West Madison Little League

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 11, 2007

Members Present: Tomczak, Lenoch, McNamara, Chitwood, Heneghan, Lubarsky, Smith, Hunter, Newburg, Miller, Steeves, Battista. **Members Absent**: Zwaska, Boehm, Metcalf

Guests Present: Dennis Mack

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6 PM with a quorum present. October 21 Board Meeting minutes were approved as distributed previously.

Financial Reports: Tomczak reviewed cash balances and noted that we will need to watch our spending closely until registration fees begin to come in as the large projects this fall will tap cash reserves heavily and he would prefer not to cash in any CD's prior to maturity. Battista distributed the 10/31/07 budget tracking report as prepared by Zwaska and noted the new section showing a comparison to the past two years.

Administrative Reports: Battista reported that we have now received insurance premium information for possible use during fall ball for non-Little League participants. Cost is only $5.00 per player for a one year period and includes $2 million liability coverage and $250,000 in medical expense coverage. WMLL will pursue this option if accommodations cannot be made with Little Lg Int'l for these players (a decision on this by LL Int'l is still pending for the 2007 fall ball season). Miller suggested we check to make sure that coverage of this nature wouldn't invalidate any Little Lg insurance coverage for those fall ball players who are covered by LL Int'l insurance based on their regular season participation. Battista agreed to investigate. Miller had no report for baseball. Hunter reported there will be a meeting for interested softball volunteers on 11/27, 6:30 PM at JT Whitney's.

Operations Reports: Concessions – Smith reported that everything is closed up in the concession stand for the winter with oven, TV and computer also removed. Grounds Keeping – Battista reported that Senior field renovation of foul territories is complete and looks excellent. Backstop portion of the project will begin in late November.

Continuing and New Business:

- **Executive Director Position:** Heneghan reported the committee reviewing the possible establishment of an Executive Director position at WMLL had met again and unanimously recommends moving forward with the project. Motion by Heneghan, seconded by Steeves, the creation of an Executive Director position to be a half-time, salaried position starting January 1, 2008 thru November 30, 2008, with the position's merits to be re-evaluated at that time. Following discussion on a variety of topics, the motion carried unanimously. Motion by Miller, seconded by McNamara, that a committee consisting of the current WMLL officers and the co-chairs of the review committee (Heneghan and Chitwood) be formed to determine the process for filling this position and report back to the board at its next meeting with either a recommended candidate or a status report. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Review of Age Determination Date Grandfather Clause:** In light of a clarification by Little Lg Int'l regarding the status of 12 year olds playing in the Major League, the board re-opened discussion of the grandfather clause policy established before the 2006 season that was intended to accommodate the change in the age determination date from July 31 to April 30. WMLL had intended to allow players and parents to make a **one-time only** choice to follow the new LL Int'l age determination date OR to be "grandfathered" so that players could continue to play with the same group they had always played with. Following adoption of the WMLL policy, LL Int'l inserted further clarification into the official rule book stating that a local league cannot "force" a 12 year old (LL Int'l age 12) to play in a Junior Lg (same as WMLL's Badger Lg – 13-14 year olds) without parental consent. As such, WMLL believes it must alter its policy to comply with this

interpretation of the rule by LL Int'l. Following lengthy discussion on various alternatives, a motion was made by Hunter, seconded by McNamara, to modify the WMLL Grandfather Clause Policy as follows:

> Any player who is LL Int'l age 12 in 2008 (i.e., 12 years old by 4-30-08 for baseball or 12 years old by 12-31-07 for softball) and who previously chose to be "grandfathered" at WMLL (i.e., to be considered as a 13 year old for WMLL purposes), will be given the opportunity to permanently rescind his or her grandfather clause choice. Since this same scenario will re-occur in 2009, the same choice will be offered prior to the 2009 season to LL Int'l age 12 year olds (12 years old as of 4-30-09 for baseball and 12 years old as of 12-31-08 for softball) who previously chose to be "grandfathered." Any player who revokes his or her original grandfathering choice <u>may not</u> reinstate it subsequently. Motion carried.

- **50th Season Celebration for 2008:** Miller suggested the WMLL Facilities Committee review possible locations for a "wall of fame" display. The organizing committee for the 50th season will develop a suggested plan for potential honorees and also consider inclusion of fund raising opportunities, such as engraved brick pavers that WMLL families could purchase.

- **Scholarship Program Review:** the committee has met and is looking for ways to involve more minority community youth groups to recruit players. Discussion has also taken place on possible changes to the current WMLL scholarship program and the committee will bring any suggested changes to a future meeting.

- **Coaches Clinics for Spring 2008:** Lubarsky suggested that we try to obtain dates and times for District and Edgewood clinics as soon as possible and to include them in the registration packet information so prospective coaches can attend even before March coach meetings are held (as some leagues, especially Atlantic, Senior and all Softball cannot select coaches until a later date after registration information is received). Battista agreed to follow up on this item. It was also agreed that WMLL continue to organize its own coaches clinic as a backup and to ask the District to consider two clinic dates, one in March and one in April. Battista will follow up on the "positive coaching alliance" information circulated recently by LL Int'l as an additional option.

- **Pitching Rule Changes for 2008:** it was decided that the new pitching rule changes from LL Int'l be reviewed at the next meeting of the Baseball/Softball Operations Committee. Miller will schedule for late Nov or early Dec.

- **Umpire Coordination for 2008:** Miller indicated he was generally pleased with the 2007 regular season umpire coordination and it was improved over 2006. It was agreed that one area that needs to be considered for improvement is the tracking of umpire attendance and performance, recognizing there are many logistical challenges we face. Following discussion, it was agreed to establish a review committee to address this issue and bring back a suggested plan to the board at a future meeting. The committee will be chaired by Miller and will include the three umpire coordinators from 2007 (assuming they will participate), Smith and Crapp.

Next Meeting: **<u>Sunday, Dec. 9, 6:00 PM, at Vitense</u>**.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM