

West Madison Little League
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Feb 10, 2010

Members Present: Jordan, Leno, McNamara, Zwaska, Norton, Steeves, Heneghan, Miller, Newburg, Tomczak, Battista, Wood, Metcalf, Chitwood

Members Absent: Smith, Hunter

Guests Present: Sheila Steeves

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Heneghan at 7:25 PM

Minutes of Previous Meetings: motion, second and carried to approve minutes of the January meeting as distributed.

Financial Reports: Tomczak reported on various cash positions and Zwaska indicated the budget tracking report was in good order. Heneghan noted the special account holding the building loan proceeds will soon be closed out and a new account opened to track brick donations. This will avoid any fees on these accounts.

Operations Reports:

- **Building Project Construction:** Zwaska gave a brief update on the building project. Heneghan reviewed the details of the project including budget overages and savings. He thanked everyone who helped with the final steps of the project and moved all the items from our storage lockers and the temporary storage containers into the new building.
- **Commemorative Brick Fund Raising Campaign:** Heneghan indicated 29 bricks have been purchased to date totalling approximately \$5000. He asked all board members to place orders if they are planning to do so and to push the brick sales to any WMLL families they see. He discussed an idea about donating a 12x12 brick to each high school (West, Memorial and Edgewood) and allowing them to auction it off as a fund raiser for their baseball program. There was a consensus to move forward with this idea. The idea of a dedication ceremony was discussed and there was agreement to plan one, but no date was set.
- **Registration Update for 2010:** Norton indicated all is moving along well with 761 registered to date. There was a slight glitch in the system on Feb 7 regarding the early pay discount. Norton has resolved it and will issue 4-5 refunds to families billed the higher amount.
- **Sponsorship Update:** Jordan reported only one sponsor is not returning to date. However, there are about 1/2 the sponsors who have not yet responded. Second reminder letters have been sent. Five new team sponsors have come on board to date, which is excellent. Norton and Jordan indicated bowler registration is light for Bowlathon. Heneghan asked each board member to make a few calls and try to get families to register. Battista noted that RBC Wealth Management, through Rob Andringa, had made a \$2500 donation to WMLL for the Challenger Program. The money was raised at the UW-Illinois basketball game on Feb 9 via a youth shootout contest. All four of our inaugural Challenger coaches attended along with several buddies and Challenger players.

Administrative Reports:

- **President's Report:** Heneghan noted he and Battista had attended a welcome potluck for the new West High School baseball coach, Ben Greiber. Ben is very enthusiastic and wants to work with WMLL as much as possible.
- **VP-Baseball Report:** Miller commented on the Baseball Operations Committee's deliberations concerning the tournament team selection process. Several ideas have been discussed but the committee wants to review once more prior to making a recommendation to the board.
- **VP-Softball Report:** Metcalf and Heneghan reported the softball committee met recently and has recommended no major rule changes. Pitching distance will remain the same for all leagues. Jugs softie balls will be used instead of TAG balls for Minor softball. We will continue to partner with Verona for regular season play. Norton reported on the upcoming clinics that will be held at Midvale school on March 3, 10 and 17 for softball.
- **Exec. Director Report:** Battista reviewed the following topics: 1) first aid kits are being assembled by the Beste family, 2) Tom Schorr has met with Susan Horein to pursue ideas on Facebook, 3) coaching manuals for the ATL lg coaches, 4) Mary Cramer will serve as ump scheduler for all three baseball fields this year, 5) taxes have been filed by Ken Klinzing 6) new West HS coach is Ben Greiber, 7) possible memorial contribution for Jesse Alswager who played in Major Lg last year and recently passed away due to complications from diabetes, and 8) the Edgewood College coach clinic is set for April 13. Following discussion, it was decided to look at other alternatives for coaching manuals (item 3) and make a \$100 donation to the memorial fund (item 7).

Other Business:

- **Coaching Proposals:** Each League coordinator reviewed the status of applicants for their league and made recommendations. In several leagues, all coaching spots have not yet been filled. Discussion followed regarding past experiences the league has had with the applicants and the consensus of the board was to avoid having any coach with a history of ignoring league rules and receiving significant negative parent evaluations from coaching in the league. The board approved a slate of coaches for each league, as recommended. Coaches will be notified of their selection by the league coordinator.
- **Clinic Proposals from Brad Woodall:** Battista and Chitwood reported on a proposal by Brad Woodall to conduct two clinics for WMLL players in April. One clinic would be for 8-9 year olds and focus on basic skills. The second clinic would be for 13-14's and focus more on pitching as well as hitting, etc. Both clinics would be fee-based with \$5 of the fee being donated back to WMLL by Brad. Note: 10-12 year olds already have a pitching clinic scheduled with the Memorial pitching staff in April. Following discussion, consensus to move forward with the Woodall clinics, but not at WMLL fields due to scheduling conflicts, and only if Woodall will agree to handle all the logistics, registration, etc. WMLL will agree to promote the clinics via its website and e-newsletter service. Battista will review details with Woodall to determine feasibility.
- **WMLL Day at Vitense Golfand:** Battista reviewed a proposal from Joel Weitz, president of Vitense, to host WMLL Day (4-23-10) at Vitense. All WMLL families using Vitense facility that day will have 15% of their purchases donated to WMLL by Vitense (except golf lessons). WMLL would agree to promote the event. Consensus to approve the proposal and thank Weitz for the generous offer.
- **Plans For Skill Session on March 20:** Chitwood will coordinate; Zwaska will arrange for food; Jordan will arrange for brick sales and Battista will check with Smith about clothing sale.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 7, 6:30 PM, Vitense