



SSBL Board of Directors Meeting

April 1, 2024, 8:30pm

Via Google Meet

Present: Laura Buccola, Richard Sosa, Seth Goren, Chris Moon, Jimmy DaSilva, Alison MacMillan, Pat McGovern, Drew Spitzer, Mike Evangelist; Jason Filiberti, Eric Volker,

Missing: Kevin Haggard

Present (General Board): Michelle DeMuth, Jon Goldberg, Remy Bianco. Elizabeth Jois, Jon Aronson, and Mike Rizzo

I. Welcome / Introduction – Laura Buccola

II. President's Updates – Laura Buccola – The season has kicked off

- a. Lincoln-Hubbard field - over spring break, fencing at 1st base line was extended; higher fence installed out by McGregor and 6ft high with a gate; the field is in use
- b. Field of Dreams - the dream of having a multi-purpose field in Summit is still alive; Mayor and new leadership has interest in getting this done with assistance of the Economic Development Committee; first step is an environmental study; will keep everyone posted

III. Treasurer Update – Drew Spitzer

- a. Cash is in good shaped and progressing as scheduled - around \$447K in cash (now is the peak)
- b. Incident reported in batting cage and reported to insurance company

IV. Softball Travel Update – Jason Filiberti

- a. Season officially started today and games were posted this weekend but need to be reconciled because we don't have fields to offer and games should begin this weekend
- b. Summer Travel: Goal is to get out summer registrations this week, especially important with 12u because of Hershey tournament and they will need to do fundraising; goal is to do this earlier next year; able to secure 12u Coach that is a Drew University player and her friend, at Catholic University as assistant – we are very excited!

V. Softball Update – Richard Sosa

- a. Scheduling - Scheduling is challenging with field space this year and the goal is to keep it fair as "championships are won at practice"; we are having to be very creative this year so every team can practice by themselves or with one other team; thank you to Jon Goldberg for making sure every team can have one practice a week; will have to find ways to make up this week's rainouts with Saturdays – maybe weekends; ultimately scheduling will have to be week by week; don't

want a situation where some teams have more practices than others; will track data and know for future reference; sometimes a coach can't make the practice options; Nanette pointed out that we have never been in a position where we are down two less fields; discussion ensued amongst Board Members about how to make it fair and how to split field space in order to be equitable amongst different age groups and levels and given the limited field space; there are pro's and con's to keeping it consistent week over week

- b. Upper High School Slot and fencing – the current slot is 7:15 on Mondays; great field but no fence so that's a problem for home runs; we have looked into getting above ground fencing and the last time it \$7k estimate and above ground fencing is 3x the cost of inground fence
- c. Spring into Softball – SSBL is rebranding without an external group – K through 4th grade itinerary is set and age appropriate but trying to come up with a challenges for older girls; we hope to see all of you there!
- d. Call for Volunteers for Spring into Softball: need to one coach from each team and some other volunteers; will send out a sign-up genius; 6 station event with challenges (and one station is team photos); girls will win medals; Alison will send out an email and Richard will send a call for volunteers; Jimmy Silva – please send out to coaches first so it can go into team snap

VI. Baseball Travel Update – Seth Goren

- a. Opening weekend this weekend– special thank you to Nanette and Pat to work through all the scheduling!
- b. Fall tryouts- Date locked for fall tryouts (June 4th – election day- challenge because cannot use voting centers for sites so will be at Wilson instead of Jefferson; will use temporary 60ft bases; Tryouts will be free and better efficient and better managed because new partner (PRD) is offering it for free by PRD
- c. 8th grade schedules are set and 7th grade games going along with USABL; looking good so far

VII. Baseball Update – Pat McGovern

- a. Opening Day of Baseball – we will do a simple gathering of all players, music and Mr. Chi; should be fun and all coaches should encourage people to go; Pat needs to balance with high school clinic; 9am start time
- b. Season off to a great start - 8th is big – 7, 6, 5 are small so hope to get back to historical big numbers of the past; League Directors are doing great and a lot of work on scheduling; every practice is a shared practice; we have given some of Omaha practice slots away and will try to add when possible
- c. Umpires - umpires are in good shape and Lou is helping out; thank you to Laura Lameo for working on youth umpires for 3rd and 4th grade
- d. Equipment - Jon Aronson, thank you – he is doing a great job and got bags out; baseballs- making sure every coach a bucket of balls and considering adding a logo in the future to ensure people turn them in; Jon is tracking this year who turns them in so that we will have a better record; Seth added that we may need to also do this for Travel
- e. Payments with Thompsons – SSBL wants to support local whenever possible and Drew will have a conversation with them about how we can make the payment process simpler. Going forward; Jason Filiberti mentioned that sometimes they use Go Ballistics because payment is due upon delivery as opposed to in advance.
- f. Summer camp – Laura Buccola spoke on behalf of Minor Huffman – there is demand for baseball summer camp and SSBL would like to offer one; looking at Summit High School students who could run it; Pat will talk with students; might have to revisit what we are paying umpires and college counselors

VIII. Marketing Update – Alison MacMillan

- a. Emails-Social – will continue to email about Spring into Softball and any other needs;
- b. Fundraiser - re-imagining what it could be in Mid to late May
- c. Lawns signs should go shed or Alison will come get them
- d. Jimmy DaSilva proposed that SSBL be in the Memorial Day parade; Alison offered to look into it!

IX. Personell Update – Mike Evangelist

- a. Thank you to League Directors – League Directors did a great job following up with coaches; 80 to 83% compliance with coach certifications and everyone else is in process; higher number of new coaches this year across softball and baseball rec which is great news; the amount of volunteers is really great this year; smoother than in years past
- b. Chris Moon suggested that the Board Members all be on the same rotation for Abuse Awareness and background checks to keep it simpler

X. CapEx Update – Eric Volker

- a. Field maintenance – Eric spent time with Tony DeAngelo and then BOE and DCP to discuss working on supplementing what they are doing like mound maintenance

XI. Fields – Chris Moon

- a. Supplies for chalk, fields, drying is purchased through Summit Hardware
- b. Lesson learned regarding tarps - tarps were removed from field at Memorial by DPW for high school game – because rain came after they lined the field and then field became unplayable; that needs to be prevented going forward

XI. Outside Director Update – Jimmy DaSilva

- a. Working with League Directors and coaches as necessary

XII. Questions/Comments/Concerns

XIII. Upcoming Board of Directors Meeting: May 6, 2024 8:30pm

XIV. Upcoming Executive Board Meeting: April 16, 2024 8:30pm