# Lethbridge Minor Softball Association

# Meeting Minutes

## September 22, 2019

## 2:00pm

1. Call to order – Meeting called to order at 1:52pm by Jennifer Drader
2. Approval of minutes from last meeting – Motion by Tyler to approval of minutes from last meeting. 2nd by Beth
3. Open and Ongoing Business
4. Welcome of new board members – Jennifer Drader welcomes everyone in attendance, Kim Snideman (outgoing Treasurer), Zakk Morrison, Kaela Corazza, Nicole Barnett, Tara Furukawa-Stoffer, Tyler Fallwell, Beth Moulton, Jessie Carpenter, Josh Cinnamon and Jennifer Drader. It was noted that Terry Kowalcuk and Kaela Corazza were unable to be in attendance.

Jennifer asks that we begin assigning the new board members to certain executive positions for their term. It was discussed that executive positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary be assigned for the 2 year board term to allow for continuity while other positions such as Equipment Manager, Sponsorship, Registrar, Umpire Director, and anything else be just assigned for 1 year terms.

Josh motioned to have the President and Treasurer be on the same 2 year term and have the Vice President and Secretary be on the alternating years. Since the President and Treasurer have been assigned this year and the Vice has 1 more year it was noted that the Secretary position for this coming year be a 1 year term to align up with the Vice Presidents same term period. All other positions would be on a 1 year assignment. Tyler 2nd, passed.

Nicole and Krystle put forth intent for Treasurer, Zakk nominates Nicole, Krystle seconds, passed. The board acknowledges that the current treasurer Kim Snideman has relinquished her duties and that Nicole Barnett is the new treasurer.

Jennifer Drader puts forth intent for President, Zakk nominates Jennifer, Beth seconds, passed

Tyler nominates Krystle for Secretary, Beth seconds, passed

Kaela put forth in her application intent for the Marketing/Promotion position, Jennifer nominates Kaela, Tyler seconds, passed

Jay puts forth intent for Equipment Director, Jen nominates Jay, Beth seconds, passed

Tyler nominates Josh for Registrar, Beth seconds, passed.

It was noted that Terry might be interested in the Umpire Director position so we would table this till next meeting to formally assign this position.

Zakk brought for the idea that perhaps we don’t have Division Directors for each division but a committee that takes care of all duties associated with being a division director. We could also involve parents in this committee as well possibly? It was agreed that we would move the creation of the committee and assignment of duties within that committee to the next meeting.

Beth is in the Vice President role for 1 more year and Tara, Jessie, Zakk, & Tyler do not at this moment have an executive position assigned.

1. Treasurer Report – Refer to the AGM Minutes on finacials.
2. Division Year End Review
   1. Timbits – Jen – Overall good year, hard to find coaches and suitable coaches. More coaching assistance needs to occur. Is it time to officially separate this group into U6 and U8? Can older players coach or assistant coach?
   2. U10 – Tyler – Stated that we may need to look at shrinking teams; 10-11 players are too many. 7-8 may be an ideal number and to keep them engaged is easier with lower numbers. More fun had with smaller groups.
   3. U12 – Jen/Beth Went well, 7 teams, 4 from Lethbridge, 2 from Coaldale and 1 from Milk River. Concern brought forth that teams not divided equally in terms of pitchers/catchers. Noticed that some rules were again not communicated through to all teams.
   4. U14 – Tyler/Tara – 6 teams, 3 from Lethbridge, 1 Coaldale, 1 Milk River, 1 Picture Butte. Was hard to schedule all practices and games…season so short. If we did not have diamonds from Coaldale, Picture Butte and Milk River we would not have been able to have these games. Concern brought up that teams not divide equally again. What is the balance between keeping friends together and dividing up the talent?

Nicole brought up the conversation about separating house and rep players. How would this affect league numbers, coaching staff for both house and rep, diamond availability, financial cost to parents, use of equipment? This is to be tabled for more discussion at a separate meeting.

We need to clarify the policy on our forfeit and cancellation of games policy.

* 1. U16-U19 – Tara – 3 teams all from Lethbridge. Lots of new players, we had them separate from U14 this year so they played a lot of games amoungst themselves but wanted to play different teams.
  2. Provincial Teams
     1. U12 – Jen/Beth - Great season all around, lots of interest in the team, great group of parents and the girls all bonded really well. Took 12 full time, 3 red shirts. Took Silver in Stettler Tournament and was 2-2 at provincials
     2. U14 – Tyler – Great season as well, took all 15 that tried out to allow for development. Took Gold in Stettler and Bronze in Okotoks, went 1-3 at provincials but was believed to be one of the better teams just didn’t work out in our favor.

