

JWS Board Meeting
January 11, 2023
Minutes

Attendance: Quentin Thurmond, Oakley Etter, Suzanne Nichols, Cassie Wickham

Oakley moved to approve the December minutes as sent out. Cassie 2nd the motion.

December minutes were approved.

Budget – Suzanne reported that we still have 2 players with outstanding fee balances (\$550); 1 player with unpaid uniform expenses; but there are potentially 3 new players (\$775 in fees). Both teams have been registered for the spring league (check has cleared). U10 team has been registered with USSSA, waiting for coaches to complete background checks (will then issue reimbursements). Suzanne further shared that she found pitching resource materials that she then purchased (coaching aids to be used by all age levels in instructing pitching technic to those without a pitching coach). Oakley & Cassie requested the materials be sent to them.

Team Roster Update – With the new players, U10 is at 11 players; U14 is at 13 with the possibility of one more if Leah Mann decides to continue after indoor. Suzanne recommends that team rosters be closed.

- **Team practice opportunities / space** – Ben Wickum had inquired at the meeting with the U14 coaches about getting additional time for a “team practice” (something in addition to the Saturday indoor times). **Nothing additional available through MMU and JW Bell Warehouse.** Inquired with Coach Sells about getting gym time at WHS – per text – “probably nothing available at WHS as varsity team doesn’t even receive time until March” but she will follow up. Coach Sells was unavailable for the meeting & Suzanne failed to follow up prior.

Committee Updates

Indoor Workout review & future plans – Quentin heard from Coach Sells that the turn out was good and that there appears to be good potential. Oakley shared that she had 3 new players in attendance. Suzanne confirmed that 2 of the new players were U10 eligible but that the 3rd has a 2011 birth year (making them U12 eligible) – if that player commits, we will be placing her on the U14 team for spring.

Suzanne shared an itinerary for the remaining Saturdays in January based on what Coach Sells and the HS girls facilitated the first week. The idea being to build on skills, each week mastering what was introduced the week before and introducing something new / more complex. Those in attendance seemed to be fine with the plan. Will share plan with Coach Sells for additional approval / input and then distribute to those who have volunteered for the corresponding week.

Volunteers and Requirements – Many parents stayed and observed last Saturday and then signed up to help. Per Signup Genius (at the time of the meeting), we have 3 parents committed to Saturday the 14th and 2 parents for each of the following 2 weeks. Should send out a thank you and reminder.

Spring League / Tournaments – Teams are registered for spring league. Need to hear from U14 at next month’s meeting to ensure they get the tournaments they are wanting (if they are going to begin playing in March). U10 has a little more time to commit – suggest they don’t play tournaments before mid-May (weather too iffy & cold). Suzanne requested approval to allow teams to combine money allotted for league & tournaments; and spend that money as one sum since league costs are less than

what was budgeted. Those in attendance agreed with the request. U10 has \$1200 now for tournaments; U14 has \$1400 for tournaments.

Recruiting – Need to come up with a solid recruiting plan for the '23-'24 season. The suggestion was made to update the flyer and continue to have it run in the school newsletters – don't need players now – need them for the June/July tryouts. How do we get in front of the eligible girls (specifically the U12 age group)? Suggest we have the flyer ready in March (for sure by April). May need Coach Sells help to get into Middle schools – should include Harding as about 1/3 to 1/2 of students feed to WHS. Get in local parades to promote our presence in town – there is a cost associated with being in the parades but non-profits typically are at a reduced rate. St. Patrick's Day Parade is coming up. Cassie Wickham will inquire about registration. Oakley will research cost of banner & promotional items to pass out. Quentin questioned if we shouldn't be getting banner from Sheri (wouldn't it be free) – others present said we shouldn't expect banner to be free (Sheri has already produced JWS banners at a reduced price, if not free, and coaches have not taken care of them. Parades will also be an opportunity for team bonding.

Fundraising - Brittany Bell (U10 parent) reached out suggesting / offering a "JWS Night" at Shorts Burger in Shine in Marion. The restaurant offers community nights every Wednesday from 5pm – 8:30pm. 15% of the sales goes back to the organization. The offer is on dine-in, carry-out and to-go orders. There is no communication / mention of the organization that needs to be made at the time of the sale. Shorts Burger will issue a check the following day payable to the organization. Discussion yielded the fact that this a better arrangement than what we have had previously with other establishments & it is supporting a JWS family. This is a great opportunity for JWS – both financially and as a team bonding activity. Could incorporate some raffle items or prizes for our players who bring the most guests. Some questions were raised about the restaurant (those in attendance have no experience with them), do they post the event on their facebook page? Per Oakley's quick search of Shorts Burger, they have 4000 followers. Quentin mentioned that he was scheduled to visit the restaurant for business within the next couple of days and would make an assessment. Pending Quentin's review, 2/22 was selected as a date.

Suzanne shared that the HS team will not be partnering with us in butterbraid sales. As such, she questioned if there was any objection to offering butterbraids to the Jeffords family (they were our top sellers last year). No objections were raised – some concerns were shared.

Fan Apparel update - Krista Kronstein was unable to attend. Do not have an update on apparel progress. Need to confirm that the store is still open – would be nice to share the opportunity with the new players.

Krista was able to make the adjustments suggested in November to the desired design for the practice shirts. Images were shared, elements of each design were liked. Suzanne & Krista were out voted for overall design preference. A design with a yellow softball as the "o" in softball; the blue & red "W" (as used by WHS) in the middle and the removal of the red stars was requested. Suzanne will communicate further desired changes to Krista. We have 2 sponsors for the back of the shirts – Quentin request we hold production to enable him to inquire with his employer (Hawkeye Fire & Safety).

New Business/Miscellaneous – no new business or additional items were offered for discussion.

Next Meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, February 1st @ 6 Mt. Vernon Road Hy-Vee.**