



Exeter Junior Baseball & Softball League
Board of Directors Meeting
19 July, 2015, Brentwood Rec Center

Agenda:

- Treasurer's Report
- Cal Ripken World Series Donation
- Field Usage: Softball, Babe Ruth
- Scoreboard conversation

Next Meeting: 6 August, 2015 → Exeter Senior Center

Attendees:

Board Member Present

Paul Imbimbo	Rick LaFleur
Bruce Fielding	Doug Lenihan
Todd Gibbons	Eric Roffman
David Morissette	Shawn Roussin
Mike LaNigra	Matt Smith
Bryan Wall	Troy Gilbert

Board Members Absent

Stephanie Brackett
Tim Bond
Lorraine Crist
Don Perrault

Guests Present

Brinn Chute
Susan Marcella
Liz Reyes
Kerri Singh

Call to Order at 7:30 PM by David Morissette

Item 1: Approve June Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the June BoD Meeting Minutes was seconded and approved. No abstentions

Item 2: Treasurer's Report → Tim Bond

- There was no formal Treasurer's report as Tim Bond could not attend the meeting

Item 3: Softball Field Conditions → Guests: Brinn, Susan, Liz, Kerri

- The Board of Directors welcomed four guests whom are parents of our softball players
- The guests wanted to highlight some observations about the playing conditions in the softball league
- The home field is located at CMS. The field at CMS has only one serviceable bench for the kids to sit on; the other is falling apart
- The field in Hampton (Marston Field) is worse, with a carpet for home plate and no bases. It also has a drainage trench in center field which poses a hazard.

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- Don Perrault (Softball Coordinator) highlighted this in an email to the Board, noting that EJBSL does not “own” these fields and the SAU will not allow us to maintain these fields, or to install a storage shed for rakes or lining dispensers.
- Our guests highlighted some other issues where Umpires did not show up for some games, including a playoff game, forcing parents to step in. (note: this is not unique to softball)
- They have the impression that baseball has more adult umpires where the softball league seems to rely on high school kids as umpires.
- The guests expressed the need to integrate softball more fully into the EJBSL program & to ensure the same standards are met between the Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth portion and Softball portion
- The guests were also concerned about adherence to rules. Some coaches choose not to adhere to all softball rules feeling it was “too difficult for the girls to understand at that level”, while other coaches adhered to the rules
- They noted that they do have a coaches meeting before the season begins, which should be the forum to bring up any rule changes
- The Board agreed that action is required and had many ideas for improvements
 - First, to attempt to conduct an integrated coaches meeting with Cal Ripken and Softball coaches.
 - Note: this may be difficult as the softball league begins later in the season and does not have coaches selected at the time the baseball starts
 - To conduct a thorough assessment of all softball fields and the needs to bring them to a standard level of play
 - Note: We will have to go through Dick Wendell (SAU 16’s property manager) to coordinate what he will and will not allow us to improve since these fields are all owned by SAU 16
 - Also highlighted was the need to strengthen the league coordinators as the point of communications up to the league coordinator, Don Perrault
 - The guests wanted to stress that the softball league coordinator Don Perrault is doing a fantastic job with softball, but that he has many obstacles to face given (1) the restrictions the SAU has with making field improvements, and (2) that we do not have any control over the field conditions in Hampton and other surrounding towns not within the EJBSL boundaries. Don has highlighted these challenges on several occasions as well.
- The guests expressed a willingness and desire to get involved to help bring about these changes in the off-season
- Bruce Fielding (Babe Ruth Coordinator) also echoed issues with field quality in the BR league and the challenges faced with 90’ diamonds that BR plays on
- BR league uses the CMS JV Field & the 90’ field in Brentwood
- Bruce noted that the SAU simply does not spend any money to maintain or improve those fields

ACTION: Conduct a field-by-field assessment (60’, 70’ and 90’ baseball diamonds and Softball) of the needs and an estimate of cost to improve **OPEN**

Item 4: World Series Donation → Dave Morissette

- The 12 year-old, 70' team recently won the New England Regional tournament by knocking off the undefeated Youngsville team with back-to-back wins to qualify for the Cal Ripken World Series in Aberdeen Maryland
- The team set up a Go Fund Me page to help raise money for families to travel to Maryland for the 10-day tournament
- The team was also coordinating a couple of "tag days" at local grocery stores
- Due to the uniqueness of this event ("once in a lifetime") and the expenses that each family was about to bear, Dave was asking for the Board to consider a \$3,000 to \$5,000 donation from EJBSL
- Dave was also asking if we could send out communications to our sponsors for donations as well
- Conversations ensued regarding our current bank account balance, which is approximately \$40,000, and the impact a donation might have to our standing
- In general, all felt that the league was on solid financial footing again – having had a successful fundraising year – and that there was a high probability of another successful fundraising campaign in 2016.
- Discussions continued on the precedent that was being set for future teams that might attain such level of success, but given this is only the 2nd NH team in Cal Ripken history to make it to the WS, that it truly could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
- In general, all agreed that a donation was warranted
- Discussion then focused on whether \$3k - \$5k was enough of a donation and the thought of a \$10,000 donation might be more impactful
- At the end of the discussion, all members voted and approved a donation of \$12,000 which would represent \$1,000 per player.
- **The vote was 7 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions (conflict of interest)**

Item 5: Rookie Field – Gilman Park → Rick LaFleur

- Rookie League Coordinator Rick LaFleur highlighted the need to invest some money into Gilman Park in the upcoming season. The field has not been worked on recently and is in need of improvements
- Rick suggests that \$2,000 should be a good estimate to improving Gilman considerably
- The discussion migrated into other baseball fields which also need improvements such as Brentwood and Newfields – if we decide to use that field in 2016
- There was also discussions regarding how much money it will take to improve some of the playing conditions at these fields:
 - Gilman = \$2,000
 - Brentwood = \$5,000
 - Newfields = \$5,000
- We were reminded that we will have a \$15,000 League Charter fee due in early 2016 as well
- Mike LaNigra mentioned that he had drawn up plans to conduct a General Fund Drive to use for Unitil field, but did not have the time to execute it. He would still like to keep that option open for other general field improvements, if needed.
- With the loss of Walsh field, Currier was likely the choice to be one of two 70' diamonds, along with Foss-Wasson in East Kingston

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- There was general concern that Currier field has a short outfield fence (184') and that playing majors games there would turn into a "homerun derby" vs. Walsh field which had a 200' outfield fence
- Extending the fence would be extremely expensive, as would attempting to make the outfield fence taller (cost prohibitive)
- At the end of the day, this is a temporary solution. Dick Wendell has mentioned that the SAU has committed to building a new 70' diamond for the Walsh family (the location is still TBD), so there was little appetite to make major investments for a temporary situation
- There is still hope that a new Walsh can be built next to Currier field, but that has **not** been committed to by Dick Wendell or SAU 16
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Item 6: New Scoreboard Location → Dave Morissette

- Joe Brackett began work of installing footers in the right field side of Currier to install the new scoreboard. This should be done in the next few weeks
- Joe was also coordinating with an electrician to dig a conduit trench to pull power from the Currier press box

Item 7: OPEN ITEMS / NEW BUSINESS → All

- None

Motion to adjourn was approved at 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted by:
Mike LaNigra