

Warren Hills Youth Baseball Meeting, 1/5/14

**Attendees:** Scott Reyes, Karri Reyes, Adam Robinson, Shane Serrao, Trevor Bushkirk, Mike Brady, Thomas Iadevaia, Chris Fournier, Tim Henderson, Ray Kunzman, Bobby Berezny

Meeting Called to Order @ 6:12pm

**Prior Meeting Minutes** (Read by Chris Fournier)

- Registration Prices
  - T-Ball & Rookie Levels: \$50
  - Minors & Majors: \$75
  - Unanimous pass vote
- Website
  - Issue raised that former board member still listed as webmaster; needs removal
- Rutgers Spring Training Class
  - RJ Sherman will run the class
- Scott Crutz was in attendance at last meeting
  - Handed in a list of umpire contacts
  - Ray West still has not accepted position of umpire coordinator
- Online Registrations
  - Should be up by next Sunday, 1/12
- In-Person Registrations
  - WB: 1/10 (no longer valid)
  - MF: 1/18 @ MTFC 9am-12
  - Ox: 1/24 6pm-9
  - WT: 2/1 9am-12 @ Rec Building above Meadow Breeze
- President to Draft flyer for each town's distribution
- Motion to Pool all players at Major Level
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Henderson
  - Passed vote 5-0
- Motion to Pool all players at Minors Level
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Henderson
  - Decided to take offline vote; vote failed but no recorded

**Equipment Report** (Brezny)

- Oxford has agreed to donate all equipment to WHYB
- WT: Equipment for Majors (pooled play) will be donated (R. Kunzman)
- Concerns for off-season storage facilities
  - Should a shed be purchased?
  - Storage Facility rental to be priced
  - Question: how many helmets should each bag contain at Majors level
    - It was discussed that the vast majority of players have their own helmet
    - Perhaps only 1 per bag as a default, if a team has a need for more, can draw from supply.
- With the merger of the leagues, should all equipment be owned by WHYB? (Undecided)
- Sooner that Equipment Manager can receive gear, sooner it can be inspected, inventoried, and prepared for distribution for 2014.

### **Fields (Mike Brady)**

- Needs to know all WHYB fields
- Ox: "All-In" T-ball through Majors
- Ox: town contracts out field maintenance
- Ox: Will town charge WHYB for maintenance? (To be investigated)
- Ox: Has 2 fields available (TBall field & Rookie -> Majors); town property
- WTP: D1 and D2 in Meadow Breeze; TBall and Rookie fields are free.
  - WTP had paid insurance from Youth Association
  - Now WHYB will pay insurance
- Note: WTP submitted a check for \$510 for Insurance coverage for 2013.
- Franklin:
  - Asbury (Tball) let DPW know they'll maintain field
  - School (Rookie, Min+Maj Practice)
    - Permission for use is 'not a problem'
    - Will TWP pay for maintenance?
    - Tree fell on backstop- may get town to pay for repairs; TBD!
    - May need to attend FTYA Meeting
    - FTP owns field across the street from the school; may want to develop new fields.
- WB:
  - Steinhardt Field
  - WB Rec owns the field
  - No fee if WHYB maintains fields; If WB Rec maintains, WHYB will be assessed fee and maintenance provided by DPW (undesired)
  - TBall & Rookie @ School; 2014 TBall will be on soccer field
  - 2013 "Cousins" maintained and lined field
  - Is field maintenance equipment (rakes, liners) owned by WHYB?
  - Borough Park on Rt 31 is new; could be used if portable mound is acquired.
    - Coordinate scheduling with town of some games
- Mansfield
  - Robin Rorrer POC
  - 3 fields for Tball thru Majors
  - Mansfield Park 50/70 field
- Supplemental Discussion
  - Meadow Breeze has an 'adjustable' field predominantly used for softball. Could ask WB Rec about using as 50/70 field, if desired.

### **Safety Report (Kunzman)**

- All towns have submitted ASAP Safety Plan in 2013
- Will be combined into one overall plan, submitted to board for review/approval for use in 2014

### **Coach's Report (Robinson)**

- Need to establish Manager Selection criteria
- Prior to team selection, each Manager can nominate one Assistant Coach (other Assistants obtained from volunteers post team assignment)
- There will be a mandatory Coach's Clinic shortly after registration, before team selections
- Still in need of practice facilities in winter

- Empty/under-used buildings in area
- Gym time scheduling

### **General Discussion**

- For 2014's Spring Season, WHYB will support
  - Tball, Rookie, Minor, Majors
  - Should we support Juniors/Seniors division? Unanimous Yes

### **Treasurer's Report (Reyes)**

- The WHLL Account needs to be closed out with a check issued to WHYB.
- President to contact former WHLL treasurer to work that process
- Balance of funds can only be used for LLI-sanctioned events; not WHYB "extra-curricular" supported activities (Fall Ball, OTBS, etc)
- New accounts are to be created to have full accountability and visibility, and to end liability for all past transactions.

### **President's Report (Fournier)**

- Background checks required for all volunteers
  - Every background form must have SSN on paper
  - Term of validity is for the 'current playing season' only
- Volunteers asked to assist in processing background checks
  - S.Reyes
  - T.Henderson
- Registration Packet
  - "Active Network" will produce online registration
    - They are LLI approved, have vast experience with E-Teams websites
    - A 'Registration' button will be added to our website
  - Application Forms shall contain- Volunteer Forms, Background Check, Contact Info, Player Application, Player Code of Conduct, Parent Code of Conduct, Volunteer Application, Age Chart, Sponsor Form, General Info (Cover Letter)
- Registrations
  - MF: 1/18 9am-12
  - Ox: 1/24 (Needs to be confirmed)
  - WTP: 2/1 9am-12
  - WB: 2/7 6-9pm
- Bonds
  - Does WB need to continue work bond?
  - Does MF, Ox, WTP need concession bond?
  - WTP asks for a \$50 concession bond
  - Each town to decide if bonds are needed
- What WHYB is looking to support moving forward
  - Regular Spring Season baseball
  - 'Elite' Try-Out Travel/Tournament teams to coincide with Spring Baseball, play throughout year
  - Summer League (15U?), perhaps Diamond Nation
  - Fall Ball- all levels
  - Winter Clinics (facilities need to be procured)

- Umpires
  - Solicit volunteers
  - Total listing of 13-15 in hand today
  - Publish to Comcast's Crawler
  - Still need umpire coordinator
  - Scheduling is the biggest issue
  - C.Fournier to look for 'Staffing' type application
  - Level of certification required? Age level?
  - Express Times publication as well
- Fund Raising
  - Seek sponsors from WB Business Improvement Org.
  - Keep sponsors local
  - Banners:
    - It was discussed that fence banners cannot be used at Meadow Breeze or in Oxford; towns require all funds be given to towns
    - It was suggested to look into temporary flag-type printed banners; needs WTP Rec and Ox approval
  - Team Sponsors
  - Still require a Fund Raising committee chair
- Uniforms: Abilities
  - Minors/Majors: traditional 3 button style 'Majestic' shirts
  - WTP in the past used Minor-League teams for Minors Division, MLB Teams in Majors
  - TBall and Rookies: T-shirt with number, sponsor, and "WH" logo on front
- Pooled Play Discussion
  - (For Definition: 'Pooled-Play' refers to having all players from all towns available to be drafted by all Managers, regardless of town boundaries.
  - It was discussed that overwhelming feedback from Mansfield parents was negative, with large number of parents saying they would not sign-up for baseball
  - The goal of Pooled Play was to allow under-developed players from towns with struggling programs and not-as-skilled volunteer coaches were disadvantaged to WTP and Mansfield that had larger programs.
  - It was discussed that pooling the players does not solve the issue of poor coaching, it only distributes the issue, substituting that 'underdeveloped' town player for a 'well-supported' town player. But the under-desired coach is still coaching 12 kids.
  - It was discussed that, if a town couldn't field a complete team, then the players that did sign-up could be distributed to MF or WTP; no kid would be turned away.
  - For those players in 'under-developed' programs, the 'Elite' travel team is where they could gain that high-level of competition
  - For all others, WHYB coach's development program (coming 2014) will target improving coaching skills at appropriate levels.
- Pooled Play at Minors: Vote
  - It was Motioned to Pool Players at the Minors Level for 2014; 2<sup>nd</sup> by T.Henderson
  - Vote tied 4-4
  - President, as per by-laws, cast the deciding vote: No
  - Motion was defeated 5-4
- Player Assessments

- It was discussed that multiple assessment dates are needed for Majors so Managers can attend all, given pooled play in Majors
- All others to be handled per town

**Next Meeting**

A Regularly Scheduled meeting will be held 1/19 6pm at the Port Murray Fire House (MTFC)

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm