

WPLL Meeting October 26, 2011 – 6:30 @ ML Pizza Factory

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Sign in –

In attendance:

Adam Smith – Mark Dixon- Kimo Paikuli – Amber Wiseman- Rob Beamer – John McClellan – Sabrina Meyer-Quiroz – Bill Peabody – Tricia Dormaier – Joe Cheevers- Syrie Barsness – Lynette Hagel – Kristina Nichols – Jim Charbonnow

Welcome to new board members – Adam Smith (including John McCallum)

Recap of last meeting – Adam Smith

- Completed treasury report
- This is WPLL's 9th season!
- Elected board members. Positions are still open and plenty of work to be shared (AA coordinator, fundraiser, Challenger Division (has been filled by John McCallum)).
- Thank you to new volunteers for helping with the league.
- Season field/maintenance highlights – grass, sprinklers, dugouts, 4-wheeler donated to WPLL with some repair costs (definite benefit to help maintain fields).
- Brainstorming possible adjustments for upcoming seasons (see today's agenda for topics)

Treasurer report – Troy (absent due to schedule conflict but communicated with Adam as follows...)

\$3,500 in checking

\$50 in savings

\$258 challenger fund

\$1 field fund

(2 sponsorship checks of \$800 not included in the above)

(outstanding bill of \$2,600 ... may or may not have been withdrawn from above sums yet)

- Amber reminds of equipment items that were stolen that are still in possession of law enforcement, resulting in higher than normal costs last season. These will be returned to WPLL at some unspecified future date. There were approx. 6 additional teams and equipment needs that increased as a result, and umpire equipment that needed to be replaced.
- Last season's expenses were also extraordinary for field prep in preparation for All Stars.

Sponsors – Syrie Barsness

- Prepared "Thank you" letter for last-year's sponsors along with sponsorship agreement/request for the upcoming season
- Letter, sponsorship agreement and appreciation plaque to be delivered to each of last year's sponsors by specified board members
- One particular sponsor pledged to create banners at a reduced cost, but this did not occur. Cheney High School can make our future banners at significantly reduced cost (approx \$25/banner up to 24" in size, price down from \$80-\$90/banner). Some banners need remade due to typos- contact Adam S. with corrections.

- Syrie has list of sponsors who have not paid their pledged amount from last year so board can follow up on possibility of future sponsoring.
- There were not banners for all of our sponsors last year. There were different pledging amounts, and depending on the amount, this resulted on whether a banner was made.
- Sponsorship options and levels of sponsorship/recognition were discussed
- Send Syrie message with which sponsors remain, which have banners and which do not, within the next month.
- Challenger Division does have sponsor (Bi-Mart), but some additional team sponsor(s) needed
- Sponsor money needed by March, but commitments need to be made early (within the next month if possible.)

Softball News – Joe Cheevers

- Discussed organizing a tournament. All-Star girls from last year plus additional players to possibly do travel-tournament play. Little League changed rules – can have travelling teams sponsored by league (travelling on weekend and playing little league during week). WPLL can sponsor with uniforms (no little league insignia). Players will need to manage some of the costs.
- Same policy will apply for baseball teams looking to travel for tourneys and coordinating to that end.

2012 Fund Raiser? – Whole Board Discussion

- Last 8 yrs ... raffle \$1/ticket. Average results: \$4,700-\$4,800/year for league. \$3,032 last year from raffle. This fundraiser has funded in whole or part: \$1,000 for field lights, yellow tubing around fields, sod, dirt, sprinklers, dugouts, scoreboards, fence, backstop. Only \$1 remains in fund. Fundraiser is next most significant item for raising league money (sponsors are #1)
- Organizing is raffle very time consuming, especially in order to maintain compliance with Wash. State Gambling Commission rules.
- Total players in league last year: 572.
- Do we keep fundraiser, replace, or eliminate?
- Suggestions: Charge each child additional \$8-\$10 (current \$30 for A and AA, \$60 for AAA and majors, \$90 juniors). Discussion: other area leagues are much higher for participant fee.
- Suggestions: Optional donation of unspecified amount with participation fee. Donation requests at opening day. Split the difference and increase participation fee by \$5 for “field fund” or “general purpose.” Include \$10 donation in player fee that can be removed by option (compare same method used by DOL and WSBA in licensing payments)
- What are future field development needs? Some ideas: concrete dugouts, new equipment, batting cages, fence field perimeters, etc.) No specific development planned/identified. Regardless, will need a maintenance and “rainy day” fund.
- Suggestion: clearly state when fundraising what benefit or result is achieved when a person donates.
- Other fundraising ideas, especially opening day – home run derby, ball or pie throwing contests, 50/50 raffle, shirt sales, etc.
- 2nd option to consider at next meeting... flat rate increase of \$10 pp and no other fundraising.
- Suggestion - create fundraising committee for responsibility/accountability purposes
- Action Plan (Adam to clarify by next meeting): Increase player fee by \$5, optional donation with participation, create list of items/need for donation, have donation request sent with

