

Meeting Minutes March 3, 2024

Board Members Present:

Frank Vollmer
Philip Erwin
Jess Snyder
Katie McFerrin
Ryan Pearson
TJ Kemp
Ryan Petersen
Melissa Ammons
Bethany Walker
Justin Grider
Zach Bryant
Tashunda Lelievre

Guests Present:

Bob Wells

- Meeting Opens at 5pm
- The new lights on 1,2,3 are working well and are programmed to shut off at 9pm.
- Frank made the city a schedule for mounds, they were upset that we had moved them in the past. A few times we were scheduled to have them on specific fields and travel ball teams had taken them for fields they were using and we had moved them back. From now on call Red or Steve, depending who's on call, to move them.
- R. Pearson makes a motion for FLLAA to purchase some of our own mounds that we can move around as needed. R. Petersen seconds.
- A few asked questions:
 - Would we need to put our mounds away everyday?
 - Who's responsibility would that be?
 - Do we have room to store mounds?
- Justin said the LL approved mounds are 5k a piece. But Bob said he has found them for much cheaper.
- A few members are going to further research this and we will come back to this subject. (Frank adds, new mounds wouldn't be purchased until the end of season.)
- Scoreboard routers are working, they need to be plugged into the back of the scoreboard controllers in the press box then hung out the window. Field three's is finicky and needs to be plugged in then the score board turned on.

- Also after scoring a game you need to log out so another can score the game on that field. If someone forgets, go unplug the router and plug back in to reset.
- There is a guide to learn how to use the scoreboard routers and app on Sports Connect.
- District Dues for this year are \$3,584.43. Jess has given Frank a check and he will turn it in next week at the meeting.
- Some voiced concerns that this was about 1k or more then last year and questioned where this number comes from. Frank has the breakdown at home and will share it with the board.
- February Financials: February 2024 Financial Report
- Kona Ice is giving back \$145 from Tee Ball Opening Day. I asked them to bring any contributions from tee ball season to regular season opening day.
- Tee Ball medals and coaches plaques have been ordered and Jess will pick them up when they're ready. At that time she will also order regular season medals and plaques.
- Jess asked if we should consider an extra award for division champs. If we hold an in-house tournament, the winners should receive something for winning.
- Everyone agreed. Ideas thrown around were trophies, or rings. Jess will research a few options and bring them to the board.
- TJ also asked if we should be giving plaques to assistant coaches as well. He thinks they should get recognized for their volunteerism along with head coaches.
- Bethany brought up that maybe the Head Coach should recognize their volunteer staff in their own way.
- Jess brought up that any awards for team staff would add to our cost per player number and if we are interested in lowering registration fees next year we need to be careful about what costs get passed on to our families.
- We decided we will announce and verbally recognize each team's volunteer staff at closing ceremonies.
- R. Pearson asked if we had ordered more balls for the season. Frank said he will order them this week.
- R. Pearson also suggested we look into opening an interest bearing bank account for the league. If that is allowed by a 501c3. We will look into that.
- R. Pearson has also been meeting with baseball managers to give coaching tips, address concerns, etc and will continue to do so through the season.
- Petersen, Pearson, Frank, and a few baseball coaches had a meeting to address the concern of pool players for Majors.
- R. Petersen went over the number of pool players in each division and said for majors we will start pooling players from other major teams then go into eligible pool players from minor KP. 50/70 will get an eligible majors player for pool play.

