

High Plains Little League Board Meeting

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I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm by President, Scot Raffelson.

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:
Scot Raffelson, President Sarah Ehn, Secretary / Safety Officer Gary Bowling, Coaching Coordinator CeCe Castro, Registrar Albert Castro, Equipment Manager Diana Strobel, Player Agent John Busby, Vice President Marissa McCullouch, Fund Raising Coordinator Christy Kennedy, Parent Advocate Johnny Stevens, Director of Scheduling/Umpires Mike Langham, VP of Baseball	Sa-

II. Amendment of the Agenda

Jen Keller attended the meeting to volunteer for the HPLL board for the current term of office. John moved to accept Jen as the Secretary for HPLL, and the motion was seconded by CeCe. The motion carried without opposition. Jen will assume the responsibilities for HPLL secretary following this meeting.

III. Approval of the Minutes

It was moved by Albert to accept the minutes as submitted. It was seconded by Diana and carried without opposition.

IV. Safety Plan

Sarah proposed updates for the HPLL Safety Plan for 2016. ID badges will be issued for coaches, managers, board members, or any volunteer that has to undergo a background check. They will be color coded for the current year, which will change the

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following year so that individuals are required to have a background check as appropriate on an annual basis. A sticker or other designation will be added for those individuals who have completed the concussion and CPR training. Sarah contacted a certified CPR instructor who is willing to conduct a class for \$10 per participant. It was decided to schedule CPR class for board members in November or December and then another training for coaches and managers in the spring. Sarah will contact the instructor to make arrangements for the course. The AED Grant was received by HPLL following paperwork submitted by the safety officer. It was moved by Scot and seconded by Gary to spend the \$976.56 to purchase the device. The motion carried without opposition, and the paperwork will be completed and submitted by Sarah with assistance from John to cut a check.

V. Coaching Coordinator Update

Gary and Scot will contact previous coaches for HPLL to check on interest for returning next year. If they respond by the middle of November, they will be able to pick the team name for next season. Anticipate 300-310 players for next season based on previous numbers. We will continue to offer teams based on geographical location from Peyton to make things easier for parents, and there may be interest from a 50/70 team to join HPLL from the Peyton area. The volunteer applications will also be sent with the email to contact coaching candidates.

VI. D49 contact

We still have to pay D49 for field usage from last season. A meeting will need to be scheduled regarding fees and field availability for next year. Scot, John, and any other board members are welcome to attend the meeting to discuss items with the representative from D49. We need to schedule for field usage in case the new fields are not completed. Falcon Middle School will still be needed for Jrs. Division, as the new fields will not have to correct dimensions for that age group. Each day of the week and Saturday from 9-5 and 7-9 are booked for HPLL but at times they have been double scheduled.

VII. Financial Report

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CD contains more than \$60,000, but \$108.00 in the HPLL account. Fund raising must be a concerted effort this year. John has made contacts, but this point four companies have declined to sponsor HPLL. He will continue to work on sponsorships and fund raising, and other board members with contacts need to work on getting sponsorships. Scot recommended that we take \$3000.00 out of the CD to cover expenses and leave the remainder in the CD to put toward the fields we have promised to El Paso County. Sponsorship package will be modified by Scot and John and it will be sent to all of the board members for reference. Please report all contacts to John to avoid duplication.

Fees for 2016: there will have to be a fee increase for next season due to rising expenses. John suggested that we increase fees by \$30 per player, which would still make HPLL the least expensive league in District 5. It was suggested to raise the fees, but have a discount for families with more than one player. Fees will be finalized at the November meeting, please bring any suggestions at that time.

VIII. Scheduling and Umpires

Need to identify local umpires to use whenever possible to cut costs for services, as they will charge less than the association. We plan to host games with teams from Denver if the fields are completed, instead of driving to Denver for all of the games. It was recommended to host an umpire clinic to work on training new umpires.

IX. Fund Raising

Suggestions for fund raisers: 5K run - Scot has a contact who organizes and works on 5K events. He will invite him to come to the November meeting to discuss options. A hit-a-thon was also suggested, which involves the players getting donations for the number of hits. The hit-a-thon could be held in conjunction with picture day to ensure adequate participation.

X. 2016 Calendar

Scot will send everyone a rough draft calendar prior to the next meeting. Please review it to make modifications and suggestions for the next meeting. Rookie and T-ball divisions will end on June 12th. There will also be a try-out schedule included on the

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proposed calendar. Registration for HPLL will open on December 1st, so signs and advertising will need to begin soon.

XI. Interleague Play

Johnny will begin reaching out to other leagues to schedule interleague play for the upper divisions. Minors and above will be included in the interleague schedule. Softball does travel as far as Denver, but the baseball teams will not go farther north than Monument.

XII. Draft Rules

Scot talked with the district administrator to check the draft rules. Coaches have asked to keep a core group of players from one year to the next, rather than just their own kids for purposes of development and team play. It has been suggested to keep a core of 6 players, including the coach's kids. New teams would draft first until they reach the core number of 6 players. Draft rules and league rules must be completed at the November meeting.

X. Boundary Changes

District 5 is looking at boundary changes for next season. If HPLL had D49, Ellicot, and Peyton we have 19,000 kids to pull from for players. Other boundary changes for District 5 will be proposed due to field development. Kids that currently play in other leagues would still be able to stay in that league as desired.

XI. Adjournment

Next meeting to be scheduled the second Sunday in November. John moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 pm, seconded by Christy. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Ehn, HPLL Secretary