

Place: TOR Firehouse  
Time: 7:15 pm  
Date: December 4, 2018

## Minutes of Board Meeting

Those present:

Ferrone	Mirkin	Bancroft	Duddie	Ertrachter	Anderson	Gentle
DiPreta	Wong	S. DeLeo	D'Ambrosio	Davis	E. Condon	Nestor
Brown	Calandrelli	J. DeLeo	Fuchs	Gendason	Reimer	Drexel
Hoch	Claps					

Minutes from the November 8, 2018 minutes were e-mailed to everyone. Motion made to accept the minutes from the November 8, 2018 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business

- **Turf Field at Chestnut**
  - a. **Hoch, Mirkin, and Gentle** attended the City of Stamford's November Parks & Rec meeting to propose installing a turf field at Chestnut.
  - b. City agreed to have a public hearing on the matter on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. Meeting will take place at the Government Center. At a public hearing, any person can speak for 2 to 3 minutes to explain why they are in favor or against the issue. **Brown** indicated that he will contact one of the representatives from a turf company to be there at the hearing in the event that there are questions raised about turf fields.
  - c. **Mirkin** has sent an e-mail to the Board of Directors of the North Stamford Association explaining to them why SNLL wants to install the turf field. He is also going to contact the individuals that represent North Stamford on the Board of Representatives to try and get them to buy-in to the installation. It was pointed out that it is important to get support from these groups as well as the City in order to help move the project forward.
  - d. Parks and Rec commission are interested in knowing what the environmental impacts are of such a field. SNLL wants to do the project correctly and will work with the City to see that these issues are considered.
  
- **Treasurer Report**
  - a. **Ertrachter** provided a handout to everyone at the meeting of the final 9/30/2018 financial report showing income and expense items for 2017 and 2018, as well as the budgeted amounts for 2018 to show how the budget compared to actual. Various questions were asked about certain items in the report, which **Ertrachter** answered.
  - b. Board thanked **Ertrachter** for all his work as Treasurer.
  - c. The budget for 2019 will be presented at the January Board meeting.
  
- **Winter Workouts**
  - a. As pointed out at the last meeting, workouts for majors and AAA kids will be at SHS auxiliary gym from 2:00PM to 6:00PM on Sundays. Gym has been reserved for 8 weeks starting in January. Fees are \$100 per kid, with a \$25 sibling discount.
  - b. An e-mail blast was sent out on December 3, 2018 and in less than 24 hours there were 8 kids ages 11-12 that registered and 22 at ages 9-10.
  - c. Originally the plan was to have two groups for 2 hours each with a limit of 20 kids per age group due to the small size of the gym. After the large initial registration numbers, it was decided to have 3 groups with each group having 60 to 70 minutes per session rather than 2 hours.
  - d. There will now be 40 kids ages 9-10 allowed and 20 kids ages 11-12.
  - e. **Wong** to re-open web site to allow 9-10 year-olds to continue registering.
  - f. AA kids will have workouts at Bobby V's. **Drexel** has contacted Bobby V's and reserved seven 1-hour time slots starting after the February school break. Cost will be determined at a later date. SNLL is willing to subsidize the cost for all participants in order to keep the fees at a reasonable level (e.g., \$100).

- **Master List of Projects**
  - a. **Nestor** has been compiling a list of projects that need to be completed around the fields. Anyone with suggestions should e-mail **Nestor** ([abnestor14@gmail.com](mailto:abnestor14@gmail.com)).
  - b. Certain items that were raised at the last meeting have already been completed, including the following:
    1. Garage doors for storage room at Chestnut have been fixed. Board thanked **Ed's Garage Door** company for completing the work.
    2. Steps at Chestnut have been repaired by **Brown and Bancroft**.
- **Outreach Update**
  - a. **D'Ambrosio** reached out to the principal at Northeast school regarding SNLL hosting a baseball clinic at the school on a Friday night in late January/early February depending upon school availability.
  - b. Idea is to have a presentation for the parents about the league in the school cafeteria while the clinic takes place in the gym for the kids. No real bats or balls will be used. After the clinic is over, SNLL would host a pizza social.
  - c. **D'Ambrosio** is working to get the necessary permit from the City. In addition to the cost of the pizza social, SNLL would also need to cover the cost of the custodians.
  - d. **DiPreta** volunteered to reach out to Springdale school to see if a similar event can be held there. **Nestor** can help with e-mailing a notice to the parents of Springdale school once the date and times of the event are finalized.

