Minutes for SWPLL

Date: Sunday, December 9, 2018

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: IBU Public House, 4439 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Highway, Portland, OR 97221

Note Taker: Kate Bauer, Secretary

Attendance:

| Present | Position | Name |
| --- | --- | --- |
|[x]  President | Melinda Bessner |
|[x]  Secretary | Kate Bauer |
|[x]  Treasurer | Lisa Keeling |
|[x]  VP Softball-upper levels | Jenn West |
|[x]  VP Softball-lower levels | Aaron Howard |
|[ ]  VP Majors Baseball | Jake Hammer |
|[ ]  VP AAA Baseball | Seth Burrell |
|[x]  VP AA Baseball | Ben Kopetti |
|[ ]  VP A Baseball | Jon Loomis |
|[ ]  VP T-ball | Open |
|[x]  Baseball Player Agent | Jamie Mitchell |
|[x]  Softball Player Agent | Ava Mitchell |
|[x]  Uniform Coordinator | Ava Mitchell |
|[x]  Alpenrose Day Coordinator | Leanne LeGare |
|[ ]  Coach Coordinator | Huntley Morrison |
|[x]  Field Maintenance | Jake Hammer |
|[ ]  Field Maintenance | Kip Reynolds |
|[ ]  Field Scheduling | Carl Burnham |
|[x]  Field Scheduling | Amanda Burnham |
|[x]  Communications Coordinator | Andrew Bauer |
|[ ]  Fall Ball Coordinator | Carl Burnham |
|[ ]  Fall Ball Coordinator | Paul Lesinski |
|[ ]  Safety Officer | Lisa Keeling |
|[x]  Sponsorship Coordinator | Jon Loomis |
|[x]  Sponsorship Coordinator | Neil LeGare |
|[ ]  Umpire Scheduling Coordinator | Paul Seal |
|[ ]  Equipment Manager | Josh Hammer |
|[ ]  Equipment Manager | Andy Rader |
|[ ]  Picture Coordinator | Open |
|[ ]  Umpire in Chief | Dave Petersen |
|[x]  Registrar | Angela Corman |
|[x]  Post Season Coordinator | Angela Corman |

6:35 PM – Melinda called the meeting to order

Introductions / Welcome

Reminder: Please mark your calendars for the 2nd Sunday of every month. She did note that the Mother’s Day meeting may be moved.

There is no prepared agenda for this meeting.

**District 4 Report**

The district meeting is typically held on the first Sunday of Month, but there has not been a meeting in six months. As a result, Mel has nothing to report.

**Alpenrose Volunteering**

SWPLL had a good showing Friday, December 7th (evening) at Alpenrose with parent volunteers. It’s important to volunteer at Alpenrose so we can obtain the necessary field time. The volunteering ensures SWPLL keep Wednesday nights and we hope to secure additional time on Tuesday nights. We covered other leagues that did not show with their volunteers. SWPLL is also organizing volunteers for the last day of Storybook Lane to help clean up (Sunday, December 16th, 2018). Only board members showed up at the last volunteer opportunity but Angela would love to have parents (non-board members) volunteer. The hours for the 16th are 2 PM to 7 PM and we need as many volunteers as possible for the two shifts – at least 5-6 volunteers.

**Charter Renewal**

This month is the charter renewal. The board agreed to copying the number of teams as last year for January 1 renewal submission.

**Prior Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the November 2018 minutes – all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Open Items**

* There will be a meeting later this month to determine when the Alpenrose Day will be.
* Background check – the process is easier this year. If you have not completed the process yet, you will continue to get reminders.

**Items for Discussion / Decision**

1. Budget
2. Registration Date
3. Tryout Date

The board discussed the upcoming season and timelines. One member noted that Spring Break was an issue last year. Angela suggested on the first Saturday that only AAA and higher plays games with the levels below AAA volunteer and practice that day. General discussion on the best way to manage registration and fielding of teams.

Registration Questions:

1. What is the target date to start and end registration?
2. What is the overall cost of registration?

The current process is to register your child first, and then once the child is assigned to a team, you are directed to a separate website to order the uniform. Every uniform will be direct shipped to the family and coaches will not have to deal with the uniforms. It’s a similar process to last year. Reminder to be transparent with the families about the total cost.

