. It didn't work as it was supposed to. Field Duty should mean that the Board Member is in the crowd and wanders between the two fields. They should figure how much to raise registration to have someone in that concession stand every night.

Mrs. Beatty agreed noting that she couldn't go out onto the field when there was an accident last year because she was the only one in the concession stand.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that they couldn't hire anyone as a seasonal employee to run it for the baseball season because they couldn't get into all of the taxes and regulations to hire someone. They could maybe find a group of people that would be interested and have them rotate.

The Board discussed having a third party come in and take over the concession stand for the season so that they didn't have to deal with it at all.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that Rondout had done that in the past and this year they are getting away from it because the garbage bill that ensued from having a successful food stand skyrocketed their garbage output which ended up costing them an additional \$1,500.00.

He noted that the buy out wasn't properly handled last year to get the word out to make it run effectively.

Mr. De Pew didn't think that the buy out should be optional this year. They should increase the registration prices.

Registration fees last year were as follows:

Tee Ball: \$50.00

Coach Pitch – Majors: \$60.00 and a family of two or more kids is capped at \$100.00.

The buy out was \$25.00 per kid.

Mr. Paley noted that the concession stand brought in \$8,600 last year, but they spent \$2,500.00

Mr. Ellsworth noted that usually a chunk of the profits from the concession stand takes care of trophies and all stars. He doesn't want to lose that.

Mrs. Beatty noted that they could work with the youth commission to try and get kids to work the concession stand.

Mr. De Pew noted that they could pay \$20.00 a night for people to work there. He did the math and figured that across the Board they could raise registration fees by \$20.00 and that would cover the costs to hire people.

Some Board Members thought this was too much and thought they should re-think this. They should be careful not to make it too expensive for some people. Especially since spring soccer is free.

Mrs. Bowman thought that tee ball would be too expensive for what the kids were getting out of it.

Mr. Stange thought they could raise registration by \$10.00 and have an extra tag day.

Mr. King was concerned also about raising the fees.

Mr. De Pew noted that Rondout charges \$95.00 per kid. The economics between the two leagues weren't really that different. There are always a half dozen kids per year that can't pay and the league has always helped out. They have never turned a kid away.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that people working the stand would need to be at least 16 years old. The concession manager would still be in charge and do the shopping for the stand. They would also work on changing up the menu.

Mr. De Pew motioned to raise the 2014 entry registration fees as follows:

Tee Ball:	\$70.00
Coach Pitch—Majors (including softball):	\$80.00
With a family cap of two or more kids:	\$140.00

Seconded by Mr. Stange.

All members present in favor.

Mr. De Pew motioned that with the new registration fee increases for 2014 that no parent will be required to work in the concession stand and the Board will look to find volunteers that will be compensated. Seconded by Mr. Paley.

Discussion:

Mrs. Beatty questioned if Board Members would need to be in the stand once in a while?

Mr. De Pew noted that if he has field duty and they are raising these prices, he doesn't want to have to be in there at all.

Vote: All members present in favor.

Mr. De Pew noted that they projected that about \$2,800 will be what the league will gain from the raised registration fees and that will be enough to cover the concession stand volunteers. Two workers per weeknight will get \$20 each and on the weekends would be \$40 each.

Mr. De Pew noted that the field duty person will still need to count the money at the end of the night and make the deposit. He then questioned why the league didn't use Keybank or a bank that was closer than Provident in Ellenville?

Mr. Paley noted that now that he was the treasurer, that he would go to different banks, and shop around and see if it makes sense to switch.

PLAYER AGENT:

Mr. Kenney questioned the role of the player agent and noted that he was interested.

Mr. De Pew motioned to approve all officers who volunteered for positions at this meeting. Seconded by Mr. King.

Discussion: The Board had yet to appoint an Umpire in Chief. It was a big job that there was much apprehension about.

Vote: All members present in favor.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that the Umpire in Chief job was probably the hardest, but he'd be willing to do it.

Mr. De Pew motioned for Mr. Ellsworth to be the Umpire in Chief for 2014. Seconded by Mr. King. No discussion. All members present in favor.

Board Members agreed that they should maybe offer a class for parents willing to learn how to umpire so maybe they weren't so reluctant to volunteer. They should offer the same for scorekeeping as well.

