Southwest Portland Little League Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Location: IBU

Attendees:

* Mel Bessner
* Jeremey Shetler
* Amanda Brohman
* Jake Hammer
* Pete Gilchrist
* Beth Mitchell
* Aaron Howard
* Andy Rader
* Stephen Black
* Lisa Keeling
* John Tilles
* Ava Mitchell
* Jamie Mitchell
* Matt Marr
* Seth Burrell
* Angela Corman
* Kate Prentice

Meeting Minutes:

1. Approval of May Minutes: Aaron Howard motioned to approve and Seth Burrell seconded. All approved.
2. Approval of September minutes: will be completed offiline. Emails received – Seth Burrell moved to approve the minutes in an email on Friday, October 18th and Ben Kopetti seconded. Necessary approvals received via email.
3. District 4 Report: pending update from Mel Bessner (not yet arrived)
4. Fall Ball Update Discussion: brief discussion on now well the Fall session went.
5. Financial Report: will follow next month
6. Safety: no updates to provide
7. Sponsorship: All uniforms sponsorships have been sold. Unfortunately, Jon Loomis is leaving the league (moving to Lake Oswego) so he will transition off this role.
8. Annual Meeting: To be held November 17th and is open to anyone. The board will be voted on at this meeting. Noted that this will be the last meeting for the outgoing president as well. Discussion as to location of the meeting – options include Wilson High School (first preference) followed by Lucky Lab and Multnomah Arts Center. Angela to work on the location and send a note to everyone.
9. Equipment: Expectation is that the league will need to spend more money this year. In 2019, we tried to be frugal but feedback indicated need for more balls and to replace equipment. We did not spend the full budget last year – likely the budget can stay flat but the expectation is it will be spent in its entirety.
10. Umpire: SWPLL needs an umpire scheduler to communicate with the umpires. Board discussed options of individuals for this role. There will also be a new Umpire in Chief this year as Dave Peterson will exit the role – but is willing to train during the transition.
11. Softball: advised working on a shed at Hayhurt with support from the new principal
12. VPs of Levels Report: nothing to report
13. Fall Ball Coordinators – Paul L. (lower level) and Carl (upper level)
14. Uniforms: All spring uniforms have been ordered including has. Softball visors will have embroidery this year. Currently shopping for a new vendor and please send feedback.
15. District Four Administrator: A replacement was announced at the meeting this past Sunday. Mel will provide an update. This position is our representative to Little League, runs Honors & All Stars tournament, and handles protests during post-season. The District 4 Administrator is the definitive ruling order over SWPLL and resource for the board (mostly interacts with the SWPLL president).
16. Alpenrose update: update pending Mel’s arrival.

Mel Bessner arrived at 7:03 PM.

1. District 4: Sandy will be officially up for election next month for a one-year term. She agreed to the position for one year and if she is willing to continue after, the next election will be for a three year term.
2. Alpenrose: The sale is official as of Friday at midnight and the Smith Brothers own the Alpenrose dairy area. It is not yet understood how SWPLL will be affected. The fields and community area are still owned by the family. SWPLL can expect to have the fields for the coming spring.

As a reminder, the District assessed each league $100 every time we used Alpenrose last year (approximately $1,500 total) to help to pay for the attorney fees. Going forward, SWPLL will likely need to pay to utilize the fields. The board will need to adjust the budget to anticipate the change. There may also be more opportunity to play at Alpenrose since other leagues may not want to pay the fees. SWPLL will need to anticipate the loss of Alpenrose fields – we will have a challenge with enough fields. The board needs to actively plan for replacement fields.
3. 2020 Registration Fee Discussion: There may be some increase in our league as Lincoln dis-banned Little League baseball (they will continue softball). SWPLL can anticipate a 5% to 10% growth year over year.
4. AAA Discussion: Pete Gilchrist wants to discuss splitting AAA into two levels (upper and lower). Little League allows the individual leagues to design the setup up under Majors as needed. The suggestion is to bring the discussion forward at the annual meeting, including presenting feedback from coaches in the previous year. Pete will draft proposal and circulate for review. One suggestion is to review other league setups online (e.g. Issaquah) as there is different ways to group teams (e.g. age, ability etc.). The size of SWPLL does allow us to add more levels. Additionally, we could consider splitting the Launch League in softball into A and AA again.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM