

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CAPITOL HILL LITTLE LEAGUE (CHLL)

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held on March 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight at Pacci's restaurant located at 106 13th St SE. Vice President Dave Roberts presided over the meeting and Nona McCoy served as Secretary. In attendance was:

LIST MEMBERS ATTENDING

Dave Roberts
Seth Kaufman
Nona McCoy
Michael Kaiser
Lona Valmoro
Jamie Lang
Matt Miller
Jake Cumsy-Whitlock
Dave Brennan
Julie Muir
David Toney
Brian Thomas

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2024 meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Discussion with Tara Kirrane, CHLL Softball Commisser

Tara Kirrane spoke to the board for nearly an hour regarding the growth she has seen within CHLL's softball divisions and some of the challenges she has faced managing that growth. Tara emphasized how valuable it is that Softball continues to receive public support from the Board during league activities. The Board was appreciative of the discussion and encouraged her to share additional ways that we could continue to better support softball in CHLL.

Future Action Items:

- Commissioner Coordinator will follow up with Tara and the Single A Baseball Commissioner regarding playing opportunities across divisions.
- Softball Committee Chair and Player Development Chairs will discuss ways to increase paid pitcher development activities at the AAA, Majors, and Juniors Softball Divisions.
- Board members are encouraged to submit proposals in support of softball for discussion at subsequent Board meetings.
- Continue the conversation about a dedicated person on the Board to oversee softball.

Officers Report

- Multiple members of the Board expressed concerns about the ongoing lighting issues at Eastern, especially given the league's heavy reliance on Eastern for weeknight practices and games.

Action Items:

- President and Field Maintenance Coordinator will continue to work with DPR, Eastern, and Charles Allen to prioritize fixing the lights, including the possibility of CHLL contributing funds from the 2018 MLB grant to help do so.
- Registrar noted that registration is officially closed for all divisions and commented on the overall registration trends this year which saw continued growth of Softball and plateau's or small declines in Baseball.

Action Items:

- Web Development Coordinator will remove the "Register Today" button from the website
- Registrar will continue to work with the Softball Commissioner to approve late additions to softball divisions, provided these additions do not change the current team balance. .
- Player Agent shared some initial lessons learned from the pre-season evaluations at BBA and noted a few areas for improvement including starting and ending registration earlier, closing registration prior to the start of evaluations, adding weeknight evaluation options, and limiting options over President's Day weekend. Also informed the Board behavioral contracts have been issued.
- Umpire-in-chief recapped the umpire clinic which was held on 3/4 and run by Doug Rawald. The Board discussed recent trouble getting a hold of the umpire association we have traditionally used and the challenges that brings for Majors Baseball.

- *Action Items:*

- Umpire-in-chief will continue to attempt to contact Milton to secure paid umpires with a priority on Majors Baseball and hard to fill Sunday softball games.
- Treasurer will research and report back to the Executive Committee on any additional flexibilities and risk tolerance that may be helpful in securing paid umpires.
- Player Development coordinators noted that the pre-season clinics at On Deck have concluded. Many members of the Board shared positive feedback that families shared about these sessions and a desire to see them continue, including during August in the leadup to the fall 2024 season and continuing in January and February of 2025.
- David Toney shared a recap of the meeting with DPR to discuss potential options for field partnerships as well as shared an update to sponsorship commitments.
- David Toney shared a recap of a conversation with CRYSP concerning the status of the batting cages at 19th and C. He suggested that the results of this conversation warranted moving forward with our previously approved investment in the batting cages, but scaling back the investment to include gravel rather than turf flooring. He also mentioned the possibility of adding batting cages at The Fields at RFK and exploring how CHLL could be helpful in making that happen. The Board supported both suggestions.

Action Items:

- President will move forward with entering into an agreement with Tarpon to refurbish the batting cages with a gravel floor.
- David T. will continue to engage in conversations with CRYSP concerning adding batting cages to the Fields at RFK campus.

New Business

- A motion from Michael Kaiser to approve the use of Negro League team names for our Majors Baseball teams was adopted by voice vote;
- A motion from Brian Thomas to update the league's [online safety summary](#) in response to recommendations from the 2023 Player Safety Workgroup was adopted by voice vote;
- A motion from the Rules Committee to change the maximum number of innings pitched in Majors baseball Spring Training games to two (2) innings was adopted by voice vote; .
- A motion from the Rules Committee to adopt a 30 pitch per inning limit for players during Majors and AAA baseball Spring Training games was adopted by voice vote;
- A motion from Brian Thomas to approve league coaches and other volunteers who have completed their requirements was adopted by voice vote.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the board will be on April 2, 2024 at 6 p.m. at a location to be determined at a later date.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. EDT.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Roberts, Vice President

Nona McCoy, Secretary