



SSBL Board of Directors Meeting

September 5, 8:30pm

Via Google Meet

Present: Pat McGovern, Eric Volker, Laura Buccola, Alison MacMillan, Drew Spitzer, Danny Roselle, Tim Yarnall, Kevin Haggard

Missing: Mike Evangelist, Jason Filiberti, Chris Moon, Matt Schwark

Present (General Board): Rexy Bianco, Michelle DeMuth

Present (Others): Community Members

I. Welcome / Introduction – Laura Buccola

A. Nominations - Seeking nominations for: Director – Personnel, Director – Softball Operations, Director - Baseball Travel Teams, Outside Director – Maroon; nominations open through Sept 26th; still need a Baseball Travel Director nominations; the vote will take place at the October Board meeting.

B. Jefferson Field – Jefferson field was re-skinned over the weekend and re-leveled and 24 rolls of sod; outfield sod now covers sprinkler heads; it was a safety issue so pleased to say that has been completed by the town.

C. Jim Madden – New Providence Council: Jim has helped remodel and refresh New Providence fields and he has been giving us advice and recommendations about our fields, best tips and practices and how to get town and BOE involved and even grants.

II. Treasurer's Report – Drew Spitzer – Strong from a cash stand point and expect to end the year in a slight increase from where we are now; Executive Board considering options on what to do about growth in funding in the future.

III. Softball Travel Update - Tim Yarnall on behalf of Jason Filiberti: schedules are all out, 7 teams, 2 at every age group, except 8u; practices have started; Middle School field needs to be worked out; date for “new” travel evaluations for spring/summer is being considered for late October or early November (in years past, the only evaluation is typically before fall teams); and first pitching/catching clinic happened today and was very well attended.

IV. Softball Update - Tim Yarnall – no specific updates right now; Tim intends to transition the new Softball Director in; and with regards to Summit Day of Softball, Challenge U, has decided to exit that business so we are looking for a new vendor for that event.

- V. Baseball Travel Update – Laura on behalf Matt Schwark; this fall we will have a combined 12/13 team instead of a 12u team; tryouts for Spring travel, using Hustle, will be on the Oct 16th half day of SPS and there will be make-up opportunities; and 7th grade tryouts to be scheduled.
- VI. Baseball Update – Pat McGovern:
 - A. Rec Fall Season: numbers are strong in lower grades (1st/2nd 44 players, 3rd/4th – 30 players) and lower in older grades (5th/6th -15 players and 7th/8th – 11 players); may split up the lower grades and will use high school students for “clinic” portion of the season.
 - B. Thank you to Minor Huffman who has been behind the scenes with baseball rec; we are always looking for new parents to step in and volunteer with us!
 - C. Discussion ensued about the distinctions between the rec and travel programs at SSBL and how to think about them in terms of players who also play Club baseball outside of SSBL; we need to set clear expectations so that rec and travel do not compete with one another; one idea is to have one baseball director (instead of rec and travel separate) and another idea is to have a committee that will conduct research and hold a forum in the community in order to make a recommendation to the Board about the roles of rec, travel and club (doing all 3 is too much?); the timing is good now because the Board will be voted on next month and the recommendations should be made by January/February; Softball underwent a similar overall a few years ago and it had positive outcomes.
- VII. Marketing Update – Alison MacMillan – few more plaques to deliver and has been spending time updating Square.
- VIII. Personnel Update - Laura Buccola on behalf of Mike Evangelist – all surveys are completed.
- IX. Fields Update - Laura Buccola on behalf of Chris Moon – please see Jefferson update
- X. CapEx Update – Erik Voelker – having a high school helper is awesome; Exec Board talking about incremental field work (hiring maintenance workers) to upkeep fields; meeting with BOE about restrictions coming forward; may have to have joint practices; and the relationship with Jim Madden will be a tremendous help.
- XI. Outside Director Update – Danny Roselle – Travel team photo day will be scheduled with Donna Fisk on weeknight; thank you Donna!
- XII. Questions/Comments/Concerns – nothing additional.
- XIII. Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings: October 3, 8:30pm KOC (Elections)
- XIV. Upcoming Executive Board Meeting: September 18, 2023, 8:30pm