Meeting Minutes for SWPLL

Date: Sunday, March 10, 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 Prentice |
|  | 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 | Angela Corman |
|  | 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 |
|  | Fundraising | Shelley Penny |

6:36 PM – Melinda called the meeting to order

Introductions / Agenda

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February Meeting Minutes



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**MOTION** to approve February minutes as prepared by Kate Prentice, Secretary put forward by Ben Kopetti, motion seconded by Angela Corman. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

**District 4 Report**

Alpenrose rumors – quick recap of the current situation of the lawsuit. Alpenrose Dairy and Family Trust are at odds with sale of the dairy. SWPLL is lending support to the family. Nothing will happen this year and the fields will be available through summer. The future is unknown; it’s a private field so its utilization has always been unknown. Mel advised that she did an interview with KOIN TV after approval from family – they want the support.

We have two Alpenrose dates – April 6th (opening) and June 1st (closing). The board needs to discuss opening day. Tball will not be up and running by April 6th. Majors and AAA will have games on opening day. Discussed if team photos should happen on April 6th. Generally agreed it was better to push back (families will have to pay $5 to receive pictures) so that all levels can participate with their uniforms. In addition, softball will be participating in a District 4 tournament opening weekend at the coast. Noted that team photos are mandatory – coaches cannot opt out.

**MOTION** to make team pictures mandatory put forth by Seth Burrell, motion seconded by Aaron Howard. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

**Board Member Update**

Amanda Brohman has volunteered to be the VP for Tball for the season.

**MOTION** by Seth Burrell to approve Amanda Brohman as the VP of Tball, motion seconded by Jenn West. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

Fall Ball coordinator will be discussed at a future meeting date.

**Registration Update**

Angela Corman provided an update on registration – advising that a total of 631 children have signed up and we anticipate additional sign ups. The numbers are as follows:

* 118 TBALL
* 109 A
* 57 Launch League
* 56 AA
* 148 AAA
* 37 AAA Softball
* 57 Majors

Registration closes on March 18th. The plan is to create smaller teams in order to allow space for wait list kids. Jenn West agreed to help Angela Corman roster kids. Discussed how to move kids between levels. Mel Bessner advised that in order to move kids, talk to the family and the player agent.

Launch League will have 6 or 7 teams – Aaron Howard is in need of managers.

**Tryout & Draft Discussion**

Discussion of the tryouts and drafts process this year. Jenn West noted it was the first time without tears! General agreement that it was smooth to have a half day for each level. The lunch break was appreciated. Positive to have parents not allowed in the gym during tryouts. Overall it was very smooth, but there may be some opportunities to fine tun the process next year.

**Financial Update**

$145,719.66 is the current balance

**Umpires**

Dave Peterson (Umpire in Chief) spoke about the upcoming season. Last year was challenging on umpires so really focused on how to improve the 2019 spring season. There are 10 returning plate umpires and with additional training, the total count is 20-25 plate umpires. Overall, we have 60 umpires. Dave did note that many are under the age of 18. There is a big issue with treating umpires with respect – lots of negative interactions with both coaches and fans. Dave is implementing a zero-tolerance policy. Dave emphasized that these umpires will not know every single rule and they will make mistakes.

Changes for the season (Dave will attend the next Managers meeting in order to share):

1. Adult volunteer requirement – if the umpire is 18 or under, then the manager needs to appoint someone to intervene and be an objective advocate. The adult volunteer will be announced to everyone. The under 18 umpires are authorized to leave the game without an appointed adult.
2. New plate umpires will do their first games with an adult umpire to help them. These individuals have participated in one 4-hour training session so please be patient.
3. If an umpire is working solo and they are no plate trained, they will stand behind the mound.
4. Player and Fan pledge – this will be discussed at the manager meetings and will be implemented going forward. Mel noted that most of the leagues implement in District 4.
5. Noted that most of the umpire gear is garbage and purchased 4 new sets of plate gear. If you know someone who needs gear, let Dave know.
6. Preseason email – would like to write two emails to the (1) parents and (2) coaches about umpire expectations and to introduce himself.

Discussion regarding the pledges and the adult volunteer. Agreed to add to the checklist for the home team but both coaches in SWPLL should be aware and participate.

As respects umpire pay, Paul Seal did some research on Raleigh Hills who we compete with and share some of the same umpires. He proposed we increase the pay for behind the plate umpires to $50. He noted that the current plate fee is $35 a game. Noted that if the fees are raised, the budget for umpires increases from $10,000 to $18,000 and the budget allows for such an increase. Discussion regarding the subject ensued.

**MOTION** to increase plate umpire pay to $50 (regardless if a field umpire is also present) by Jenn West, motion seconded by Aaron Howard. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

Discussion regarding amending the budget (including how many games will be played).

**MOTION** to increase the umpire budget from $10,0000 to $18,000 by Dave Peterson, motion seconded by Ben Kopetti. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

Note: March 14th is another umpire training at Fowler so please send interested kids as games start soon and umpires will be needed.

**Safety Meeting**

Safety Meeting will be March 18th from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Station 18 – need one representative for each team. Safety manual is done and on the website. Reminder, if an incident occurs, please fill out the form and send to Lisa Keeling.