The uniform cost is decreased by $2 less this year. General feeling that because the registration fee increased in for the 2018 season (last year), that the fees should remain flat for the 2019 season. One suggestion to increase AAA fee by $3 as they require as many umpires as Majors and that level has the most participants.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Level | 2018Registration Fee | 2018Uniform | 2019Registration Fee | 2019Uniform |
| T-\_Ball | **$100** | **$22.50** | **$100** | **$20.75** |
| A | **$130** | **$22.50** | **$130** | **$20.75** |
| AA | **$130** | **$22.50** | **$130** | **$20.75** |
| SBLL | **$130** | **$23.50** | **$130** | **$20.75** |
| AAA | **$165** | **$40.50** | **$175** | **$34.00** |
| Majors | **$200** | **$40.50** | **$200** | **$35.50** |
| Softball | **$200** | **$38.50** | **$200** | **$22.00** |

The uniforms are provided by Nike as a buy 1 get 1 free.

One board member suggested adding a list of suggested equipment for each level. Angela advised she would need help with the current equipment owned by SWPLL and therefore what to suggest.

Angela also advised that parents provided feedback in the 2018 post season survey that they needed assistance in placing kids in level.

Discussion ensued about increasing the registration fees to assist with field maintenance. The proposed costs (included in the table above) are proposed for the board to vote on. Additional considerations include the budget and fundraising. Generally, the board agreed that the quality of the fields need to be addressed.

With regards to the proposed budget – a question was asked about the opt out line item. Angela confirmed that she does track the people who do not volunteer and requests the opt out fee.

What is the target date for registration? Some leagues open mid-December for tax purposes (e.g. Lake Oswego and Beaverton are both open currently). In the past, SWPLL has opened in January following the holidays. It was noted that advertising does need to occur to announce the registration period – including signs, announcements, and a strong social media presence. In the past, signs were ordered online or obtained from Kinkos.

The board discussed the signs noting they should address Baseball and Softball. The signs should be bright, colorful and readable. The 2018 signs were not well done. Andy Bauer offered to organize a sign design with the NW Natural graphic design team if he received the logo in PNG format. Angela will send to his attention.

The board agreed registration should open January 1, 2019. AAA and Majors registration needs to close by Tryouts. Tryouts will be held on February 24th at the Wilson High School gym similar to last year. The gym is available the entire day and free for SWPLL to utilize. We discussed holding tryouts over Presidents Weekend. Although many people are out of town, it works if there is a makeup day. It is best to avoid holding the draft too late. If tryouts occur on February 24th, the draft could happen on February 27th. The 25th is available for make-up tryouts as the basketball season is over. On the 24th, Softball will hold tryouts from 9 AM – 12 PM and Baseball will hold tryouts from 12 PM to 7:30 PM (based on the time needed last year). Makeups will occur on the following Tuesday and Wednesday with the draft on February 28th, 2019.

One member suggested sending an email on tryout expectations for kids to help guide parents and children on the process and what to expect. It was agreed this could be discussed at the January board meeting.

Lower Levels (AA, A and T-Ball) will have an initial cut off date and requests to play with coaches and / or friends will be accommodated. Past the chosen date, the league will not guarantee choices. Angela shared the dates from 2018. We debated the notion of early registration pricing in order to get people locked in before Spring Break.

* Early bird for Majors and AAA will end on February 1 to help set the number of teams and assignments as soon as possible without having to scramble and find additional managers. After February 1st, the registration fee increases by 10 – 15%
* Early bird for AA, A and T-Ball will end on March 1. After this date, the registration fee increases by 10 – 15%.

Should the hard-close date be April 1st or April 15th? Following the hard close, there children will be put on a wait list. Ideally, we would like to avoid the wait list. Angela noted that late registrations occurs primarily with the younger children. It’s not ideal to tell a child who wants to play baseball that they cannot play.

Mel summarized the discussion and broke the various options into separate motions:

MOTION: All registration opens on January 2, 2019 – all approved, motion carried.