1. Equipment Review
   1. Complete Review and listing of all equipment – Kim has put forth that we get a full listing of all of our equipment as well as us allocating certain equipment to our asset list. Equipment Committee lead by Jay will include Nicole and Jessie as well as Jen and Tara. Timbits, U10 will be kept at Miners and U12, U14, and U16 to be kept at Softball Valley. Will get Jay a set of keys to Miners so she can get into the storage room.
   2. Allocating Certain Equipment to our asset list – Kim clarifies what should be capitalized indicating anything with a lifespan of 2 years or more such as catcher’s equipment, umpire equipment, base sets and base bags. Tara is going to look into insurance for our equipment in case of fire/theft/flood for Softball Valley.
2. Miners Diamond – Jen has indicated that Miners has had the incorrect shale and the correct shale was placed down. The city is putting in a request to have foul lines placed on the fences and possible painting of lines on the grass.
   * 1. Cleanup of Miners including bathrooms, initial and ongoing throughout the season. – Jen mentioned that she is going to bring up a possible solution to this under new business which would be along the lines of mandatory volunteer positions for parents and cleaning of miners and maintenance would be part of that. If we do not use that we will have to come up with a solution as to how to maintain it.
     2. Cleanup of Concession area, Freezer testing and/removal – A parent has received a quote for $160 to have the 2 freezers removed. At this time because we do not have a lot of funds in cash right now it was agreed that we wait until the spring time to remove them.
     3. Cleanup of Storage maintenance room. – After removal of the freezers we will look at setting up shelving units and a better organizing system.
     4. The U of L is asking if they can use Miners Field for their games – U of L will be at Miners Sep 27th
3. Potential Partnership with Lethbridge Softball Association (LSA) – Tara – Conversations between LMSA and LSA have occurred along the lines of LSA giving us the spot of their casino so we could raise funds towards a new diamond that could potentially be located on the overflow area of the parking south end of the parking lot. This would allow us to receive potentially $30,000 and then Hank could put in a grant proposal for park improvement and the city could then match that bringing an amount of money in the ball park between $90,000 and $120,000 for a new diamond. We have started the application process again to regain our society status but Nicole brought forth that there might be an issue with us getting our status and still being under LSA. She will look into that to see what next step we can take as that will determine whether it is beneficial or not to get our status. A LSA’s AGM they discussed this proposal and were on board to helping us out. Hank had a discussion with the city and they had a couple concerns with this proposal such as there is a berm that is currently there as well as they didn’t want to put forth an effort and approve all this funding if the board is unstable. But seeing as we have regular meetings AGM’s and have board members we are seeing the passion to continue this sport going forward we can show them that this is unsubstantiated.

Kim brought up a concern that even though we are currently members of LSA that we have not had the benefit of using the facility of Softball Valley. Tara then stated that under the agreement with the city set many many years ago that the adult leagues play at Softball Valley to free up the school diamonds for other sports that needed those fields and the minor players would always have Miners field at no cost and they would support maintaining the facility. This all occurred when the Miner Board at the time changed the way they ran the league with zero registrations and took to a club mentality and independent from LSA and stopped submitting financials which ended the society number and eventually in the end ended up disbanding. With the support of a couple people like Tara and Alicia they did not want that to happen again and the process of bringing miner ball back to an organization came about where in that LSA would be the parent to LMSA since they did not have a society number anymore and work together to bring about a partnership. We are now at that stage where we can now work together.

1. Clinic Updates
   1. Pitching Clinic – Josh is willing to put forth his time for clinics in the new year.
   2. Winter Training – Beth is willing to put time towards putting this together as well as Jen if she can. Tyler is also willing to do the clinics again and may have the ability to use a new facility. A tour and discussion of cost will be done soon.
   3. Umpires Clinic – Dates and times tbd in the new year.
   4. Catchers Clinic – Bonnie has mentioned she would be interested in putting one on. Will clarify later to dates/times.
2. Golf Tournament Fundraiser – Beth – Cancelled this year as only 7 teams registered. Date may have been a factor along with not enough time to plan it. We collected items for this and maybe we can have a raffle, A parent in U14 says he had a permit to do raffle, Tyler will check with him to see the details on that.
   1. Other Fundraising Opportunities
3. Sponsorship Committee – Update by Jen – Last meeting we approved our sponsorship packages, but were unable to get them out there due to not having a supplier, cost put in place.

With Kaela being on our board now we feel we can create a committee at the next meeting to address both the Golf and Sponsorship initiatives.

1. New business
2. Any New Business – Beth has won the zone 1 merit award from Softball Alberta along with a recipient from Med Hat and so Beth and I will be going to the Softball Alberta AGM Oct 22 in Camrose

Any New Business – Jen proposes that maybe we look at having an awards/recognition event next year. Medicine Hat just introduced this as well and handed out merchandise and a certificate for the winners. Was tabled to be discussed at a future meeting.

1. Any New Business – Jen proposes that we look at mandatory volunteering for each division. Positions would include, head coaches, assistant coaches, photographers, score keepers, parent helpers for the younger divisions, organizer of the volunteers for each team, maintenance and cleanup of miners for the older groups. Was tabled to be discussed at future meeting.
2. New Business - Beth indicated that the t-shirts this year took to long to get and having the coaches select the colors this takes too long to order. This year we got our shirts 2 weeks before we ended and some still did not get them. She proposes that 6-7 colors set and once registrations are in we order and any late comers we just order after. It was also noted that we will NOT include the year on the shirts so that we have any extra if needed for next year or years after.
3. New Business – Should we consider that all infielders wear masks, it was noted that not having it mandatory by Softball Alberta you will get pushback on this implementation. It should be noted though that we can mention it and if the player wants to have it then we fully support that.
4. Next Meeting date and time – Nicole noted that we have a lot of items to still come up with solutions too so we should add another meeting date and divide the issues at hand between Nov and Jan to elevate some of the strain on the Jan meeting. All agreed to have a Nov Meeting set.
   1. Nov 24, 2019, 1pm, Softball Valley
   2. Jan 12, 2020 1pm, Softball Valley
5. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 4:06pm