



**BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES -- November 6, 2017**

Meeting commenced 6:10 pm at Justin Berg’s office.

Present: Brent Daily, Niels Damrauer, Chase Fraser, CJ Gauss, Cary Hudson, Corey Litwin, Bill Melvin, Shawn Rodda, David Schechter, Todd Stafford, Alyssa Steinberger

Absent: Justin Berg, Tim Hartrick, Eric Pallay, Tim Stelzer

Quorum: Yes

2018 Season Anchor Dates: Cary presented the agenda for the meeting, along with 4 attachments. Attachment 1 presented two alternative scenarios for the 2018 Season “Anchor Dates” for discussion. Alternative 1 revolved around a 7-week season, reserving Memorial Day Weekend for a Post-Season Tournament. Alternative 2 revolved around a 6-week season, contemplating a Post-Season Tournament during the week preceding Memorial Day Weekend. The pros and cons of each were discussed with the following points presented for each:

| ALTERNATIVE 1: 7-week season  | ALTERNATIVE 2: 6-week season   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Last day of school = May 26; families go on vacation; doesn’t provide enough time to make-up games postponed for inclement weather;</li> <li>● By LLI rules failure of players to play 12 games in season risks the league’s ability to field tournament teams;</li> <li>● Single elimination tournament could be completed in 3 days</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Compressing the schedule presents problems <i>vis</i> pitch count rules, especially during post-season tourney week; many majors players participate in tournament teams on weekends</li> <li>● Some families travel Memorial Day Weekend -- better to avoid scheduling tournament then;</li> <li>● Max. 7 days to complete double elimination tourney; during 2017 season 5 teams were able to complete post-season tourney before Memorial Day</li> </ul> |

One member suggested a more relaxed definition of “season” to extend through a final tournament to discourage families from going out of town and jeopardizing the league’s ability to field tournament teams.

The Board voted in favor of Alternative 2 Anchor Dates.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Shawn to arrange for indoor facility, such as the CU Field House, as an alternative venue for Assessments (Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018; Saturday, Mar. 3, 2018; Sunday, Mar. 4, 2018); reach out to Chris Bukowski with Boulder Bison to coordinate facility rental.
- Eric to book space for PCA Coaches Training (Thursday, Apr. 5, 2018)(decided earlier).
- Corey to consult Steve Ihnot on booking Dinger for Opening Day (Saturday, Apr. 7, 2018).

Registration Fees: Cary asked for thoughts on increasing registration fees for 2018. Attachment 2 to the agenda presented a 5-yr historical summary of registration fees for the league. Arguments in favor of a modest increase focused on the need to increase outreach to lower-income families, in order to increase the number of scholarship applicants. Arguments against any increase centered around the desire to halt/reverse the general declining trend in participation in Little League; an acknowledgment of the consistent year-over-year increases between 2013-2017, as well as positive cash position of the league.

The Board voted in favor of holding registration fees steady, i.e., unchanged from the 2017 season.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Shawn to consult someone at Crest View Elementary about ways to increase outreach to lower-income families.
- CJ to do the same at Foothills Elementary.

Sponsorship: Corey circulated as Attachment 3 to the agenda a matrix outlining the current sponsorship levels, noting that the last time the league increased the cost of sponsorship it wound up losing at least one sponsor.

The Board voted in favor of holding the various costs of sponsorship steady from 2017.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Every Board member is to think of potential sponsors to approach individually.
- Corey will meet with the Sponsorship Committee by December to divvy up the work.

Preliminary Budget Overview/Discussion: Cary circulated as Attachment 4 to the agenda an historical summary of the league's P&L statements from FY2015-FY2017 to generate a preliminary budget discussion for FY2018. The consensus of the group was to address the

league's cash surplus and how best to spend it. A number of ideas were raised and discussed, summarized as follow:

- Iris Fields: need more dirt, laser leveling; pitching mounds and batters boxes need work; new netting needed for batting cages; weed NW field before spring (can use same person who did the SW field for Bison); some additional fence topper needed (in shed); bleacher repair. Can't do anything to North Boulder, Centennial M.S., or Tom Watson fields, as NBLL does not possess the rights to physically alter them. County has already said "no" to turf (est'm \$45k/infield).
- Bathrooms at Iris Fields: possible installation of "nicer" bathroom facilities, e.g., raised trailer. Problematic because no "staff" to lock up daily/maintain. Permitting, etc. issues encountered in the past with the County.
- AEDs: Need at CMS and Tom Watson. Replacements possibly needed at NoBo & Iris.
- Nicer uniforms: may appeal to sponsors; license with MLB expiring and cotton shirts not going to be available anymore.
- New catchers gear: Catchers kits run approx. \$300-\$400 (\$100/helmet). Need updating -- 1 kit per team equipment bag.
- New bats per new USA Baseball standard taking effect Jan. 1, 2018: LLI extending offer of 30% off bulk order through Easton; consensus seemed to be every kid comes with his/her own bat. No need to supply.
- Some form of "in-kind" assistance to scholarship applicants: find a way to assist with equipment purchases -- administratively burdensome to purchase on behalf of such individuals or loan such equipment; gift card possibility.
- Travel expense fund for tournament teams: keep a reserve to assist families with travel expenses in the event tournament players have to travel.
- NBLL-sponsored clinics: offer additional skills clinics to players.
- Coach training: offer training clinics for coaches; some concern expressed over coaches' abilities to teach skills.
- More outreach: pay to have signs, other communications translated into Spanish; increase advertising generally.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- CJ to look into details of 30%-off offer from Easton on bulk bat order and possibility of extending offer through registration process. Meet with Steve Ihnot to go over status of equipment.
- Additional ideas to be submitted to Cary, who will convey all budget ideas to Tim.

Board Roles: Chase unable to serve as VP Challenger due to schedule conflict. Discussed other areas he could serve -- will assist Shawn as Player Agent and Sponsorship Committee.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Cary to reach out to former VP Challenger (Liz Roberts) to see if she would be willing to continue in role.

Fields: Cary inquired as to deadline for signing up for fields run by the City. Corey remembered it being in December but noted that the league needed an estimate of the number of teams in order to reserve fields.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Fields Committee to get started on necessary paperwork with the City (NoBo), County (Iris, Tom Watson), and BVSD (CMS). Schedule a work day.

Registration, Website: Corey discussed his progress transitioning the NBLL website from League Athletics to TeamSnap. It will be up and running for registration starting Dec. 11, 2017. As in the past, he asked that the Board assist him in beta testing the new site by registering their kids before taking the system live. He also went over ideal placement of yard signs in December to advertise registration -- not allowed on school grounds; at school bus stops good.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Alyssa to provide Corey with the information relevant to the new USA Baseball bat standard going into effect for 2018 to include on the website and in the registration materials.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Next meeting Dec. 4, 2017.