

Whitman Baseball Softball Association
Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2014

Opening:

Brian Schwede called the regular meeting of the Whitman Baseball Softball Association to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present:

Brian Schwede, Diane Schwede, Marci Moulton, Robin Hamilton, Andrea Cafferty, Dan Desmond, Gerard Cooper, Kevin Briggs, Ralph Goodick, Christine Goodick, Dan Herlihy, Nicole Sturgeon, Mark Spadorcia, Greg Googins, Jeff Nicholson, Kevin Cleary, Andrea Cunningham, Dan Driscoll, Mike Kenney, Al Cafferty, Jason Flebotte, Bob Coulter

Not Present: Joe Cunningham, Mike Cook, Kris Nicholson and Crystal McCormack

New Business:

Wendy Green from All Sports Wear spoke to the group and brought samples of jackets, sweatshirts, etc that her company can make up for WBSA and we would get 20% of sales. She could set up to sell and take orders on opening day. The clothing is made by Rawlings, Charles River and Gilden. We will also offer the apparel through our website.

Finances - Andrea Cafferty reported that the current WBSA balance is \$39,592.66. Money was moved from PayPal in 2/27. Finances were approved. Minutes from February also reviewed and approved.

Financial Update - Andrea Cafferty mentioned Dollars for Scholars scholarship that WBSA offers \$500 for baseball and \$500 for softball. Group vote to give scholarship money -19 for, one against. Andrea will mail money to the scholarship foundation.

Past due fees - to date still delinquent is \$790 for spring 2013 and \$1,500 for all star 2013 season.

Accounting Program - Bob Coulter wanted to revisit conversation about new accounting software.

Andrea Cafferty asked for feedback on current account system. She also recommended that the group form a finance committee to further break down items in the current accounting spreadsheet. Mark Spadorcia and Jason Flebotte were in favor of a new system for reasons of looking at past expenses (ex. uniforms) and for future treasurers for ease of transition. An alternative to the new system would be QuickBooks for \$13 a month. Brian Schwede suggested that the group make an accounting wish list and send ideas to Andrea. Andrea will email the group this week for wish list items. She also concluded that the taxes are done and are available if anyone would like to review them.

Charter - Brian Schwede mentioned to the group that the league charter is due soon. It is the document that provides insurance for the kids who play in the league. By the league submitting it, Little League recognizes WBSA as a chartered organization. The fee is \$3,500.

New uniforms - Brian Schwede was referring to the ordering of the non-reusable t-shirts for farm, instructional and the 4 year old program. ABC Specialties has 12 primary colors to choose from. Brian's goal is to have all uniforms ordered by 3/16. All of this depends on sponsorships. Marci Moulton will handle her softball uniforms, but her ordering target date is also the same - 3/16.

Instructional Baseball Update - Mark Spadorcia reported that 68 kids are signed up for instructional baseball. He is hoping for a total of 120 registered, which would make 10 teams. On Sunday, 3/8 at 4:30 at the police station, five of the eight instructional baseball candidates will be available to the BOD for a Q & A session like we did for our older leagues. Mark explained that the Q & A is needed to find the best candidates. He went on to outline the instructional season. All teams will practice Wednesday or Thursday nights from 5-7 p.m. and games will be Saturday and/or Sundays. Mark is working on having KO from the

Brockton Rox come to the first night of practice. There was also a suggestion that Major League baseball teams come down to practices to help out. Mark is also looking to hold an end of the season party for this league. Mark also spoke about the four year old program. He is looking to make an announcement on the website. Suggestions of registration dates were 3/29 - 4/27. Fee is \$50 and not part of the family discount due to the uniform cost (minor league baseball replica shirts and hats). Their special opening day would follow in early May. Season would wrap on Father's Day, 6/15.

Softball update - Marci Moulton wants to change how the divisions are broken up in softball. She wants to separate by grade vs. by age. She is also looking to move spring travel grade levels (5/6 and 7-9 - grades 3/4 will not travel) from the current league which includes Brockton, Avon/Holbrook, Randolph and EB. She was recently asked to participate in the league in which Hanson, Halifax, Kingston and Pembroke participate. All are all established program and our girls already play them during the summer. Marci is moving to break down softball into six divisions; t-ball would be 4-6 yr olds or pre-K - K (replaces instructional), Minor I, with coach pitch would be grades 1/2, Minors II would be grades 3/4 with some kid pitching (replaces farm). She would like to run the Minor league with clinic style practices. Hanson softball may play games against Whitman as their membership is down. Majors would be grades 5/6 and Juniors would be 7 - 9. Major eligible girls could be dual rostered and play in both Majors and Juniors if players were needed to fill out rosters. Both of these levels are crucial as girls start to lose interest here. Big League would be girls over grade nine. Girls born 9/1/98 - 12/31/98 cannot play Junior ball due to their DOB. At the Big League level, Marci would like to combine with Hanson as they are weak in these numbers too. As of now, only five girls are registered for current day Senior League. Instructional has 20, Farm 18 and Majors 18.

