



WHITE BEAR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING

AGENDA & MINUTES 2022

Dec 19, 2022

1. Winter Training Update - all ducks in a row?
 - a. Coaching volunteer list is filling up fast, both adults and high school kids
 - b. Cap set for 30 kids per hour
 - c. Kids need to bring dry shoes to wear in the facility
 - d. Michelle will open registration on the 2nd for the sessions on the 9th
2. GSTC Qualifier Bid Timeline - Chris
 - a. Must submit by Jan 6
 - b. Bids announced Jan 13
 - c. Tournaments are filling up - make Greg aware
 - d. Unanimous vote to charge \$425 per team for entrance fee
 - e. We can open registration before the bid is announced
 - f. Will accept checks only
 - g. Review if order is needed for diamond dry, chalk, baseballs during February timeframe
3. Share and capture official list of traveling coaches
 - a. 9U - Jesse Murphy
 - b. 10AAA - Tyler Gregory
 - c. 10AA - OPEN
 - d. 11AAA - Nick Dettinger
 - e. 11AA - Joe Howe
 - f. 12AAA - John Alexander
 - g. 12AA - Adam Anderson
 - h. 12A - Jesse Chapman
 - i. 13AAA - David Connors
 - j. 13AA - Dan Piilola
 - k. 13A - OPEN
 - l. 14AAA - Matt Johnson
 - m. 14AA - OPEN
 - n. 15AAA - OPEN
4. Code of Conduct initial planning and brainstorm, pro-active approach for registration
 - a. Without consequences, no policy matters

- b. Mandatory parent pre-season meeting - consequences explained
- c. Eagan has a good document that Megan found
- d. Must come from the association, not the coaches - in person
- e. Make them click on individual items during registration
- f. Managers email communication
- g. Committee of four on the board to review and determine consequences, processes, attending pre-season parent meeting
- h. Email address created for people to log complaints
- i. As part of all this, remind them about Bulletproof Parent

Dec 5, 2022

1. Recap of 2022 financials/budget item review
 - a. Ryan shared year-end financials of \$174k income and expenses of \$139k
 - b. Per player analysis shows that we should be able to keep registration fees flat in 2023. More discussion/vote to come in early January.
 - c. Roughly \$95k in total equity as we close the year, looking to spend on field improvements starting with Polar bench coverings
 - i. Nate Kolb has identified a new contractor to work with to bring a proposal to Township
2. Apparel update/vote - Megan
 - a. Signature looks like the vendor of choice for all uniforms
 - b. Megan will order 400 hats to make sure we have plenty to start the season
 - c. Unanimous decision on in-house jersey design
3. Winter training planning/updates - Nick & Michelle
 - a. Everything on schedule
4. Brian Raabe coaches clinic set for January 30th at Hugo City Hall
 - a. \$100 room rental fee has been paid
 - b. Greg, Chad, and Keith to communicate to our pool of coaches
5. Travel coach selection update - Greg
 - a. Coaches have been named at each level as appropriate, Greg will be communicating throughout the week.

Nov 21, 2022

1. Tournament planning
 - a. Moving forward with 13AA, 13AAA, 14AA, 14AAA - all at Polar. Babe is back-up site. Unanimous consent. Chris has the schedule developed.
 - b. Joe will alert Wheelhouse and Jason Hilderman about tourney dates
 - c. Chris to reach out to Bobby at MYAS for bid info
 - d. As tourney approaches, Jesse will coordinate equipment/field maintenance items (Diamond Dry, chalker, rakes, etc.)
2. In-house Jamboree
 - a. Sunday May 21st at Lakewood Hills. Combine with pictures.
 - b. Food truck - permit? Joe will ask Jason
 - c. Possible concession of our own as well (beverages at least)
3. Uniform/apparel ordering timelines/pricing/etc

- a. Money will need to start being spent sometime in December
 - b. Hisdahls and Signature will likely be main vendors - everything is on track at the moment
 - c. To be further discussed and addressed in upcoming meetings
4. Brian Raabe clinic tentatively Jan 30th
- a. Joe is working to connect with the City of Hugo on a venue

