West Madison Little League

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Sunday, Dec. 14, 2008

Members Present: Miller, Heneghan, Lubarsky, Newburg, Zwaska, Steeves, Lenoch, McNamara, Norton, Wood, Chitwood, Smith and Battista. **Members Absent**: Hunter, Metcalf and Tomczak

Guests Present: Angela Steeves, Jason Kelley (Dist. 4 Umpire)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Heneghan at 6:35 PM

Minutes of Prior Meetings: November 16 Board Meeting minutes were approved as previously distributed.

Financial Reports: Zwaska distributed the 11-30-08 budget tracking sheet. Heneghan reviewed the current financial position and indicated that there are no areas of concern, as we have built-in flexibility by virtue of our capital purchase budget (if things are tight, we can back off some planned capital purchases). He noted that the plan for renewing our CD's did not come off as planned in that both August CD's were renewed for longer terms rather than shorter ones to accommodate cash flow needs in the fall. Zwaska noted that wage budgets for concessions and grounds will be finalized in the next month or so. Chitwood made a suggestion that we develop a recognition plaque for those who donate "in-kind" items over the years. General agreement to pursue this idea.

Discussion Items:

- **Concessions Update –** Heneghan announced that Darin Crapp would be leaving WMLL to take a full time concessions management position near Kansas City beginning January 1. The entire Board wants to thank Darin for his 11 years of service to WMLL and will present him with a recognition plaque at his farewell party on Saturday, Dec 20.
- **Sponsorship Update –** Steeves briefly reported that most letters to sponsors are now out and we have received over $3000 to date. Only one has indicated they will not be returning. He will have more detail in January.
- **District Tournament Date Changes --** Heneghan reported that Wolfe has announced a new district tournament schedule with dates being approximately 1 week later. He recommended WMLL keep its same schedule which will allow for more flexibility in all leagues for rainouts, tournaments, etc.
- **Board Responsibilities for 2009** – Heneghan noted that the Fall Ball Coordinator position remains open.
- **Helfaer Field Review** – Heneghan reiterated the positive results of the Helfaer survey and asked Umpire Jason Kelley for his comments, since he has umpired a number of games for WMLL at Helfaer. Jason's comments were very positive and he said he enjoyed it so much that he would be willing to work the games for nothing. Since several board members were absent, Heneghan suggested the item be tabled until the January meeting. Battista was asked to check with the Brewers regarding pricing for 2009.

Administrative Reports:

- VP-Baseball – Miller reported on several items: 1) the survey he conducted with Open Team parents was very positive. Most had positive comments and found the experience to be enjoyable. He recommended maintaining the Open Team concept for 2009; 2) he reported on discussions of the Tournament Selection Process Review Committee and indicated that it was difficult getting a concensus. He noted that one key issue is that of tryouts and whether they are worrhwhile and usefull in the process. He asked the board for some guidance, but there seemed to be no real concensus among the board either. Some believe tryouts can be usefull and others do not. It was suggested that the committee meet a maximum of two more meetings and submit a recommendation to the board; 3) he presented a very brief outline of items discussed by the Baseball./Softball Operations Committee. He noted he will be making a proposal that future 10 and 11 year old tournament teams be selected evenly as opposed to the current two district teams being selected first, followed by the Open team (i.e., all three teams would be selected by some form of draft of players so that all three teams would be similar in talent level).
- VP-Softball – Heneghan reported for Metcalf. He noted the softball parent committee will be meeting in January when Hunter returns and will consider a proposal to change the pitching rules for the Minor Lg. He also noted that players will not be solicited for a Senior Lg in 2009.
- Executive Director – Battista reported on the following: 1) Registration packets are almost done and will be mailed out Jan 5; 2)a separate mailing has gone out to all grandfather option players who would be considered 13 in 2009, as they now have the option of rescinding and remaining as a 12 in 2009; 3) PTO presidents have been contacted about placing a WMLL add in their newsletters and a number of positive responses have been received; 4) Coach Pitch leagues have also been contacted as well as all 7 year olds from Fall Ball; 5) EconoPrint (Dave Genin) has indicated that due to the economy, they will not be able to print all our materials in 2009 for free, but will give us at least a 25% discount. This could result in about $2500 more expenses for the budget. It was suggested that WMLL consider placing the Handbooks for each league on the website as a PDF file that parents can download. It was also suggested that we continue to print hard copies of the Roster Books as we don't want to publish all the player names and phone numbers on the website. General consensus to accept these recommendations; 6)Pitching clinic for 2009 will be moved to Sunday, April 19 due to scheduling conflicts; 7) nothing has been received from Wolfe regarding WMLL's request for documentation of player eligibility ruling from Williamsport so Battista has forwarded a letter directly to Williamsport and requested details of the ruling; 8) Genin reported to Battista that there is a very good probability that a team of mostly 14 year olds will be forming to play Babe Ruth in 2009. Many will probably continue to play at WMLL as well.

Old Business:
Religious Holidays during Fall Ball – Heneghan noted this item will be covered prior to Fall Ball scheduling for 2009.

New Business: Lubarsky gave a brief update on the first meeting of the Challenger Division Committee. The meeting was very positive and we received a great deal of support and advice from the Easter Seals staff present. They will continue to remain involved and offer assistance as they have a great deal of experience in this area via the camp they offer for disabled folks at Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells.

Next Meeting: Sunday, Jan 11, 2009 at Vitense, 6:30 PM

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 PM