

WESTWOOD LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD MEETING

March 10th, 2014

MINUTES

Attendees:

Rob Gotti • Peter Cahill • Mark Jessup • Mitch Katzman • Mark Pezzuto • Chris Pfaff • David Reilly • Mike Curtin • Tom Bean • Jason Kissell • Pete Diomede • Wendy Fahey • Gary Cappuccino • Kathleen Holland • Brian Whelan (WHS Varsity Coach & guest)

Agenda:

Secretary's Report – Rob Gotti circulated the minutes from the February meeting on March 1st for comment. Rob presented the minutes in Jennifer's absence from the February 10th meeting.

Rob advised the board that he received notification from current Secretary, Jennifer Latchford-Perkins that due to unforeseen personal circumstances she would no longer be able to fulfill her duties as Secretary and respectfully wished to resign from the post. Jennifer was a thoughtful, consistent contributor to the board and helping ensure we are living our desired culture of a more inclusive, collaborative, and transparent organization. Her resignation reflects her commitment to that culture and belief that a non-contributing member should make way for others who are better able to fulfill that mission. Westwood Little League thanks Jennifer for her contribution and is now actively looking for a new volunteer to fill the role of Secretary.

Board Action – The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the January 14th meeting, as presented.

Rob Gotti reviewed the progress on action items from last meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Marc Pezzuto presented the status of finances for the league reporting current account balances for the general fund, Morrison, & the snack shack as well as inflows & outflows since last meeting.

Board Action – The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the January 14th meeting, as presented.

Sponsorship Update – Jason reported on progress made on gaining sponsor commitments and reiterated the need to for all board members to actively gain commitments from as many new and returning sponsors as possible so that Wendy could place uniform orders. As of this

meeting we had reached \$15k in sponsor commitments. As of the publication of these notes we have exceeded last year's total of \$18k.

Action Item – Board members to solicit 2014 sponsorship commitments by April 1st and either send new sponsor names to Jason Kissell or add them to the [Google Doc](#) circulated by Rob.

Operations update – Division Coordinators presented the following updates:

- **Babe Ruth** – Gary Cappuccino presented his plan for the 2014 season. Plan was solid. Some discussion around option of fielding only mixed teams (13-15) vs. entering 1-2 13 year old only teams as we had some indication of a preference amongst our membership base. Gary presented rationale for why this was not in the best interest of the league. After healthy discussion Gary would send out a survey of 13 yr old parents to get a read on this. Survey results would not determine the outcome, only help inform the decision as to our ultimate recommended course of action. Gary presented an outstanding slate of coaches. Approval of said coaches was deferred pending survey results and ultimate direction.
- **Major League** – Pete Diomede presented an updated slate of coaches to include 2nd assistants for Board approval.

Board Action – The Board unanimously approved the Majors coaching slate as presented

- **Minor League** – Mike Curtin presented an updated slate of coaches as there was one previously approved Ass't Coach who had to drop out.

Board Action – The Board unanimously approved the Minors coaching slate as presented

- **International League** – Rob Gotti presented an updated slate of coaches in Mike D'Entremont's absence.

Board Action – Board unanimously approved the International coaching slate as presented

- **Instructional League** – Peter Cahill presented a very comprehensive plan for the division including a proposed slate of coaches.

Board Action – Board unanimously approved Peter's Instructional coaching slate as presented

Action Item – All division coordinators to get John L. their final schedules ASAP for publication to the website.

Events update – Kathleen Holland gave an in-depth update on status of preparations for the opening day parade scheduled for May 3rd. We are making great progress towards a fantastic opening day event.

Player Development: Mitch Katzman provided an update that Winter Clinics at TJO were going well and were very well received. Also confirmed dates and times for the pitching clinics to be held with Coach Whelan and the WHS Varsity team as well as those being held at Winning Pitchers Academy in Framingham.

Mitch advised of a Coaches Pitching Clinic on Sunday, March 23rd.

Action Item – Mitch & John to coordinate on promoting Coaches clinics and Pitching Clinics

Equipment update – Wendy Fahey reported that inventories would be taken of equipment bags as soon as weather permits access to shed. Tom Bean offered assistance. Wendy will be ordering equipment as necessary pending results of inventory audit.

Action Item – Wendy to conduct physical inventory ASAP.

Action Item – Wendy to place uniform orders after nailing down team quantities, team name preferences, and sponsors with coordinators & Jason.

Umpire update – Dave Reilly reported on progress of umpire staffing for Majors & Babe Ruth. Minors and International divisions will utilize Westwood Youth (MS & HS students). Mike Griffin will conduct umpire training in late March. Dave asked that online registration for youth umpiring be promoted more as at the time of the meeting we only had 8 registered.

Action Item – John Loughnane to promote via e-mail blasts.

75th LLI Opportunity with Red Sox – Rob Gotti presented an opportunity based on MLB supporting Little League International's 75th Anniversary. Based on the discussion, Rob then asked the board to approve purchase of 36 tickets to the Little League Appreciation Day at Fenway on May 4th vs. Oakland A's.

Action Item – Rob Gotti to order tickets

Board Action – the Board approved by majority vote purchase of tickets as presented

Planning Calendar

Upcoming events include:

- March 22nd: Dick's – Little League Appreciation Day
- March 30th :
 - Pitching clinics with WHS Varsity at Westwood HS
 - Advanced pitching clinics at Winning Pitchers Academy, Framingham
- April 1st: Mandatory Safety Meeting for all coaches
- April 6th:
 - Pitching clinics with WHS Varsity at Westwood HS
 - Advanced pitching clinics at Winning Pitchers Academy, Framingham
- April 14th:
 - Pitching clinics with WHS Varsity at Westwood HS
 - Advanced pitching clinics at Winning Pitchers Academy, Framingham

Action Item: John L. to update the Events Calendar on the Website with several key dates including: Draft Dates, Umpire Training, Coaches Clinics, Safety Training, and Pitching Clinics

Next meeting April 14th at the Council on Aging in Westwood

Meeting Adjourned