letter that Adam addresses to parents with WPLL's vision and need for support. By opening ceremonies we'll know if/how much shortfall we need to address with additional fundraisers/activities. Reiterate to families upfront that there will not be a raffle in the season.

2012 Merchandise Sales? – Whole Board Discussion

- Problems last season – incomplete/incorrect/untimely order fulfillment; orders forms not timely returned to WPLL
- Suggestion- have each apparel item on display at opening day ceremonies and possibly some items available for sale.
- Need someone to spearhead merchandise sales/coordination. Amber volunteered
- Option for future merchandise - Stadium Sports (will return fulfilled orders along with order forms, all separated and ready to return to players/parents efficiently.)

Mandatory Play for AAA – Whole Board Discussion

- Chief parent complaint – not enough playing time for individual kids.
- Suggestion – cap teams at 11 players. 9 teams last year with avg. 13 kids/team. Potential problem with more teams is insufficient fields and inexperienced coaches to accommodate it. Problem is late registrations... cannot create new teams at 11th hour but instead need to add these players to existing teams, which effectively increases numbers on each team beyond 11.
- Board rejected suggestion of disallowing participation after registration deadline passes.
- Suggestion - Put forth policy statement at initial coaches meeting... e.g., “WPLL urges you to play each kid minimum x complete games/innings.”
- Note- Frustrating to change positions every inning from book-keeping perspective.
- Suggestion – continuous batting line up. Working well for softball.
- Discussed advantages/disadvantages and impact on children of inequitable playing time. There are safety concerns in some cases for children playing positions beyond skill level.
- Discussed mandates verses suggestions for coaches.
- Discussed tiered AAA, which could require try-out. Opinions divided.
- Conclusion – no mandate to coaches, but training that includes coaching suggestions. Discuss mandate if play time suggestions fail. Limit teams to 12. (Note: teams that were over 12 last year were with coach permission)

AAA Team Selection – Whole Board Discussion

- Majors does not have north and south boundary (freeway) like AAA does (not iron tight boundary). Last year, eight 12-yr-olds from M.L. played AAA and likely should have played Majors.
- Suggestion – remove boundary...
 - Discussion - may result in practices being outside player's hometown (still in West Plains). Practical problem with multiple children within one family practicing in multiple locations. This could have been a unique problem last year with AAA. With younger teams especially, children are happier playing with other children they know.
- Suggestion – follow school district boundary instead of north/south freeway boundary
- Suggestion – add question to registration as to where you would *prefer* your child practicing and that efforts will be made to accommodate request *if possible* (e.g., Medical Lake/Airway Heights/Cheney or North/South of freeway).

- Note: historically, parents have called and asked for child to be switched to north or south and have always been accommodated by WPLL.
- Action plan – work on changing wording in registration.

WPLL Board to Coach Communication – Whole Board Discussion

- “Coaches Responsibility List,” training, suggestions for a great season...
 - Suggestion- Coaches coordinator for each league division to make suggestions and support coaches throughout season, help mediate issues, practice suggestions, mentoring, assess coach’s experience and support needs.
 - Problem is lack of communication from coaches when there is a problem. Coordinator can strive to help in this area too.
 - Bill Peabody volunteered to help with coaches coordinating
 - Feedback from umpire coordinator will help coach coordinator know issues that might need addressed on an ongoing basis throughout season.

Nominated new or returning board members

- Sabrina Meyer-Quiroz – member at large
- Lynette Hagel – member at large
- John McClellan – VP of challenger Division

Next Meeting – 6:30 November 16 @ Cheney High School

Topics for next meeting:

2012 Calendar
2012 Registration Form
Sponsors Contacted
2012 Player Fee
2012 All-Star Player Fee
2012 Coaches Meeting
Hosting All-Star Tournament

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristina Nichols