

Attendees

Bill Alexander	T. J. Barresi	William Brace	Anne Marie Edwards
Ric Gaudet	Bob Gegetskas	Scott Glick	Bill Gozzo
Andrew Hallgren	Tim Johnson	Mike Loftus	Scott MacGregor
Greg Malloy	Craig Mann	Bill Morneault	Dave Rhodes
Tim Rice	Steven Romero	Troy Ruff	John Rutledge
Bob Stickels	Nick Vavalle	Jeff Vibes	

Next Meeting

7:00 P.M. Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at St. Casimir's.

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M.

The minutes from the meeting held on February 11, 2009 were approved.

Treasure's Report

Mike Loftus reported the following:

- The Charter has been signed, sent, and was received by Little League.
- The Safety Plan has been approved and the discount was granted.
- Nick Vavalle's food safety license can be used by WILL for its concession stand. Angela Gegetskas, Nick, and Sandy Vavalle will work together to fulfill the job requirements of the Concession Director.
- WILL is in a solid financial position starting the season with about \$55,000.

Registration

After Mike reported that to date 225 Little Leaguers and 17 Senior Leaguers have registered and paid to play this year, discussion ensued.

Although we are trending close to last year in total numbers, we are in jeopardy of having to drop a Major League team next year. This year we have drop to 3 teams in Single A. It was noted

that, given the numbers and to keep Little League viable in Windsor, we should begin a dialog with WALL to determine what is in the best interests of Windsor's youth. Ric noted that a WILL/WALL committee should be formed and open communications with Little League would be needed.

WILL Scholarship

Mike noted that application have been sent to:

- Windsor High
- Northwest Catholic
- Loomis Chaffee
- Suffield Academy

Mike will send applications to:

- Kingswood Oxford
- Metropolitan Learning Center
- East Catholic
- Cheney Tech.

It was suggested that the application should be put on WILL's Web site. Those in attendees agreed with this suggestion.

Signs

Scott M. asked if WILL would grant a one year concession for signs to long time sponsors. It was agreed that, due to the tough economic times, a one year concession could be granted on a case by case basis.

Action Items

- Ric to work in conjunction with WALL to form a committee to do a feasibility study on combining WALL and WILL.
- Mike L. to send WILL's scholarship application to Kingswood, MLC, East Catholic, and Cheney.
- Mike L. to work with Jeff V. to place WILL's Scholarship Application on WILL's website.

Tryouts

Ric noted that he has invited outside rates for baseball tryouts because the approach worked well last year.

- Baseball Tryouts
 - 10 – 12 year olds - 3/14/09 & 3/21 – 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. at Baseball City
Ric noted that he expects about 50 participants.
 - 9 year olds - 3/22/09 – 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at LP Wilson
Ric noted that he expects about 28 participants.
 - 8 year olds - 3/22/09 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at LP Wilson
Ric noted that he expect about 29 participants.
- Softball Tryouts
 - 3/21/09 – 9:00 – 2:00 p.m. at LP Wilson
 - Bill A. noted that he expects:
 - 18 - 11-12 year old participants
 - 18 – 9-10 year old participants
 - 15 – 7-8 year old participants
 - 12 – 6 year old participants
 - Bill A. also noted that WILL and WALL will play together with combined teams.

Action Item

Bill A. will send Jeff V. updated times (by age) and the structure of softball tryouts so Jeff can update the website.

Draft

Baseball

Bob G., as baseball's Player Agent will run the draft. Jeff V. will work with Bob G. to verify numbers and ratings. The draft dates of 3/24 – 3/26 have been booked at St. Casimir's.

Softball

The draft dates will either be 3/24, 3/25, or 3/26. Bill A. will staff Jeff V. once the dates are solidified.

Action Item

Bill A. will send Jeff V. the dates and times of softball's draft.

Umpire Clinic

Ric and Bill Brace are working to put together an Umpire Clinic in April. The hope is to get Vic Proulx, who has run the clinic in the past, to run it again.

