

WPLL BoD Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 @ 6:27 PM Approved: 5/13/2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE: (14 of 15) Chris Hurtado, 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. Amanda Demarest, Justin Hooten, Brian Roakes, Anthony Sanders, Jon Watson, Kyle Wood. **Not Present:** Lindsay Hloska, Vice-President.

GENERAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Rick Way.

Meeting Minutes: April Sterner made a motion to approve the prior Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Amanda Demarest. Discussion: None. All board members were in favor and none opposed. Prior Meeting Minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report: WPLL bank account is at approximately \$93,000. Discussion: Equipment bills remaining for 2025 spring season. More bills are expected including jerseys. Registration is up. Mike Linares made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by April Sterner. All board members were in favor and none opposed. The WPLL Treasurer's report is approved.

Special Business: N/A.

Meeting Agenda:

Old Business:

- WPLL Meeting Minutes are now posted on the WPLL website, after BoD approves at the next meeting.
- Need copies of WPLL 501(3)c certificate.
- Recap 2024 Fall
 - 2024 Fall went better than hoped or expected, even given the weather!
 - 1 player ejection from an upper division game. Punishment will be the 1st game of the 2025 Spring.
 - We had \$235 stolen from junior umpire cash payouts. Changed method. Covered by donation monies.
 - So much praise from coaches and families but all eager to return home to Pine Hill Park!
- 2025 WPLL Bylaws are drawn up as a draft. Emailed to a few BoD's for review.
- Brian Roakes requested to speak on the WPLL draft process.
 - Brian suggested that we implement a fall draft for more equitable teams. **DISCUSSION:** Brian Roakes, Mark Kistler, Mike Shihadeh, Dan Tipton, and Chris Hurtado discussed and tabled further discussion.
- Little League Central Data Registration is now live
 - No significant difference to WPLL operations. Majority exists behind the scenes on the website.
- Looking ahead to 2025 Spring
 - Already 179 players registered (188 by 12/31/23) w/ 43 currently in the shopping cart.
 - WPLL pricing for tee ball is matching lowest neighboring league pricing given the new rule allowing league age 4 - 7 to choose any league. Other divisions are well below neighboring leagues by approximately \$40 per player due to our history of financial responsibility which will continue to lead us to positive registration growth for 2025 spring, which carries a target of 368 registrations or more.
 - School outreach - Lindsay, Amanda, and April please advise of opportunities.
 - Discussed emailing principles to gain insight of access points such as field days or community events.
- Road signage?
 - **DISCUSSION:** Have road signs made for WPLL registration at an estimated cost of \$300 or less.
 - Mark made a motion to order more signs. Discussion: 25-50 additions signs; consideration of banners in car loops; get more information from BlackJack. Expenses for road signs were **TABLED**.
 - Field reservations have been submitted. Charter and Insurance has been submitted.
 - F1 is currently being converted to a 50/70 field but looking to potentially reserve 1 night at Mitchell
 - A Safety Plan will be submitted (Mark).

- Mark inquired on when to specify the coaches meeting would be held. 1/22/25 is the expected date.
 - Expected return is still 2/1/2025. Tryouts & evaluations will remain at Veterans Memorial.
 - All background checks, abuse certifications, concussion etc. are due to be renewed yearly.
- Pine Hill Park & 2025 Spring discussions for needed expenditures
 - **DISCUSSION**: Concession needs: fridge, 2 pretzel cooker, pretzel warmer, popcorn machine, potential warmer, potential air fryer with an estimated cost around \$1,500 or less.
 - Dan Tipton made a motion to approve \$2000 plus an additional \$500 for discretionary items. Discussion: Adding “healthy bites” and a new cash register. The motion was seconded by Heather Way. ALL board members were in favor and NONE opposed. Expenses for the concession stand were APPROVED.
 - **DISCUSSION**: Field signage needs: remaking all dented signage and needed field signage decided upon by the Pine Hill Park committee with an estimated cost around \$5,000 or less.
 - Mark Kistler made a motion to approve \$5000 plus \$500 for discretionary items. Discussion: NONE. The motion was seconded by Jon Watson. ALL board members were in favor and NONE opposed. Expenses for field signage were APPROVED.
 - **DISCUSSION**: Field equipment needs: field chalk, spray liner, field rakes, potential mound tarps, office set up with an estimated cost around \$5,000 or less.
 - Dan Tipton made a motion to approve field equipment expenses of \$5000. Discussion: NONE. The motion was seconded by Mike Linares. ALL board members were in favor and NONE opposed. Field equipment expenses were APPROVED.
 - **DISCUSSION**: Playing equipment needs: catchers gear, helmets, bats, balls, umpire shirts, pitching machine, training equipment with an estimated cost around \$15,000 or less.
 - Lindsay Hloska made a motion to approve the playing equipment of \$15000. Discussion: Including JR umpire kits/shirts for those you are signed off as junior staff umpires. Suggestion to sell old equipment to offset some expenditures. The motion was seconded by Mark Kistler. ALL board members were in favor and NONE opposed. Field equipment expenses were APPROVED.
- The next BoD meeting is expected to be a closed door with PCPRNR in attendance to review final plans and transition for WPLL back to Pine Hill Park. Will open doors to general membership after a closed door.
 - Reminder to discuss the tabled discussion on Mr. Steve Booth with PCPRNR.
 - **DISCUSSION**: Spoke w/ Brian about larger expenditures to include fencing between fields and industrial parking, overhead safety netting, ball returns, fixtures for GC box, and potential playground. All of these must be approved by PCPRNR to go into place but an estimated cost around \$15,000 if approved.
 - Mike Shihadeh made a motion to approve the \$15,000 expense. Discussion: an opportunity to get a fencing company that we can partner with in return for a reduced installation cost, evaluate insurance necessary for the playground and at whose expense, how to get power to the GC box? The motion was seconded by Mark Kistler. ALL board members were in favor and NONE opposed. Expenses for additions were APPROVED.

New 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**: Have 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 in Florida, 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 ump's. 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. 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 totaling \$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.

General Member Questions:

Business banners hung at Veterans, then moved to WPLL? Temporary fencing will be put up at Veterans?

Board of Director "Around the Horn"

Amanda requested to have the umpire numbers available at concession. Mark mentioned updates to rules about jewelry and decals being allowed. Baseball bags still out: 1 Tball, 1 AA, 2 AAA, 1 major, Brian catcher gear 5 keys still out

WPLL Board of Director meeting is next set for:

- TBD - Dependent on return to Pine Hill

Adjournment:

Mike L. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark K. The WPLL BoD meeting was officially adjourned at _7:23_ PM on January 21, 2025.