

BLL Board Meeting Minutes

BLL Boardroom

December 8, 2024

Board members in attendance: Brooks Fost, Larry Horner, Jerry Cain, Jennifer VonGunden, Stephanie Fost, Scott Flick, Scott Caldwell, Eric Fenstermacker, Sam Chavanic, Laura Gemmati

Others in attendance: Emily Reid, Wes Fouse

**Called to order at 5:59 p.m.**

**Board of Directors Action to be Taken**

* A motion was made by S. Caldwell to approve the minutes from November 2024. VonGunden second. Motion passes.
* A motion was made by S. Fost to approved financial report for November by S. Fost. Caldwell seconded. Motion passes.

**Presidents Report**

* Charter and insurance renewed by B. Fost. Gemmati scheduled $1,800 bill pay. Certificate of insurance needed for tryouts.
* Tryouts will be Feb. 8 & 15: 8-4; Feb. 16: 12-4 at Bellefonte High School
* Order placed for 20 dozen of regular balls at $60/dozen with January delivery date. No T-balls ordered.
* Registration update: 8 registered so far
* Budget: Financial oversight committee (Rich Yarnell, VonGunden, S. Fost, Gemmati) met to put together suggested realistic budget. More descriptions and notes will be added to better outline/track expenses. Next meeting right before next board at 4:30 p.m.
* Concession revenue will probably go down this with more away games with NVLL
* Field capital expenses shouldn’t be in annual budget; no major expenses for this year
* Deficit: Expected $7,000, but actual deficit of ~$15,000
  + Increased expenses were pavilion and ump rates, lacking grants we previously had; lost $5,000 in sign revenue
  + Need to be more disciplined about receiving sponsorship payments; discussions about major sponsor increase
  + Hold summer teams to approved budgets (NVLL help with covering all-star and tournament teams?)
* Gemmati to resend/add board as viewer to budget document and add clarification on what expenses were paid in what month in each tab. Board needs to be diligent with reviewing and understanding financial documents before a motion is made to approve the proposed budget at next meeting. VonGunden asks about hot dogs and slushies given to each player. S. Fost outlines a sponsor is needed to continue this. Consider slushie only or a freeze pop like NVLL? Horner says should be a joint decision by both boards.
* Gemmati shared deficit is $15,525 and account balance is ~$8,500.
* Concession stand prices will need to increase.
* S. Fost explained committee wasn’t clear on some of the actual expenses of things like the tables. She highlights field care cost as $600 a month for Jabco and $750 a month for Nate and cutting the port-a-potties.
* B. Fost responded to Mike Benner explaining that because of the active investigation Benner can’t be involved with BLL.

**Unfinished Business**

* NVLL update
* NVLL board met on Wednesday and approved to move forward with proposed soft merger for summer 2025 and full merger in 2026.
* Discussed merger with NVLL again. Merger is for all-stars ONLY this year, leading into a 2026 full merger. B. Fost asked everyone to review the merger document he shared that outlines everything.
  + BLL would keep its charter
  + Softball will stay own entity—softball continue to manage softball, baseball would continue to manage baseball
  + Major playoffs will be expanded into a 14-game schedule. Committee will be formed to decide how playoffs will work. Cain shared he would like to be on the committee. Nominations for all-stars and playoff committees will be made with a plan for these in January
* VonGunden motions to approve merger approach. Horner seconds. Motion passes.
* 2025 sign cost/sponsors update
  1. Reid reached out to Brian Gavek of Gavek Graphics and signs price going up to $395 each. Need to take sign to Colonial Press in Boalsburg for quote of same/similar print/material. Reid, S. Fost. and VonGunden meet this week about what else to include with sponsors—sign, pricing, etc. Previous sign cost to league wasn’t on old sign spreadsheet. Should have info in the financials based on signs bought for this year around March/April but could be all at once. Reid to share draft letters to send to businesses that haven’t and one for those who have sponsored. B. Fost asked for cost presentation at next board meeting. S. Fost said should share with board before meeting. Reid to send updates not long after sponsorship meeting. S. Fost said costs were $500 for new sign; $125 for renewal (no new sign) last year. B. Fost said to save discussion of cost for when discussing the budget.
* Baseball U tournament request
  1. VonGunden said she saw it was advertised that they had a place—NVLL—so VonGunden and B. Fost said no further action needed from BLL.
* Field maintenance: Wes Fouse agreed to take field responsibilities for things except mowing. Flick getting quotes for mowing for next year. Bids for just main facility.

**New Business**

* Auxiliary update
  + S. Fost registered league for TechSoup—nonprofit for software; tech—things are registered and approved through there.
  + Fundraisers are set as usual duck derby and tag day with $100 opt out. Dates will be set closer to beginning of season. Would like to look at generating excitement/revenue on opening day—have vendors here on opening day with percentage donated back to league. Fundraisers for fall and summer teams. Maybe a season-long raffle with tickets at the concession stand, logistics to figure out. No alcohol, firearms and other things by Little League International—Yeti cooler, pop-up tent—purchase if enough revenue, donation?
  + Registration banner has been on bridge after Victorian Christmas previously. S. Fost will look for banner and contact Ralph Stewart from borough. Previously put half-page registration on Pizza Mia pizza boxes in January. General yard signs? Targeted ads on Facebook.
  + S. Fost looked at available grants and many are specific to a certain things like equipment. Will need copy of most recent 990 for that and not sure when we filed that. One was also for AED, see if connection with Mt. Nittany works out. Most grants are not for general operations costs, most for registration fees and equipment.
* 2025 Knights manager
  + B. Fost asked what the process for Flick to get a new team name with Plumbs disappearing. Discussion around dropping of Plumbs as team sponsor and two manager openings. Determined Undines will be dissolved because of timing and Flick will take Undines name. Five current Undines players will go back into draft.
  + B. Fost to notify current Undines players and parents that they will be redrafted and invite them to evaluations (but they don’t have to attend) and share that a manager role is available. S. Fost to post to Facebook announcing a majors manager role is open and to contact BLL president to nominate. Nominees must attend January meeting.
  + Curt Summers nominated Joe Fletamake, but B. Fost said Joe may not be interested.
* 2025 Safety plan and AED in concession stand
  + Albright needs people to respond to his email to update their contact information and is still waiting on information for an AED. Existing AED battery isn’t current. AEDs are $1,000+ to purchase and batteries are a few hundred dollars. AED was checked at the beginning of the season but concerns about the battery. Cain said used to take AED to Seven Mountains EMS to have machine services.
  + Fouse said Mt. Nittany does have a community program/foundation, asked if there is thought about asking Geisinger for donations now that they are in town and has connection with Bellefonte EMS. Fouse shared Mt. Nittany bought the entire M&T building, so they will be expanding.
* Fanwear store opening info
  + Last two years, S. Fost has done a generic one and not enough sales to make it worth it. Designed the uniforms first and then the fan gear. Fan gear opens as soon as the teams are drafted to have the names on the back. That will be mid-late February. Can do a general Bellefonte baseball like summer ball designs.
* VonGunden asked Horner about door update. Horner will hopefully have update in January.
* Cain asked about lighting up parking lot more. Cost would be only electric bill to us. Poles available from Jacksonville Road. B. Fost asked about lighting on the back of field 3. Cain also brought up dumpster area. Cain will have three poles dropped off.
* Signs on field 3—Confer, Corman and Pizza Mia because they were field 3 sponsors? Corman would probably buy a new sign for new company since he isn’t a senator now and has a lobbying company.

**Next Meeting: January 5 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment at 7:22 p.m.**