Action Items

- Ric to contact Vic Proulx to see if he would be willing to run the clinic.
- Ric will work with Bill Brace to set a date and contact Jeff V. once the date is set so that the web site can be updated.
- Both Ric and Bill B. will try to engage kids, of an appropriate age, to attend the clinic.

Field Clean-up

Since field clean-up is before the coaches' meeting, slated for 4/2/09, the clean-up needs to be communicated to a broader audience. It was agreed that a flyer and/or sign should be made and leveraged during clinics and tryouts. It was also agreed that an e-mail should be distributed.

Action Item

Ric will create flyers/sign and use the clinic, tryouts and e-mail as points of communication.

Opening Day 4/19

Parade Planning

- Tim R. has spoken with the fire company and they are all set.
- Greg M. will contact the police to secure traffic control.
- On the day of the parade Bill M. will coordinate set-up.
- Greg will call the Shade Derby committee to invite the Shade Derby contestants.

Speech and Sound System

- Greg is preparing the speech.
- Sound System
 - TJ and Jeff V. met with Gary Dowgewicz to review and discuss options related to WILL's sound system. Gary indicated that it would cost about \$2,500 to update our system. This system would be hard wired and mounted.
 - Steve Romero provided his research on portable sound systems.
 - Rental is \$180 a day, if we pick-up and return the system, or \$630 if they do the delivery and takedown.

- To purchase the system out right it would cost \$2,825.20.

Discussion ensued regarding the two options. Those in attendance felt that a portable system would be cumbersome to set up and take down. A hard wired system only requires the flip of a switch to engage. After discussion, a majority of those in attendance agree to allocate \$2,500 towards the purchase and installation of the system Gary Dowgewicz suggests.

Additional Restrooms

Tim R. noted that he spoke with the outhouse company we have been doing business with. The company agreed to charge us the same rate as last year. Tim will contact the company to see if we can get two more outhouses, for parade day, at a reasonable rate.

Jack Welch Award

The Jack Welch award is given to two Little Leaguers, one from baseball and the other from softball, between the ages of 10 – 15 who showed growth and sportsmanship during the year. Each team, who has Little Leaguers in that age range, is required to submit a nomination. Tim R. will contact Managers, who have yet to make a submission, to remind them we need their nomination by 3/13.

Action Items

- Greg M. will contact the police to secure traffic control.
- Greg will call the Shade Derby committee to invite the Shade Derby contestants.
- TJ and Jeff V. will work with Gary Dowgewicz to install the sound system.
- Tim will contact the outhouse company to see if we can get two more outhouses, for parade day, at a reasonable rate.
- Tim R. will contact Managers, who have yet to make a Welch Award submission, to remind them we need their nomination by 3/13.

Softball By-laws

Bill A. reviewed the changes to the By-laws submitted by Softball's By-law Committee. After discussion, those in attendance approved the by-laws as written.

Succession Planning/Job Sharing

Given the number of people leaving the Board, because their Little Leaguers will be ageing out this year, succession planning is critical for the vitality of this league. Mike presented the following initial thoughts regarding this topic:

- High-level descriptions of each role could be placed on the web-site.
- Each Board position should also have a detailed job description, which would be kept on file. Each task currently performed, within a given role, should be accompanied by a timeline.

- Jobs/tasks could be shared or divided up differently. Just because the person holding a given position does a certain task now doesn't mean that the task needs to be married to the position in the future.

Action Item

Mike requested that each current Board Member submit these descriptions to him.

Challenger League

Greg M. reported that he was contacted by Fran Murphy regarding the Challenger Baseball League. The Challenger Baseball League, a Division of Little League Baseball and Softball, is a non-competitive baseball league designed especially for children ages 5 to 18 with physical or mental challenges. The Challenger League is once again requesting the use of the fields at Welch Park. Over the years WILL helped enabled the success of this league through the use of its fields. Their season runs from 4/28 thru 6/10.

It was agreed that WILL would once again offer the Challenge Baseball League the use of the fields at Welch Park. We also discussed other ways WILL could support our guests. This discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

Action Items

- Greg will work with Ric and Fran regarding scheduling.
- Greg will include the tabled topic, "Other ways WILL could support the Challenger League" on the Boards next agenda.
- Greg will invite the league to march in our opening day parade.

