**Hershey Little League**

**Board of Directors**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date: November 10, 2013**

**Meeting Location: MHS Elementary School**

**Members Present:** Dana Best**,** George Blackall, Doug Hummer, Wayne Jewell, Myron McCurdy, Pat Meister, Josh Orris, Chris Painter, Jeff Schmidt, Terry Singer, Mark Snyder, Stan Sullivan Matt Wildasin,

**Members Absent:** Chris DeFlitch, Vince Pasquini, Dave Umberger

**Guest**: Jason Pratt- Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Myron McCurdy at 6:32 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**: Motion to approve the minutes from October 13, 2013, by Pat Meister. Second by Dana Best. Unanimous approval.

**President’s Report**: Myron McCurdy-

1. The FAQ’s on the web site will be updated.
2. The “About Us” section on the web site will be updated.
3. Myron will send a letter to all HLL stakeholders.
4. A Thank you letter will be sent to the Hershey Fire Department for taking down the netting at Memorial.
5. Next month we will begin the process of reviewing constitutional exhibits at the Board meetings.
6. Tricia Copenhaver has begun work as the League Information Officer. We are grateful for her expertise and assistance.
7. Myron has received an offer through LLI to manage the registration and scheduling process on the web. He will refer for evaluation to Baseball Operations.
8. We are moving forward on our agreed upon strategic initiatives.

**Coaching Initiative**: Terry Singer introduced Jason Pratt from Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). Jason introduced himself and PCA.

1. Jason has been with PCA for 3 years.
2. LLI is a partner with PCA.
3. Jason pointed out that there is a disconnect between the primary reason children play sports (to compete) and how we coach. Youth sports coaching primarily focuses on the development of technical skills (which is important) but does not focus on teaching children how to be strong competitors. The skills needed to be a strong competitor include:
   1. Resilience
   2. Self-control
   3. Leadership
   4. Sportsmanship
   5. Handling mistakes

Coaches are in an ideal position to help children to develop these skills.

1. PCA is not a single sport entity. The programs they offer apply to all youth sports and across life.

Questions for Jason:

Myron asked how PCA could help HLL to meet its strategic coaching initiatives. Jason explained that PCA offers an infrastructure to help coaches feel better prepared to coach. They offer a Double Goal coaching certification. The 2 goals are to win and to use sports to teach life lessons.

PCA offers in-person and online workshops.

Jason gave the group a summary handout about PCA (attached).

Myron asked what the minimum level of involvement Jason would recommend. Jason recommended a 3 year program with 4 workshops in year 1 (“Winning and Life Lessons”; “Cultivating Practices and Games”; Parent workshop; “Leadership for Board of Directors”). The ballpark estimate of the cost was $2,100 per year.

Jason will deliver a formal proposal to Terry in the coming weeks.

**President’s Report Continued:**

Myron reported that the idea for a Hershey Youth Sports Council is moving forward. There will be a kick-off meeting in two weeks.

Mike Miller, a parent of a child with special needs, asked if HLL would be willing to sponsor a Challenger Division. LLI does allow this- Dana will explore this with the LLI District to make sure that there are no conflicts.

Field winterization is nearly complete. This year, instead of putting a general call out for volunteers, we used the boys who do field prep to do the work. It has gone well and there are only a few items on a punch list to be completed.

Registration is opened on the web site the 1st Monday of December. This year we will not distribute flyers to the schools because of expense and limited perceived value. We also discussed having a registration announcement on the HYBA and Hershey Jr Bears web sites.

**Vice President’s Report**: Chris DeFlitch was not present but sent the recommendations for capital expenditures (inserted below) that came from the Baseball Operations Meeting held on Oct. 30, 2013.

**Date/Time: Wednesday Oct 30th, 6pm**

**Location: Hershey Medical Center, room H1059**

 MINUTES

**OBJECTIVE:  Continue Fields upgrades.**

*PRIORITY (but may be a year of so out)*

* NEW MOUND
* *South regarding*
* *Mediate water runoff/build up on South.*

PRIORITY (PLAZA)

        Improve Plaza for 13T and/or Majors.  (Tournament location?)\*

* + ONE Batting Cage on Plaza field (future plan of tandem) – posts 2500
* Portable Mound (?from north)
* \*assess/evaluate functionality of scoreboard on Plaza (investigate with township- Piccolo)

PRIORITY (NORTH)

* Dirt Mound on North
* Bleachers on North (Improve line of sight for fans.)
  + Bleachers on 3rd base,
  + Options on 1st base side (c/w regarding?)
* Regrade hill/drainage on 1st base line,
* Fence opening to right field corner

PRIORITY (Memorial)

       Redo mound

* Baselines
* Bullpen
* MAINTAINENCE PLAN

PRIORITY (gelder)

* Reallocate South Mound to Gelder

PRIORITY (Koons )

* Batting Cages (framework) on Koons Upper (colts/minors)
* ~~Storage Shed for Koons equipment~~

~~       Bleachers on Koons Lower (T-Ball)~~

**WHAT:** Define projects: what fields, what projects, how much?

**By WHEN:** Completed by opening day

**WHO:** Brian Bingeman, Chris DeFlitch, Josh Orris, Pat Meister

**Treasurer’s Report**: Pat Meister presented a revised 2014 budget. We discussed the capital expenses per Baseball Operations’ recommendations. Dana raised the issue of the risk of putting in a dirt pitching mound on North. He said that he felt there was a risk of the mound getting washed out in the event of flooding (4+ feet of water). There have been 3 incidents when North was under water over the past several years. There was considerable discussion about the pros and cons of a dirt mound. Myron suggested that this be referred back to Baseball Operations for further discussion and a final recommendation to the Board.

A motion was made to approve the 2014 HLL Budget by Dana Best. Second by Matt Wildasin. Unanimous approval.

**Secretary’s Report**: George Blackall: Requested that Board members review the Safety Manual (sent under separate email) to keep the document current and accurate.

**New Business**:

Sponsorship: Jeff Schmidt. Jeff requested that all Board members get back to him on the email he sent about assigning sponsors to Board members within 2 weeks.

Trailer: Dana Best asked the status of discussions with HYFA about the trailer? Myron is meeting with HYFA leadership this week to keep the process moving forward.

Umpires: Wayne Jewell raised the issue that he is concerned about succession in the event that he is no longer able to lead the umpire’s association. He also stated that he expects that umpiring fees will increase this year.

Motion to adjourn by Josh Orris. Second by Doug Hummer. No discussion. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

**Next Meeting**: Our next meeting will be on December 8, 2013, at 6:30 PM at the MHS Elementary School.

Online registration will begin December 2, 2013.

Minutes submitted by George F. Blackall, Secretary, Hershey Little League

Date: 11/12/13