

Franklin Recreation Meeting February 20, 2017

Little League Volunteer Meeting

Participants: Bridget Thompson, Stephanie Ho, Bridgette Favreau, Nicole Tatro, Brady Giroux, David Tatro, Corey Fregeau, Ashley Bachelder, Ellen Favreau, Debbie Berger, Amy Trudell, Tiffany Renaudette, Annie Wagner, Laura Sherman, Adam Kane, Jason Butler, Laura Sherman, Thomas Thompson, Jenessa Gervais, Sam Gervais, Todd Beauregard, Vickie Gratton, Ashley Russell, Jay Denault

Bridget called meeting to order at 7:07 and welcomed all the attendees.

Details about Little League registration was provided. To date, 85 children have registered for Little League. There are 20 kids of t-ball age, 7 Farm Girls, 13 Farm Boys, 12 Minor Girls, 10 Minor Boys, 11 Major Girls, and 12 Major Boys.

Bridget spoke about league age and stated that Franklin Little League will use the baseball age calculator to determine the playing age for the t-ball program.

A list of jobs identified to keep the season running smoothly was discussed.

Discussion about sponsorship. Franklin Recreation would like to ask businesses to sponsor Franklin Recreation as opposed to sponsoring Franklin Little League as in the past.

Franklin Recreation was given approximately \$5300 of Little League money. This money is in a reserve fund and will be used for future Little League needs.

Discussion about t-ball and how to keep all the kids playing safe as kids ranging in age from 3-7 are eligible to play t-ball. There is a large range of both skill and size between kids in this age range. Discussion about having a separate team for the youngest kids and having them play against other younger t-ball teams. Highgate has expressed interest in this. Swanton needs to be approached. There was a question about the size of the t-ball field because Franklin's t-ball field is larger than those in Highgate and Swanton.

Discussion about evaluating the skills of players and using that evaluation to place children on teams. Swanton and St. Albans use evaluations to determine their teams. It was suggested that if this is to happen, it should happen before the regular season, and that the evaluation should be completed by an unbiased individual or group.

Discussion about educating people on league age and how to place children who have never played before, but qualify to play on a Major team based on age.

Discussion about umpires. Finding umpires for games has been difficult in the past. What can be done about this? A question about the age of umpires for Little League games was asked: do umpires need to be over 18 and background checked? Anyone who will be volunteering to help with the Little League season should have a background check completed. The minimum age will need to be investigated. It may be helpful to have a head umpire who could help with recruiting umpires for games. In the past, Northwest Little League has discussed offering an umpire training. A call for umpires will be posted on the Franklin Recreation Facebook page. Umpires are needed for in the field as well as behind the plate.

Discussion about having a snack bar at the fields. There are a lot of questions: Is it worth it? What type of permission would be needed and from whom? What could be sold? Who could man it? What kind of inspections and town regulations would need to be completed? Last year, the Girl Scouts had good luck selling water and ice cream at one game. Perhaps offer the opportunity to sell items to local scouts as a start. Research in the form of speaking to other Little League snack bars should be completed.

Discussion about coaching. There are not a lot of volunteers to coach the Boys Minors and Girls Majors teams. Coaches do not have to be parents. Bridget will ask Paula Tremblay if she would like to help with Girls Majors.

Debbie and Amy are willing to maintain the Field schedule and ensure that there are no field use conflicts.

Ashley B. volunteered to help coordinate uniform delivery and collection.

Coaches will be responsible for taking inventory of their equipment. Bridgette will facilitate any equipment needs. Annie will help to make sure that all teams have adequate first aid kits. Nicole will talk to each team about proper stretching and warm up techniques.

Highgate will have an ambulance nearby during their games. Is this something Franklin should consider? Adam will talk to EAS about the possibility of this.

Discussion about offering clinics to Franklin players. Possibly at the Highgate arena; information about turf time rates are needed. Discussion about what the rules are for practicing in the School Gym and Town Hall.

Discussion about the hit-a-thon and if that tradition should be continued. Discussion about the possibility of a kickoff event.

Discussion about Field Maintenance and how that will be handled. Should there be a field clean up day for players as there has been in the past?

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30