

**Westwood Baseball Association
Meeting Minutes**

November 10, 2014

ATTENDEES:

Rob Gotti , Neal Roper , Jason Kissell , Marc Pezzuto , Mike d'Entremont, Mitch Katzman, Wendy Fahey, Brian Hunt, Jennifer Latchford-Perkins, Paul Luongo, Kathleen Holland, Dave Reilly, John Loughnane, Mike Curtain, Peter Cahill

Absent: Tom Bean, Gary Cappuccino, Mark Jessup, Kevin McDonald

AGENDA REVIEW:

Rob Gotti called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

2015 OBJECTIVES:

Rob summarized the 2015 Major Initiatives for the board.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Rob affirmed that no changes were proposed to the annual meeting minutes.

BOARD ACTION: The motion to accept the Secretary's report minutes was unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM STATUS:

The board reviewed the status of the pending action items.

- **MA District Admins:**
Status: Site inspection on November 23rd.
- **Officer updates to International Parent Organizations:**
Status: the LLI site has been updated to reflect new board members.
Status: The BRI website is still pending action by the Babe Ruth coordinator. Jennifer has requested login credentials but received no response as of meeting.
- **Laying Bricks (Morrison Revitalization):**
Status: Bricks have been delivered and Tom will be laying them soon.
- **Prepare on-going maintenance plan for field:**
Status: Tom Bean preparing list of maintenance items for bid purposes. To be complete by December meeting.
Paul inquired as to whether the pitcher's mound at Morrison needs to be rebuilt.
Status: Rob proposed to look into whether the mound needs to be rebuilt.
- **Parent Survey:** need to confirm whether all were sent out and what the status is. The League did not get a tremendous response on initial surveys. Jennifer to follow up on creation and distribution of surveys.
Status: Need to send out survey's for summer and fall.

- **Foul Ball mitigation:**

Status: Tom to consult with Todd and/or Brendan (DPW) to inquire as to whether the town will help with the nets at Morrison for foul balls.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Marc Pezzuto reviewed account balances for the league and for the latest Morrison renovations for the scorer's booth. Westwood Baseball runs the entire organization at breakeven for operations based on registration fees. Sponsorship income is utilized for facility maintenance and other improvements.

Board Action: None.

Sponsorship Planning:

Jason went through an audit of sponsorship levels in other towns. He presented proposed alterations to the price tiers for sponsorships for 2015. The board discussed different types of signage (size, materials, etc) and the cost of each. The board also discussed finding a way to appease those sponsors who have given significant amounts towards the Morrison renovations. Board will need to brainstorm.

Board Action: (Pending) No final resolutions passed by the board. Further discussions required.

Player Development:

Mitch Katzman reviewed the recently completed fall clinic. It was viewed as successful based on anecdotal feedback from parents of attendees, which skewed towards younger kids. (Mostly 10 and under. 40 kids.)

Mitch advised the board he would be presenting winter training plans for board approval at the December meeting. In addition to partnering with area training facilities, the league is looking to expand clinics put on by the WHS varsity baseball team next year under coach Whelan.

Board Action: (Pending) No final resolutions passed by the board. Further discussions required.

Morrison Scorer's booth update/Phase 2. (Rob)

Phase 1 is just about complete. Phase 2 (snack shack and bathrooms) will begin after the town finalizes its plans for the Islington fire house when plans on presented at town meeting on 11/17.

The board does not yet know the cost of phase 2. After the town finalizes plans for the fire house, the board can proceed on completing buildable plans. The board might need to lean heavily on corporate sponsors to raise the funds for phase 2.

Board Action: (Pending) Brian Hunt will lead a committee to develop a plan for raising funds to complete the phase 2 of the revitalization.

Planning Calendar (Rob):

Spring Registration to open on December 1st. Registration will be open for 2 months. The board needs to have numbers by February 9th board meeting. The official start to little league will be April 27th. Parade will be on May 2nd. Summer registration opens on first day of season (April 27th). It will remain open for 2 weeks.

Board Action: Proposal was made to add Babe Ruth to the league planning calendar in order to have greater visibility to that division's planning process. Approved by unanimous vote.

Host 2016 State Championship

Site visit planned for Nov. 23rd by State DA committee. A final decision will be rendered in March 2015

Board Action: None

New Business:

Paul Longo brought up question on tarp. Rob is getting quotes on mound tarp and home plate tarp, plus infield.

Board Action: (Pending) Rob has inquired about pricing of different types of tarps and should have it for next meeting.

Jennifer asked if WHS baseball coach will be attending more board meetings to get his ideas for building program. Rob indicated that coach Whelan is receptive to coming to more meetings and being more active with the Board. He is invited to all meetings.

Paul Longo proposed that we start having discussions on making 2nd grade baseball a better experience for all involved.

Board Action: (Pending) Mitch proposed taking it offline to committee. Rob recommends talking about it more in the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:16p