Nov 7, 2022

1. Winter training update
 - a. Locked in with Icemen facility from 4:00-7:00 on Sunday afternoons at \$175 per hour
 - i. Nick has provided dates and will continue to lead the relationship with the Icemen facility director
 - ii. Discuss/vote on price we will charge
 1. \$15 per hour (unanimous vote), 25 kids per hour
 2. Communication should go out before Christmas so people are aware of this year's plan, then Michelle will open up registration week to week like she did last year.
 - iii. Fitz and at least one other coach from his staff will be at every training session. High school players may also be helping out (TBD)
 - b. Fitz is working on the possibility of a High school-led camp separate from Sunday sessions. Date/time/location is still pending and is with Fitz to drive. Will coordinate with Nick.
2. Bulletproof Hitter/Parent roll-out - site is active and ready for use
 - a. Michelle will blast all of last year's registrants with the link and password
 - b. Greg will blast traveling coaches
 - c. We'll include the link with registration as well in 2023
 - d. Password may change from time to time based on discretion of Bulletproof Hitter content owner
3. Traveling coaches selection committee review and approval
 - a. Registration is open for applications
 - b. Interview day is Saturday December 3rd
 - c. Committee for interviews: Greg, Joe, John, Blair, Megan, Michelle K, Coach Fitz
 - i. Committee unanimously approved
4. Planning topics for next three meetings:
 - a. Uniforms/Apparel
 - i. Megan will be checking with vendors (Hisdahls, Signature) to start to get prices
 - b. Tournament planning
 - i. May 12th - 14th - Polar - 14AAA, 14AA, 13AAA
 - ii. Thinking of adding 13AA if the schedule works - Chris will analyze
 - iii. In-house Jamboree at Lakewood this year? Will discuss
 - c. Equipment purchases
 - i. Umpire equipment?
 - ii. Baseballs are ordered, catchers gear focus on younger kids and North Star
 - d. Budget and registration fees discussion - Ryan will need some dedicated time to review and approve with the board

Oct 3, 2022

1. Vote on 2023 Board Positions
 - a. 15 ballots collected, unanimous decision for the following board members:

- i. Greg Young - Traveling Director, 2 year term
 - ii. Andrew Cannon - North Star/Senior League Coordinator, 1 year term
 - iii. Chad Capra - In-house Director, 2 year term
 - iv. John Alexander - Tryout Director, 2 year term
 - v. Brad Fredrickson - Field Scheduling Director, 2 year term
 - vi. Blair Oklobzija - Vice President, 1 year term
 - vii. Michelle Kolb - Website/Communications Coordinator, 1 year term
- 2. Player development planning and potential new spend
 - a. "Bulletproof Hitter" subscription - online videos and quizzes for both athletes and parents
 - i. Motion is to make this available to all players in the association
 - ii. Password protected page for WBBA, \$1500 total for a 2-year subscription
 - 1. Brought to a vote, unanimous decision to move forward and purchase the subscription
 - b. Blizzard facility timing and dates
 - i. Greg to check with Barta about locking in Sunday dates/times
 - c. Summer 2023: Fitz to run "Sandlot Program" for all ages
 - d. Coaching clinics need to be prioritized for traveling coaches - Nick willing to take lead
- 3. Update on spending ideas:
 - a. Polar/Township - new specs provided by Township, need to resubmit proposal. Nate Kolb is working on the revised plans.
 - b. Village tractor - John will keep trying to reach the owner
- 4. 2021 Annual Report & Tax Filing
 - a. Ryan reviewed with the board and there was a unanimous vote to approve the annual report and proceed with the tax filing.
- 5. Volunteer dinner - gift card door prizes
 - a. Nikki/Greg/Keith/Blair to ping all volunteers one more time, final headcount due by Oct 7th.
 - b. Joe to ask Legion if they offer gift cards, if not, some other suggestions: Visa, Kwik Trip, Hisdahls, or Dick's.

Sept 19, 2022

- 1. Financial update - Ryan
 - a. Very solid position, roughly \$70k of equity to spend on our various initiatives heading into next year
 - b. Definite increase in in-house numbers
 - c. Parent surveys show positive view of the value we offer
- 2. Ideas for spending - all
 - a. Polar dugout plans - \$37k from Kolbuild, less if we can find some volunteer labor. Waiting to hear back from Township.
 - b. Can we spend on player development, specifically pitching instruction?
 - i. Someone to work with teams throughout the season?
 - c. General field condition maintenance across multiple sites
 - d. Partner with high school?
 - i. Turf infield?
 - e. Umpire gear kits for in-house umps, including shirt and pants
 - f. Net canopy at Lakewood
 - g. Our own field drag tractor - Village? John to ask.

- h. Marketing in-house program and off-season training
- i. Thinking bigger - new complex with the city of Hugo as a long-term initiative?
- 3. League survey results overview - Joe
 - a. Overall very positive feedback from parents across the leagues. Overwhelming majority had fun and will be registering next year
- 4. Dena is working on re-vamped fan gear offerings, also discussing sponsorship levels for jersey advertising
- 5. Jesse update:
 - a. Baseballs are ordered and working on exact equipment budget
 - b. Still looking for contractor to fix Babe building doors. Will throw up some plywood in the meantime - needs a truck.
 - c. Old tarp/mats/nets/trash removal will be scheduled.

Aug 29, 2022

1. State of the Board/possible movement
 - a. Joe - President - 1 year left
 - b. Ryan - Treasurer - 1 year left
 - c. Megan - Apparel Director - 1 year left
 - d. Nikki - Team Managers Director - 1 year left
 - e. Greg - Traveling Director - up for re-election, confirmed for ballot
 - f. Brian - Traveling Coordinator - up for re-election, retiring from Board, not planning to backfill
 - g. Blair - will be on ballot for Vice President (shadow Joe)
 - h. In-house Director - Chad Capra has agreed to be on the ballot
 - i. Keith - North Star/Senior League Director - 1 year left (brainstorm potential shadow)
 - j. John - Tryout Director - up for re-election, confirmed for ballot
 - k. Jesse - Equipment Director - 1 year left (shadow Ryan as well)
 - l. Michelle K - shadow Michelle A for Website/Communications
 - m. Field Scheduling Director - ballot currently OPEN, interest from Brad Fredrickson who is meeting with Michelle K to discuss
 - n. Michelle A - Website/Communications Director - 1 year left
 - o. Dena - Fundraising Director - 1 year left
 - p. Nick - Player Development Director - 1 year left (assist Greg as/if/when needed)
 - q. Derek - Umpire Director - 1 year left
 - r. Chris - Tournament Director - 1 year left (also assist In-house Director)
 - s. Andrew Cannon - shadow Jesse on equipment?
 - t. Todd Wanka - expressed interest in potential board positions but also heavily involved with hockey
 - u. Annual Meeting with elections on Oct 3rd - need to post on website at least two weeks prior
2. Surplus to spend
 - a. Do we need to think bigger? Start pooling money for a much larger spend in conjunction with high school program and/or city?
 - b. Bench coverings at Polar - Nate Kolb to offer up plans to be submitted to Township
3. Surveys and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - all have been sent out, will review summary of results in a future meeting
4. Ordering baseballs and/or other equipment?
 - a. It's worth looking into what The Stadium will be doing with their used equipment
 - b. Jesse to create cycle schedule for replacing catcher's gear
 - c. Practice and some game balls need to be ordered by end of September

5. Babe Ruth porta-potties and building maintenance
 - a. Ryan has canceled one of the porta-potties, leaving the other one there through the end of September
 - b. Still looking for contractor to fix the doors at Babe building once and for all - we have insurance money to spend
6. Left-over concessions at Polar
 - a. Joe will bring to the meeting on the 19th to distribute
7. Tryout dates confirmation
 - a. March 18th/19th (Blizzard Sat, TCO Sunday), make-ups later that week
8. Feedback from Wheelhouse
 - a. WBBA did not do well in Wheelhouse's year-end survey of umpires. We'll need to address how to improve this heading into next season through a re-vamped Code of Conduct and other steps.

