

**ZLL Board Meeting
Feb. 21, 2011**

In attendance: Dustin Ward, Randy Judd, Jim Dickson, Tammy Pressler, Mike Garrett, Bob Ward, Dave Donnely, Greg Williams, Me, Sonny Nasser, Ron Pugh, Marc Lynn, Robin Wagner

1. Sonny Nasser made a motion to approve the January minutes. Randy Judd seconded and the minutes were approved

2. Phil Howard from the Lions Club spoke as a guest. He is a liaison to the little league for Lions Club. ZLL and the Lions Club signed a five-year agreement in 2006 and it's time to renew that contract. Stan Pinegar and Ron Pugh have been named the point people to negotiate the contract. They hope to flush a new contract out within the next two weeks. The Lions Club is also working with ZLL on the electrical needs of the park and quotes for electrical issues. Howard also serves as VP of the Parks Board and brought conceptual drawings of a pathway coming from Raintree/334 to Lions Park. The project will start within the next month with the construction phase hoping to begin in July. The path will start at 421.

- 3. Treasurer's Report – Ron Pugh** stated we have adequate funding to get the concession stand up and running this spring. We are about \$2,800-2,900 below where we were last year in terms of revenue but are quickly closing the gap with registrations and sponsorships. Mike Garrett questioned whether or not it is worth waiting to collect payment in January vs. September for Showcase registration to ease processing. Bob Walters suggested that we evaluate that at the end of the season. Mark Lynn motioned to approve, Greg seconded.

Bob Walters suggested putting tax returns out on the website. Ron Pugh agreed to scan this year's returns and send them to Graig Collings for posting.

4. Board Reports

Player Representative --Randy Judd stated that registrations are on pace. Duplicates have been eliminated and the divisions have been cleaned up. He mentioned the need to continue communicate the difference between the division alignments. Next year it was suggested that we post division alignment on website before registrations/evaluations. Marc Lynn suggested perhaps automatically assigning ages to division and if the child wants to play up make adjustments. It was also suggested that we cut the discount off on Wednesday night instead of Friday before evaluations to allow us to capture more registration information before evaluations.

Baseball 9-12 --Marc Lynn – for the 9-12 year-old age group it looks like 7 major, 6 AAA and 10 AA teams. We are still short two coaches for AAA. Bob Ward suggested

for interleague play to call Brownsburg, Lebanon or Eagle Creek. Coach selection will probably be Tuesday or Wednesday. An e-mail will be sent to the board listing coaches with phone calls made to all applicants who were not selected.

Sonny noted that in looking at all evaluation data they also looked at how the coaches rated kids. They went Olympic scoring with high/lows

Randy Judd noted that we still expect more six year olds to register. Lots of kids in the 13 plus division will also register over the next few weeks as well.

The draft date is set for Sunday the 27th from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for Majors, AAA and AA baseball. Softball draft will be tentatively moved to 3/02.

Randy also stated that all managers will get the draft board this week and a draft procedure document.

Baseball 6-8 -- Jim Dickson – As for the 6/8 player count, we are a little light in 6, but good at 7/8. We are going to remind parents and have asked paper to advertise as well. It looks like we'll have approximately 18 teams. This year we are also going to allow top 25 percent of seven year olds to play with the Single A/8 rookie division in hopes it will help level out the playing experience. He is predicting 10 teams at Single A and 8 at rookie level. They have approved and slated coaches for those areas and are asking them to help with evaluations on Mar. 5 at ZWest. There will be a 60 point scale and that's how they will choose the 7 year old players who get rounded up.

There were also questions regarding interest among some 5year olds in playing Little League. Marc Lynn spoke to B&G club and asked if they are okay with us accepting five year olds within our league. They had no issues.

Rob Baumgartner will check into insurance. If covered will leave it up to Jim Dickson or Randy Judd to develop an evaluation.

Randy Judd will also participate in a district meeting on Thursday and will ask LLInternational to see about any exceptions. If it is possible to get an exception

If an exception is granted by LL then we will proceed and send notification via Graig.

