

Big Lake Baseball Association (BLBA)
Monthly Board Meeting Agenda & Minutes



Meeting Date/Time: October 13th, 2024 @ 6:00pm

Location: McPete's in Big Lake

Recorder: Tessa Miller Secretary

Attendance:

Name	Position	Att	Name	Position	Att
Dan Grove	President	P	Lawrence Luoma	MAL – Travel Director	P
Mike Horn	Vice President	P	Joe Bruns	MAL – Equipment Coordinator	P
Nicole Possehl	Treasurer	A	Melissa Calgaro	MAL – Uniforms, Apparel, Photos	A
Tessa Miller	Secretary	P	Henry Bochenski	MAL – In-House Coordinator	A
Ashley Luoma	MAL – Director M&M	P	Loren Holthaus	MAL – Associate Director	A
Tay Kaeppe	MAL - Webmaster	P			
Jim Andersen	MAL – Volunteer Coordinator	A			
Andrew Gosewisch	MAL – Player & Coach Development	P			

MAL = Member at Large

P = Present, PV - Present Virtual, A = Absent G = Guest

Agenda:

Topic	Description	Action / Discussion	Action By
Approve September Board Minutes	Review and approve previous months board minutes and send to webmaster to post.	Minutes approved - Tessa to send Tay September Minutes	Tessa
Open Forum	For additional discussion and/or open to public	See Minutes below for open forum discussion	
Referendum Discussion	Superintendent discussing upcoming referendum	See minutes below for discussion	
Community Ed Fees	Dan to discuss	CE looking to update their format for billing.	
Facility Wish List	Dan to discuss	CE also asked that BLBA put together a wish list which BLBA board members can bring to the November meeting for discussion.	All board Members
Survey for Coaches	Status Update	Dan sent survey information out to coaches. One Item was more baseballs. Joe reaching out to a few	Joe

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		places to inquire about used baseballs for practices	
Survey for parents	Status Update	Dan summarizing parent survey information for board to review. See below minutes for additional discussion.	Dan
Storage Space	Status Update & Next Steps	Joe conducting shed inventory to assess current items. We can then make a list of what is needed and start to determine the size of the shed needed.	Joe
Winter Clinics	Status Update & Next Steps	Dan has formed a winter clinic committee which will meet October 23rd to discuss in more detail. See minutes below for more information	Dan
Quad City 15U Tournament	Did Invoices get sent to participating Quad City teams?	Same as last month	Nicole
Volunteer Check Status	Are we all squared away with 2024 season volunteers and checks.	Same as last month	Nicole
Uniforms	Melissa to discuss options and discuss ordering of samples for mass registration	Melissa is acquiring quotes.	Melissa
Fundraisers	Hit-A-Thon Status update & Next Steps	No update	
Community Involvement	How can we start the community involvement initiative	Lawrence and Mike Horn will work on a tiered approach and what we need to present to businesses/organizations. Others on the board can assist with outreach.	Lawrence and Mike Horn
Mass Registration	TBD - Based on Spring Tryout date to be scheduled in October. Last year was held on Feb. 22nd from 6-8:30.	Tessa reaching out to Kendra for facility availability prior to spring tryouts	Tessa
Bylaws	Status Update & Next Steps	Committee continuing to review. Nicole to assist with reformatting. Mike Horn looking into non-profit bylaw formatting as well	Nicole and Mike Horn

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Spring Tryouts	Tentative date: 2/8 Location: We book SCSU dome in Oct. Not able to book SCSU dome until October.	Dan is attempting to get the SCSU dome for 2/8; however date could change	Dan

Minutes:

Dan Grove called the meeting to order at 6:03

Approval of Previous month meeting minutes: Secretary emailed out meeting minutes. Tessa Miller requested a motion. Dan Grove made a motion to approve the September 2024 board meeting minutes, seconded by Ashely Luoma. All were in favor, motion carries. September 2024 meeting minutes approved.

Open Forum

- The Football Association has requested to use the BLBA golf cart with board member use only and no children allowed on the card. The BLBA board agrees to let them use the cart for the upcoming tournament.

Referendum

- Dan heard from the board that someone may attend the meeting to discuss the upcoming referendum. No school representative from the school attended the BLBA meeting.
- BLBA may post referendum information on social media should we so choose

Community Ed Fees

- Dan met with Kendra and others, Community ed fees will not be raising next year; however, they are looking to change to a different format for billing. They would like to take the last 4 years. Average cost of the last 4 years and divide it by the number of players which would work out to approx. \$48 per player. This would not cover the tournament weekends. This would cover league fees, lights, field prep, chalk, etc.
- This could potentially be included as a line item for the registration costs.
- This is for 9u and above.
- The decision has not been made, but they let us know this may be a way they are leaning to invoice BLBA.
- This would give us more line of site into budgeting ahead of time.

