

Thunder Baseball League

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

August 18, 2013—7:30pm

Anchor Physical Therapy (APT) 340 East 1st Ave, #100, Broomfield, CO

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call To order
 - b. Welcome guests
 - c. Roll Call- Present: Shawn Williamson, Darron Cox, Robert deVera, Jim Walther, Candice Smith, Tammy Goodwin, Hilary Smith, Meliza deVera, Mike Lively, Tom Cappelletti
 - d. Public Comments
 - e. Announcements
 - f. Approval of Agenda
 - g. Approval of minutes from 7-21-2013 – Change heading to Minutes with Date
 - h. Guest John Jenson “How to enhance the Thunder Organization”-(5 min)
 - i. Thunder needs clear messaging on what THUNDER is, what the THUNDER ACADEMY is, etc.
 - ii. 3 facets of thunder: League, Academy teams, Academy Instruction
 - iii. Messaging for each division would look like –
 1. League – Building kids through baseball (34 teams)
 - a. Coaches need to know “how”
 2. Academy Teams – Kids playing baseball at the highest level
 3. Academy Instruction – Kids getting better through quality instruction
 - iv. What is communication strategy? -
 1. Need Clarity and ownership
 - a. How help?
 - i. Video on what Thunder is – for the website
 - ii. Would help for sponsorships
- i. Guest Tom Dedin—coaches training proposal (5 min)
 - a. Coaches Program –
 - i. Want Thunder coaches to be different from other leagues. Need to develop a program to unify in language and techniques that they teach.
 - ii. Importance of unity, and coach education – Discussion: several board members see this as very important, especially for coaches new to Thunder
 - iii. 18 hour program – Which could mean coach is “Level Certified” to coach AAA-Open
 1. Offensive- hitting, bunting, base running, situation
 2. Defensive – throwing, pitching, catching
 3. Lecture and drills (ways to teach)
 - a. Weekend
 - b. 6 weeks
 4. Open to sets of coaches - \$495 per team
 - a. Whole coaching staff - \$45 per player?
 - b. Parents make an investment in their coaches
 - c. Does the league pay for a portion?
 - i. League able to supplement – It was proposed to support \$100 of the training. Coach Dedin will develop if that portion is able to split off as a

“baseline” training OR if the \$100 would go toward the entire amount of the full training.

5. More questions about the training?
 - a. How differentiate the age levels
 - b. Earmark the different developmental milestones for each age group
 6. Thunder’s Goal is to get a sound fundamental base for league/organization
 - a. All agree - Need some mandatory training (5 hours) that is paid for by Thunder League
- iv. Timeline – When course
1. Thunder supplement up to...(depending on number of teams)
 - a. Preliminary discussion was to support \$100 per team
 2. October/November/December
- II. Reports a. Presidents Report--Darron Cox
- a. Thunder Academy 9-14 team’s update –
 - i. 11 Age – Overall talent pool lower than other ages
 - b. Clinic planning for 2014 and settlement for 2013
 - i. Need to settle for last year – Candice/Hilary
 - c. Differentiating TBA and TBL- communication strategy
- III. Executive Directors Report—Shawn Williamson
- a. Fall Ball update 300+ participants-deVera (fields secured)-Tammy
 - i. Machine / 8’s – 6 games and tournament
 - ii. 9-14’s – 12 games and tournament
 - b. Thunder Academy indoor use guidelines-new Tee’s and locker 3
 - i. Shawn will draft – 6-8 rules that Darron can send to coaches
 1. Locker 3 will have lock box
 - a. 10 tee’s
 - b. Catchers gear
 - c. helmets
 - c. Machine Pitch program enhancements—
 - i. Division 1 &2- Would like to establish our own internal machine pitch league with partners like Brighton, Boulder, North Thornton, etc. North Jeff may like to be involved if we were to try to develop a more competitive level.
 - d. Umpire Director position for 2014 North area
 - i. Jeff Leonard is on board to have a north umpire division
 1. This will allow Thunder to have our own pool of umpires for Spring Ball
 - e. Review list of coaches for 2014
 - i. Make sure that we have the right ones in place/levels
 - ii. Bring to next board meeting – Candice
 - iii. Give each coach list of expectations, measuring tool
 - f. PCA to include assistant coaches in 2014
 - i. Discussion about including assistant coaches in the PCA training
 1. Open it up to assistant coaches – Would coaches be receiving a supplemental program or re-take the original program. Feelings were that either would be helpful, but Shawn would look into possible supplemental.