The Sunday morning clinic is still in full swing. Starting in March on Tuesday and Thursday nights at Massasoit, former WBSA player Riley Burt secured space for pitching and catching clinics for girls ages seven and up. There is no fee.

Marci also reminded everyone of Dick's Sporting Goods Day in Hanover on Saturday, March 22 from 9 - 2. She sent around a sign-up sheet for a half an hour at a time increments.

Re-grading SB1 and SB2 - Kevin Cleary proposed that the softball fields could use re-grading. The fields are overall in good shape. Kevin has a contact from New Hampshire who could laser grade the fields - the job would take 10-12 hours and run roughly \$1,700. The fields would need 20 tons of soil per field. Kevin suggests putting a dirt edge around the softball fields like the baseball fields have. The whole project could cost between \$4-5,000. Gerard Cooper suggested combining efforts with the softball project and completing the MS1 and MS2 projects. Brian Schwede mentioned that being able to work on the fields during the weekends of 3/23 and 3/30 are critical to opening day 4/19. The baseball field project is running roughly \$3,000 over budget, mainly due to unexpected equipment rental. If all the soil is purchased for the softball project and the leftovers given to finish the baseball field project, there is potential that little to no soil will need to be ordered for the tournament. Kevin Cleary will provide BOD with hard numbers during the week of 3/3.

Major League Baseball Tryout - Diane Schwede reported that the first ML tryout had 15 kids attend, four of which tried out in the fall. 19 tried out in the fall. The final tryout is Saturday 3/8 from 2-4 at the Hitzzone. There are 33 official roster spots open, six are taken by sibling, coach or child picks, leaving 27 available spots. There are still registered kids that are eligible for a tryout who have yet to attend. Very low number of 11's and 12's to try out. Have send out multiple broadcast email messages about registration and tryouts. As for returning ML players, only three are not currently registered. Coaches know who they are and will be in contact. The ML draft will be held on 3/20.

Registration - Diane also reported on current overall registration numbers. As of 3/2, 349 kids are registered, if those, 69 are instructional, 70 are farm, minors/majors break down is 30 are nine year olds, 39 are 10 year olds, Juniors has 17 registered (majority are 13 year olds) and eight are Senior League players. Marci mentioned that March 17 & 18 are the W-H baseball and softball tryout dates, so the older divisions will probably fill in after that. Diane encouraged the group to continue to talk up registration. She will send out more broadcast reminders this week.

Umpire Clinic - Dan Herlihy reported on the first of three clinics that began on 3/1. A little smaller turn out than he anticipated. Most who attended were 13 year old first year umps. Dan suggested that umps who wanted to do a scrimmage game could use that game as the fee toward their umpire shirt. They are \$30 a piece. Game fee is \$25. Brian suggested to Dan that they could look into the possibility of finding a less expensive shirt. Dan also wanted to know if the group would approve a donation to the Grant Turner Tourney. Ed O'Dell, who runs the clinic for fee, asks if we could donate toward this tourney. The group voted in favor to donate \$300 to the tourney.

Food Drive - Brian wants to help the Bob Hogan and Whitman Food Pantry on opening day again by having each team donate bags of food. Last year, on short notice, we donated 1,500 lbs of goods. His goal this year is 2,000 lbs. The notice would be in the coach's packets. We could have the 13 - 16 year old players load the trucks on opening day to get them involved.

Field Usage - Brian went to the town field usage meeting on 2/25. WYF, WYS, Legion baseball as well as a few AAU baseball teams were there in attendance. The Park & Rec will be as flexible as possible with us. Brian wanted to remind the group that although we maintain the fields, we do not own them and cannot dictate who can use them. The town does charge out of town teams to use the fields, but we do not receive any of those funds to maintain the fields. The Park & Rec will post the field schedule by 3/10. Brian will be attending the next meeting to look at that schedule.

Coach selection - The BOD chose to vote the Minor League baseball candidates in as individuals. The top seven chosen were John Nessralla, Don Butler, Steve Cohen, Dave Henderson, Sean O'Brien, Mark Spadorcia and John Sturgeon. Kevin Briggs will notify them.

The BOD voted to approve six of the seven candidates as a block vote. The one coach not selected is still a candidate as Farm Director Dan Driscoll is still looking for at least 10 total candidates. He will also notify the six new coaches who were voted in.

Marci Moulton had one item to add as the meeting concluded. She wanted to remind the BOD of email confidentiality. She recently responded to an email meant for BOD members, only to discover that her email was shared outside of the board.

Brian Schwede dismissed the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

The next meeting of the WBSA BOD will be Sunday, March 30 at 6 p.m. at the Whitman Police Station