

East Granby/Granby Little League Executive Board Meeting Agenda

January 8, 2024

- I. Call to Order Time: 7:45 P.M.
- II. President's Remarks (Bill Hallam)
 - a. 2024 charter and insurance are in good order (3 riders – Granby, E. Granby, and Fire Department in W. Granby)
 - b. Assessments will be held March 9 or 10 (makeup day) at the Granby high school 9 - .2
 - c. Opening Day food trucks
 - i. Greg suggested that we have 2 food trucks - Zen in AM and Avon Prime Meats in the afternoon (penciled in). The Granby parks and recreation snack shack will also be open (beverages, candy, etc.).
 - ii. Kelley asked if the food trucks charge a fee and if they are open to sharing a piece of the revenue. Greg will ask and provide an answer at the next meeting.
 - iii. Eric Sales asked if we could cook food and sell it ourselves and possibly ask other vendors to join (dunk tank, face paint, and other vendors). *Bill and Dave pointed out that if we move forward there need to be enough people to work the event.* Greg will check with parks & recreation at his meeting tomorrow to answer our questions about cooking our own food, renting spots to vendors, etc. How much red tape is there? Chris suggested that we start on a small scale and see how it goes.
- III. Registration Numbers as of Jan. 8, 2024 (G. Dion)

a. Comparison	2023 (133)	2024 (102)
b. Little Sluggers	2023 (10)	2024 (6)
c. Coed T-Ball	2023 (28)	2024 (7)
d. Softball T-Ball	2023 (13)	2024 (5)
e. Farm Baseball	2023 (23)	2024 (12)
f. Farm Softball	2023 (15)	2024 (18)
g. Majors/Minors Baseball	2023 (32)	2024 (33)
h. Majors/Minors Softball	2023 (7)	2024 (20)
i. Juniors Baseball	2023 (2)	2024 (1)
j. Juniors Softball	2023 (3)	2024 (0)

 - k. Last year we were at 133 – numbers are lower.
 - l. Sandwich Boards
 - i. Chris volunteered to set them out this weekend.
 - m. Kelley asked about advertising via the PTO/schools.
 - n. Greg reminded the board that registration is open. There is a discount code for the board member families.
 - o. Chris asked about training on the new League App for coaches and board members. Greg will put together resources/training to share with the board and coaches.
- IV. Apparel (Allyson Bienia)
 - a. The goal is to have as many kids buy and wear the apparel – not necessarily make a huge profit.

- b. Shirts/Sweatshirts
 - i. Bill likes the East Granby EST 2018 Little League shirt and another that has XXL.
 - 1. Dry fit or cotton? Leaning toward dry fit.
 - 2. Sweatshirts need to be ready to sell at assessments.
 - ii. The older Granbeast apparel is expensive to print because of the logo.
 - 1. We have some leftover inventory.
 - 2. Chris mentioned apparel for adults and kids. He also mentioned selling adult apparel for districts.
 - iii. Next steps
 - 1. Allyson will ask the vendor for the minimum order numbers and see if there is room if we keep the color scheme the same for shirts. There may be more flexibility with pricing with t-shirts.
 - 2. Bill and Kelley like the idea of 2 styles of sweatshirts at assessments. We can then determine which one was best received and then decide on shirts. We sold ~120 sweatshirts last year. The goal is to order 70 of each of the sweatshirt designs and have them ready to sell at assessments.
 - 3. Allyson will send an email to the board members to vote on the logos. The board will vote via email by the end of this week.
 - 4. Bill asked about selling sweatshirts at the softball and baseball clinics. TBD.
- c. The league also needs to order hats.
 - i. Bill asked Allyson to come to the next meeting with a few ideas.
 - 1. Leather patch idea.

- V. Sponsorship Update (Steve Simard)
 - a. Eric Sales and Steve met to brainstorm some ideas. They will create a list of businesses and start to reach out.
 - b. All sponsors will be directed to the website.
 - c. Steve's goal is to add another \$20,000 of revenue for the league.
 - d. Steve asked the board to share the sponsorship opportunity with businesses in the community.
 - e. Week of 4/15 baseball and softball games will start. Bill has reached out to Scot McGuinness to discuss ordering shirts.
 - f. Dan mentioned that we should communicate deadlines to send out.
 - g. Bill asked Greg to go live with the website link.
 - h. There was some conversation about business logos. Business names – not logos will be on the back of team shirts. Greg reminded the board that sponsoring businesses can provide him with a link that he can add to the website. Greg will work on the email communication.
 - i. Dugout sponsors
 - i. Field 1 & 2
 - ii. Possibly creating signage for field 4 & 5
 - iii. The signs will be installed higher off the ground.
 - j. How to thank businesses that sponsor the league?
 - i. Chris brought up giving a plaque to businesses recognizing their sponsorships.

