

West Madison Little League
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 13, 2010

Members Present: Chitwood, Metcalf, Newburg, Hunter, Heneghan, Compton, Norton, Tomczak, Steeves, Zwaska, Miller & Battista. **Members Absent:** Jordan, Leno, Smith, Wood

Guests Present: Steeves family members (Chris & Katie), Brian from Madison Mallards.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by VP-Baseball Miller at 6:35 PM. Heneghan arrived at 7:05 and assumed the chair.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion, second to approve the November 21 minutes. Carried.

Mallards Report: Brian from the Mallards gave the Board an update on the remodeling occurring at Warner Park for the 2011 season. He also confirmed plans for WMLL Nights at the Mallards on June 9-10, 2011. The Mallards will generously rebate \$4 per ticket back to WMLL as a fund raiser and will provide every ticket holder a free Mallards cap.

Financial Reports: Tomczak reported on status of various bank accounts. Cash flow has eased a bit with the receipt of Challenger sponsor fees and other team and field sign sponsor fees, so we should be covered quite well until registration fees begin coming in next month. Zwaska briefly discussed the monthly budget tracking report and indicated he will be emailing the report this week.

Operations Reports: Norton reviewed progress on registration for the spring season, which begins January 5, 2011. Battista reported for Jordan on sponsorships, with letters to current sponsors all out and several returned with payments. Battista also commented on various aspects of the 2011 Bowlathon fund raiser scheduled for Jan 30. Chaffee has secured a donation from the Kalahari Resort to be used as an early bird registration prize to encourage pre-registration.

Administrative Reports:

-- **VP-Baseball Report:** Miller commented on discussions at a recent meeting of the Baseball Operations Committee. No major rule changes are proposed, but there are a few minor adjustments to be considered. He will summarize into a formal report and proposal for the next board meeting.

-- **VP Softball Report:** Metcalf asked Hunter to report on recent softball committee discussions. Two major items are where 14 year old high school freshman will be placed (Jr or Sr lg) and the proposed addition of 7 year olds to form a new 7-8 year old Rookie Lg. Following discussion, there was consensus to place the high school freshman into the Jr Lg, with several possible exceptions based on player registration numbers. To make the league more suited to the 14 year old freshmen, while still serving the 13-14 year olds, the following items will be pursued:

- (1) more interleague play (not just Verona, but Sun Prairie, Kennedy, McFarland, maybe Middleton).
- (2) move opening day for Juniors until AFTER the High School regular season ends.
- (3) After consulting with the other (inter-league) programs, probably move to a 43 foot pitching distance for this league.

In addition, a motion was made and seconded to create a Rookie Lg for 7 and 8 year olds. Carried unanimously. An additional motion was made and seconded to prorate the registration fee for the new Rookie Lg to reflect the lighter game schedule (approx. 10 games vs 14 for other lgs). Carried. The rates for the Rookie Lg will be \$120 for registrations received by Feb 6 and \$135 after that date.

-- **Exec. Director Report:** Battista indicated a need to review the decision made last spring to allow two players to play at WMLL even though they live in the East Madison Little Lg boundaries. At that time, due to registration timing issues, the decision was made to allow the boys to play (although they were not eligible for the WMLL District Tnmt teams) if OK'd by the EMLL President, but that this decision would be reviewed after the season with respect to future play. Following discussion, motion by Miller, second by Hunter, to follow the national rules regarding player eligibility, with exceptions only being considered for players who live in an area without an official chartered Little Lg program. Carried. Following further discussion, motion by Newburg to make no exceptions, even for players living in a non-Little Lg area. There was no second to the motion.

Other Business:

-- **Mission Statement for WMLL:** Battista reported Wood is working on the proposed wording and will report at a future meeting.

-- **Board Responsibilities for 2011:** Softball LC responsibilities: Hunter will plan to coordinate the Rookie and Minor Lgs, with Heneghan handling the Major Lg. Jr Lg will be coordinated by Metcalf, with Norton handling the Senior Lg. Big Lg will be appointed if a team is formed.

-- Tournament Team Travel Reimbursement: Heneghan reviewed the basic issue of reimbursements provided to teams that traveled outside the state in the past. The central question is whether to expand the current policy to include state tournaments within Wisconsin borders that require overnight stays. At last month's meeting, a motion and second were made and carried to draft suggested language to expand the current policy to include within state tournaments that are either 150 miles from Madison or located in Districts 3 and 5 (northernmost districts). This language would simply allow the board to consider reimbursement, but not mandate or guarantee it. Miller reviewed possible proposed language. Consensus to accept Miller's proposed language and add to the current policy, as follows: *If at tournament team will be participating in Little League state or national tournament competition at a site more than 150 miles from Madison, WMLL may contribute toward player and coach transportation, meal, and lodging expenses. In these instances, the President and Treasurer will determine if financial support will be provided and the amount of the contribution.* Miller also suggested that WMLL go on record in support of making State Tournaments for the 9-10 and 10-11 age groups shorter in duration (4 days or less) to lower costs to leagues, parents and coaches for travel and lodging. Consensus among the board to support this effort and inform our District Administrator.

-- Umpire Coordination, Training and Scheduling: Compton distributed and reviewed comprehensive recommendations for 2011. Topics included Recruitment, Expanded Training, Registration, Parent Meetings, Tracking Systems, Rewards and Incentives and the possible addition of an Umpire Supervisor position. Following discussion, consensus to adopt the basic plan and concept now, so implementation may begin, but to hold on a final decision regarding the Umpire Supervisor position until more details and costs are known.

-- Long Range Planning Report: Zwaska presented a report from the Long Range Planning Committee, which met several months ago. The detailed report included the following projects proposed over the next five years: Batting Cages and Practice Areas; Park-wide PA System; Rain Gutters (just completed); Parking Lot sealing and re-striping; new trash receptacles; various retaining walls and warning tracks; main entrance enhancements; new flag pole area; infield skin replacement on all three fields; fence replacement; automatic irrigation on Minor and Major fields; outfield renovations; communication shelter for bulletin boards, etc; concession stand expansion with handicapped accessible restrooms. Each of the above projects will be evaluated as financing or fund raising dollars are obtained.

-- Executive Session: President Heneghan excused all guests in attendance and moved into an executive session of the board for the purpose of reviewing employee compensation policies.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, January 9, 6:30 PM, Vitense