March 25, 2024 *|* Take 5 Restaurant Meeting called to order by AJ Christopher at 6:37 pm

Attendance

**In Attendance:** AJ Christopher, Carmine Battista, John Chriscola, Andrea Clark, Mike Grimaldi, Wil Clark, Jean Degray, Steve DePalma, Dave Gamblin, Larry Gousse, Marc Winer, Michelle Winer, Chris Izzo, Michael Winer, Brandon Mercier

New Business

* **Secretary’s Report:**
  + Andrea had a change to the minutes from the 2/25/24 meeting. They were corrected. No other changes Michael made a motion to approve the 02/21/24 minutes as revised. Marc seconded. Approved by vote 12/0/0
* **Treasurer's Report:** 
  + No Treasurer’s report was presented at this meeting.
    - AJ did report the bank balance and some expenses.
  + It was notated that the Finance Committee did not meet in the 1st quarter as stated in the bylaws. AJ will address this with the committee.
* **Coaches Meeting:**
  + The coaches meeting was held earlier this evening. This was informative and well received by all that attended. Goal was to address potential issues now instead of during the game. Reinforced there is a level of support through AJ, Andrea, Chris and Marc, so reach out. Coach Yarm was there and wants the High School to be an active partner with Little League. Yard Goats game when AHS plays there? Umpire information was great. They went over the Code of Conduct and how to approach umpires during a game. Equipment was handed out to the coaches at this meeting. There are few that were not able to attend. Coordinators will send out an email so the coaches have the information and they know when practices are. All players are allocated. Coordinators need to ensure the coaches have reached out and have called all their team members. Next year we can use Sports Connect during the draft and place the kids to the correct teams.
  + Wil and Brandon will set up a google doc for the coaches so they can choose a batting cage time slot as well as a practice field time slot.
* **Registration Updates:** - AJ
  + Currently we have 320 kids that have registered. We do need to issue some refunds to U14 as we don’t have enough for a team and the girls will be playing with Chicopee. November meeting attendees were provided a discount for their kids. We do have 9 people that have an outstanding balance. Emails were sent out to the parents.
* **Mass Con Clinics:**
  + Clinics are going well. They are happy with the college kids that are at the training's where the topic is defence and hitting. We had 31 kids at the first 2 clinics and there are 19 registered for the next training. Excited that both the boys and girls have been evenly represented at the clinics. Agawam Little League will still get a discount for attending the clinics.
* **Opening Day: - Saturday April 27th**
  + Brandon handed out an outline for opening day. *This is attached to the email.*

Please review and come with questions/suggestions for the next meeting. Michelle suggested “concession bucks” for prizes.

* **Baseball Updates:** - Andrea
  + District evaluation committee will be voted on at the April meeting,. If you are interested in being on this committee, let Michelle know and she will pass your interest to the evaluation committee. Need to be sure all head coaches are registered volunteers and they need a CORI check. Concession stand schedule will be completed once the game schedules are done. All Little League rules will be presented at the April meeting.
* **Softball Updates:** - Chris
  + Chris reported that due to low enrollment we will not have a U14 team this year. We have good numbers for the younger levels and there are some great coaches for these girls. Some of them played softball in school. Exciting!
* **Fundraising:** - AJ
  + Sponsors are coming in. AJ will forward more information to the board. Marc will update the website with the new sponsor information. We are waiting to put up signs until we know who the final sponsors will be.
  + AJ is talking to Millennium press in reference to the calendar raffle. This fundraiser brings in between 6-8 thousand dollars after expenses are met.
  + Golf Tournament - We had a generous donation of a guitar to be used as a prize. Maybe a silent auction? We are always looking for more raffle donations. This is a big money maker for the league.
* **Umpire Update:** - Michael
  + The indoor Umpire Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, March 30th from 9-1at the library. The outdoor Umpire Clinic is scheduled Saturday, for April 13th.
  + Umpire fees for the season were discussed:
    - **Minors BB:** Field $20; Plate $25; Solo Umpire $33
  + Motion made by Jean. Seconded by Brandon. Approved by vote 11/0/1
    - **Majors BB:** Field $30; Plate $35; Solo Umpire $48
  + Motion made by Jean. Seconded by Brandon. Approved by vote 10/0/2
    - **Intermediate/Seniors BB:** Field or Plate $50; Solo Umpire $90
  + Motion made by Jean. Seconded by Brandon. Approved by vote 11/0/1
    - **U10/U12 SB:** Field $25; Plate $45; no additional $ for Solo Umpire
  + Motion made by Jean. Seconded by Brandon. Approved by vote 10/0/2
  + No fees for State tournament as those umpires are volunteers
  + We will pay umpires by checks again this year. Worked well last year.
* **Scheduling Updates:**
  + Marc will be working on them this week. T-Ball has 6 teams and will play at 9/10:15/11:30 at Borgatti on Saturdays. Instructional has 7 teams and will play at 9/10:30/12 on Field 4 & 5 on Saturdays. Minors has 6 teams and will play on M/W/Sat at 11:30 on F1,2,4. Majors has 4 teams and will play on T/TH/Sat at 9 on fields 1&2. Majors and Minors will have between 12-14 games scheduled. Intermediates and Seniors are scheduled by Ernie and will be posted on the D2 website. We have 1 intermediate and 1 senior team this year. Marc will be working on the 9 schedules for Softball. Softball schedules will be posted on the D2 website as they travel.
  + Play Off dates will be scheduled at the beginning of the season so there is no question about the dates. We will have a single elimination for playoffs. Majors will have 2 rounds and minors will have 3 rounds.
  + Check the website for rescheduled games. Remind coaches this is the most up-to-date information and they need to check and let their team know.
  + The Umpire Coordinator must be informed when games are canceled.
* **District Updates:** Steve DePalma
  + Discussed Rule 2, which will do away with the waiver system. Borders will open, so anyone can play in your district. This stems back to where the players play as a 7 year old, versus their home town. They are allowed to play in their home town or the league that they were playing as a 7 year old. Their siblings are eligible to play in the same league as the 7 year old is in.
  + Umpire Code of Conduct will protect the umpires as there are so few. The Code of Conduct must be signed by all coaches and parents of players. AJ will print out and get copies to all coordinators who will be responsible for ensuring they are signed by each team. The Code of conduct will be enforced to protect Agawam Little League players, coaches and umpires. Should this be read before each game as a reminder to let parents and coaches know they can be removed from the game if they do not follow the code of conduct? We are not able to remove a parent of a minor. If you need reinforcement, reach out to AJ, Chris, Andrea, Marc or Steve and they will ensure the correct call is made. Coaches are approved by the board.
* **League of Their Own:**
  + The board members present at the 3/24/24 meeting discussed the received nominations. Mike Natale is the 2024 recipient. AJ will reach out to him.
* **Misc Items:**
  + Improvements are currently being made at Borgatti. Sidewalks, new Pickle ball court, and a new pavilion. A safe is being installed at Borgatti.
  + Memorial updates hopefully will be done by opening day.
  + AJ is looking to purchase Blackstone grills for both stands.
  + Field cleanup day is April 13th. Town has been working hard.
  + Breakaway bases moved from St Johns to memorial.
  + Looking for a groomer and some turf for batting cage for Borgatti.
  + Steve is looking into a field paint liner for the fields.
  + Let Andrea or Chris know if there are any safety concerns.
* **Next Meeting:**
  + April 7, 2024, at Take 5 Restaurant at 6:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm. Motion by Marc. Seconded by Andrea. Approved by vote 12/0/0