Mar 28, 2022

1. Tryout re-cap, next year's dates
 - a. Looking at 2023 - March 18th/19th - good to go - John will reach out to Ramsey County
 - i. 3rd grade parents lingered a little too long
 - ii. Try to do stickers with numbers filled in, not outline only
 - iii. Try to have more helping hands there (high school kids), and if people aren't needed, let them go
 - iv. Give more thought to make-up tryouts - re-think it for next year perhaps
2. Tournament Update
 - a. Games will be at Polar only - Babe won't be available
 - i. Friday games will be 4/6/8 for 14s
 - ii. 13's will be Sat/Sun only
 - b. Need to revisit rules and update if/as needed - Bill/Chris
 - c. Concessions discussion
 - i. Freezer is not working again, probably not worth fixing
 - ii. Maybe grab the one from Babe Ruth? Or no need for freezer this year?
 - iii. Ramsey County - Jason will be in touch with them
 - d. Volunteers
 - i. Joe to notify 12u coaches that their parents are expected to serve
 - ii. Chris/Michelle get Sign-up genius ready with shifts
 - e. Can we get a 4-wheeler reserved? - Jesse/Blair will check their sources
 - f. Umpires - confirm with Derek that it is on their radar
 - g. Diamond Dry - Joe will ask Township if they will re-stock us
3. North Star/In-house/Senior League Planning
 - a. In-house teams will start forming next week
 - b. May 21st (Saturday) will be picture day
 - i. Blair will need help staffing this - 9:00-2:00
 - c. Keith - April 14th is the cut-off to submit North Star teams - Joe to contact Hank about VFW team so we can get a good count on 15AAA vs North Star, plus arrange 15AAA tryouts
4. Batting cage nets, other equipment needs
 - a. Jesse will get a team together for April 2nd/3rd to hang nets
 - b. Blair will work on getting turf fastened down because it's too cold to glue

- c. Board has approved additional \$2k spend for equipment (catcher's gear)
- 5. Babe Ruth building maintenance
 - a. Kitchen door is not repairable - need to spend some money. Jesse is catching up with Nate Kolb.
 - i. We should get some video surveillance stickers
 - b. Mound delivery - first or second week of April
- 6. Sponsorship update/banner printing
 - a. All is on track.

Mar 14, 2022

1. Registration numbers
 - a. Traveling:
 - i. 3rd grade = 22
 - ii. 4th grade = 21
 - iii. 5th grade = 37
 - iv. 6th grade = 36
 - v. 7th grade = 29
 - vi. 8th grade = 28
 - b. In-house:
 - i. 1st & 2nd grade = 90
 - ii. 3rd & 4th grade = 66
 - iii. 5th & 6th grade = 48
 - c. North Star = 23
 - d. Senior League = 4
2. Tryout update/planning/final details
 - a. Ryan will pick up 3 buckets of new practice baseballs
 - b. Everything else is good to go
3. 12 year olds playing up to North Star?
 - a. Blair will handle, holding pattern for now, need more info
4. Apparel update/what needs to happen and by when
 - a. Things are on schedule, team selection is March 25th and then the wheels will be in motion.
 - b. Megan will come to make-up tryouts on the 24th as well for sizing.
5. Sponsorship update
 - a. Stadium, Cup & Cone, Greg Young, all on board for sponsorships.
 - b. Brian follow-up with TGK
 - c. Joe contact TCO
 - d. Dena sent 25 letters out to area businesses
6. Umpire roster update - Derek
 - a. 15 committed umpires for in-house, plus 3 leads
 - b. Need to order umpiring shirts

Feb 28, 2022

1. Field improvement spend proposal & vote
 - a. 4 portable mounds approved for purchase, Jesse will place the order
 - b. Other items such as a temporary fence, chalk, rakes, and tarps will be decided at a later date
2. Registration numbers update

