**SWPLL Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 10, 2016**

Present: John, Lisa, Katie, Jake H, Dave, Brian, Jason, Chad, Mel, Joelle, Todd

Meeting called to order 6:45 pm.

March 2016 minutes approved on motion (BZ/JR).

District 4 Report: budget adopted at the last D4 meeting. It has three parts – D4, Alpenrose, and pay-to-play tournaments. All leagues will be assessed $2 per player to fund D4 expenses. Primary D4 expense this year is upgrade of website. Methodology for paying Alpenrose expenses has been tabled to a committee made up of the leagues that primarily use Alpenrose. The primary function of the committee will be fundraising, but will likely end up asking for financial contribution from the leagues.

D4 postseason – need to identify our postseason teams by May 1. Postseason fees will be reduced somewhat from 2015. On baseball side, Todd and Chad to work together on a proposal. For softball, Tiffany told Katie she proposes one team each at 9/10, 10/11 and 11/12 but Katie was not clear on which are honors and which are all-stars.

Proposed tournament dates at this point:

* Softball 9/10, 10/11 and juniors – starts July 4
* Softball 11/12 – starts July 18
* Baseball 9/10, 10/11 – starts July 2
* Baseball 11/12 – starts July 6
* All honors start June 25

Kickoff event was well-received. Mel roughly estimates revenue of $1,056 from concessions, donations and candy and gear sales.

Only open Board positions is sponsors. Linda McNamara has expressed interest; Joelle will follow up with her. Jake asked about connecting sponsors with teams – problem is we don’t have enough sponsors, although any sponsor that wants to be linked to be a team will be, and will get a free team photo plaque at the end of the season.

Alpenrose Day – Mel really, really, really needs an assistant. Discussion of how to recruit volunteers. Everyone agreed we need to get that started ASAP. Todd suggested offering a free registration for any volunteer, but Board felt that would discount all the work that other volunteers do without compensation. Dave suggested having a raffle for a free 2017 registration from volunteers, same as was done for Storybook Lane.

Review of registration and team placements: more disgruntled parents this year than in past years. Some complaints were justified and some not. League could improve communication efforts and messaging to players who are not placed in the “standard” level for their age or otherwise get placed below their desired level of play. Dave said he plans to revamp registration next season to address apparent misunderstandings of how levels of play work.

Financial report - $61,903.75 in the bank but several accounts payable will be paid soon. Lisa will send out an updated budget report before next meeting. Jason reports he will likely come in below budget.

Equipment – AAA managers reporting need for new catchers gear, primarily shin guards that operate with Velcro. John reports that he sees catchers regularly wearing gear improperly. Jason asked that VPs tell their managers to e-mail him with any equipment questions.

Safety – no report. Discussion of foul ball damage to neighboring apartment complex on third base line at Markham Majors. Chad says a retractable net is prohibitively expensive. Need to ask Reilly to find out what it would take to extend the backstop upward and outward.

Scheduling and communications – all baseball and tee ball schedules are on the website. Dave will put them up for softball upon receipt from Tiffany.

Coaches report – Brian to chase down missing background check forms and concussion training certificates.

Murrayhill has inquired about SWPLL joining them for summer baseball, running roughly July 4 through mid-August. Levels are 7/8 and 9/10.

Need to add Flying Pie to the sponsors webpage. On track for about $5,700 in revenue. Dave to follow up with Dairy Hill.

Uniforms and hats – they are finally out the door and delivered. She is following up on a few replacement uniforms here and there. Board agreed we should stick with fitted hats for postseason but order a few extra to cover size variations – the extras can easily be sold at fundraisers.

Fields – Markham 3 gear box has no locks. Portable fence is in the old storage building if anyone wants to put it up on Markham Majors. Mel reports Portland Parks will be working on Hitchen, Little Gabe and Burlingame shortly.

Discussion of Alpenrose East on April 9 – majors game found the field set to 50/70 dimensions and had to make do. Alpenrose claims that it was set correctly and is trying to bill us. League responsibility is to chalk and rake fields; Alpenrose staff sets the dimensions of the fields.

Umpires – John raised issue of 2016 local rules. Website currently only has 2015 rules. Motion to adopt the 2015 AAA and majors baseball local rules for 2016 (TM/CJ). Motions approved. Managers should be making non-SWPLL umpires aware of our local rules. D4 has approved 2016 softball local rules; Katie will send to Dave for website.

VP reports: Majors BB – early concerns about lack of parity, will wait and see at this point. AAA BB – people appreciative of the effort of the Jugs tournament. AA BB – no report. A BB – no report. Tee ball – recommends ending registration about a week earlier in future seasons. Softball – worked through the usual first week bugs and complaints, things are no off and running.

Motion to move Board meetings permanently to Round Table (TM/BZ). Motion passed.

Adjourn 8:50 pm. Next meeting is Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at Round Table.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: By e-mail vote subsequent to the April 10 meeting, Linda McNamara was approved as Sponsors Coordinator.