Jim Dickson also noted that All-Stars would be age specific regardless of whether they play Single A or Rookie.

Softball – Steve Carr reported that softball is short a couple of coaches. Robin Wagner talked to a couple of kids who would be interested in coaching. Randy also got an e-mail from two college grads who would like to volunteer in the league.

Baseball 13+ -- Dave Donnelly – has had several questions regarding our 13+ program and addressed some specific questions that a parent had e-mailed the board. One question addressed was “What are some of the main reasons kids feel they need to play away from Lion’s Park and what steps might be taken to attract them again?” It was stated that as kids age they leave the Park and ZLL for several reasons, including the desire to play travel and school ball. Traditionally we have offered a Rec Jr./Sr. baseball season that began after the school season ended. Dave thinks there is still a desire to play recreational baseball at this age as well and wants to continue to offer that opportunity.

Donnelly is also taking steps enable the Jr. Program to play a Spring Season. There is some interest from Brownsburg and Lebanon. He also stated that Avon is now part of our district and he has talked to Avon about playing with us in the Spring. He said getting the 13-16 kids to play in the Spring is not as common. Ron Pugh suggested a couple of different leagues to contact.

Donnelly also noted that Spring teams traditionally area late sign up teams because kids wait to see if they first make the school team. ZLL has not pursued having a dedicated travel team at age 13 to date.

In terms of coaches – Donnelly will be e-mailing individuals . Generally they have had practices after Spring Break. This year our 13-16 year olds have an indoor facility to practice in March. He noted that he does want to grow the Juniors Program but feels too many kids give up playing a sport just to play it and have fun. He also thinks there is a building question of whether we open up a travel side.

The middle school teams usually make the baseball cuts right before Spring break and we will get registrations right before Spring Break.

Sonny Nasser suggested that we contact the middle school coaches and Athletic Directors and offer to pick up their second team since the two middle schools are combining for one team this year.

Sponsorships – Dustin Ward stated that Dicks is sponsoring two teams and wants to do a league appreciation event for us.

As compared to last year, got 32 commitments. We have some work to do to meet our number of teams and will be close to reaching that number however he still needs help securing more sponsorships.

Dustin will send out an updated list of secured sponsors.

Safety --Rob Baumgartner could not be here but Sonny reminded board of CPR training

Other -- Marc Lynn brought up mention of interest in playing games on Friday nights. Teams that would play on Friday nights wouldn't play on Saturdays.

Greg Williams made a motion to proceed with Friday night games beginning no earlier than 7 p.m. Dickson seconded and it was approved.

Sonny asked all VPs to look over local rules. Mike Garrett requested we post local rules on the website will work with Graig Collings to do so.

Marke Roberts out of town but noted to Sonny that he has opening day under control and is also heading up the Keraga Cup with ZLL.

5. Updates or issues

Survey Update –Brad Redman and Amy Hartwig has assembled a 28 question survey to cover the vast majority of all families. There are three sections for if they were a part of a particular group before opening up to an additional set of questions. The survey will run for 10 days and will come back with results at March board meeting. Audience is anybody who has played LL.

ZLL is also planning a follow-up second survey specific to the manager at the conclusion of the season.

Nasser also noted that we need to start considering nominations for the McKamy Holmes award.

Mike Garrett – stated he received an e-mail from 13-14 year old Zionsville Longhorns team that wants to use field 1. They are interested in helping with some field maintenance.

It was stated that last year after asking what other locations charged for field rental ZLL settled on \$150 per use for practicing on the field. The rental fee was designed to help offset some of the field maintenance costs. It was noted that in the past year ZLL spent more than \$55,000 on field maintenance plus manpower. To date the only exception has been when the fee was waived for the HS in the past. Since ZLL does the maintenance Lion's Club it is okay for us to charge. Steve Carr noted that we have had other organizations like corporate company leagues inquire about field use as well. After some discussion it was decided to continue with the process as it was last year.

Finally, Nasser noted Spring Clean-up on March 12.

The meeting was concluded with the next meeting set for March 13.