- a. Traveling:
 - i. 3rd grade = 15
 - ii. 4th grade = 12
 - iii. 5th grade = 22
 - iv. 6th grade = 17
 - v. 7th grade = 16
 - vi. 8th grade = 14
- b. In-house:
 - i. 1st & 2nd grade = 65
 - ii. 3rd & 4th grade = 43
 - iii. 5th & 6th grade = 21
- c. North Star = 12
- d. Senior League = 1
- e. Michelle will make sure there is communication throughout this week about early bird pricing ending for traveling registration
- 3. Umpire update/Howard's roster update
 - a. 9 in-house umpires for now, about 50% response rate
 - b. Joe to get Derek some names of 8th graders
- 4. Insurance renewal & financial assistance update
 - a. Board approves renewing with current vendor
 - b. Joe to inquire about getting Lakewood Hills added to our policy
- 5. Sponsorship update
 - a. 2 new Triple Sponsorships
 - b. Top-line Design interested in in-kind sponsorship
- 6. Brief circle-back on North St. Paul for in-house
 - a. Positive conversation, full speed ahead if their registration leads to either 1 or 2 teams at either or both in-house levels. Blair and Joe to keep in touch.
- 7. Tryout update (if John's makes it to the meeting)
 - a. Plan is in place, things are lining up well. No issues currently
 - b. Specific times to be communicated roughly 1 week in advance

Feb 14, 2022 (virtual)

- 1. Sponsorship update/planning
 - a. Dena will communicate to those people who sold sponsorships last year and will track progress
 - b. All are encouraged to think of businesses to solicit
 - c. Ryan will contact Summit Orthopedics about possible home run sponsorship
- 2. Discussion: request from North St. Paul to join our in-house league
 - a. We did this once in the past with Mahtomedi (10 years ago or so)
 - b. Players would need to register throughout site
 - c. Would they handle uniforms? Or wear WB jerseys?
 - d. Do they supply their own gear?
 - e. Our fields/our ump's - most plausible outcome
 - i. Thinking a max of 2 teams at 7/8s and 9/10s
 - f. Joe and Blair to connect with NSP President for more details
- 3. Field improvement costs/shopping list

- a. Jesse has shared pricing on mounds and fences and will put a proposal together for us to vote on during our meeting on Feb 28th
 - b. Porta-potties at BR Fields would be treated separately from field improvement budget per Ryan. Jesse to also look into costs for a cleaning service if we were to open the bathrooms again
4. Trusted Coaches process/awareness
 - a. All board members must do this. Expect communication from Greg soon and get it done promptly.

Jan 31, 2022

1. Vote on jersey design
 - a. Script 3 was the chosen font via vote
 - b. UA ignite 2-button orange, and 2nd jersey is white with black shoulders
 - c. Logo on sleeve TBD after understanding additional cost, if any
2. Vadnais Fields registration go/no-go
 - a. We are reserving the Kohler 60 and 90 foot fields for the season, but not Berwood
3. Board member registration codes
 - a. Chris unanimously voted to board as Tournament Director
 - b. Board votes for board reimbursements for one free registration per family 13-1 - Michelle will provide the code
4. Tournament update
 - a. Tourney is full at all levels
 - b. Chris and Bill will look into getting tarps for bench covers at Polar
 - c. Dena finalizing t-shirt designs - team names on the back is up in the air depending on cost and timing
 - d. We need a 4-wheeler for field dragging - Jesse looking into this
5. Umpire update
 - a. Derek will reach out to last year's list to see if interested in this summer, as well as if they want their name submitted to Wheelhouse
 - b. Derek will work with Michelle on promoting the need for umps on our FB page
 - c. Century College students is another avenue Derek will pursue
6. Tryouts update/discussion/needs
 - a. Everything on track, John reaching out to volunteer scorers soon
7. Sponsorship review/ideas
 - a. Joe to get Dena the sponsorship info, asked group to brainstorm other sponsorship ideas
8. Brainstorm field improvement spend
 - a. Check on Lakewood Hills storage - Michelle K.
 - b. 4 porta potties for Babe?
 - c. Cleaning service for Babe?
 - d. Babe 3 - snow fence?
 - e. Goal is for Jesse to share costs on the 14th and decide what we will spend on during the meeting on Feb 28th
9. Next meeting virtual - 8:00 pm on the 14th

Jan 10, 2022

1. Budget approval and setting registration fees & timing
 - a. Ryan walked the board through the various line items in the 2022 budget, which was then approved unanimously

- b. Registration fees set:
 - i. 7 / 8 in-house: \$100
 - ii. 9-12 in-house: \$225
 - iii. Gopher State Traveling: \$375
 - iv. North Star: \$300
 - v. Senior League: \$320
 - c. Registration can go live asap
2. Initial logo designs for WBL Opener - Dena
- a. Well received! Feedback provided for round two revisions