2. Recommendation that the training should be offered closer to the season/during so that the information is easier to remember and apply in practice.
- IV. Community Outreach—Tom C.
 - a. August 24 – 12:00-12:30 Saturday Thunder is helping to unload trucks for give sports.
 - b. At Precious Child – Tom will send address to post on website.
 - V. Softball update—Randy Chilton
 - a. Softball has been able to get weekend fields in November for practice
 - b. Still moving forward with 6 solid teams who will be included in Thunder Academy cage time.
 - c. Softball will also be give closet 2 at the indoor facility to store their gear.
 - VI. JCJBL update for 2014 season
 - a. 6 areas pulled out, still 200+ teams and 10 areas
 - i. Discussion on how this will affect competition and level of play. It appears that both will be good going forward. Should we still approach North East Jets and/or Boulder Bison about the possibility of joining our league?
 1. Feedback was that this discussion would be beneficial even if the transition or joining didn't happen right away.
 - ii. JCJBL still offers lots of different areas to play
 1. AA level may have to travel a little more for variety
 - b. Areas remaining with JCJBL are frustrated that the leaving leagues process of leaving appeared quietly and secretly.
 - c. The question was presented on "How to build quality in JCJBL?"
 - i. Much of this has to do with clear transparent organization and effective planning and scheduling
 - VII. 2014 Season planning-
 - a. Limit of 34 baseball teams total – In looking at indoor availability, it may be best to limit Thunder's number of teams to 34.
 - i. Includes Academy Teams
 - ii. We will revisit this number when we get all teams registered for Spring Ball
 - VIII. Golf Tournament planning for 2014—pick a date
 - a. Candice work with Becky who has a contact at a course who would be able to offer a local course.
 - b. Update more next time
 - IX. Future Vision for TBL- Facility extension and expansion
 - a. Keep to facility- opportunity to extend lease. 3-5 years
 - i. Discussion was that we need to expand as much as possible at the current location. The extension could be up to 2000 sq/ft by October 2014.
 - ii. Feedback from the board was the sooner the better
 - b. Extend 2000 feet in October 2014
 - i. \$6.70 sq/ft – very affordable price, which is why it was recommended to stay in the current location

- c. Conversations and action steps should be happening to explore the opportunity to share a facility with Brighton on Hwy 7 as well.
- X. Opportunity for 8 year old- 11 year old director-
 - a. Beau Smith – Director/Hired
 - i. This position will be a primary contact person for the younger coaches in hopes to facilitate consistent communication and teaching of Thunder coaches, players and families at this level.
- XI. TBL Founded 10-16-2009... are we where we want to be?
 - a. Discussion on the great need, with the rapid growth, to control quality – previous discussion of coach training is one example of how to do this.
 - i. Darron, Tom, need to be visible to coaches. The coaches need to know Darron and Tom and feel comfortable calling with questions. Also important for Darron, Tom, or age directors to know each coaches' style and approach so that Thunder can ensure messaging and help to control quality.
 - ii. Do clinics again in 2014 and insert the coaching expectations
 - 1. Sportsmanship, behavior of kids and coaches – This may be a topic for clinics
 - b. Thunder needs to develop and recruit new volunteers: younger teams, parents, etc.
- XII. CFO Report—Jim Walther
 - a. Books for last season – Good year, didn't lose money, able to place in reserve
 - i. Clinics – Darron
 - ii. Golf Chairs – need to count to re-pay STH for extra chairs
 - iii. Golf Tournament final numbers - \$2300
 - iv. Scholarship-Fall Ball-payment plans- Hilary Smith
 - v. Balance Sheet and P & L – See hard copy from Jim
 - b. Send soft copy of the report for records
 - c. Fall Ball
 - i. Scholarship –
 - 1. Kissinger- Morrison
 - 2. Sanchez team
 - d. 2014 Spring fees proposed \$295 (PCA, Training, City fees)
 - i. Discussion of the fees rising, although minimally, the past two years. Will this continue or will we reach a point where the fees will hold steady? This could be affected by field fees, umpire fees, coaches application, etc. But anticipation is that the fees should not increase next year.
 - e. Darron makes a motion to approve fees at \$295, Robert second, passed
- XIII. Information Manager/PR Report-interim-Candice Smith
 - i. Keep website content updated – Need to add board meeting minutes
 - ii. Move Board Org Chart under parents page, seems like easier access
 - iii. TBL and The Academy content management – need to define separation and what is posted where.
 - iv. TBL Newsletter—add 9 news video clip
 - 1. Candice welcomes help with articles, writing of information, pictures, etc.
 - 2. Newsletters have been more on an as needed basis instead of consistent communication monthly.

- XIV. Thunder Calendar
 - i. JCJBL Monthly meeting August 28 at 7pm
 - ii. TBL BOD meeting is Sunday 7:30pm- September 15, 2013 at APT
 - b. Coaches the coaches September 15, 2013 (All Coaches)
 - c. Reserved list due at this time
 - d. TBL Tryouts September 28, 29; October 5 at BIP. Times TBD

- XV. Q & A

- XVI. New Business –
 - a. Lisa Rolfe submitted a letter to the board to protest coaching suspension– Letter predominately presented feelings about who should not coach and did not address the concerns that were presented with her coaching and staff and situations that her team had the previous season. The board voted to maintain the position of suspending Coach Rolfe from coaching for the spring 2014 season.

- XVII. Adjournment

Thunder Baseball League, Inc is about promoting good character, developing young players skills in a positive manner and preparing for high school baseball and beyond.