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- They asked if we have a wish list of items we'd like to see, and Dan had brought up mounds as a potential idea.
 - Brian Goedke is aware of a company that repurposes mounds. We may be able to bring them our current mounds, and they would recover them.
 - **Action Item: Joe Bruns will reach out to the company to find out costing to repurpose.**
 - New mounds are typically \$1800-\$2500
 - Other ideas: Mounds on the side of the fields, pull pens, batting cages at liberty, Shed for storage, storage/shipping container, prepping of fields, moving of mounds, Fields,
 - **Action item for all: For next month: Each board member can bring a list of items as a wish list**

Survey for coaches

- Dan sent out feedback to coaches
 - More baseballs for each team
 - **Action Item: Joe will reach out to different places like play it again to see if we can get used baseballs for practices.**
 - Game balls - each team get a box, and coaches can ask for more during the season
 - We'll go off of last years numbers to get started, and figure out how many balls Quad City and Travel need to have them ordered by the beginning of the season.
 - Ensure first aid kits go out with the coaching equipment
 - Continue to send out a mid-year check in to coaches to see if they are missing anything or need anything additional
 - Joe working through shed inventory coming up before winter sets in

Survey for Parents

- Would like to have pre-season coaches meeting that is mandatory
- Dan talked to Laruen about coming
- USA Baseball has a certification for coaches that would be mandatory
- Practice plans / drills to set kids up for success
 - Starz Baseball or USA Baseball has a practice plans, drills, fundamentals
 - **Action Item: Dan summarizing feedback to get back to coaches**
- Do we send out earlier next year now that the survey templates are back
 - Surveys should be sent out around August 1st next year.
- Action item: Tessa to send current coach handbook to Lawrence and Andrew to build upon for coaching in the future and include resources for new coaches
 - Potentially start up a communication group for coaches to lean on each other during the season

Storage Space

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- No updates from last month
- Would need to look into renting or buy-and-build space
- Do we rent a space for the winter to get the mounds moved in for the winter
- Do we use our current shed and build racking to hold mounds flat
- **Action Item: Joe assessing space during shed inventory**
- Need a plan of what equipment we want to store where
- Once we have a plan of what equipment we have, what we need, and where we want to keep it.

Winter Clinics

- Dan met with Brian and Andrew about a plan
- Dan would like to work towards having someone in charge of each of the following: pitching, infield, outfield, hitting, catchers. They would be the ones there to run it and help teach the kids. These people would be our association's experts.
- October 23rd meeting by winter clinic committee to start planning
 - Ask Varsity what they need to see from players coming into the varsity program for example
 - Use this to drill down on what we need to focus on
- Potentially 1-2 nights a week, and Dan reached out to Kendra to find out some availability of gym space during the Jan/Feb months

15U Quad City

- Same as last month

Uniforms

- Melissa still working to getting quotes
- Next month we plan out what we want to provide more direction on uniform type

Fundraiser

- Hit-a-thon
 - Could each player get \$10 from 10 different sponsors and their name goes into a drawing for tickets
 - Could BLBA mimic the varsity t-shirt idea for sponsorships
 - Food trucks, Sell blankets
 - BLBA avoids registering for any tournaments for a specific weekend to enable all teams to be able to participate

Community Involvement

- Can we create a tiered program to get community businesses involved
 - Example: Sponsor a majors/minors team with company name on jersey
 - Example: Sponsor an Open Day or "baseball day" for Majors/Minors and potentially 9U and up

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- **Action Item: Lawrence and Mike Horn can set up a framework for a tiered approach of what we can offer and what we would need from businesses to discuss for next month**

Mass Registration

- Last year it was held on Feb. 22 from 6-8:30
- Dan would like to have Mass registration prior to the spring tryouts
- **Action Item: Tessa to reach out Kendra to find out dates for Mass registration for**
 - Check for last two weeks of January
 - Try Mon/Tues/Thur
 - Potentially 5-8:30pm for event and add 30-1 hour prior for set up
 - For Collaboration Center or the Middle School Room - can we coordinate with winter clinics to have them at the same facility

Bylaws

- Committee continuing to review
- **Action Item: Nicole to restructure current bylaws into updated format - board to review new format.**
- **Action Item: Mike Horn looking into formatting bylaws for non-profits as well.**

Spring Tryouts

- February 8th at SCSU Dome Confirmed
- We have facility from 8am to 1pm - allow ample time for set up of stations

Handbook

- Update board positions in handbook once emails are finalized
- Update contact emails once finalized
- Discussion about grade versus age cut-offs for teams - continue discussion in November meeting to bring to a vote

Emails

- **Action Items: Tay finalizing configuration of google for nonprofit emails for board members**
- Move documents to domain storage is a possibility

Ashley motions to adjourn at 8:39. Mike Horn seconds motion. All in favor. Motion passes.