**January 2020 Meeting Minutes  
Southwest Portland Little League**

Date: Monday, January 13, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: IBU

Note Taker: Kate Prentice – Secretary

Attendees: Jake Hammer – President

Aaron Howard – VP Softball, Lower Levels

Peter Gilchrist – VP AAA Baseball

Amanda Brohman – Field Scheduling

Shelly Penny – Alpenrose Coordinator

Matt Marr – Umpire Scheduling Coordinator

Graham Sterling – Sponsorship Coordinator

Carl Burnham – Field Maintenance

Angela Corman – Communications Officer and Registrar

John Tilles – Umpire Scheduling Coordinator

Elizabeth Mitchell – VP Teeball and Softball Player Agent

Ava Mitchell – Uniform Coordinator

Jamie Mitchell – Baseball Player Agent

Kate Prentice – Secretary

6:31 PM – Jake Hammer called the meeting to order

**Agenda**

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*[double click to open attachment]*

**Approve December Minutes**

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**MOTION** to approve December minutes as prepared by Kate Prentice, Secretary put forward by **Carl Burnham**, motion seconded by **Aaron Howard**. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

**Presidents Report (Jake Hammer)**

* District 4 report: no real update. Alpenrose pricing is anticipated shortly and expected to be reasonable. Jake will share once available. We should anticipate that SWPLL will need to do a little more preparation of the fields but maintenance in general will be taken care of by Alpenrose.
* Regional roundtable – upcoming later in January and will provide an update at the next meeting.

**Field Update (Carl Burnham)**

Carl provided the attached proposal for review as respects long-term planning.



*[double click to open attachment]*

The SWPLL fields are inadequate and require major maintenance. Carl originally sought quotes for individual field repairs but at $3,000 to $7,000 per field – it was expensive. Proposal is to buy a field maintenance system and have a volunteer team organized. Steps in the process:

1. Field analysis to determine make up – the goal is 70% sand (total cost is $250).
2. Purchase the equipment which is designed to renovate fields (total cost $32,500) – discussion of storage, moving the equipment, access to fields, cost of insurance, ease of use
3. Batter Boxes – clay bricks & 5 volunteer hours required

**MOTION** to approve purchase of Ventrac All-in-One Field Maintenance System for an estimated $32,500 contingent on insurance at a reasonable price and maintenance agreement put forward by **Carl Burnham**, motion seconded by **Aaron Howard**. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

**Lincoln JBO**

Jake Hammer advised that meeting with Lincoln JBO to discuss the Robert Grey field. In advance of the meeting, we will explore what SWPLL needs first before offering anything to Lincoln JBO. Suggestion that Wilson JBO should have the option to utilize the field as well if needed. The purpose of the meeting is to advocate for SWPLL.

**Finance Report**

Pointed out the finance report YTD that was provided in the board packet. Going forward Amanda Burnham, Treasurer, will provide in advance of the meeting. As changes are required to the budget, please contact Amanda.



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**Background Check**

Intent is to put a process in place to objectively assess all volunteers.

* Background checks are required for all coaches, umpires and board members
* ID are collected and verified during registration (required for background check)
* If a background check comes back with a flag, the president, registrar and coaches’ coordinator must review the flag and determine if the volunteer is eligible. Any volunteer that has a charge against or pending against a minor is not permitted to volunteer under any circumstances per the Little League Regulation 1(C) 8 & 9.
* No volunteer is allowed to have contact with players without a background check and verified ID.
* If a volunteer is deemed ineligible because of a background check, they will be information by the president as to the reason they are ineligible.

Additional research needed on background violations and will be reported back at the next meeting.

**By-Laws**

A copy of the by-laws was provided to the attendees – there are no changes in the written provided copy over last year. The board can elect to propose changes in the future. Bylaws approved in 2013 link:<https://www.teamsideline.com/Assets/1055/2013-11-17_Final_SWPLL_Bylaws.pdf>

**MOTION** to approve the by-laws as provided put forward by **Amanda Brohman**, motion seconded by **Peter Gilchrist**. All board members voted in favor. **MOTION PASSED**

**Protest Committee**

Discussed establishing a committee to provide a neutral committee for managers to escalate protests for evaluation.

Throughout the regular season, a protest situation may occur.  Protesting a regular season game is outlined in Rule 4.19. A league’s Protest Committee reviews protests that involve violations or interpretations of a playing rule, the use of an ineligible pitcher, or the use of an ineligible player. Protest on decisions involving an umpire’s judgment will not be considered. The protest committee will make a final decision on all protests.

Any protest must be submitted by the manager to the umpire on the field first. The protesting manager (or in their absence, a coach or acting manager) shall immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the umpire that the game is being played under protest. Following such notice, the umpire shall consult with the other umpire(s). If the umpire is convinced that the decision is in conflict with the rules, the umpire shall reverse that decision. If, however, after consultation, the umpire is convinced that the decision is not in conflict with the rules, said umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest. Failure of the umpire to make such announcement shall not affect the validity of the protest. A protest made due to the use of an ineligible pitcher or player may be considered only if made to the umpire before the umpire(s) leave the field at the end of the game. Whenever it is found that an ineligible pitcher or player is being used, said pitcher shall be removed from the mound, or said player shall be removed from the game, and the game shall be continued under protest or not as the protesting manager decides.

Then the protest needs to be submitted in writing to the local League President within 24 hours. The Umpire-in-Chief is also required to submit a report immediately.

If the committee allows the protest, the game will resume from the exact point where the infraction incurred.

The Protest Committee with be comprised of Jamie Mitchell (player agent), Chris Harry (UIC) and Shelly Penny (non-manager board member).

**Alpenrose Day**

May 30 or June 6 – pending and we should know by next week. We may have an opening day and more to follow. Shelley volunteered to coordinate it and wants to know what the board expects as respects this day. Discussed having the pancake breakfast and the closing ceremony.

**VP Reports**

* Softball Upper Level VP – Jenn Howard is not in attendance.
* Softball Lower Level VP – Aaron Howard is hosting hitting clinics for five (5) Tuesdays starting February 4th. Equipment is ready to go. Pitching clinic potentially to be arranged.
* Tee Ball VP – Elizabeth Mitchell asked about field maintenance and would like to arrange Tee Ball families do field maintenance.
* A Level VP – open position. Still looking for a person.
* AA Level VP – Ben Kopetti is not in attendance.
* AAA Level VP – Pete Gilchrist did not have anything to report. Jake Hammer advised on the Little League rules as respects AAA and Majors (Majors needs to be smaller than AAA in terms of teams).
* Majors Level VP – Seth Burrell is not in attendance.
* Equipment – Andy Radar is not present. Please send all requests and thoughts to.

**Other Miscellaneous Items**

* Future discussion on how to hold tryouts and how to amend the process to be more meaningful. Potential form to be created on how to score the kids.
* Umpire training is March 7, 2020
* Seven Feathers Casino – State Leadership meeting is next weekend. Contact Jake if you would like to attend.
* Northwest Coaches Association – meeting in the Convention Center. Jake will send the information to the board.
* Post Season Play – June 15 to July 15 estimated timeframe
* Registration Update – 124 kids signed up to date.

**February Agenda Items**

Please send all agenda items to Kate Prentice, Secretary. She will call for items in advance of the meeting. We will plan to discuss the following (as provided to date):

* Background checks
* Vote in managers

**Closing (Jake Hammer)**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM