DRAFT

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

A meeting of the CHLL Board was held by video on July 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. CHLL President Katie Holloran presided over the opening of the meeting. Becky Skinner served as Secretary. In attendance were:

Bill Buck
Jake Cumsky-Whitlock
Katie Holloran
Carrie Levine
Seth Kaufman
Nona McCoy
Doug Rawald
Kiki Saveriano
Becky Skinner
Jack Smedile

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 June 2023 board meeting and an online vote to approve a softball coach as a 12U softball tournament team coach. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Commissioners
Becky Skinner indicated that Katie Holloran had volunteered to be the Juniors baseball commissioner. A motion was made to approve Katie Holloran as the Juniors baseball commissioner. The motion was approved by voice vote.

It was noted that Rosh Hashanah is on a Saturday this year. Managers should check with their players regarding availability for games.

Summer Tournament Teams
Bill Buck provided an update on the summer tournament teams. The 10U baseball tournament team came within one run of advancing. Across the 10U, 11U, and 12U baseball tournament teams and the 12U softball tournament team, there was one player who suffered a tournament ending injury.

Katie Holloran reported on additional summer competitions. CHLL participated in a machine pitch baseball tournament at Nats Academy and won. CHLL also participated in a 10U softball tournament that was the best of three games again Mamie Johnson LL. Mamie Johnson LL won.

Katie suggested that there be a tournament team debriefing meeting. Bill said he would hold one after Labor Day.

Solar Power at Sheds
Nick Burger, a parent of two CHLL players and the lead for the energy team at the DC Department of Energy, joined the meeting to discuss the possibility of adding solar to sheds. Solar power stored in batteries could be used, for example, to power pitching machines. The board discussed possible locations for a solar trial based on various factors including availability of direct sun, the possibility of vandalism, and which fields are used by AA baseball teams. After discussing the possibility of adding solar power and the pros and cons, the board agreed that it was worth further exploration and requested a detailed proposal for the board to consider.

Treasurer's Report
Seth Kaufman is working on a formal treasurer's report. The biggest costs currently are paying for fall fields. The league also needs to pay for cyber insurance and some tournament costs.

Seth also noted that the league received a DPR grant for equipment. Seth and Jack Smedile had prepared a list of equipment needs (e.g., balls, tees, bases) with purchasing options. The new equipment has arrived. Seth and Jack will move it into the shed.

Seth is also working on a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. He asked that board members send him a note if the amount budgeted for expenditures in their area(s) were too high or too low.

Volunteer Appreciation Event
Katie Holloran would like to do a volunteer appreciation event in August or September. She discussed possibly doing it at the Bullpen. Seth Kaufman confirmed that there is money in the budget still available for special events.

Player Agents
The Player Agents sent a memo to the board about what they learned over the spring season. It is an attempt to document useful information, present questions, and discuss choices and the consequences of those choices to inform board priorities and policy decisions in the further. It also provides practical information to inform discussions and the use of league resources.

It was suggested that the injury working group also address behavioral issues. There are some players who have a history of behavioral issues that could be addressed at the beginning of a season. It would also help to have policies in place for addressing behavioral issues identified during the season. This group could also look at the player, parent, and volunteer codes of conduct to see if they need revisions. The Player Agents were concerned that coaches do not know to reach out to commissioners and Player Agents if they are dealing with player issues.

It was also suggested that a working group focused on pre-season workouts be formed. This group could talk about who runs these workouts, especially at the Majors and AAA baseball levels, and the costs of various options. The Player Agents noted that it is hard to staff the Majors and AAA workouts in their current form. They also mentioned that there are perpetual concerns about the player scores generated through the workout process.

The board agreed to adding behavioral issues to the scope of issues being examined by the injury working group. The board also agreed to create a working group focused on pre-season workouts. Both working groups can decide whether to include non-board members as group members or only consult with non-board members as appropriate.

Equipment
Jack Smedile gave an equipment update. He thanked Seth for writing the equipment grant. Jack noted that equipment bag pickup times will be scheduled for the last week in August.

Registration
Jack Cumsky-Whitlock said that registration opened today. Katie Holloran will send an email about registration to the league tomorrow. A late fee will be added to the registration fee beginning August 23. Registration will close on August 30. Jake will send regular registration updates to the board and commissioners.

Annual Election
Becky Skinner reviewed the schedule for the annual election. She will reach out to see if any board members not running for election would like to help with the election.

Next Meeting
The next board meeting will be the CHLL annual meeting, which will be conducted on September 13, 2023, unless the board needs to convene earlier. The meeting will be conducted by video.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. EDT.

Approved: Respectfully submitted,

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Katie Holloran, President Rebecca Skinner, Secretary