

Schuylkill Valley Little League

January 17th, 2011

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: Holly Hoffman, Rich Bagenstose, Scott Rickert, Paul Becker, Jon Gabel, Mark Emes, Brian Hiester, Tom Knopsnyder, Marie Perry

December 2010 Minutes Approval: Rich motioned to accept the January Minutes. Scott Rickert 2nd. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Paul Becker presented a treasurer report. The only outstanding bill per date is an electric bill for \$116.38 which basically was for the dust to dawn lights at the Leesport baseball fields for the month of December. Paul explained at this point SVLL is now paying for the monthly electric bill for the dust to dawn lights. This is questionable since the SVLL has no activity at the fields until the spring season starts. - Discussion. - Rich made a motion: Rich will represent SVLL and move forward to discuss the situation with the Leesport Borough. The motion includes asking the borough for some type of compromise for the electric bill since SVLL does not own the fields. In addition, Rich will draft a letter to present to other municipalities asking for funds to help with field expenses. Jon 2nd the motion. All in favor. Scott motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Marie 2nd. All in favor.

New Business:

President's Report– Rich Bagenstose:

Pitching Clinic - Rich shared that the clinic had 39 registrants with approximately 32 players attending both sessions that have been offered so far. He has received very good comments. – Discussion - Rich suggested that we add 2 more stations to fill the “down time” gap that the players have while waiting for their turn. One station will be a more formal stretching station where the players will be taught proper warm up techniques. The 2nd station will be lead by Rich and will offer additional pitching techniques. Scott suggested that we check the local colleges and other organizations for help and/or insight to a “catchers” clinic. – Discussion – Overall opinion from the board is that a ‘catchers’ clinic would be a great additional clinic to offer. Scott offered to call around for information.

Registration - Rich addressed that there were approximately 46-49 kids registered for the first registration. (This is average numbers for the first registration.) There were 7 new younger players added to the program. Rich advised that our 4 year olds will be playing with wiffle bats and wiffle balls. Rich's concern is to keep the 4 year olds safe with minimum injuries. The goal is to teach them the very basics of the game. Holly explained that there are companies that will donate equipment to our organization such as wiffle bats and balls, practice balls for the Coach Pitch, Minor and Major levels, and basically any other equipment that meets Little League requirements. Rich will discuss this issue with Bob Kline/Equipment Manager to pursue. Rich also offered to discuss with a friend who may be able to help with donations. Any equipment that is donated will give the league additional money to put towards better quality equipment that we need to buy. Rich suggested that we table the “multiple kids” family fee and volunteer fee for the September/October board meeting. This discussion needs to be addressed in the fall earlier than the December meeting.

50/70 Program - Rich advised that there are now 5 teams committed to the 11 & 12 yr old program. This program will start the beginning of June and go through the middle of July. This program will be post season and should not interfere with the regular season district 8 schedules. Players can participate with this 50/70 program and also the AllStar Team program at the same time. SVLL's goal is to have two teams in this program. However, taking into consideration vacations and other family plans may eliminate some players. SVLL will definitely be able to commit to at least one team. Changes and details for the 50/70 program will be tabled until the April meeting.

***Photographer** - Board discussion in reference to the selection of photographer. Unanimous opinion from board members is that last year's photographer, PhotoProCreations did an overall good job. Rich said he has had a conversation with them and also likes what they have to offer. Holly expressed that we need to make sure that we choose a photographer that can accommodate sponsor plaques. Rich motioned to keep PhotoProCreations as our 2011 season photography company. Rich will make arrangements for them to attend the February board meeting. Rich suggested this issue to be tabled for the August meeting to better prepare for the 2012 season. Jon 2nd. All in favor.

