

San Lorenzo Valley Little League Board of Directors Jan. 4, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Present: Mike Ayers, Dave Crandall, Peg Weisse, Sue Sutherlin, John Woolfolk, Jared Austin, Brienne Ruscoe, Sheri Austin, Loren Fontinell, Mike Kelly, Addam Stark, Steven Shabry, Heather McLean, Paige Garrahan, Mike Olmsted, Jeremy Lyman, Nick Purtscher, Matt Schelegle (guest), Mark Edgemon (guest), Russell Gross (guest)
(meeting held at Ben Lomond Fire Station).

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

Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Stark moved approval of the previous (Dec.7) meeting's minutes with multiple seconds, all approved.

2016 Season Upper Division Managers:

Pres. Ayers informed the board that Mr. Crandall had withdrawn as a manager candidate in the major division and offered to manage a lower-division team for his grandson. Pres. Ayers then invited the remaining six majors manager candidates to address the board about their qualifications. Candidates Austin, Schelegle, Edgemon, Purtscher, Gross and Olmsted each gave remarks.

Pres. Ayers then asked the majors candidates to leave the room while the board discussed and voted on the candidates. He indicated that while current registration would allow for only three majors teams, he believes there will be enough late signups for four teams. Ms. Weisse, representing the manager selection committee -- Ms. Ruscoe, Pres. Ayers and division representative Fontinell -- told the board the committee found all candidates qualified. The committee agreed on three candidates to recommend and couldn't agree on the other three. She and Ms. Ruscoe detailed the committee's assessment of each candidate.

After some spirited discussion, Pres. Ayers distributed a slip of paper to each board member and asked them to write the four names, in no particular order, of their majors manager choices. He said Leslie Haddad, who was unavailable, had informed him of her choices and that he would submit a ballot on her behalf. He added that if for some reason there are only enough players for three teams, he would make the decision later which manager to eliminate. Pres. Ayers then collected the paper ballots and handed them to Mr. Woolfolk, who tallied the votes as Pres. Ayers and Ms. Ruscoe observed.

Pres. Ayers invited the candidates back into the room. He announced that while each candidate received votes, the top choices in no particular order were Mike Olmsted, Jared Austin, Nick Purtscher and Matt Schelegle.

For the AAA division, candidates/board members Fontinell and Stark were the only applicants present. Division Rep. Olmsted invited each to share remarks about their qualifications, which they did before leaving the room for board discussion. The other candidates were Dennis Kiyabu, Keith Dysart, Joe Stretch and Sandor LeBarre.

As with the majors division, Pres. Ayers told the board he would like four managers identified in no particular order and that he would eliminate one later if registration does not support four teams. Ms. Weisse told the board the committee, which was the same except for the division representative, found all candidates qualified. It recommended three but could not agree on the other three.

After some spirited discussion, Pres. Ayers distributed a slip of paper to each board member and asked them to write the four names, in no particular order, of their manager choices. He said Ms. Haddad, who was unavailable, had informed him of her choices and that he would submit a ballot on her behalf. Pres. Ayers then collected the paper ballots and handed them to Mr. Woolfolk, who tallied the votes as Pres. Ayers and Ms. Ruscoe observed.

Pres. Ayers invited the candidates back into the room. He announced that while each candidate received votes, the top choices in no particular order were Joe Stretch, Dennis Kiyabu, Loren Fontinell and Sandor LeBarre.

Pres. Ayers said he would speak personally to those candidates not selected to thank them and inform them of the board's decision.

Registration:

Mr. Shabry told the board that to date there were 176 players registered, compared with 254 about the same period last season. The breakdown was 34 expected to play in majors, 27 in AAA. Pres. Ayers said that he would favor four majors and four AAA teams, and would inform majors managers of that but advise that numbers may support only three teams if registration doesn't pick up. There was some discussion of why registration numbers are low.

Mr. Shabry suggested mostly it was from getting registration signs up late and one mistake in which an in-person registration was announced but not staffed. The board discussed strategy for getting more players registered.

Ms. Sutherlin said due to growing cost the League didn't send post card registration reminders this year, a possible factor in low registration. She said online registration, which closed early due to a glitch, will be available through Jan. 10 and that she would look to have tryouts announced in the valley Press-Banner. Pres. Ayers said he would set up a registration table outside SLV Hoops on Saturday to catch kids coming and going from basketball. He said the majority of majors players have traditionally signed up at tryouts. Ms. Ruscoe offered to call former players who have not registered to play this season.

Tryouts:

Pres. Ayers confirmed planned tryout dates of Jan. 16, 23 and if needed, 30. There was some discussion of coordinating with the basketball game schedule and Pres. Ayers said given that the older players tend to have their basketball games later in the afternoon, the tryout schedule will start with majors and work down the age groups both days.

Charter:

Pres. Ayers said he has submitted the League's charter and forwarded the bill to Ms. Weisse.

District 39:

Pres. Ayers said the district asked each League to support a tournament this season. He said SLVLL will be hosting the 7-8 tournament.

Mr. Crandall moved to adjourn at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Ms. Garrahan. All approved.