

## Meeting Minutes 2/16/14

Called to Order @ 6:22

### President's Report

- Going to decide on how coaches are chosen
- Sign-Ups are pretty low
- ~170 total kids for WHLL wide
  - o Last year, Mansfield alone had ~150
- By town (by school) print outs
- Majors: 36 kids
  - o 3 teams
  - o Past 2 years have had 8 teams in Majors
- (Question) Did sign-ups expire?
  - o Majors will sign up until 3/15
- We held walk-ups
- (Question) When will try-outs happen?
  - o Tentative 3/8 and 3/15
- Middle School eligible kids should still sign up for WHLL Jr/Sr
- (Suggestion) stress to Middle School kids trying out, if they don't make the team, come play in WHLL
- (Question) Can kids play in both? Yes! But pitchers won't pitch in both leagues
- Issue in Mansfield is Pooled Play
  - o Parents in multiple levels being split across different towns
  - o Single Parents, Working Parents
- (Question)- Is Pooled Play set in stone? Can it be changed back?
  - o Yes, it has been voted on, but nothing is irreversible.
  - o It was WHLL Board that voted to do so.
- Numbers are down across all levels of play?
- (Question) Why is affecting Minors?
  - o Parents with kids in multiple levels not committing
- (Question) Why pooled play?
  - o Kids in smaller towns not getting developed as well
  - o Pooled Play is the way rule book states it should be done; not keeping teams together
- (Question) Do other charters pool play?
  - o Don't know, we are unique in multiple townships participating in one charter
- (Comment) Separate All-Stars vs. Regular Season

- Lackawanna have been playing together for 5 years, weekend ball etc...
- (Suggestion) If not enough players from Oxford and Franklin could combine with WTP or MT
- (Comment)- Separate Recreation part from competition. Rec is for ~85% parents that want to have fun
- (Comment) The board is going to find a way to turn around the turn around or else going to have a crappy season
- Registration has been open for ~4 weeks
- Where are they going?
  - Just won't play, if can't play together
- (Comments)- Taking a Rec program and making it 'Professional', which is turning away many parents
- (President)- Haven't heard anything back from District 20
- (President) Looking to stop wild rumors
- The vision:
  - Keep Rec as it has been, play based per town, at all levels
  - Have 'Sunday' Levels for Travel Elite teams
  - Elite Teams must have rosters submitted 3/5
- (Question)- Can you nominate coaches now and go get teams?
  - Managers can't be named until kids are signed up
- (Comment)- Playing for WHLL, just playing AT Mansfield
- (Question) How do other towns feel about Pooled Play?
  - We need the kids participating
- All-Stars
  - In the past, we have had East/West
  - Need to hear from District whether that is still required
- If a small town doesn't have enough kids to field a team, will you pull up? How is it handled?
  - Either combine with Franklin, or disperse among other teams (give parents choice)
  - Must consider team weighting
- (Suggestion)- League forgoes Pooled Play for 2014; go back to town play for all levels. Then, after registration is completed, if a town can't field a team, the board will decide next actions. Can take volunteers first.
- (Comment)- What if this was a 'setup'?
  - If parents are not signing up, the only way to call their bluff would be to wait until April, and if they are not bluffing, the league fails
- Need to get update contact lists
- (President)- Major concern of focus: COACHING
  - Must address level of coaching
  - Mandatory Coaching Training
  - LittleLeague.org is a great resource
- (Motion: VP) Suspend Pooled Play for 2014; reassess at the end of the season
  - Second (Secretary)
  - Discussion

- Vote: Motion Passed 5 to 1
- Fundraising
  - We need a coordinator
  - Banners on fields
    - Mansfield and Borough only
    - Oxford will allow temp signs
  - Team Sponsors
  - President- Creating a form for business owners
  - Any banner can be placed at any field
  - Will be sent via email

