

**West Madison Little League**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, Sept 14, 2008

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

**Guests Present:** Darin Crapp

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Heneghan at 6:10 PM. August Board Meeting minutes were approved as previously distributed.

**Discussion Items:**

- **Helpaer Field Cost Review** – Heneghan noted a concern raised by Tomczak during budget discussions that Helpaer Field day for the Major Lg players was becoming expensive for WMLL to continue. Following discussion, it was decided to conduct a survey of parents (of 11 and/or 12 year olds for 2008 season) to gain their perspective on the value of this event. Heneghan to draft survey for distribution via Constant Contact service.
- **Budget Committee Recommendations** – Zwaska presented the proposed budget as recommended by the Budget Committee. Following lengthy discussion, the budget was unanimously approved. Several items of discussion that will require follow-up include: 1) Metro Baseball Camp – Board unanimously passed a motion requesting former Memorial baseball coach Bennett pay WMLL a rental fee of \$10 per player registered for use of the WMLL fields; 2) Equipment Purchases – it was agreed that all Lg Coordinators will check shed #182 for available equipment at the beginning of the season before purchasing any new items; 3) New Scoreboard for Senior Field – in light of the \$12,000 donation received from Walmart for a new scoreboard, it was decided to add the purchase/installation cost of the new board to the 2008-09 capital purchase budget, even though funds for this project will show as being received in the 2007-08 fiscal year.
- **Review of Concession Stand Volunteer No-Shows** – Darin reviewed the problem and indicated that it seems to be getting worse compared to prior years. After discussion of many ideas, it was decided to hold a Team Rep meeting prior to the regular season (similar to the parent meeting prior to fall ball) to explain the program and its importance. It is hoped that this level of emphasis will help Team Reps recruit parent volunteers and better explain the importance of the program to WMLL's operation. The idea of mandating that a coach fill the spot of a no-show volunteer was also discussed.
- **Review of Weather Related Decision Process** – Zwaska reviewed several concerns about “second guessing” of weather related game cancellation decisions. He explained the key elements he uses to make game cancellation decisions and stressed “Safety First.” There are many factors that go into making these decisions including safety, weather data, current field conditions and impact of playing through wet conditions. Quite often, it requires your best “educated guess,” which of course leads to second guessing if the weather turns in a different direction. He simply requested more understanding and support as well as more board members to step up and assist in these decisions. This is especially true when Paul and or Bill B cannot be at the fields. It was agreed that we do not want to put this burden on Darin and the concessions staff and we need more board member participation.
- **Review of Parking Issues in Main Lot** – Darin and Bill B reviewed the issue of unauthorized parents parking in the main lot and taking up spaces for coaches with equipment. It was noted that the parking rules during fall ball have been followed by parents much better than the regular season, apparently due to the explanation given to parents at the fall ball parent meeting. As such, it was agreed to try the following steps for 2009: 1) include a discussion of the issue in the Team Rep meeting planned for the spring season; 2) consider reviewing at a parent meeting during tryouts; 3) implement a rear view mirror “hang tag” system for coaches (Metcalf can obtain); 4) make announcements regularly via the new public address sound system, when it is operational.
- **Tournament Team Player Commitments & District Rules**– Newburg noted that the league had some issues this year with tournament team players not living up to their commitments to be at all games. The main reason seemed to be a conflict with the All City Swim and Diving Meet in late July/early August. Following discussion, it was agreed to: 1) have a parent meeting at the start of tmnt team tryouts and better explain the commitment required; 2) add more specific wording on the tryout form that parents are to sign; 3) indicate that absences will be noted and taken into consideration the following year during team selections. Discussion also was held regarding the use of players known to have primary residences outside league boundaries by an area Little Lg organization. Following a motion, second and unanimous vote, Battista was instructed to request written

documentation from DA Jeff Wolfe of the ruling made on this issue recently by Little League, Inc in Williamsport, PA.

- **Possible WIAA Restrictions** – Smith raised a question regarding the listening sessions now being held by the WIAA regarding restricting the number of players from a high school who can be on the same non-school sports teams (club sports, little league, soccer teams, legion baseball, etc) during the off-season. This policy was enacted last spring, but a one year moratorium was issued after a considerable number of complaints from parents, club sports officials, etc, that this rule could possibly ruin many out-of-season sports programs, including little league, for high school athletes. WMLL we keep an eye on this situation and, if enacted, will have to modify its draft procedures to accommodate the new ruling, if possible.
- **Annual Meeting Review** – Heneghan reviewed the current positions that will be open or up for election at this year's annual meeting on October 11. Basically, there will a number of incumbents running for re-election with two positions open due to board retirements. The annual meeting is 9:00 AM at the Madison Ice Arena.
- **Softball Field Renovations** – this item was tabled after agreeing the softball committee needs to meet with Zwaska to review needs. It was also mentioned that we will need to discuss new parking restrictions in the area due to the new Lussier Community Center being built adjacent to the fields.
- **Scoreboard for Senior Field** – Zwaska reviewed the scoreboard planned for the senior field as a result of the Walmart donation. A larger scoreboard was planned, but installation would be so costly that it would require WMLL to contribute approximately \$7,500 in addition to the Walmart donation. As such, a smaller board is planned and discussion centered on location. Concensus that the board be relocated to right centerfield for better visibility by fans. Planning will begin now with installation planned for later October or early November/

**Financial Reports:** Tomczak reviewed cash balances and indicated all bills are paid. Zwaska distributed the 8/31/08 budget tracking report.

#### **Administrative Reports:**

- Exec. Director -- Battista commented on the following items: 1) Drabik will not be available for fund raising efforts for the Bowlathon; 2) Boyle is reconsidering desire to do data entry for regular season registration based on fall ball experience. Motion, second and carried to permit Battista the flexibility to negotiate more compensation to keep Boyle on, up to level stipulated in the budget; 3) use of field house at Memorial is being worked on by Mueller and Principal Dahmen; 4) reminder of board/spouse outing on Sept 21.

#### **Operations Reports:**

- Concessions – Darin commented on the following items: 1) new, higher city license will take effect due to higher sales; 2) AED recertification needs to be reviewed (Battista to check into); 3) Waunakee Remodeling repaired damage to concession stand roof; 4) only two no-shows so far for fall ball ump's which is a big improvement from 2007; 5) concession volunteer attendance for fall ball has been good, but participation in pre-pay snack program is sluggish (probably due to more non-WMLL families in fall ball); 6) almost at \$107,000 in sales YTD; 7) East Madison LL donated leftover food supplies to WMLL for fall ball (Battista will send thank you).
- Groundskeeping -- Zwaska reported on several items, including 1) new major field backstop; 2) paving project near left field corner of minor field to reduce erosion; 3) Watts landscaping project around the play area; 4) Senior field drainage issues that will need to be resolved at some point to reduce number of rainouts (mainly an infield skin issue.....more clay needed in soil).
- Sponsorships – Steeves suggested this item be tabled until October.

**New Business:** None

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, Oct 11, 2008, following Annual Meeting at Madison Ice Arena.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM