

SLVLL020116

## San Lorenzo Valley Little League Board of Directors Feb. 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Present: Mike Ayers, Leslie Haddad, Steven Shabry, Jeremy Lyman, Loren Fontinell, Sue Sutherlin, Heather McLean, Addam Stark, Brienne Ruscoe, Peg Weisse, Jared Austin, Mike Kelly, Paige Garrahan, Sheri Austin, Mike Kelly, Matt Schelegle, Dave Crandall, Lupita Alaniz (guest), Rob Peabody (guest).

Pres. Ayers called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Jan. 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Stark moved and Mr. Kelly seconded approval. All approved.

President's Report:

Pres. Ayers said he has rule books for all board members and managers and that Little League has produced a 10-week T-ball program that will be available to T-ball managers.

Umpires:

UIC Austin said he has a list of 25 umpires from last season but only 12 have responded so far about umpiring in 2016 and he will need many more. He asked that the League again ask managers and coaches to volunteer to umpire a game during the season. He said only three umpires who have offered their services are majors-eligible. Child and other outside umpires 14 and older get paid \$30 per game, younger umpires get school credit. He said he would attend the Section 5 Umpire Clinic the weekend of Feb. 27 and 28 and urged anyone else interested in umpiring to join him. He said he would also like to put on an SLV Little League umpire clinic with former UIC Jeff Kindred.

Treasurer Report:

Ms. Weisse distributed a one-sheet summary of the League's finances to date. She said she felt confident revenues would come in at around \$80,000 for the season, with expenses around \$75,000. "I think we'll be in good shape," she said, "despite not having as many kids."

Finalizing Teams/Divisions:

Player Agents Leslie Haddad and Steven Shabry went over their assessment of upper division registration and likely division placement. Pres. Ayers noted one low-skilled 12 year old has inquired about a waiver to play at AAA. They indicated that if that player plays down in AAA, the League could keep its majors division at three teams. Doing so would mean about five majors-eligible players would be denied play in majors. Going to four majors teams, however, would mean pulling seven children up to majors who would be playing well above their skill level and likely spend most of their time on the bench.

There was a spirited hour-long discussion about whether to have three or four majors teams. Of the three majors managers present, most favored a three-team division, including Mr. Schelegle, who noted it might deny him a team to manage.

Mr. Austin moved and Ms. Sutherlin seconded setting the majors division at three teams. The motion carried on an 8-6 vote.

After further discussion about the AAA division, Mr. Austin moved and Mr. Stark seconded a four-team AAA division. The motion carried on a 12-0-1 vote.

During discussion about the AA division board members noted that while the three-majors-four-AAA format would justify five AA teams, there were only three managers committed to date to that division. None from the prospective AAA manager field, which had more candidates than teams, had offered to move back down to AA. With the draft scheduled three days later, there was concern among board members about the ability to draft two additional teams for which there still are no managers, let alone one.

Ms. Ruscoe moved and Mr. Lyman seconded reconsideration of the majors and AAA team number votes. The motion carried 12-0.

Mr. Crandall moved and Mr. Lyman seconded a four-team majors division. He withdrew the motion when Ms. Ruscoe suggested the board decide all three upper division team numbers at once.

Ms. Ruscoe moved and Mr. Olmsted seconded that the board vote either for four teams each in majors, AAA and AA, or three majors teams, five AAA teams and four AA teams.

The board voted by paper ballot 9-6 in favor of the second option (three majors, five AAA and four AA teams).

Pres. Ayers noted that Mr. Stark, the runner-up in the AAA manager selection, would be the fifth AAA team manager.

#### Projects:

Pres. Ayers noted that the League has an agreement with the school district to provide either \$2,500 cash for field use or the equivalent in in-kind field work. He said the understanding for 2016 was that the League would provide a new portable outfield fence for the PONY field as its contribution but noted that the school district softball manager was not in agreement. He said he and Mr. Crandall would continue discussions and was optimistic about reaching an amicable solution.

Pres. Ayers also noted that District 39 will host a coach and player clinic at Harbor High School Feb. 6 from 9-11 a.m. for coaches and 1-3 p.m. for players 5-12 years old.

Mr. Olmsted moved and Mr. Lyman seconded adjournment at 9:25 p.m., all approved.