

WPLL BoD Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 @ 7:31 PM Approved: _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE: (_12_ of 15) Chris Hurtado, President. Lindsay Hloska, Vice-President. Mark Kistler, Safety. Mike Linares, Equipment. Doug Mercurio, Sponsorship. Mike Shihadeh, Umpire-in-chief. April Sterner, Player Agent. Dan Tipton, Treasurer, Heather Way, Secretary. Brian Roakes, Jon Watson, Kyle Wood. **Not Present:** _ Amanda Demarest, Justin Hooten, Anthony Sanders_.

GENERAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

_Rick Way_____.

Meeting Minutes: Dan Tipton made a motion to approve the prior Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mark Kistler. Discussion: None. All board members were in favor and none opposed. Prior Meeting Minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report: WPLL bank account is at \$73,326 (business) and approximately \$24,000 (savings). Discussion: Additional fees: day to day umpire fees, District 12 yearly fee, signs, banners, spring fees. April Sterner made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mike Linares. All board members were in favor and none opposed. The WPLL Treasurer's report is approved..

Special Business: N/A.

Meeting Agenda:

Old Business:

- Pine Hill Park renovation update
 - Collectively it will be beneficial to convey to PCPRNR the disruption this is now causing to WPLL.
 - Program impact: field restriction, transportation issues for families, etc.
 - Opening Day Ceremony now delayed
- WPLL Bylaws
 - **DISCUSSION:** Had discussions of updating WPLL Bylaws. District Admin, Eric, is now requesting.
 - _Dan Tipton_ made a motion to approve 2025 WPLL Bylaws as currently written. Discussion: _Mark Kistler_ mentioned some wording issues. Corrected by Chris Hurtado. The motion was seconded w/ corrections by _Brian Roakes_. _All_ board members were in favor and _none_ opposed. 2025 WPLL Bylaws were _approved_.
- 5-Star
 - The youth directors, former WPLL, requested a meeting to discuss partnership with WPLL. **DISCUSSION:** Overall discussion was that it is not in WPLL's best interest at this time. No motions made. Topic tabled.
- Advance notice of expected change, starting in 2026, requiring level 2 background checks. Explain.
 - Advocate to write congressional and state leaders as the expected cost is an additional \$7,000. The background check would require fingerprinting including junior umps. This is good for 5 years.
- Approving of the 2025 head coach slate. Will update via text vote as we currently are seeking 4 more
 - **DISCUSSION:** _Anthony Sanders_ made a motion to approve. Discussion: Concern expressed regarding the selection of a specific Minor Division manager and their commitment to WPLL vs. recruiting away. Chris Hurtado assured the board that conversation was discussed and that was not an issue previously. The motion was seconded by _Brian Roakes_. _All_ board members were in favor and _none_ opposed. The 2025 head coach slate is approved.
- 2025 Spring
 - Registration already exceeds 2024 Spring! Registration is not done!!
 - Tee ball is up over 18% with 85 kids. The minor division is up over 33% and could have 10 teams.
 - Doug is requesting more recommendations for assistance securing business sponsors.

- Need four more tee ball head coaches or will consider adjusting our approach to the program.
- Only 1 scholarship request so far. 22 on payment plans = \$3,866. Each will be followed up on.
- 2025 WPLL Safety Plan submitted and approved. 1 of only 2 leagues in D12. Thank you Mark Kistler!!
- Current player waiver update for 2025 spring season.
 - We are submitting 4 waivers to Hudson LL. Starkey LL is submitting up to 3 to WPLL.
- District 12 dues (invoice) are supposed to be sent via email late this week. Approximately \$4,000.
- Coaches meeting set for 1/28/25 starting at 6:30 PM at the Hunters Ridge clubhouse.
 - The safety meeting will be sandwiched between the two sessions w/ Mark's approval.
- 72hr will be the vendor this season for player jerseys.
 - Brian Roakes brought up the topic of concern regarding jersey breathability. Will be conveyed.
- District 12 Umpire Clinic is set for 2/1/25 at Countryside LL starting at 9 AM.
- WPLL Umpire clinic is set for 2/11/25 at Veterans Memorial Park starting at 6:30 PM.
 - Reminder for someone to join as a staff or junior staff umpire attending a clinic is mandatory.
- D12 golf tournament is set for 4/27/25. WPLL is given 2 foursomes as part of D12 dues.
- D12 will do end of season tournaments this spring for older divisions.
- State of Florida baseball & softball tournaments will take place in Plant City on 6/27-6/29 for the 50/70, Junior, and Senior Divisions this season.
 - Sectionals therefore will be the weekend of 6/21.
 - SE Regionals is set for Safety Harbor 7/17.
- Chris will not approve interleague play with Starkey due to issues with waivers and SLL operations.

