

DRAFT

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

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held on August 29, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time by video. CHLL President Katie Holloran presided over the opening of the meeting. Becky Skinner served as Secretary. In attendance were:

Bill Buck
Jake Cumsky-Whitlock
Lance Hayden
Katie Holloran
Carrie Levine
Seth Kaufman
Lisa Miller
Doug Rawald
Kiki Saveriano
Becky Skinner
Kevin Starace
David Toney
Lona Valmoro

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 July 28, 2022 meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Seth Kaufman provided the treasurer's report. He noted that fundraising to support the 10U baseball tournament team has exceeded \$10,000. He also highlighted that all fields except Payne had been paid for and that the league was doing well on field costs. He also mentioned that the league's cyber insurance payment was due, but he was still working on some of the details. The insurance cost \$2,700 for the past year. The league currently has about a \$28,000 surplus, which may go up as registration continues. This is due in part to the league's new field strategy, the use of volunteer umpires, and decreased field investments.

Katie Holloran discussed efforts to reduce the field fees for DCPS fields. She and Lona Valmoro have been working with Councilmember Charles Allen, who has been helpful. The Chancellor has agreed to waive security fees for groups of less than 150 people but mentioned possible custodial fees. Katie is going to share an email with the Chancellor that the league received from the Payne principal about not having the league pay custodial fees.

Seth added that the hope is to go back to \$5 an hour for DCPS grass fields. Ideally, the situation will be resolved by budget time. The board discussed whether more fields were needed. Lona said we had enough. The only big time crunch is on Saturday mornings.

Registration

Katie Hollaran reported that there were currently 412 baseball, 17 Challengers, and 74 softball player registrations. All divisions have been moved to a waitlist except for the baseball Juniors and Seniors divisions. The league will be fielding a combined Juniors/Seniors (16U) team for the fall. Commissioners will be working with Jason Goldsmith to move players off the waitlist.

Uniforms

Kiki Saveriano provided an update on uniforms. Her contact at BSN has been out on sick leave, but she is hoping to hear tomorrow about when the jerseys will be ready. As we have more team sponsors than teams for the fall season, some of the sponsors will need to be combined on the jerseys. Kiki, David Toney, Bill Buck, and Katie Hollaran will work on resolving the sponsor/uniform issues.

Equipment

Jake Cumsky-Whitlock indicated that first aid kits for equipment bags would be ready this weekend. Seth Kaufman said that equipment distribution would be at the shed on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am – noon. Kiki Saveriano will be handing out pants, belts, and socks to eligible players on Monday from noon – 2:00 pm at the shed. Katie will send an email to new families, scholarship players, and Challengers division players to make sure they know about uniform distribution. Becky Skinner will let commissioners know about equipment and uniform distribution.

Bill Buck said that there will be a Dick's Sporting Goods coupon available for next weekend. The coupon will need to go out in an email on Friday. It was noted that in the past, Dick's had also provided player starter kits (e.g., glove, helmet, batting glove, and drawstring bag) but has not done so since last fall. The league will help any scholarship players with their equipment needs.

Team UP

The 10U baseball tournament team will be honored at Nats Park on Tuesday.

Commissioners Committee

Becky Skinner provided an update on commissioners for the fall season. She was unable to find someone to take over AAA baseball, so Doug Rawald has agreed to stay on as commissioner.

The board discussed a proposed AA baseball rule change related to safety and the pitching machine. The board agreed that if a player deliberately enters the pitching circle when not fielding a ball, the player will receive a warning. The next time it happens, the player will be benched for the remainder of the half inning and will not be permitted to play the pitcher position for the remainder of the game.

Fields

Lona Valmoro indicated that the league was in good shape with respect to fields. She is working with commissioners on the allocation of fields for practices and games. Weekday field assignments have been made, and weekend assignments are almost complete. She mentioned several dates when the league will be unable to access fields at RFK or Randall due to other events. She also noted that Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day weekend was a five-day break for DCPS. The board also discussed problems with other people squatting on fields during the league's permitted time. Katie Holloran will recirculate the number to report this to RFK field security.

Sponsorships

David Toney reported that the league may have a couple new sponsors. Some new groups have stepped up to sponsor but will need to wait until the spring season. Some of the league's current sponsors helped to support the 10U baseball tournament team.

David and Bill Buck mentioned that DirectTV wants to provide warm up shirts for three teams. They also want an online presence.

Katie Holloran shared that LeagueSide helps to connect the league to sponsors. She also mentioned that Curative asked us to put out a survey for them.

COVID Protocols

Katie Holloran has talked with the Single A baseball commissioners about how they want to handle COVID issues this fall and has also looked at what DCPS is doing. The league's policy could be to stay home if you are not feeling well, follow CDC guidance, and that you can play if you can go to school. The Single A baseball commissioners want to continue to have families notify commissioners about COVID cases. The Player Agents discussed the burden of COVID reporting on commissioners. Doug Rawald confirmed that it has been burdensome. The league did not see any team spread at any point during the pandemic. It also seemed like reporting dropped off at the end of the spring season. The board discussed whether Single A baseball could have its own policy and the need to strongly encourage families to report COVID cases to their team or their coach. Katie will work on pulling together the league's COVID policy for posting on the website.

Safety Officer

Jake Cumsky-Whitlock provided the board with a list of volunteers for approval. (The list includes individuals who have already been approved.) A motion was made to approve the list of volunteers. The motion was approved by voice vote.

New Initiatives

Katie Holloran discussed two initiatives that the league could consider exploring. The first would be to create a liaison for each DCPS school where the league uses a school field. It could be a good role for someone who does not want to be on the board or on the field. The second initiative is something that Katie is calling "Newsies". It would be a way to tell great stories about the league through a newsletter, social media posts, and blogs written by the

league's oldest softball and baseball players. A committee of board members and other adults would work with the players. Katie and others would read and approve everything before it was posted. Lance Hayden suggested that if the league pursued this idea, he could set up a separate space on the website for it. The players would be able to upload their pieces to the website, but nothing would be published until approved by Katie. Carrie Levine mentioned the importance of having deadlines and having an editor. Katie will put out an open call for participants.

Annual Meeting/Board Elections

Becky Skinner provided an update on board nominees. Becky and Jason Goldsmith will be prompting nominees to submit a picture and bio. The board discussed the number of open board seats and the need to continue to recruit board candidates.

Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be on October 3, 2022 unless the board needs to convene earlier. The meeting will be conducted in-person or by video.

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

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Holloran, President

Rebecca Skinner, Secretary