Deerfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association
September 24, 2012
(Annual Meeting)

Directors in Attendance: Lew Bricker, Karen Chanan, Mike Danielewicz, Jeff Fjeldheim, Adam Gold, Greg Marvy, Barry Metzger, Todd Rubin, Victor Rudo; Beth Sciarretta, Jeff Shamberg, Tom Shapira and Harry Steindler.

Others in Attendance: Paul Chanan, Greg Geren, Jason Orleans, Adam Pomerantz, Michelle Wasserstrom, and Dave Yanow

The Commissioner called the meeting to order after a motion and second. The minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

Travel Baseball. Mr. Gold summarized an issue related to the 14U travel team. Twenty players tried out. The goal was to form two teams of 10. At a parent meeting, all possible options were discussed, but a firm commitment would be required from all families. Absent a 100% commitment, a team would be chosen from those who had committed. As a result of a few decisions to not commit, Coach Mayer assembled a team of 12 players. A community member raised issues related to this decision and which players were “eligible” for the 12-person team. After a discussion, the Board decided to consider the issue at its upcoming meeting.

Annual Reports. Each director provided a report of highlights and challenges from the prior year. Mr. Shapira reported on coordination of Picture Day and increasing efforts to publicize DYBA in the community. Ms. Chanan noted 50 sponsors, of which 9 were new to DYBA. She noted greater sponsor involvement in actual DYBA games, as well as new ideas to increase sponsor involvement. Mr. Fjeldheim noted the huge number of events occurring on our fields and the impressive efforts by the Park District at the Wooden Bat tournament to overcome a rain delay. He noted the strengthened relationship between DYBA and the Park District. Mr. Danielewicz discussed his interaction with all directors, and the well-received uniform changes for the older ages. He noted that, as always, it is difficult to coordinate the return and preparation of equipment. This year, an added challenge was the transition of the shed to Caruso during the Woodland Park construction, which transition was handled successfully. Mr. Rubin reported on Volunteer Appreciation Day and indicated a plan to do more similar events. Mr. Metzger noted that the tone for the season is set by picking the league presidents, who need to fully buy in to the underlying philosophy, and how rewarding the position of Director of Baseball is when this occurs. Mr. Steindler reported on the importance of the scholarship program and high quality of this year’s scholarship winners. Mr. Marvey reported on the successful softball tryouts and ongoing coordination of softball-specific fields and rules. Mr. Bricker reported on the group effort that has revived the house softball program and increased participation. He also highlighted the ongoing success of Date Night. Mr. Shamberg commented on the importance of the budgeting process and the need for quick responsiveness to financial issues. Mr. Gold discussed participation levels at the 8-14U level. He indicated that many teams had strong showings in leagues and/or in tournaments, and noted the importance of the fantastic coaches who are not only teaching the game, but also life lessons. He noted the increasing challenges from competing programs. Mr. Rudo discussed the introduction of the merit-based pay system and simplifying the scheduling process to be more user friendly. Ms. Sciarretta thanked Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Metzger for their service to the Board.

Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Shamberg reported that the money market account balance is $162,937 and the checking account balance is $12,880, which reflect a significant number of travel softball deposits.

Bylaws. Mr. Bricker led a discussion of bylaw amendments to address co-directors. Following a motion and a second, the Board approved bylaw amendments to account for co-directors of baseball, travel baseball, softball and travel softball. Each co-director will have a one-half vote, but the bylaws also provide for the possibility of a single director.

New Board Members. Following a motion and a second, the following directors were approved:

Commissioner - Lew Bricker

Immediate Past Commissioner - Beth Sciarretta

Assistant Commissioner - Todd Rubin

Secretary - Tom Shapira

Treasurer - Jeff Shamberg

Director of Fundraising - Karen Chanan

Director of Equipment - Mike Danielewicz

Director of Technology & Registration - Greg Geren

Director of Umpires - Victor Rudo

Director of Fields - Jeff Fjeldheim

Co-Director of Baseball - David Yanow

Co-Director of Baseball - Harry Steindler

Co-Director of Travel Baseball - Adam Gold

Co-Director of Travel Baseball - Paul Chanan

Co-Director of Softball - Jason Orleans

Co-Director of Softball - Michelle Wasserstrom

Co-Director of Travel Softball - Greg Marvy

Co-Director of Travel Softball - David Brenner

Ms. Sciarretta offered her farewell remarks, thanking the Board members for their contributions, the importance of the overall program and how rewarding the experience has been for her. Mr. Bricker, as the new Commissioner, welcomed the Board. The meeting schedule for the balance of 2012 will be October 1st and 15th, November 5th and 19th, December 3rd and then starting in 2013, on January 7th. He encouraged directors to provide notice of issues to other directors in advance of Board meeting. The Board began a discussion of adding a Director of Publicity.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas B. Shapira
Secretary