

## WESTWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 13th 2014

### 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 • Pete Diomedede • Wendy Fahey (guest)

#### **Agenda:**

Filling open Board positions: Rob Gotti introduced Wendy Fahey as a candidate for Equipment Manager.

***Board Action – The Board unanimously approved Wendy Fahey for the Equipment Manager board position.***

Secretary's Report –Jennifer Perkins presented the minutes from the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting,

***Board Action – The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, as presented.***

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

Morrison Redevelopment –WLL is still in need of a carpenter. Chris asked the Board to send any names to him.

*Action Item – Gary to confirm permits have expired.*

*Action Item – Chris is putting together some information to take to the selectmen about allowing signage in Morrison Park.*

Surveys – Rob asked for an owner for this action item. Jennifer Perkins volunteered to shepherd this initiative consisting of developing questions and methodology for no more than three surveys to parents asking for feedback on their experience in spring, summer or fall ball.

Sponsorships – Jason reported on the action plan for gathering the needed sponsorships. The Board reviewed the sponsorships from last year and assigned “owners” to the accounts. Jason talked about adding several more tiers to sponsorship including emails with coupons, adding logos to emails that coordinators send out, etc... The Board restated its long standing policy that no advertisers/sponsors would receive any email addresses of WLL participants. Rob asked the board to add any new sponsors to the list.

*Action Item – Board members to solicit 2014 sponsorship commitments by March 1<sup>st</sup> and either send new sponsor names to Jason Kissell or ad them to the [Google Doc](#) circulated by Rob.*

Registration update –Rob provided a report on registration counts by division for 2014. The total at the time of the meeting was slightly ahead of last year (almost 400 out of 650 registered from last year). 299 people registered before the deadline. All these names were entered into the raffle to win a \$250 gift certificate from Dick’s Sporting Goods. The Board picked a name. The winner was Marcos Argiros.

*Action Item – Rob and John to work on getting the right access to the right coordinators so they can see their registration numbers*

*Action Item – Rob to contact raffle winner*

Hot Stove Event – Kathleen Holland reported that the progress on this event was behind schedule. She asked if the date could be moved or the Board could consider spending the money from this event on another activity to increase registration. Kathleen also reported that Michelle Berluti had given her the debit cards to support the purchases made for the snack shack. She wasn’t sure if they were still valid.

*Action Item: Kathleen to bring proposals forward to next meeting to spend the \$1,900-\$2,600 another way to boost registration*

*Action Item: ? to send a email to Dedham Savings bank to determine if debit card still valid*

**Board Action – the Board agreed not to do the Hot Stove event on January 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Treasurer’s Report** –Mark completed his review of the utility bills and has concluded that there have been no incorrect or duplicate billing. He reported on the finances in each of the accounts. He also reported opening a brokerage account so the Board can accept donations of stocks.

#### **Williamsport Selection Process –**

Rob presented the background information and a proposal for the Board to consider. Previously, this process has been done a number of ways through a selection committee and by the coaches. In the past, 11’s have been discouraged from participating because they will have another chance the following year and WLL wants to give as many kids as possible the chance to participate. Little League International has advocated a “fair and democratic” selection process. Rob conducted an audit of other competitors in our league and those that have won the state championships (see presentation for details). His proposal is to have the major league players vote for 12 children to represent them and have that count for 50%, have the major’s coaches vote and count for 30% and have the assistant coaches vote and count for 20%.

The Board discussed the percentages and Rob presented a model that shows how the selection process would work (given the number of players and coaches voting and their relative

weights). The Board agreed to review the documents and bring it up for a vote at the next meeting.

*Action Item – Rob to circulate both the proposed new language describing the process and the spreadsheet used to calculate the voting results.*

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

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

1. Mitch has soliciting proposals from four local facilities for batting clinics: Dirt Dawgs, Sluggers, TJO and Extra Innings. He presented the cost, services provided, geography and quality of the facility and timing of each proposal. The older kids would start these clinics in February and the younger kids in March. Similar to last year, the clinics would attempt to be break-even. The charge would be \$60 for four clinics.

***Board Motion - Board agreed to approve up to \$6,000 for a winter clinic package to be advertised on the web site and open registration at \$60/player***

*Action Item – Mitch to provide finalized details to John Loughnane to open registration for Winter Clinics*

*Action Item – John to open registration and promote via website*

2. Mitch is currently soliciting proposals from interested parties for pitching clinics. There are several new options being considered for these clinics.

*Action Item – Mitch to present recommendation at next meeting based upon proposals received*

3. Catching clinics are being considered. This could be a new opportunity to revive the lost art of catching. Coach Whelan agreed to provide several names of interested facilitators.

4. Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) relationship has been renewed

*Action Item – Rob to confirm Sunday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00p with PCA*

Priority #2 – Finish the Morrison revitalization – discussed earlier

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

- WestCAT – Rob to continue to discuss with WesCAT
- The Board discussed letting WLL kids come to High School games and take batting practice and sit on the bench

## **Planning Calendar**

Upcoming events include:

- February 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00p – 9:00p PCA Leadership Seminar
- February 15<sup>th</sup> 6-830: Major's Evaluations currently scheduled to take place in the TMS new Gym. Board concerned it is the Saturday of the start of vacation week and discussed changing it.

Action Item: Pete and Mitch will discuss the timing and location.

**Next meeting February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Council on Aging in Westwood**

**Meeting Adjourned**