

MLGS Board Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Laurel House

Attendees: Bob F., John L., Ian T., Chris M., Joe F., Lorrie D., Gregg W., David C., John C., Lauren M.

Meeting Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Public Portion

- Members from the Rancocas Woods community attended the meeting to raise their concerns about the following:
 - The excessive rate of speed cars travel to/from Spencer Park along Rancocas Boulevard as well as within the park itself.
 - Violation of the Township's noise ordinance on tournament weekends.
 - Visitors to Spencer Park entering private property to retrieve foul balls.
 - Excessive amounts of loose trash throughout the park at the end of tournament weekends.
- Bob committed to MLGS doing the following:
 - Communicating to all MLGS Travel and Rec families as well as tournament site directors about the 25 mph speed limit along Rancocas Boulevard.
 - Communicating to all tournament site directors that no loud music may be played before 8:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m., and this must be enforced.
 - Communicating to all MLGS Travel and Rec families as well as tournament site directors about not entering private property to retrieve foul balls.
 - Communicating to the Township that more frequent trash removal is needed at Spencer Park during tournament weekends, and additional trash receptacles should be placed in various locations on the property.
 - Requesting that the Township post signage outlining Mt. Laurel's noise ordinance.

2. Financial Update

- Funds received since the last meeting were approximately \$6,900; expenses during the same period were approximately \$18,800 for field maintenance and Rec uniforms.

3. Donations Update

- John L. received \$2,200 in donations since the last meeting.
- MLGS raised \$2,000 from the Opening Day raffle.

4. Mt. Laurel Township

- Austin shared ahead of the meeting that the Township received approval from the State to build new restrooms at Spencer. A timeline for installation isn't yet available, but Austin will keep the board posted.

- Bob, Ian, Austin, and Joe started an MLGS “wish list” to inform our five-year plan to the Township. The board was asked to review the wish list outside the meeting and rank items in order of importance. The board will review the final proposal to the Township before it is submitted.
 - Bob requested that feedback on the wish list be provided by May 24, so the proposed plan can be shared with the Township by June 7.
- The Township still plans to install shade canopies on the T-ball/8U field, though the timing for this is unclear.
- David asked if the Township would paint the dugouts at Spencer, as they are in rough shape. Lauren committed to asking Austin if this is something the Township would cover.

5. Fields/Facility/Equipment

- Ahead of the meeting, Mike shared that the Township plans to turn over the satellite fields sometime in May.
- Ground Troops expects amendment to be delivered to Spencer this week, and it will be installed in the infields shortly thereafter. Sod will also be laid on the worn spots in center field. Teams should avoid practicing on the sod.
- A deadbolt still needs to be added to the new gator shed. Joe committed to handling this.
- When field conditioner is delivered to Spencer, it can go in the gator shed. Liner needs to go in the sea box.
- The board discussed two quotes Bob obtained for installing Wi-Fi and five home plate cameras at the fields at Spencer. Bob will share the quotes with the board.

6. Rec Program

- A photo release should be added to the Rec registration beginning next year.
- John C. shared that there has been strong attendance at the two player clinics held so far.
- Lauren asked that the board consider adding a Rec level between T-ball and 8U, as there is a wide range of ages and skill levels in this year’s 8U group, and the coaches have found it challenging to provide everyone with the instruction they needed.
- Ian will plan activities for an End of Rec Celebration on May 31 at 6:00 p.m. at Spencer. All players must be in their MLGS shirts to receive a free kiddie cup of Kona Ice. Chris will send an announcement to all Rec families letting them know about the celebration.

7. Storm Travel Teams

- Ian recommended the use of Sports Engine for obtaining background checks for Storm and MLGS coaches. Bob asked that Ian start with the Storm teams in July. MLGS will pay for all background checks.
- The board discussed how to handle refunds of Storm fees when players leave a team.
 - The board agreed to implement a policy where 25% of Storm fees can be returned if requested before December 31 of a given year. After that date, no fees will be refunded.
 - Only families that have paid their Storm fees in full are eligible to receive a 25% refund if requested before December 31.
 - For Rec players, no refunds will be issued once uniforms have been purchased.

- Information about the refund policy needs to be included in the Code of Conduct/Player Contracts.
 - As a reminder, donations cannot be used to refund families.
- In mid-June, MLGS will poll current Storm coaches to determine who plans to return to coaching in the fall.
- All interested travel players will be expected to register for Storm tryouts through the current website. Chris will set up this registration.
- Tryout dates need to be established.

8. Website

- Members of the board are interested in moving away from Sports Connect for the MLGS website and registration process. David and John C. committed to evaluating Team Snap and Sports Engine and reporting their findings to the board.

9. MLGS Board Positions

- Bob recommended that the board consider reevaluating its current positions to help fill certain gaps.

10. New Business

- Board members must submit all purchase requests over \$500 in writing to the president and treasurer for approval. Email is acceptable.
- John shared that the Phillies are holding two Youth Baseball and Softball Celebrations on May 22 and June 1. Bob said he would call the Phillies to work out details if John shares the contact info.
- The board voted to approve the purchase of new netting for the batting cages for approximately \$2,100.
- The board voted to approve the purchase of a new pitching machine for approximately \$1,600.
- The board voted to not approve the purchase of technology that would allow the current scoreboards at Spencer to be controlled via smartphone.
- Bob may need to reschedule the August 5 board meeting. He will email the board with alternative dates to consider.

11. Upcoming Board Meetings

- Future meetings of the MLGS board will take place on the following dates: 8/5/2024, 10/7/2024, 12/2/2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.