MOTION: Early Bird registration ends on February 1 for Majors & AAA and on March 1 for AA, A and T-Ball – all approved, motion carried.

MOTION: Registration closes on February 23rd (hard close) for Majors & AAA – all approved, motion carried.

MOTION: Registration closes on March 15th (published) and April 10th (hard close, not published but SWPLL internal date) for AA, A and Softball. The Close Date: Double A, Single A, Softball – all approved, motion carried.

MOTION: There will be no early bird registration for T-Ball and registration closes on March 15th (published) and April 10th (hard close, not published but SWPLL internal date) – all approved, motion carried.

**Budget**

The current account balance is $60,813.19.

Discussed the 2018 budget vs actual figures:

* In reviewing the line items – noted the storage units (2) at Barber Rents which are premium spots and grandfathered on the pricing.
* Fall Ball participation was higher than anticipated
* Sponsorships have dwindled over the years
* 2018 Alpenrose Day did not include raffle baskets – resulted in shortfall of $1,500 year over year but the baskets are time consuming
* $6,650 was the actual figure for Opt Out Volunteer fees
* Fields line item includes permits ($13,500) and maintenance ($20,000). No notice from Parks and Rec as of the meeting date; typically notified in November during their budget process. Working on additional fields (e.g. Robert Gray and Bridelmier) so may need to increase the line item.
* Charter is registration with Little League nationally – insurance and licensing.
* Last year the league made approximately $13,000
* Expect registration to grow about 5% - Spring play has had steady growth in the recent past which has been impacted by Lincoln kids’ participation
* Equipment includes catcher’s gear, bats, bags, tees, pitching mounds, softball equipment. Note, Loomis offered to connect with an equipment supplier.
* Uniforms are provided by Nike (direct purchase by parents) – three-year deal to buy 1, get 1 and we are in year 2 of a three-year deal. We need to decide by June 2019 to exit the contract for 2020 year. Gear up does belts and socks. Dick Sponsorship is also exclusive on some things.
* Equipment request – batting nets for each team? Some coaches think they’re too big to deal with (hassle). Could also get trashed with handling.

Umpire discussion – last year was first year for behind the mound umpires to try to address AAA umpire shortage driven by retirements. The league is desperately trying to address the shortage and we need more umpires certified for plate. The board was reminded (and parents need the reminder too) that SWPLL is a training program for the umpires as well as the players. Note some issues with how the parents and mangers interact with the umpires. It’s a good reminder to reinforce the code of conduct with the managers.

In the past, the board elected to roll over the budget. We discussed what improvements need to occur in the fields. Do we need a tractor to make major improvements? Burlingame Field needs serious work (swamp) although it was agreed it will be difficult to repair. It is an expensive field and generally agreed we would like to stop playing at the location. Mark discussed the necessary field maintenance and advised he does not believe we need a tractor. We would have to deal with the storage of such equipment if purchased. The 2018 post season survey revealed that fields and equipment are the top investment wishes of parents.

A proposal was put forth to increase the maintenance budget by $10,000).

Sponsorship Discussion by Neil and Jon – how do we monetize SWPLL (e.g. give up real estate on jerseys). They have five ideas to raise $10,000 each.

MOTION: Increase field budget from $20,000 to $30,000; rollover permitting and equipment (if additional needs, look to fundraising); umpires budget increase by $1,000 to $10,000; maintain coaches; charter is going to be $6,000; miscellaneous is $9,000; registration is flat; sponsors at $5,000; Alpenrose Day is $1,200; Volunteer Opt Out is Flat; Donations / Scholarships $1,500 – all approved, motion carried.

Finalized registration fee discussions. Noted that AAA Softball is paying more than AAA Baseball. Agree that we should lower AAA Softball to $175

MOTION: T-Ball fee will be $100; A / AA / Softball Little League will be $130; AAA will be $175 and Majors will be $200 – all approved, motion carried.

MOTION: Put forth to adjourn the meeting – all approved, motion carried.

Next meeting will be Sunday, January 13 at 6:30 PM at IBU.