Mr. Ellsworth wanted to have a parent meeting early on in the season to go over all of these ideas and changes going on. The problem was getting parents to show up.

Mr. De Pew noted that at registration they really needed to concentrate at registration on getting email addresses so that they can make a master email list.

Mrs. Stange questioned if anyone had ever looked into doing a website for the league?

Mr. De Pew noted that people have talked about it, but it was a big undertaking.

REGISTRATION:

Mrs. Bowman questioned if they could possibly change the registration to the cafeteria at the Elementary School. It is always so cramped in the hallway near the gym.

Mr. Ellsworth would look into this. They usually scheduled the registration dates to coincide with basketball games because a lot of people were already there.

**The Board agreed on the following dates for registration:
January 22, 24, 29, and 31 and February 1.**

They would also put up registration info in stores.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that he would also try and get the middle school for tryouts this year. People have complained that the elementary gym is too small.

MANAGERS:

Mr. Ellsworth wanted to get the word out for the December 16th meeting that the Board would be voting on managers for the 2014 season.

Mr. De Pew noted that they were already decided on. They knew who they would be.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that per Little League rules they needed to come back through and be voted on. He noted a big reason for this is because there was a problem with the Mets last year and he wants to let the parents know that if they put their kids back in the draft, that they might not get picked again.

LITTLE LEAGUE CHARTER:

Mr. Ellsworth explained that Little League charges about \$26 per team for insurance and last year it took about \$1750.00 to charter the teams. If they get that in before the end of December, the league gets 10 free rule books. They will also get a special Little League Anniversary Banner. They have also changed up how the rosters are submitted. They are electronic and need to be submitted by April 1.

OTHER MATTERS:

Mr. King questioned if managers and coaches needed to be CPR certified? Did the league have a defibrillator?

Mr. Ellsworth was in the process of getting the league's AED fixed.

Mr. King noted that his mother taught CPR certification and it was \$50 per class and \$5 per card with a 6 person per class limit.

Mrs. Beatty noted that might be a worthwhile cause that people would be willing to contribute towards.

CLEAN UP DAY/ OPENING DAY:

Mr. De Pew noted that the day the league starts their first games should be opening day.

Mr. Ellsworth noted they always held off in the past due to the weather. But they could change it.

The Board decided on April 5th as clean up day with a rain date of April 12th.

OPENING DAY would be April 26th for 2014.

Mr. De Pew questioned if there was a way to do pictures on opening day? They could have teams go to the rescue squad like they did this year. That worked out well.

Mrs. Beatty and Mrs. McCarthy noted that they would look at different photographers and have them do presentations for the Board.

UNIFORMS:

Mr. and Mrs. De Pew volunteered to handle the ordering of the uniforms. They would have them ready for opening day this year.

SPONSORS:

Mrs. McCarthy noted that her husband's company has donations that they give away each year and she would be working with him on getting that for this year as another filler for the fundraisers.

BUDGET:

Mr. Kenney questioned if the league ever considered passing a budget? It would seem like the responsible thing to do.

Mr. Ellsworth noted that they spent a lot of money last year, but they fixed up the field and bought new cabinets for the equipment along with new equipment for the league.

Mr. Kenney questioned if this was discussed by the Board last year?

Mr. Stange noted that everything was discussed and approved by the Board.

Mr. De Pew liked the idea of putting together a budget. He noted that two years ago the league had \$30,000 in their account. They spent \$20,000 on fixing up the field. IVLL had the worst field in the area, and now everyone wants to play at our field.

Mr. Ellsworth noted if the Board was interested in passing a budget, then that's what they would do.

FUNDRAISERS:

Mrs. Beatty noted that it was good to have a topic and target for fundraisers to present people what the league is doing with the money. People need to know what they spent their money on.

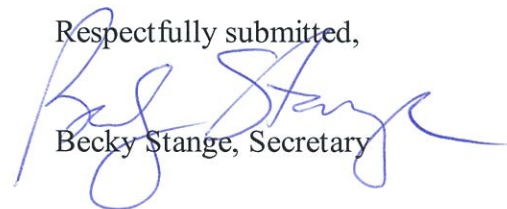
ADJOURNMENT

The Board agreed to hold December's meeting at 6:30PM.

Mr. De Pew motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. McCarthy. No discussion. All members present in favor.

Mr. Ellsworth adjourned the meeting at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Becky Stange, Secretary