New Business:

- Pine Hill Park renovation update
 - Review the most recent updates provided by PCPRNR
 - Share onsite pictures, if able on projector
 - Questions submitted by a WPLL general member at 8:16 PM on May 12th are awaiting a response from the County pertaining to the prolonged delays to Pine Hill Park construction project.
 - Privacy fencing and field 5 dug out to be completed provided by PCPRNR
- Spring 2025 update
 - Ended w/ 424 registrations or +15% over 2024 Spring. Tee Ball = +51% (37 players). Minors = +40% (29 players). Only 50/70 & Juniors were down -13% (3 players) and -26% (9 players) respectively.
 - A success despite losing approximately 10-15 players due to remaining at Veterans Memorial longer.
 - All but 2 tee ball teams had a local business sponsor. A total of \$13,200 raised. Thank you!
 - Remained at 1 scholarship request. No request for NPR Rotary request. Received \$750 from Publix Charities. Previously mentioned \$3,866 in payment plans is down to \$311 to date. One payment of \$113 expected tonight. Another this week. \$153 was due on April 1 and awaiting parent response.
 - Starkey did send 2 of 3 waivers. 1 registered with WPLL. Both were rejected by SE Region.
 - WPLL submitted 5 waivers. 5 already approved by SE Region. 2 awaiting DA acknowledgement.
 - No team went undefeated in in-house games. Only 1 team, AAA, went winless. April did another outstanding job of balancing teams and having a very competitive season.
 - Minor Iron Pigs made it to the Dunedin semi-finals, Major Braves made it to the D12 In-Season Championship, Juniors tourney is going on this evening, and Senior tournament begins this weekend.
 - 1 junior division player ejected in an umpires judgement call of avoiding physical contact. No suspension issued. WPLL umpire ejected one GHLL coach during majors in-season tournament.
 - Currently in the final week of the 2025 season. All-Star selections will be announced May 15th.
 - Tee Ball night tomorrow evening. Come by and watch the future of WPLL play their final game.
- New 3-year co sponsorship agreement signed with Pasco County. Have a signed electronic copy. All local leagues must sign. Discussed level 2 background checks. Explain.
- Ability to assign a member to assist with social media postings. Please let me know if you are interested.
- Update on financial outlays thus far on expenditures previously approved for return to Pine Hill. _\$2,290.16_

in concession supplies, _\$762.70_ in field equipment, Previously approved fence fee saved (\$2500) and field signage cost \$4,264 (\$5000 approved previously). Discussion about reallocation of the saved monies.

- **DISCUSSION:** Full slate of 2025 volunteer slate needing BoD approval. Speak to 4 added managers and any prior concern expressed regarding a specific minor manager. Image shared with the board electronically for review and discussion. **Note:** A couple of hopeful volunteers were not permitted this season to be an approved volunteer due to prior season issues, just as some head coaches are not reselected. Spoke with Eric Pearson after he was contacted and provided his full support. Also, note that only those who move to green and then remain in good standing will have voting rights at the next general election meeting along with those approved in 2024 Fall season.
 - April Sterner made a motion to remove Mike Mehring. Discussion: Board discussed removal; BoD agreed. The motion was seconded by Brian Roakes. All board members were in favor and none opposed. Slate of volunteers were approved with the exception of Mike Mehring.
- **DISCUSSION:** WPLL has 3 players that suffered injuries during the course of the 2025 spring season who would like All-Star eligibility. In addition, there are several players in our 50/70 and Junior Division who were short a game or two due to not returning to Pine Hill Park and several games being canceled due to no field. In all of these instances there is no fault of the player and we as a board do have the right to make a motion to approve eligibility due to extenuating circumstances to approve eligibility for the 2025 All-Star tournaments.
 - _Mike Shihadeh_ made a motion to approve the 3 players. Discussion: _Sandlin, Elliott and Minton each discussed._ The motion was seconded by Jon Watson. _All_ board members were in favor and _none_ opposed. _Players eligibility is approved for All-Stars._
- **DISCUSSION:** To host or not to host any All-Star tournament age groups, if it becomes an option with completion expected in early June at this current moment.
 - Mike Shihadeh made a motion to keep the park closed for all-star tournaments. Discussion: Open fields for league teams only. The motion was seconded by April Sterner. All board members were in favor and none opposed. Hosting All-Star tournaments is NOT approved.
- Once permitted to Pine Hill Park assistance from this board as well as other volunteers will be needed to properly set up Pine Hill Park. Information will be shared to plan with adequate notice.
- Had a meeting with Tank Pro for information on leasing an AI device to chalk fields. Explain. Discussion about the AI operated device, cost of paint, current person who paints lines; TABLED pending demo.
- Short summer program being considered in the event the fields become available, since no field rest is required, if time permits between All-Star tournament practices, and the start of the 2025 Fall.
 - In the event a summer program is not offered WPLL will at the very least intend to offer positional clinics through our coaching coordinators and/or established/trusted head coaches for the benefit of those registered with WPLL during the 2024 Fall or 2025 Spring programs.

General Member Questions:

- Lucas Duffany submitted 6 questions electronically via email to Chris Hurtado at 8:16 PM on May 12th.

Board of Director "Around the Horn":

Mike Shihadeh - No boundary changes at this time. Mark Kistler - Flyer for WPLL in new model homes. Mike Linares - 6 cases of balls for All-Stars needed.

WPLL Board of Director meeting is next set for:

- June 18th - Time: TBD, Location: TBD (date may change if Pine Hill delayed)
- July - NO MEETING (ENJOY SUMMER)
- August 7th or 14th @ 6:30 PM @ Pine Hill Park meeting room

Adjournment:

Mike Linares made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jon Watson. The WPLL BoD meeting was officially adjourned at 8:28 PM on May 13, 2025.