



**Griffith Youth Baseball Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2024**

Attendance: Kyle Hecht, Erinn Hecht, Josh Bridegroom, Christine Collins, Felicia Newsome, Chris Ray, Josh Kerr, Cody Michniewicz

Also in attendance: Tony Tezerial

The Meeting was called to order at the major field board room at 5pm

Motion to approve February minutes by Josh K, 2nd by Cody. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Current balance: \$17,574.27
- Outstanding bills: \$872 for teams/charter/insurance, \$9274.20 for uniforms, concessions start-up costs, t-ball dugout bench costs, approx \$4000 umpire down payment (and additional payments throughout the season)
- Paid: sponsor banners, keys, service sanitation, concessions food, shelving and organization for sheds, major and babe ruth bases, field work, catchers gear, baseballs, first aid kits, field rental/lease

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT,

- Working on trying to get 'Kids Day at the Field' for our kids to go watch a varsity game on the high school field. We will look into their home game on May 16th, however, some teams have games this day. We usually get this date picked before schedules are done, but the high school had a lot of changes this year with a new coaching staff, new diamond club members, and other things regarding players and their JV and Varsity teams combining into one Varsity team. Will work with new diamond club president Steve McDermott to see if this day will work and how to go about setting things up.
- T-Ball dugout benches were replaced and we're looking into how to fix rookie benches.
- Schedules have been finalized and entered into SportsEngine (google doc for standings, and stats)
- The league will be using a new Umpire Coordinator to schedule our umpires since our resources were starting to run thin and we are struggling finding umpires for our games. Umpire fees will need to increase due to this, but our popcorn fundraiser will help alleviate some of these costs. We're looking at a cost of \$70 for one umpire for minor games, \$140 for two umpires for major games, \$150 for two umpires for babe ruth games. Total will be around \$9600 for umpires for the season and we'll provide a payment to Blue Crew after we sign the contract, another payment right before June, and the remaining after our tournament schedule is set. We were paying our umpires the least out of all leagues so we need to stay competitive in order to get games covered.
- HopeSpring Church on Colfax in Griffith was very generous in letting use their space for our pictures and popcorn order collecting.



SPONSORSHIP REPORT

- Banners are up, a couple still need to be printed

FUNDRAISING/EVENTS REPORT

- RailCats day will be June 25
- Popcorn was successful but was about 300 boxes less than the past couple years. Total was 2059 boxes which totaled approx \$24,000. We will get a portion of this from Lady Gourmet. The fundraising from this will help cover the increased cost of umpires for the season.

BABE RUTH REPORT – n/a

MAJOR REPORT – n/a

MINOR REPORT – Will work on field and possibly need some limestone soon. Will also look into attachment for the mound when the kids are on major field.

ROOKIE REPORT – n/a

TBALL REPORT – n/a

ALL STAR REPORT – n/a

TRAVEL REPORT – n/a

OLD BUSINESS

1. Babe Ruth lights: The Park Board informed us on April 23, 2024 that we would not be getting a new light for Babe Ruth. The pole they ordered was 30ft and we need a 55ft pole in order to properly light our field. They stated the correct size would be an additional \$5000 and they would not be paying that. We scrambled and developed a solution with the high school and they will be allowing us to use their high school baseball field like we did during Fall Ball. We used their field then because the light fell down before our fall season started. We're appreciative of other organizations in the community to help us out in these desperate times of need.
2. The popcorn buckets we were considering will end up being a cost of \$.98 for each with a minimum of 200 ordered. The buckets are 32oz and we will sell for \$10. Every refill will be \$1. This will also help with the umpire fee increase.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Umpires (See communications report above)
2. Instead of putting our 'all stars' in tournaments where they play teams made up of lots of travel kids, we're looking into tournaments that are made up of other town leagues. Our players get discouraged playing these teams during Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Tournaments and we can't blame them. When these town leagues are sending their travel kids into these tournaments, it's not fair to the rec leagues. So we're looking into alternatives.



3. An option for rookie dugout benches will be to tear up the existing benches and replace with a bottle cap bench. We will contact St. Mary Parish to see if they have ideas for replacing these and will offer our suggestion of doing a bottle cap 'fundraiser' which is similar to pop can tops. The bottle tops are provided to a company that will melt them down into benches. These benches will be put in the dugouts at rookie field to use as benches.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned at 6:07pm. Next Meeting May 19 in the GYB Board Room at 5pm.