Meeting Minutes for SWPLL

Date: Sunday, January 13, 2019

Time: 6:30 PM

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

Note Taker: Kate Prentice, Secretary

Attendance:

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

6:33 PM – Melinda called the meeting to order

Introductions / Agenda



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December Meeting Minutes



*[double click to open attachment]*

**MOTION** to approve December minutes as prepared by Kate Bauer, Secretary, motion seconded. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

**District 4 Report (Mel)**

* District 4 finally held a meeting last Sunday, January 6, 2019. Mel advised the board that Raleigh Hills is requesting Bridlemile / WA county area to be included in their league (area used to be Lincoln). The question before the board is how we want to respond. Discussion about impact on our fields (none). Noted that Raleigh Hills could also sign a waiver to allow kids outside of their league to play.
* **MOTION** to keep the boundaries as is (including Bridlemile / WA county area) with SW Portland Little League Motion to keep the boundary as is and seconded. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**
* Alpenrose Days will be determined in February and will be shared as soon as available. There is a discussion that only Softball will play on Tuesday nights at Alpenrose which may impact field time for SWPLL. We will discuss once finalized.

**Open Discussion Items**

* Softball survey results – purpose was to gather more specific data as the spring softball responses were sparse. Received 28 responses to the survey request. The most previous common complaint lead to the development of the launch league (1st to 3rd grade girls) but now parents felt the launch league was less competitive for the older girls. Unfortunately, softball cannot support five (5) teams at each level.
* Fall Ball Survey – no coaching comments and overall very positive although everyone wished there had been practice. The kids in Majors like playing with various players (flexibility) and the ability to play with friends unlike the Spring season. Discussion about who (VPs) should be able to review the survey results to help make decisions. Concern raised about coach comments (especially some “rough” feedback last year). Discussed the purpose of the VP job. If a VP is aware of concerns with coaches then it should be brought up during recommendations. While Huntley recruits coaches, the VPs should be aware of observations. There was acknowledgement that we should be respectful of the coaches who are volunteers.

**MOTION** – The Coach Coordinator will receive all leagues (including all seasons) survey information and verbally share the information with the VPs of each level for their level only. Any results related to coaches who are not returning will be removed from the survey results. The motion was seconded. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

* **Registration** – As of this date, the biggest registration is in AAA and A and we are tracking good. Equipment manager asked about dates when the number of teams will be decided. Angela committed to get numbers to the Equipment Manager and Field Schedulers as soon as available. Budget for items are built on the charter team numbers. At the February meeting, the board will get an update on registration and a better idea of the number of teams. Coaches pick up equipment the first week of March because practices start the following week. Noted that game balls were an issue last year. Also, tryouts were moved to March 2 -3 as that is when Wilson HS was available; exact times pending.
* **Fundraising Idea** – to be discussed during Sponsorship.

**Coaches Update**

* Huntley sent an email to all the previous coaches. AAA is almost done with commitments from coaches. Huntley and Jenn are working together on softball coaches. This year the board will need to vote on the managers.
* The plan is to send everyone to the Friends of Baseball Clinic - $75 (Feb 10th) and to utilize a website to help the coaches throughout the season (techniques, drills, practice layouts, etc.). The program is $1,100 for all the coaches to access per year. The website may not be as helpful for the Majors coaches, but TBall and A coaches or newer coaches will find value. Additinally, it will start a common language for all the kids and coaches.
* Huntley asked for an increase to his budget from $2,000 to $4,000 - $1,100 for website and wants additional funds to set up clinics for pitchers and some softball resources.
* **MOTION** – Increase the Coaches budget to $4,000. The motion was seconded. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**
* The managers meeting will be split between upper and lower levels. Discussion about when and where the meeting will be held. Lower levels should be in a gym in order to run a mock practice. Upper levels just need a meeting space. Baseballism offered space for meetings and Andy Bauer offered NW Natural space for the meeting. Huntley will work with Angela to find space in short order.

**Fields Update**

* Professional maintenance to be undertaken this year
* Each level will be responsible for a field
* Update on the plan will be sent to the board in the next week
* Discussion of the fields – some of the fields need permission from the principals at the schools to allow the league to make changes

**Scheduling**

* Needed a copy of the certificate of insurance – Mel agreed to provide
* Also needs a copy of the waiver for athletes – Angela agreed to provide
* Login to Parks & Rec – Shanney has the information

**Financial Report / Budget**

* Only Coaches Coordinator has asked for a change
* Please ask at meetings if you need changes

**Safety**

* Plan due March 1st – the issue is that the safety meeting has to be done before teams formed. Majors, Softball and AAA will be done. Anticipate that most of AA, A and TBall will be done by the due date.
* Discussion about how it was scheduled last minute in the 2018 Spring Season.
* Do we have anyone who is qualified to teach it? Lisa can advise why the firehouse provides the training.
* Note to Equipment that first aid kits need to bumped up and provide more ice packs.
* Also remind parents that the Little League rule is that you **cannot alter a helmet** – there’s only 1 or 2 manufacturers that make the helmets with face protection.
* Add the reminders to the website about bat and helmet requirements and provide at tryouts.

**Communications**

* Asked if anything needs to be added?
* Discussion of FB viewership is declining – Instagram will be opened and broadcast emails will continue to be sent
* Discarding the use of templates because it does not work in some emails

**Fundraising & Sponsorship**

* Baseballism event – movie night is in place but NOT full (Feb 8th). Please send out the invite and remind friends.
* Already $6,000 secured in sponsorship but the stretch goal is $30,000.
* Putting Standard Operating Procedures in place around sponsorships for going forward along with the value proposition (15 minute presentation to give information at events)
* Corporate sponsors are being worked on now (e.g. HOPS)
* Once funding is secured, the board will decide how to spend the funds (e.g. sheds, batting cages etc.)
* In the future, they will revisit the idea of uniform sponsorship

**Uniforms**

* Did not discuss.

**Equipment**

* Need an idea of the needs of the league but will just focus on the immediate needs of the coaches (balls, bats, helmets etc.)
* Huntley to ask the coaches to put together an equipment needs – for basic needs and long-term needs.
* Additionally, they will put together a list of the current equipment so we can ensure it’s utilized. The list will be shared with the coaches.

**Umpires**

* Utilized Team Sideline last year so umpires could pick their schedules and will continue to use
* Recruiting new umpires as kids aging out and need more behind the plate umpires
* Will consider 13 years old but it is kid dependent and there is also the challenge of interactions with parents and coaches
* One idea is to promote Parent-Child umpire teams
* Discussion about having a plate meeting with coaches includes pledge of conduct
* Draft a template letter for the coaches to send out to the parents that includes a message about conduct
* Question – hire the Majors Umpires? $80 a game? It would push the volunteer umpires down to the lower levels and solve a lot of our problems. Cedar Mills tried to contract with them but umpires wanted Majors and AAA. Agreed to investigate the contract umpires. Some discussion about development of the community kids but coaches felt strongly that the umpires need to be training. Discussion of history “behind the plate” – SWPLL decided no kid below 18 should be behind the plate.

**VP Reports Out**

* Majors – all is well
* AAA – nothing
* TBall – nothing to report
* Softball – Asked who the point person was for Stephenson? Huntley advised he was the contact.

Finally, Mel advised that Wilson Junior Baseball (JBO) is trying to decide on their team structure which could impact SWPLL kids. If they do this, Mel will ask one of their reps to join our next meeting to provide the board with information. We committed to working together.

**Adjourn – 8:24 PM**

Next meeting will be Sunday, February 10th at 6:30 PM at IBU Public House.