***Sponsorship Discussion**– (approx. 15 minutes) – Holly Hoffman - Last season SVLL offered team sponsorship in which the sponsor's name was on the back of team shirts. The team sponsors also received a team shirt along with a wooden plaque that read "Sponsor's Name, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP". It also had a picture of the team that they sponsored. The companies seemed to like the plaque idea and most of them said they would hang it in their companies' lobby. Team sponsorship was \$200.00 for the season. Many companies wanted to sponsor a particular player. Therefore, requested teams were honored on a "first ask" basis. Holly would like the upcoming season's sponsor program to be based upon a "first paid" basis. Sponsors for the 2011 season will be offer to those "first paid" sponsors and if the player/team is available. The other two sponsorship choices were either a wooden sign or a banner to be hung on the A or B field fence from April through November. The cost of a wooden sign ranged from \$350.00 to \$1,000.00 for the season depending on where it was placed according to location with the score board area being the highest fee. There were NO NEW wooden signs last season so there is no 'cost' to report. The banner was new last season. It was highly recommended by another organization. The first year cost for a banner was \$250.00. The cost to have it made was \$125.00. There was a \$125.00 profit made on each banner the first year. The 2010 contract states that "there will be a \$125.00 renewal fee every year after". Therefore, the renewal price for the 2010 contracts cannot be changed. However, multi-year pricing could be offered moving forward. – Discussion – Paul suggested that SVLL offer a banner to Pagoda Electric and _____. –Discussion – Paul motioned that no more wooden signs be made and that expired contracts that are up for renewal be introduced to our new banner program. Rich 2nd. All in favor. Holly motioned that the 2011 Team Sponsorship prices remain the same @ \$200.00 per team. This would include a team t-shirt and a wooden plaque with the company's name and team's picture. Paul 2nd. All in favor. Holly expressed that she will handle Team Sponsorship and Scott expressed he would handle all the Banner/Sign Sponsorships.

***Volunteer Scheduling** – Scott expressed that he has 10 volunteers for umpire. His goal is to have 20 for the season. Rich suggested the league have a volunteer schedule offering what time to volunteer/what days are needed for volunteers/etc. It would be on a first serve/first signup basis. –Discussion- Marie said there is no problem to post a schedule up for the volunteers. – Discussion – Rich would like the volunteer issue tabled for the next meeting in reference to the exact proportion of what the volunteer's will be expected to do to receive their \$25.00 fee back. Rich motioned that if a volunteer is a 'no show' after signing up for a specific time, the volunteer will forfeit the fee. Paul 2nd. All in favor.

***Reading Phillies Night** – Rich suggested we have someone else outside of the board to handle the Reading Phillies Night coordination and tickets. –Discussion – Two parents offered to help who are not on the board. Jon expressed he would still like a board member involved and be the main person responsible. Paul said he would help. – Discussion on tickets - Marie explained that last year Greg Dimovitz ordered 648 or so based on the number of registrations the prior year. Because of that we were short about 150 or so tickets which resulted in a board email requesting that all R-Phils participants kindly lessen the number of tickets requested if possible to allow at least all players and their immediate family members to attend. She suggested this year that whoever handles it should request at least 700 or 750 and re-evaluate that number again after all the registrants have been accepted. Paul agreed and mentioned that even if we were to order more than that amount we wouldn't be losing any money since the Phillies credit us for the leftover tickets the year following.

***Additional Concerns or Information –**

1. Holly asked for the opening date for the season. – Discussion – April 16th
2. Paul addressed that the Little League rule books need to be ordered. They are \$2.00 a piece. - Discussion – It was decided that Paul would order 2 per team. Paul also requested approval to order LL board member pins at the cost of \$1.00 for each of us. All in favor.
3. Jon would like a reminder email to go out reminding the parents of the upcoming registration dates. Also, the Hitting/Fielding/Throwing Clinic which will be for Coach Pitch level players and above. Evaluations (tryouts or skills assessment) will be on the 27th from 1-5 p.m. Holly suggested that the board have the 3 different levels at different times. Marie said she would send the email out.

Adjourn meeting – Scott motioned to adjourn. Rich 2nd. All in favor.