- ii. Xavier introduced the idea of having the team the business sponsors sign a baseball (possibly in a case) and deliver it to the sponsor.
 - k. Steve brought up a Superbowl squares idea and possibly other events like March Madness. Bill asked about the legality of it.
- VI. Important Dates to Review
 - a. Registration closes on 3/1.
 - b. Late Fee registration will remain open and close on 3/6.
 - c. Assessments are scheduled on 3/9 (3/10 makeup)
 - d. Opening Day is 4/27 (4/28 makeup)
 - e. Picture day 5/11 – Alison Alger
 - f. Yard Goats 5/18
 - i. The remaining balance is due by 5/4 (\$4,200). The league has 400 tickets which will be sold digitally. Greg will ask Phil to pay the balance now.
 - ii. How will people buy tickets?
 - 1. Scan a QR code to purchase tickets. We don't need anyone to man a stand to purchase tickets.
 - iii. Conversation for the next board meeting:
 - 1. How do we advertise?
 - 2. When do we start selling tickets? Opening day?
 - 3. Do we set limitations on how many tickets a person can buy?
- VII. VP Softball Update (Dan Thomsen)
 - a. There are 31 girls registered for the clinics at Kelly Lane. There are 7 sessions scheduled. Dan said the 1st session went well.
 - b. Field 1 is in rough shape. DPW has made field improvements in the past. Bill will contact the town to start the process.
 - c. Dan asked for direction on the process to purchase a district championship sign. Bill told Dan to contact Signs Plus. Kelley mentioned in the past that the kids were awarded something nice like a windbreaker. The kids will be recognized during opening day. Dan mentioned that the league bought the kids a D 6 champions shirt. Bill/Dan will investigate purchasing plaques for the girls and agreed to recognize them at opening day.
 - d. Dan asked when we will have our annual coaches meeting. The tentative date is Monday, 2/22. The location (East Granby community center, YMCA, etc.) is TBD.
- VIII. VP Baseball Update (Chris Perry)
 - a. The baseball clinics start 1/31 and registration closes 1/15. Registration has been strong - filled 51 of 60 spots. They have 6-7 volunteers for each clinic (pitching, hitting, fielding, etc.). They have a meeting scheduled with the volunteers soon.
 - b. The Corkum clinic email was sent to the league and the clinics are close to being filled. There are 4 openings per session.
 - c. Coaches clinic
 - i. Should we have Coach Corkum deliver an event?
 - ii. Chris feels strongly that all managers (or at least 1 assistant) from each team attend.

- iii. Chris will reach out to Chris Corkum to book Tuesday, 3/26 or Wednesday, 3/27 - 2 hours / 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.
 - iv. The event will be held at East Granby high school. Dennis will reach out to the school to book the facility.
 - d. Equipment swap
 - i. Assessments
 - ii. Clinics
 - iii. Send out a few more reminder emails
 - e. Press Box
 - i. Hazen construction
 - 1. Chris is waiting on a contract.
 - 2. There is red tape with the town, and he will not know if the permit has been approved until 2/14.
 - 3. The press box will be built on piers.
 - ii. Wetland area application has been filed. The town's consultant asked where will the league move the Field 1 shed? The board agreed to tell the town that we will move the shed to Field 5. Chris will measure and identify a location for the shed at Field 5.
 - iii. Bob asked about the Southwick storage.
 - iv. The league will recognize Squadron Capital and Hazen Construction, Inc.
 - 1. Possibly a plaque to recognize the grantor and contractor. Steve will update the owner of Squadron Capital on the press box project.
- IX. Fundraising Ideas/ Annual Fundraiser Idea (Xavier Sedaris)
- a. Almost Famous Brewery (75 people capacity + additional space if needed. Recommendation was to ask the owner about renting out the whole facility).
 - i. They allow for catering and there is a food truck.
 - ii. Local businesses can donate items/services to raffle.
 - 1. Xavier will donate a gift certificate to his business (Xclusive Ink Tattoos and Permanent Makeup).
 - iii. End of May or first week of June on a Friday or Saturday.
 - iv. Kids or no kid conversation. The board is leaning toward adults only if we hold the event at the brewery.
 - v. Marketing – touch base on this at a future meeting.
 - 1. Social media
 - 2. Flyers
 - b. Spare time is another option
 - c. Previous events
 - i. Brignole Vineyards
 - 1. 130+ people attended
 - 2. Adults only
 - 3. Raffles
 - ii. Copper Hill Golf Course
 - 1. Cornhole
 - 2. Kids and adults
 - d. Bill asked if there are any other ways to fundraise.

- i. Eric Sales introduced selling scratch off tickets. There was some conversation about the lack of structure to this type of fundraiser.
 - ii. Eric Sales also brought up having a schedule of all teams standing in front of store fronts (Geissler's) with a bucket asking for donations.
 - iii. Kelley suggested working with local businesses that will share a % of their revenue – East Granby/Granby Little League sales on X date at Wayback Burgers as an example.
 - X. Other Areas of Business/Open Discussion
 - a. Juniors – TBD
 - b. Erik Meijer
 - i. Erik has reached out to some of the umpires and to draw interest.
 - ii. The board agreed that it doesn't matter what town a kid lives in to umpire a game.
 - iii. We paid our umps \$35/games last season. The goal is to have 2 umpires at each game. The board agreed that if an umpire is solo, he will receive a higher rate. Dollar amount is TBD.
 - iv. Goal is to have 20 – 25 umpires.
 1. Erik would like a list of kids who aged out of majors last year that he can contact.
 - c. Softball
 - i. Dan is confident about scheduling umpires for the softball games.
 - d. Chris opened a discussion on the new Mandated Reporter Training (MRT) reporter requirement. Bob, Chris, and Greg will brainstorm and create a process to train the league volunteers this year.
 - i. Website link
 - ii. In-person
 - iii. In the future we can offer the training at an event like the annual coaches meeting
- XI. Adjourn Time: 9:55 P.M.

January 8, 2024 Attendees:

- Bob Hazen
- Jennifer Christenson
- Allyson Bienia
- Eric Meijer
- Chester Darling
- Greg Dion
- Bill Hallam
- Dan Thomson
- Chris Perry
- Xavier Sedaris
- Eric Sales
- Steve Simard
- Chad Perkins
- Kelley George
- Dennis Mullane

- Dave Anderson