

BLL Board Meeting Agenda

January 5, 2025

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

Others in attendance: Emily Reid

* **Call to Order at 6 p.m.**
* **Board of Directors Action to be Taken**
* Knights manager
  + Nominations: Ryan Clancy, Carl Gemmati, Josh Wensel
  + Vote next meeting, Feb 2, selected will be notified that weekend to prep for evaluations; invited to next meeting to speak, meet; will do blind vote at our next meeting
* Approve December minutes
  + S. Fost motion, S. Flick second. Motion passes.
* Approve financial report
  + Invoice late fee for port-a-potty that B Fost will deal with for Spring Twp that was never canceled
  + Invoice for mowing in Nov. from Jabco for $120, invoice written on Dec. 8; is football still using it then? B. Fost wasn’t aware we contracted them that long.
  + S. Fost makes motion to approve report. S. Flick second. Motion passes.
  + Cain asked if football pays anything for port-a-potties and field maintenance. B. Fost said he is speaking to Justin (president) about this. ($150/month for port-a-potties and $650 a month for grass cutting) B. Fost outlines that other groups that use the facilities need to contribute toward maintenance
  + B. Fost to contact Mike Bonchack (?) at 814-380-0385
* Review/approve 2025 budget
  + S. Fost: Financial oversight committee suggests presenting quarterly actuals to help us get that shrunk down, watching numbers much more closely
  + Gemmati shared out the correct version via email for review; Projected deficit: $14,400
  + B. Fost to purchase baseballs this week, $1,000 hit the account
  + Rich Yarnell interested in helping with mowing maintenance, could help reduce costs
  + VonGunden motions to approve, Horner second. Motion passes.
* **President’s Report**
  + Nittany Valley Softball and 50/70 promotion
    - Advertise registrations on our Facebook page; not in competition with what we are doing
    - Horner motions to approve, S. Flick second. Motion approves
    - Albright shares 50/70 was shared last week
  + Joint board meeting with NVLL
    - January 18 @ 4 p.m. Spring Township office; Meeting room reserved for two hours
    - Response from our group can all be there; executive group (4) will be there, but uncertain of the rest of the group; B. Fost to create agenda; focus on evaluations working with Caldwell and Fenstermacker; developing the committees that we’ve identified so we can start to pull them together for all-stars and playoffs
  + In person registration dates & evaluations
    - Friday and Saturday last year
    - Evaluations start Feb. 8, maybe two weeks prior? Friday, January 24 & Saturday, January 25 (Eric can do both days) 6 – 8 p.m.; 9 – 11 a.m. in board room; birth certificate needed
    - Registration for majors and minors to end at evaluations
    - Last eval is Feb 15; draft one week later or two weeks later
    - Tryouts Feb. 8 and February 15 (8-4); drafting February 21 @ 7 p.m.
    - Need to confirm with NVLL for softball evals that Fost reserved for four hours
    - Wait until joint meeting with NVLL on who will be volunteering from their side
  + Field 1 batting cage
    - Cain suggests just leave it up because we’re putting it up in six weeks
  + District meeting
    - Gary intending to have meeting next weekend and inviting all league presidents to that meeting; will meet to discuss merger process; should have more info about redistricting after meeting; redistricting whole state; Tyrone, Hollidaysburg, and Huntingdon already redistricted
    - Bald Eagle dropping from Little League; splitting off; Bald Eagle dropped teener league too
  + Donation from Moose
    - $500, Bill Carey talked to them and secured that for us; help with deficit
    - Gemmati to send thank you; S. Fost to send template
    - Contacts at Eagles? B. Fost asked Reid to confirm on sponsorship list
  + Tournament dates
    - Horner: Crunick always second weekend of August (August 9-10); wants to make sure he isn’t competing against future stars tournament
    - S. Flick: Predistrict tournament to help with deficit? Few thousand dollars; talk to Gary this week
    - Future stars has one in May
    - Last year dates:
      * 8U was last weekend in June (June 28-29 this year)
      * 10U and 12U was July 12-14 (July 12-13 this year)
      * Predistrict: first weekend of June last year
      * Crunick: August 9-10
        + S. Fost motion. S. Flick second. Motion passes
        + Can put on infosports; just post in there with more info to come
      * Fenstermacker interested in running a tournament; B. Fost said we’ll have the convo soon
* **Unfinished Business**
* 2025 sponsor signs/General 2025 sponsors/sponsorship
  + Sent email out to everyone; list started with S. Fost and VonGunden that is revamped; add a column if you know someone; also sent draft of letter that can be sent; Reid looking for feedback; asked Gemmati to check numbers
  + B. Fost said one change was increasing cost of signs (new sign or replacement $500; renewal $150)
  + Does have Google Form set up to register and can do credit cards through PayPal if business prefers cards
  + Include proof of sign in letter and take pictures of them when they are taken down as inventory
  + Reid wants to distribute ASAP; major verbiage changes; Gemmati reviewing form if she needs any specific info