## New Business

- **TOR Fire Department Message**
  - a. Sharon Tappy from the TOR Firehouse thanked the members of the Board that brought food for the food drive at last month's meeting. The amount collected helped the TOR firehouse donate the most food among all the Stamford firehouses to the Food Bank.
- **Volunteer Background Checks**
  - a. **Brown** sent e-mails to all Board members to get them to complete their background checks on-line. He also sent an e-mail with a copy of the form that can be completed and returned to him if anyone does not want to provide the information on-line.
  - b. Managers should provide **Brown** with the names/e-mail addresses of all coaches for 2019 so that the e-mails can be sent to them as well.
- **Registration/Tryouts/Marketing**
  - a. Registration will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the TOR Firehouse. Time was changed from prior years, which used to run until 8:00PM; however, there were few, if any, registrants that came after 7:00PM so it was decided to cut down the time by 30 minutes.
  - b. It was decided that the lawn signs were not an effective way to advertise registration and therefore there would not be any lawn signs for 2019. Part of the problem was that many of the signs went missing.
  - c. Banners were believed to be the most effective manner to advertise. Such banners will be placed at the corner of Newfield Ave. and Intervale Dr. (by the Sterling Farms tennis courts), and at Springdale, Dolan, and Northeast schools.
  - d. Majors and AAA tryouts tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Dolan school (pending **Hoch** pulling permit), and AA tryouts are Saturday, March 30, 2019 at Stamford High School main gym from 12:00 to 4:00PM (SNLL already has the permit for the gym that day).
  - e. Advertising for registration has been done by the marketing committee in the past. **Nestor** has indicated that she has a detailed list of all marketing efforts that have been done in the past.
  - f. Board needs someone to take over the marketing role. Recent declines in the number of kids playing baseball has made it more important than ever to find ways to spread the word about SNLL.

- **Report of the Scheduling Committee**

- a. **J. DeLeo** reported that the Scheduling Committee met to review the schedule format for the 2019 season.
- b. Members of the committee were **J. DeLeo, Gendason, Wong, Calandrelli, and McKeever**.
- c. Committee presented two schedule formats for the Board to consider for the 2019 season:
  1. Option 1: 20-game season over 10 weeks with 2 games per week. Season is broken up into 2 halves, with winner of 1<sup>st</sup> half playing winner of 2<sup>nd</sup> half for league championship. Season would have a “balanced schedule” which means each team would play the same team twice during the week.
  2. Option 2: 20-game season over 9 weeks with double elimination tournament after the regular season is completed. This schedule would require a couple of weeks where a team would have to play 3 games during the week (all other weeks would require 2 games per week).
- d. The schedule for the major league season would look like the following:
  1. Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>: Tripleheader.
  2. Week of April 8<sup>th</sup>: Each team will play one game during this week.
  3. April 12<sup>th</sup> through April 21<sup>st</sup>: School break – no games scheduled.
  4. Saturday, April 27<sup>nd</sup>. Opening Day ceremonies; tripleheader.
  5. No games: Mother’s Day (May 12<sup>th</sup>), Memorial Day weekend (May 25-27) and the SNLL Mets Day (June 9<sup>th</sup>).
  6. End of regular season
    - i. Under option 1: Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. Under option 2: Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Elimination playoffs start June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  7. Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Championship Day
- e. A lively and emotional discussion ensued regarding both types of schedules. Some of the thoughts raised included the following:
  1. The double-elimination tournament gives the lower-seeded teams a chance to win the league championship despite poor play throughout the year. This has created excitement in the past few years as a team in the loser bracket gets hot and wins some games they were not expected to win.
  2. Playing a balanced schedule allows each team’s best pitchers to pitch against each other; when there are 3 games in a week, teams can maneuver their pitching rotation to get better pitching match-ups based on who they are playing later in the week.
  3. One of the downsides to the Option 1 playoff system is that if the same team wins both the first half and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half then there is not championship game.
  4. Suggestion was made to start playing games the week of April 1<sup>st</sup> rather than waiting until April 8<sup>th</sup>. Concerns were raised regarding: (i) weather at that time of year, (ii) whether the City will allow the fields to be used that week, and (iii) not allowing teams enough time to practice outside before real games begin.
- f. After the discussion, the following motion was made and passed (there were 2 against and one abstention) “Major league season will be 20-games playable over 9 weeks with a double-elimination tournament played at the end of the regular season, if possible.”

Meeting adjourned at 9:45PM

Upcoming meetings: Tuesday, January 8, 2018 at 7:15PM at the TOR Firehouse