### **Secretary Report**

- (Motion) Not to read Meeting Minutes; Posted on website
- Any amendments can be discussed at next meeting
- Second: Treasurer
- Passed Unanimous
- Any member that makes 2 meetings in a row, not missing 2 in a row, and has a volunteer form, can make motions and vote
  - Some issues may need executive meetings
  - Point is to get people involved and voices heard
- Signs Order
  - 10 per town
  - Write down locations
- (Question) CPR Training
  - Safety Officer will coordinate
  - Rutgers cert is 2 weeks advanced notice (RJ Sherman)

### **Treasurer's Report**

- (Handed out paper report)
- Budget Sheet (still work in progress as need more input as we go along)
- Sponsorships (None)
- Issued Check Report
- Balances Read
  - Savings: \$12, 527.28
  - Checking: \$ 991.44
- Bills
  - \$38.52 Staples
- Filing with State
  - Annual Report not submitted to the State for 20 years

- NJ penalty \$585
- Now we are legitimate corporation
- 501.c.3
  - Not filed for years

### **Player Agent**

Absence

### **Safety**

Absence

### **Coaches Coordinator**

Absence

### **Information Office**

- Any info needing posting goes to Tom

### **Fundraiser**

No unit

### **Equipment**

- Reserved storage unit
- FTYA
- Donating equipment from Franklin seems likely
  - President's FYI: WHLL needs to 'own' equipment for insurance reasons. LLI's liability requires LL equipment being used
- Mansfield
  - Need vote
- Washington Borough
  - 2/20 is next board meeting
  - Will vote on that
- Need shelving for new unit
  - President to work with MLL Equipment
- Question: Organizationally, how is maintenance and replacement of support/training equipment being funded?
- (Suggestion) A letter should go to every township committee to donate funds to WHYB, not that it's one organization
- Franklin Community Center
  - Can WHLL rent at reduced rate?
  - Can go online for pay schedule (Franklin team)

- President- Any free time open in March? (Equipment)
- FTYA may donate money to league
- Need town to pay to restore Franklin field- currently unplayable at Minor/Majors level
  - Meeting in March
  - Volunteers to reconstruct fields
  - Need to remove tree off backstop
  - Snow fence in shed
- If FT doesn't pay to fund field renovations, will WHYB fund?

## Fields

- Need to figure out quantity of dirt
- Costs to maintain fields?
- Contractors?
  - Need to find out if we need to mow Steinhardt.
  - Recommend WHYB maintains, then no fees
    - Cousins did it last year
    - Bo Cavanaugh can mow (needs insurance? Covered as a league member)
      - Can't get paid as board member
  - Tom Iadevia will sit in Borough meeting
- (Point) Mansfield last year spent \$27 thousand
  - WHYB has collected \$5k

## Uniforms

- \$13/shirt difference per shirt for MLB team with 2 buttons
- MLL: \$250 team name; \$350 banners

## Discussion

- Need Sponsorship Coordinator
  - Some repeat sponsors that need to be contacted
- Fundraising ideas
  - Cups
  - Applebees
  - Wendy's
- No tax-exempt status
  - Need casino night

### **Umpire Coordinator**

- (Presidents) Looking for program to schedule
- Need emails of umpires; let them choose dates
- 1 on-call guy
- Training umpires
- LittleLeague.org has an umpire resource

### **Old Business**

- Kids that make Middle School looking for a refund from WHLL will get 100% up until assessments, which will be after Middle School try-outs.
- Jr/Sr registrations open until April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Ray Kunzman looking at Middle School 3/8 and 3/15
- Assessments for Minors and Majors for all age-eligible kids
- Have to schedule around Borough's clinic.
- Times TBD

### **New Business**

- Chartering
  - o Number of teams at each level
  - o Next WHYB meeting 3/2
  - o Tabled for 2 weeks
- Managers need to be in attendance
- Board to establish criteria for assessments
- Board to establish criteria for selecting managers

Meeting Adjourned 8:39pm

Next Meeting 3/2 6pm @ Port Murray Firehouse