Promoting WILL Locally

WILL would like to engage individuals, and their parents, who are currently not participating in baseball and encourage their participation. A possible solution is to create a Marketing Director role.

Action Item

Greg and Mike will follow-up on this in conjunction with Succession Planning and updating the Constitution.

Coaching Tools

Anyone interested in accessing the coaching tools, which are available on Little League's website, should contact Greg M. for the access code.

Action Item Log

In the interest of time, Bill M. requested that each task owner provide him with an updated status, before the next meeting, via e-mail or phone call.

New Business

Baseball City Tournament

Ric revisited a popular idea... working with BBC to create a fundraising opportunity for both parties by allowing BBC to use the fields at Welch Park.

Action Item

Ric will continue to pursue this fundraising opportunity with BBC and report back next month.

Softball Tournament

Bill A. requested the use of Welch Park Fields for a softball tournament. We have bathrooms, which is problematic at other venues. This was welcomed.

Action Item

Bill A. to work with Mike L. and Greg M. to determine what, if any, usage fee would be levied.

WILL Family Picnic - Entertainment

Bill noted that we have a couple of options for entertainment this year:

- Gene Donaldson and the Stingrays (559-7472) {dgeneblues@aim.com}, are available June 6th and were the entertainment two years ago... based on feedback received, the crowd enjoyed this band.
 - He could hold the rain date of June 20th for \$200.
 - Gene would charge \$450 for the day.
 - If both dates are rained out the deposit is non refundable.
 - If the picnic is held on either date, the \$200 deposit is applied to the fee of \$450.
- Bob Rumrill (519-0202) {rrumrill@windsorct.org & jrumhendrx@aol.com} a local DJ was our entertainment last year... based on feedback received, the crowd enjoyed this DJ.
 - He is also available both days.
 - Bob would charge \$150 for the day.
 - He did not ask for a deposit to hold the dates.

The Board approved spending \$200 on entertainment and having Bob DJ this year's picnic.

Action Item

Bill to contact both Bob and Gene to inform them of the Board's decision.

Background Checks

Bill M. noted that anyone who is in repetitive contact with our Little Leaguers must fill out a volunteer form. He reported:

- 64 forms have been received, entered into Choice Point, and approved. Choice Point is Little League's vendor for background checks and allows each league 125 free background checks. This vendor is recognized as a leader in the industry.
- Last year we received 114 forms, which were entered and approved.

Action Item

- Bill M. and Pete C. will continue to perform background checks as they come in.
- Bill will send the names of all those approved, to date, to Ric.
- Ric will highlight those names in his excel spread sheet and distribute to directors and managers. The directors and managers must ensure that everyone, with repetitive contact with our Little Leaguers, goes thru the screening process.

Microwave

Nick V. reported that the microwave in the concession stand needs to be replaced; it broke last year. The microwave is primarily used to cook popcorn. The Board approved replacing the microwave.

Action Item

Nick will purchase a new microwave for the concession stand.

Diamond Club

Ric noted the following:

- The club is working with the Rock Cats on a fundraiser. Volunteers will vander food in the stands and proceeds will go to the club. The club has agreed to work 6 games over the season.
- On April 4th there will be a Baseball Jamboree held at Windsor High School. Several area high schools have been invited and the club is hoping to sell food to raise funds for Windsor High Baseball. Ric asked if he could order food through WILL. Any food not used would be given back. The cost of the food will be paid with the proceeds from sales. This was approved by the Board.

Action Item

Ric will work with Nick V. to coordinate the purchase, distribution, sale, and reimbursement of food for the Baseball Jamboree.

Gift for Kevin Over

Kevin, who was a former member of the WILL family and volunteered his time in support of the league, was recently hospitalized. The Board approved sending him a get well gift, in an amount of approximately \$50, to his home.

Action Item

Jeff V. and Ric will work together to come up with a suitable gift.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Morneault - Secretary.