

High Plains Little League Annual Meeting

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I. Call to Order

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent
Scott Raffelson, President	Gina Klimek, Information Officer
Mike Langham, VP of Baseball	Aleigh Raffelson, Scheduler
Sarah Ehn, Secretary	
CeCe Castro, Registrar/Challenger Coordinator	
Amy Hendrix, Player Agent	
John Busby VP Softball	
Brian Hendrix, Safety Officer	
Albert Castro, Equipment Manager	
Gary Bowling, Coaching Coordinator	
Morgan Garrison, Paretn/Player Advocate	
Christy Kennedy, Sponsorship	

II.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by President, Scot Raffelson.

Guests Present: Jon Peterson, Celina McAlpine, Monica Sackwich, Rob Bohenna, Jodi Bohenna, Jason Lachermeier, Carl Aaron, Jeanine Aaron, Lonny Harmon, Jessica Aaron, Christopher Aaron

II. Approval of the Minutes

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John moved to approve the April minutes as submitted. Brian seconded the motion, and it carried without opposition.

III. Financial Report

John reported that we currently have \$22,933.60 in the HPLL account. The balance minus expenses to this point is \$19,403.31. Additional expenses will include D49 field fees, umpire fees, and supplies which is around \$6000. We are working to try and get the vendor to pay for the all star jerseys for this year, which would decrease that expense, but we have to provide balls for the tournaments that we are hosting. Last year we carried over only \$1900 to this season. HPLL made \$3700 on the hit a thon this year, most of which the same day walk up registrations. There were 51 participants this season. Kona Ice cost \$218.30 and they will write use a check for \$93.00 for percentage of the sales from that day. 99pledges will also take a 10% cut leaving us with approximately \$2900. This is more participation than we had last year, but we still need more help and player participation for next year. Little league is allowed to only have one fund raiser that involves players per year. Discussion was held on the benefit of using 99pledges vs a self run system to determine if it was worth the cost. Prizes for the hit a thon will be distributed on Wednesday.

IV. Registration

Fall ball registration will not be opened until the Spring season is completed. Cece spoke with the head of the CS challenger program, who provided a list of contacts to inform them about the HPLL program which will provide a longer season. They questioned if we have to follow the little league age rules or can we open up the age range so that more players of various ages will be included. Scot will follow up with the district administrator on the situation to try and include more players.

V. Fall ambassador program

Scot has worked on recruiting coaches and directors for the program in the fall. John spoke with Dion from Tri-lakes who may want to play interleague games in the fall with softball. The hope is to have some of the teams from fall ball serve as buddies to help with the challenger league. Volunteers can be any age to participate. Jason Lachermeir volunteered to assist with the fall program.

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VI. Player agent

All-stars try outs are set for June 1st. Three coaches who have committed to run try outs from the Minor and Major divisions. Emails have been sent to all of the players that have been nominated. A tentative tournament schedule and a school enrollment forms were attached to the email for information. Player verification forms to be completed once the teams have been established.

All-star managers : 10u Josh Brunson

12u Ron Carter

50/70 Jeff Climb

Jr. Jason Lachermeier

Cece moved to accept the nominations for all-star team managers which was seconded by Morgan. The motion carried without opposition following discussion.

Softball : Jrs Christy Kennedy / Rob Bohenna

Minors John Busby / Lauren Merrill

Gary moved to accept the managers for softball all-star teams, and Albert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Tournaments

Volunteers will be needed for the tournament games that we are hosting. Richard Gillwater has agreed to be IOC. We will need pitch counter, score keeper, and tournament director. Gary was nominated to be tournament director by Scot. He accepted the nomination and will serve in that position.

VI. Committees

We still need help with concessions, Challenger league, grant writers, board members, etc. Little league is a year round commitment.

VII. Sponsorship

The sponsor banners are up at FRP blue and the other windscreen has been ordered for the red field. We had 2 sponsors Saturday step up to buy banners. L3 has

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been doing the artwork for the banners. The plan of the screens is to leave them up through fall ball and challenger and then take them down through the winter. They will then be put back in place for the next season.

VIII. Donations

We had a Swirley Cow night for fund raising, and they sponsored a wind screen. Little Ceasars Night 5/24 5-830 with 10% proceed to HPLL. They plan to buy a banner for next year.

IX. Closing Ceremonies

June 10th is the last game for tball and rookies. All of the other divisions are finished before that time. Softball teams are playing in Denver that weekend. The topic for organizing closing ceremonies will be tabled until a special meeting is held.

X. Softball

Christy reported on the issues related to softball. She requested to receive information from only one person rather than two separate sources that may conflict. Most of the emails that are sent out are only baseball related but are also sent to the softball parents which leads to confusion. Could we put at the top of the email if it is for baseball and softball or just baseball? Can coaches be the first point of communication from the board, rather than the board contacting the parent first? The goal is to increase retention of our softball players by eliminating some of the issues. There has been frustration about not having umpires at the softball and baseball games.

There is a nation wide issue of shortage of officials according to the representative from the umpire association. There is a pool of officials who are working college and high school baseball games, which limits their availability to little league. Weather issues and decreased pool of officials lead to games without umpires. They offer classes twice a year for training, and the numbers are down from 20 to 12 this year. Mediocre pay, abuse, and parent issues lead to the decrease in the number of umpires. New and inexperienced umpires are not able to work those games when only one umpire is required.

They pursue umpires as long as possible to fill the slots. Umpires have to be 2 years older than the division that they are the official for the game.

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Suggestions for softball recruitment and retention: Can we move the registration for softball to line up with other leagues that they will play in Denver? Minors and Majors have teams to play locally but Jrs do not at this point. An email to be sent out to softball players and parents to see what would be helpful to keep our softball players engaged. They may be able to play in tournaments as well as other games. Team size this year was a problem for softball, as one team has 18 players. It was difficult to get coaches so the one team was formed, but additional volunteers are always welcome.

Concerns were raised regarding the Mavericks baseball team by two of the parents present. Their players are on other teams that must play the Mavericks, and they felt that the competition was unfair. The parents were informed that all of the players on the Mavericks Team were required to try out just as the rest of the league. The players on that team also pay a higher fee for uniforms and registration. All of the coaches and players in that division were invited to practice with the Mavericks for skill development, but no one accepted the invitation. Some of the issues raised were unable to be addressed to the satisfaction of the parents involved, so those individuals were invited to discuss the issues with the district administrator for further explanation.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sarah Ehn, HPLL Secretary