Board Meeting Date: 02/12/19

Board Members Present: Kristi Willis, Mike Willis, Cliff Walker, Darin Phelps, Dave Wood, Michelle Cook, Christine Gonzales, Gabe Johnston, Denise Whitmire

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm.

***Review and Approve Minutes:***

A correction to the draft dates was noted and will be made in the minutes. Michelle motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mike, and carried by the Board.

***Final Review of Teams and Numbers:***

Total number of players registered: 358

Juniors Teams: 1 with 13 players

50/70 Teams: 2 with 12 players each

Majors Teams: 5 with 12 players each

Minors Teams: 6 with 12 players each

Farms Teams: 6 with 12 players each

Pee Wee Teams: 6 with 11 players each

Tee Ball Teams: 4 with 10-11 players each. We still need one manager.

Michelle asked if there was room on any teams for a 7 year old. Kristi said all the teams are full, but there is a waiting list. Kristi said she had four parents question why their child was placed in a higher division. She explained the number of players, skill levels and balancing teams as reasons. All players will remain where assigned.

Rosters are being finalized for Farms and being put in Sports Engine. Rosters should be to Managers by Friday. Pee Wees and Tee Ball rosters will be formulated next.

Cliff asked how teams are determined for Pee Wee and Tee Ball. Kristi stated that she looks at the schools they attend and try to group them such. Girl players will be divided appropriately amongst teams. Siblings are kept on same teams until they reach divisions that are drafted. Absolutely no requests for teams are accepted.

Parent Meeting with Positive Coaching Alliance:

* Tee Ball and Pee Wee - February 19 at SCOE (6:30-7:45 pm)
* Farms & Minors- February 20 at SCOE (6-7:15)
* Majors & 50/70 – February 20 at SCOE (7:30-8:15 pm)

Positive Coaching Alliance will utilize first 2/3 of the meetings with their presentation. The remainder of the meetings will be for Mark West to familiarize Parents with Sports Engine.

***Finalize Opening Day Nominations:***

Brett Gripe and Richard Keys are the two nominees that will be honored this year. The other nominees discussed on January 28 will be considered next year.

***Confirm Hosting All Stars:***

Every year we’ve hosted the unsanctioned Minors All Star Tournament. Everyone feels that this should continue as a tradition at Mark West due to the overwhelming success and praise from other leagues. It gives players a chance to compete, extends the season, and plants seeds to do better next year.

We also host the 50/70 tournament which typically has been first and shorter, but will be longer this year due to the addition of more teams to District 35. The District includes, besides Mark West, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Rincon Valley, El Molino, Sebastopol, Willits, Cloverdale and Healdsburg. Some leagues may need to combine to form a team.

There were also discussions about having a 10 year old All Star Team this year, in addition to the 11 and 12 year old All Stars teams.

Cliff commented that it was fun to host a TOC game this past year. The District will ask who wants to host the 8 team and 4 team contests. Darin said this could be done over one weekend at Mark West since we have two fields, Majors and 50/70; if we limited the number of games we hosted and are able to enlist enough volunteers. The new coaches this year may step up. Cliff commented that this is our year for recruitment in order to maintain continuity with so many past volunteers phasing out as their children age out.

Staffing the Home Run hut for Playoffs and All Stars is always a problem. Michelle suggested that parents staff the Hut the first week of playoffs when everyone’s schedule is set; the final week since no one knows who will continue may need to have paid staff in the Hut. The question was asked why the Juniors Parents do not have to work the Hut. It was mentioned that they do not play at Mark West and do not get the benefit of the Hut at their games; however, several people feel that they still should have to take shifts. Michelle announced that the mini-hut will not be available at the Majors field any longer as it did not turn a profit. It was suggested that it be placed over by the conic facing the fields on the Farms and Minors side and have a parent staff it rather than rely on children.

***Field Work Day:***

This is being pretty much weather driven at the time. Although the Majors field needs mowing, the current weather patterns may delay that for some time. Hanging of the nets on the fields could be done with ladders if the ground is too wet for the lift. The 50/70 field is a must as we lost too many balls last year.

Possibly Saturday, February 16th work could be done on the Minors backstop, 50/70 and Schopflin nets, and the Majors scorers’ platform.

***Miscellaneous:***

* Gabe asked whether practices had to wait until February 25th and if they had to be held at Mark West fields or could he have team go to the batting cages (not Mark West’s) for example. Our insurance does not cover practices anywhere except Mark West approved fields. He can have a meeting at batting cages, but it cannot be called a Mark West practice, cannot be mandatory, any fees must be donations, and parents must be informed that the League’s insurance will not cover any injury that may occur.
* Because of the current condition of the fields and if the wet weather continues Coaches may need to have blacktop practices.
* Darin is currently working on practice schedules.
* Michelle mentioned that if anyone’s registration check is returned to resend it. The Post Office raised the fee for the PO Box by $100, but didn’t inform us so instead of applying our check towards a partial year, they put the check in the PO Box with a note and locked it. We have resolved it with the Post Office.
* The Manager’s safety meeting wasn’t listed on the email of important dates: February 21 at SCOE. The meeting is mandatory for either the manager, assistant manager or team’s safety officer. It will cover filing of injury reports, first aid, etc.
* Cliff inquired about the Farms Little League Rules night which is typically covered by the Farms Commissioner at the field. We currently do not have a Farms or Minors Commissioner. Cliff stated that he can help with Minors. He said that perhaps Rich Thomas could take Farms? Kristi said that she might help if necessary with equipment distribution.
* Dave announced that all of the teams have sponsors this year.
* We also have sold a lot of banner space on the fences, but encourage people to keep trying to get more. The community is feeling the momentum of rebuilding and it has sparked an interest and support for the league.
* We will be using Sonoma Design for the league apparel and uniforms because the other vendor wanted to charge $8 shipping for each order.
* Lastly, RAA stated that we will only be able to use the in-field this year. Kevin spoke with their representative who was supposed to negotiate, but they wanted to be paid, wanted us to fix the backstops, mow the fields all year, and provide someone to lock the gate at night. We will pay and fix the backstops, but that’s all. We will be using Schopflin more so FBK1 will not be able to use Schopflin after February 24th unless no Mark West team wants to use it, Sunday’s maybe.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

/drw

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday 03/11/19