- Next meeting Petersen and Pearson will want to talk about All Star Selection.
- We spoke a little about how we would like to see selection improve over what we did last year.
- All Star consideration forms will go out on April 1st for anyone who wants their child to be able to try out for all stars. We want to make sure all of those kids' paperwork is in order.
- We also spoke about the player agents being added to every team's GC to be able to pull stats.
- Bethany asked if it was the team moms responsibility to run GC or to find someone to run their teams GC? It is not. A parent from the stands or an extra coach not dealing with the kids in the dugout should run GC and it is the managers responsibility to find team volunteers to fill the roles.
- Defuniak was chosen to host the Majors State Tournament.
- Many members of the board would like Freeport Little League to volunteer to hold the special games tournaments this year (over memorial day weekend).
- Any players going out for any sanctioned all star teams must understand they commit themselves until August. The further the team goes the longer they play.
- Any league that has players drop out before the conclusion of their teams time in all stars gets fined by little league.
- Softball Majors All Star Team has plans to combine with surrounding leagues this year. We aren't sure who yet.
- TJ asked for another softball machine transport system for the 2nd machine. These are much easier to operate and set up than using the wagon.
- Motion made by TJ, Katie seconds.
- We will purchase the transport system.
- Melissa asked who we go to for registration fees for the 3 major softball girls we received from SW. (Jess emailed Travis as well as their treasurer this morning (3/4/24))
- Tee ball season is winding down with most games concluding on 3/9. Closing ceremonies will be held on 3/14 on field 4 at 5:30
- Katie hasn't had any reported issues from parents or coaches throughout the season other than being asked why they play so many games.
- R. Petersen will send Zach the surveys we did and fall and Zach will create our division surveys for spring through google forms.
- TJ brought up maybe trying to do away with advanced tee ball next year in favor of a true coach pitch division for the 6-7 year olds.
- Frank added that maybe we want to go a step further and trade both adv t ball and machine pitch in favor of coach pitch.
- We will discuss this further during the off season.

- Zach is going to set up an email for tee ball parents to send them all the pictures from opening day.
- UIC: Schedule has been made for opening day as well as the first week of ball. Frank will continue to create a week by week schedule.
- Jess asked if numbers had been run against the game schedule for an estimated umpire cost for spring. Frank said he can do that.
- Justin said the schedule has gone well. Coaches are using the request for and he's had over 60 requests come in for field time or changes.
- Juniors and Seniors Schedule will be created in April.
- Uniforms are all in with the exception of late additions and 50/70 that was ordered last week. No eta on that yet.
- Philip requested we purchase LL patches in preparation for All Stars.
- We need to know how many teams we are entering to know patch numbers. We will come back to that at the April meeting.
- Bethany gave a volunteer run down:
 - 82 registered volunteers for baseball with 77 approved
 - 29 registered volunteers for softball with 26 approved
- We have had non volunteer parents coming on the fields and in the dugouts during practices. VP's and managers please remind your managers/parents that ONLY approved volunteers are to be inside the gates!
- If your managers need to know who their approved volunteers are have them check their team page on sports connect. Bethany keeps this updated.
- Banner update:
 - Southern Image with the mesh banners have been very difficult with communication. 9 banners from them should have been ready Friday but we haven't been able to get ahold of them. Petersen will go there Monday.
 - 3 banners are ready at Signarama for pick up. Jess gave Katie a check to pick up
 - ****Monday Update**** Petersen got the 9 banners from Southern Image
 - *** Signarama only had 1 of 3 banners for Katie. They said the other 2 will be printed this week.
 - We will also need to order outfield banners for the field and dugout sponsors. They should have had 2.
- Bethany suggested that all members should write a detailed list of all the things they take care of for the next person in their position.
- Regular Season Opening Day is this Saturday, March 9.
 - Board members report no later than 8am
 - Parade line up begins at 9am between fields 4-5
 - Parade begins at 9:30
 - Concessions are open from 9am-5pm

- Opening ceremonies will be held on field 2
- Tashunda handed out a page of board assignments and went over all the jobs for the day.
- If you leave at some point during the day please come back at 4pm for park clean up!
- Frank let everyone know since opening day has so many games we will have no new innings after an hour 20 minutes for everyone.
- Also we don't buy outs for injured players. Game continues like normal with 8 players.
- Next weekend is the president's meeting. If anyone else wants to attend, let Frank know and he will give you all the info.
- Jess asked if the city council informs the league when we are on their agenda. She recalled at a meeting she attended in fall that Elisabeth Haffner said the league wouldn't be up for discussion with the council until March or April of 2024.
- Frank said the contract he makes with the city is the discussion and we won't be on the city's agenda.
- Meeting Adjourned at 6:51pm