**Managers**

Managers meeting is March 20th – Multnomah Arts Center – Huntley Morrison will send an email to Angela to confirm the date through the system so everyone is aware.

Discussion regarding managers responsibilities as respects alcohol. In the past, managers / coaches drinking beers in the dugout and parents have been drinking at the games. A reminder to the board, if you see it occurring, please stop the behavior as alcohol has no place in little league. SWPLL is known for the alcohol at the games (e.g. Markham BBQ). Cannot have alcohol on school property or during games. Please don’t drink before the game as coaches. It’s under volunteer expectations that coaches will not drink.

**Managers Selection**

Ben Kopetti put forth the following managers for the AA Baseball level:

* Lewis Landerholm
* Josh Toperosky
* Chris Alexander
* Tim Hurst
* Ben Kopetti

Discussed managers – no issues and should all be approved. Reike needs another manager and coach. Huntley Morrison and Seth will review the list of kids to provide parent options.

**MOTION** to approve the list of AA Baseball managers as noted above by Ben Kopetti, motion seconded by Jake Hammer. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

Jonathan Loomis put forth the following managers for the A Baseball level:

* Garrett Bishop – Bridlemile
* Wes Bentley – Capitol Hill
* Eddie Glover – Hayhurst
* Kevin Bailey – Markham
* Doug Stermer – Markham
* Austin Lynch – St. John Fisher
* Josh Stegman – St. Clare
* Craig Murphy – Rieke

Discussion – Huntley Morrison noted this was a solid list of managers. Jonathan noted that we will likely need an additional 2 managers.

**MOTION** to approve the list of A Baseball managers as noted above by Jonathan Loomis, motion seconded by Huntley Morrison. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

Noted that additional votes for additional A, AA and the full roster of Tball managers will follow in the next week via email to have a board vote.

Aaron Howard put forth the following managers for Launch League level:

* Scott Johnson / Jason Williams
* Bryan McMahon – Stevenson
* Cary Cadonau – SJF / Hayhurst

**MOTION** to approve the list of Launch League softball managers as noted above by Aaron Howard, motion seconded by Jake Hammer. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

Launch League needs three (3) additional managers. Discussion regarding allowing Nate Tobecksen ensued by the board.

**MOTION** to approve Nate Tobecksen as a Launch League softball manager by Aaron Howard with set expectations about manager behavior, motion seconded by Angela Corman. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

A vote for two (2) additional Launch League managers will follow via email for a board vote.

**Field Maintenance**

Jake Hammer gave an update to the board as respects field cleaning. At the managers meeting, he will review expectations for managers. Jake will send an email about what levels are responsible for each field. He also noted the budget was sufficient – currently spent about $12,000 of the $20,000 allocated. Over the next two weekends, there is a lot of work to do. Questions:

1. Who knows how to get keys to the schools?
2. Needs some assistance with home plates. If any experience, let Jake know.

**Field Scheduling**

Amanda Burnham provided an update – she is currently working on scheduling the practices. The best way to get ahold of her (not Carl) is to use the board email address which feeds to her proper email. Discussed start dates of the various levels. Some coaches expressed desire to have two weeks of practice before games. Huntley advised that the kids will have fun regardless if you practice before playing games (kids like to play games most!). The season will end on Alpenrose day on for TBall, A and AA.

Wilson use – managers should contact VPs who will work with Mel for utilization of HS space. It’s available for everyone to utilize even if you have a personal relationship with Wilson coach. SWPLL also has confirmation on Saturdays 9-2 to use Robert Gray but pending clarification.

**Sponsorships**

Jonathan Loomis gave an update on sponsorships including:

* Hillsboro Hops AAA (all teams branded)
* Majors Baseball and Softball

Movie night was approximately $700 to $800 in fundraising for SWPLL.

In addition, Salvador Molly’s night on May 13th. There will be decals ordered for families to purchase. Hillsboro Hops asked if SWPLL wants to have a night for our league – generally agreement this is good for community building. May want to have pop up for ordering swag but Ava Mitchell to look into agreements with Dicks and Gear Up to see if it violates those agreements.

**Alpenrose Days**

Leanne LeGare will connect with Angela and Mel later to discuss what needs to be done. Sign ups will be forthcoming for individuals to volunteer.

**Uniforms**

Gear Up is experience challenges with their website. It takes 10-12 days to receive uniforms so kids may be playing without uniforms for first few games. If anyone has extra hats left over from previous seasons, bring to Ava Mitchell as she is redistributing to the younger divisions. Noted that the Astros AAA currently have two uniforms (Gear Up mixed up the uniform) and working to fix the issue. Only AAA and Major have received their note to order uniforms as of this meeting.

**Equipment**

Andy Rader noted that the biggest need is for catchers’ helmet. Every Majors team needs 2 sets of catchers’ gear – for softball and AAA and AA as well. Asked about catcher’s helmets – what requirements? Mel will review and advise. Dick’s donations dropped off by Mel at storage unit. Please let Andy know what else you might need as respects equipment for the season. Andy is tagging bags with numbers to know which team has the bag and to be able to track the gear at the end of the season. There needs to be better control over the inventory.

No further updates from the VPs.

**Adjourn – 8:38 PM**

Next meeting will be Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM at IBU Public House.