  + Horner: Teamsters 8: request for donation to do a sign
  + B. Fost asked for feedback to Reid on letter by Wednesday of this week to distribute ASAP
    - List Reid mentioned too (personal contacts & conversations with them)
  + Team sponsorships would typically go through Gemmati and need to get sent out ASAP because of lack of pay, deadline is February 15
  + Still have not paid—PBCI Allen, Wireless Made Simple; Pizza Mia paid in November for fall; not sure if Pizza Mia paid spring
  + Gemmati to review spreadsheet to see if she is missing anything to get letters out
    - Draft of letter (Gemmati and B. Fost looking)
    - Oversight committee recommends $400 minors & $500 majors cost ($100 increase)
    - Include letter and sponsorship commitment form that they plan to play (edit doc Reid send out)
    - B. Fost asked where is the list of companies that have expressed interest; Cain said Mike had. All of Mike’s files are in storage room in board room
      * 16 teams last year ($1,600)
        + $40 for shirt and hat (covers cost of uniform for players on that team)
        + What includes: majors get sign and the name on the shirt; free advertisement from Facebook
      * Horner motions. S. Fost seconds. Motion passes.
* Field maintenance: mowing bids
  + Bellefonte Little League complex and Spring Township request for proposal: Brooks put together bids; can schedule walkdown before bids being submitted; grass 2-3 inches March – October; trimming around all structures and fences at 6-inch height. Spring Township doesn’t need parking lot every time—just in fence every time
    - 48-inch path around all the fences; trim around batting cages
  + Whoever we select we will do a walkdown so they understand what we’re looking for.
  + Rich mentioned about talking to Brooks about field maintenance and mowing; might help, but can’t do fulltime; did at Spring Township for a year
  + Brooks to hold off on distributing until he talks to Rich; if not a path forward with him supporting us, we would distribute this
  + Brooks to incorporate Larry’s suggestion about parking lot
* 2025 Safety plan and AED
  + Mt. Nittany purchase new AED; $2,176 check to PO Box; wall mount and pediatric pads
    - Want sticker on it or by it that says sponsored by Mt. Nittany Health and in the opening day program; we have to the sticker made; Larry has place in Centre Hall (Brian) that does the Currick tournament; Emily will talk to Brian about sticker; HAS to say “sponsored by”; would take about a week or two to get here; should be here next week or the week after
      * Gemmati checks PO Box
      * Albright to send Reid email with all the info needed
    - Mt. Nittany would like a letter for a sign on the field
* Lighting for parking lot 3 update
  + No update—not sure if we can get poles
* Registration update: 39 registered/processed; 30 in the cart; one registered from NVLL and two others in cart for NVLL (three that said they were coming, all are 12)
* Bathroom door update
  + February sometime (Horner is backed up)
* **New Business**
  + 2025 Auxiliary activities
    - Preseason promotion
      * Call from S. Fost for any pictures of children of various of age stages to share on Facebook page
      * S. Fost to put together an email to send to schools, preschools, St. Johns, CCC
      * S. Fost to make flyers for Pizza Mia boxes soon
    - Two donation/support letters in production
      * Local connection to food places to request concessions stand food related
        + First Quality will donate water and paper products
      * Raffle item request
      * S. Fost to send letters electronically
    - Craft fair: Frank (woodworking neighbor) has posed we host a fall craft fair
      * Frank will help coordinate vendors; something to think about; might delay bathroom closing, port-a-potties; he sees as a fundraiser for us; fall festival of sorts
      * Noted our challenge is parking
      * Where would we put vendors? Outfields?
  + Concessions: Post-game snack
    - VonGunden provided cost for hot dogs and slushies—$.90 a kid, about $1,600; if we can’t find sponsors to support that, we need to look at what we do
    - Horner suggests getting a sponsor—Confers did it one year and Bill Carey personally paid for it
  + Minor league managers
    - Caldwell sent outreach about coaching and received interest back
      * Kid pitch: Fenstermacker, Caldwell, Fouse, Alex Blesh
      * Coach pitch: Tyler Drapshow, TJ Allen, Evan Young, Zane Branefield
      * Tball
      * 4-year-old clinic: John Jennings
    - Caldwell said managers can pick one assistant coach and child will automatically be on that team
  + Tryouts
    - Players will wear stickers and numbers; NVLL and BLL will be kept separate at stations have different color-coded stickers
    - Last year players wore a sticker if they are willing to move up to majors; color or sticker for each league; Caldwell would like the decision to stay in the minors/move up to major before starting evaluation
    - Caldwell, Fenstermacker and B. Fost available for both full days of evals
* **Next Meeting: proposed for February 2, 2025**
* **Adjournment @ 7:18 p.m.**
* **Horner motion to adjorn, Caldwell second. Motion passes.**