

## WESTWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 9th 2013

MINUTES

### **Attendees:**

Rob Gotti • Peter Cahill • Mike d'Entremont • Mark Jessup • Mitch Katzman • John Loughnane • Kevin McDonald • Jennifer Perkins • Mark Pezzuto • Chris Pfaff • David Reilly • Gary Cappuccino • Mike Curtin • Tom Bean • Jason Kissell (guest) • Pete Diomedede (guest)

### **Agenda:**

**Filling open Board positions:** Rob Gotti introduced Jason Kissel as the only candidate for the VP/Sponsorships Board position. Rob spoke of Jason's commitment to the program and his experience as a coach.

**Board Action – The Board unanimously approved Jason Kissel for the VP/Sponsorships board position.**

Rob Gotti also introduced Peter Diomedede as the only candidate for the Majors Coordinator Board position. Peter has been involved with the program for 8 years and has coached at every level.

**Board Action – The Board unanimously approved Peter Diomedede for the Majors Coordinator board position.**

**Secretary's Report** –Jennifer Perkins presented the minutes from the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting,

**Board Action – The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, as presented.**

Jennifer Perkins asked if the Board would agree to have the minutes and Agendas, along with supporting documentation, posted on the website after their approval by the full board. The Board agreed to publish the Agenda's prior to the meeting in html format and the minutes of the meeting (after their approval) in pdf format with the other documents on the website.

Jennifer Perkins also reported to the Board that between meetings, the Board had been asked to vote on the removal of the bat drop restriction and the adoption of the guidelines from Little League International. This motion was sent to members via email. 11 members approved the motion via email. The website will be changed to reflect this change.

*Action Item – John Loughnane to send out an email blast to all regular members about this change.*

*Action Item – Rob Gotti to circulate the length/drop factor to the Board along with the link to the approved bats listing.*

### **Outstanding Items Report from previous meeting**

Coaching and Player Development Activities – Mitch Katzman reported that he is gathering proposals for winter clinics from area facilities. He is also meeting with Coach Whelan to gather input on player development activities. Discussion around the pros and cons of creating an 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school team was revisited without immediate next step. The Board is considering surveying the parents to determine if there is any interest.

Morrison Redevelopment – Chris Pfaff reported on the progress with the scorer's booth. In order to proceed, WLL is in need of a carpenter. Chris asked board members if they knew of anyone, could they send the names to him and he can follow up.

*Action Item – Chris Pfaff to send scorer's booth plans to Kevin McDonald*

*Action Item – Chris Pfaff and/or Gary Cappuccino to confirm status of building permit for scorer's booth.*

Hot Stove Event – Kathleen Holland is securing the WHS for the event

Williamsport selection criteria – this agenda item has been moved to the January meeting.

Registration update – Rob Gotti provided a report on registration counts by division for 2014. John Loughnane will send data weekly (starting in January) to the divisional coordinators.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mark Pezzuto reported on the state of the finances. The Board had a discussion of the current level of reserves and how that might impact field maintenance.

*Action Item – Mark Pezzuto to conduct an audit of utility invoices received from the Recreation Dept. to ensure we are current and to avoid accidental double billing given change over of personnel on both sides (WLL & Westwood Rec).*

**Fields Report** - Tom and Chris met with DPW and found them to be very amenable to assisting the WLL in preparing the fields for play this spring. The only fields that the town does not maintain are Hanlon and School St. On the other fields, WLL will create a "wish list" including safety items, fencing and other improvements (backstops). Tom will work with DPW to determine the items they can complete and the items that may require other resources (money, volunteers, etc...). Rob noted that the league typically runs at a break even from league registration fees and sponsorships usually used to cover field improvements. He suggested that the Board create a subcommittee on capital improvements and create a long range plan with priorities for field improvements. Tom and Chris also discussed their willingness to engage with the town and recreation department on long range planning.

## **Major Initiatives and Planning for the Year –**

Priority #1 – “Focus is on baseball” – specifically player and coaching development.

1. Winter hitting clinics are being planned for February/March timeframe. Mitch is actively soliciting proposals from four local facilities. The clinics will be run on a break/even basis.
2. Pitching clinics are being planned again prior to the season. There are several new options being considered for these clinics.
3. Catching clinics are being considered. This could be a new opportunity to revive the lost art of catching.
4. Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) relationship to be continued for the coming year. Several proposals were discussed. The President proposed three workshops: A leadership Workshop, a Spring Coaching workshop (Double Goal) and a Summer Coaching workshop (Developing competition). The cost is slightly increased to \$2,250 for these workshops. The Board agreed that if we are going to spend the money, we need to follow through on the workshops. Division coordinators should be accessible to their age groups and parents should be encouraged to report concerns to the Division coordinator, the President or anonymously on the website.

**Board Action – the Board unanimously agreed to accept the proposal and engage PCA for three workshops as outlined above.**

Mitch also discussed upgrading the website to add more resources for coaches to help make the program more uniform.

*Action Item – Mitch Katzman to arrange for facility to hold winter clinics, determine pitching and catching clinic times, format and instructors*

*Action Item – Board to develop timely comprehensive survey plan*

Priority #2 – Finish the Morrison revitalization – Chris is soliciting bids for a carpenter. BAC will present final designs this Friday for the snack shack and bathrooms. Rob also noted that there is still an offer to match donations from a private funder.

*Action Item – Chris Pfaff to check on permit*

*Action Item – Rob to discuss several permutations of the match challenge with funder*

Priority #3 – Continued Innovation – specifically adding new ideas, programs, activities to increase interest and enjoyment for the players and their families.

- Hot Stove Event – Event set for 1/26 - Kathleen Holland to organize

- WestCAT – The cable television station has agreed to broadcast baseball games (similar to the basketball games) this spring and summer. This will require some work on the part of the coaches.
  - Summer B Tournament – Board appeared to be interested in trying to organize a tournament (similar to the Reilly classic) for the B team players. Final decision and announcement would have to be made prior to March.  
*Action Item – Rob to determine what help Kathleen needs for the event.*  
*Action Item – Rob to follow up with WestCAT to determine needs*
2. Planning Calendar – Rob Gotti went through the December, January and February calendars to review deadlines for registration, and events.

**Next meeting January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Council on Aging in Westwood**

**Meeting Adjourned**