

JWS Board Meeting
March 3, 2021
Minutes

Attendance: Denita Peterson, Sheri Dye, Breann Sells, Cami Kay, Suzanne Nichols, Stephanie DeWitt

February minutes were presented for approval. Concern was expressed that the information enclosed was “out dated” as some actions were different than what was discussed during the meeting. After clarification that the minutes were a reflection of what was discussed / presented at the meeting – not a reflection of activity after the meeting; Sheri Dye moved that the minutes be approved, Breann 2nd the motion. Minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

Indoor Practice – attendance at D-Bats was spotty but practices went well. Practice at Perfect Game began this week. U14 practices on Mondays @ 4:30 & Wednesdays @ 5:30; U12 practices on Wednesdays @ 6:30 & Thursdays @ 5 pm. Times are posted on the website.

Coaches - 10U- no team currently. 12U - Quinton Thurmond has completed ACE & Ashley Albert has agreed to also coach. She has completed safesport & background check. 14U – Katie Johnson has completed the next level of ACE. She has Dave Osterhaus helping at practices. Jason Sells has agreed to help during games – USA Softball does not have record that ACE is up-to-date. Coach Sells has drafted a “**Coaching Handbook**” that is age specific that she will share with coaches at a coaching clinic. Handbook contains expectations, responsibilities, drills and sample practice plans. Coach Sells will hold the **Coaching Clinic Sunday March 21st @ 2 pm @ SignPro**. It shouldn’t take long but is mandatory for all individuals in a coaching position. Any other interested person may attend. Suzanne is not available, she requested that Sheri take notes as she will be in attendance to let everyone into the building. Coach Sells will notify all coaches.

Discussion during the meeting circled back around to coaching a couple of times. Communication with coaches needs to be better as seasons wrap up / kick off. A survey was suggested as a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of a coach. The point of better / more qualified coaches was a reoccurring concern / point of improvement for the program. Many aspects were discussed but nothing definitive was decided.

Team Schedules – Nothing has been scheduled for practices past March. **Teams do not have a location secured for outdoor practice.** PG has sent out an update on **Leagues. Play** will begin at Prospect Meadows starting in April and will move to (fka PG Park) when weather and construction allows. Registration has not yet been sent out. The update disclosed that U12 will play on Monday nights (Suzanne miss-spoke during the meeting when she stated that play would be on Wednesdays). U14 will not play league. U12 will participate. **Tournaments** are beginning to be scheduled. U14 originally planned to play tournaments every other week through June 1 but now there is a conflict with HS pre-season games so U14 will play all April tournaments. That will leave 4 of the 9 players without a team come May 1st. U12 has not yet selected any tournaments.

Tryouts/Recruitment Efforts – Recruiting for the Spring/Summer season was focused on U12 & U14 teams. The original plan of using the yard signs was abandoned due to amount of snow & expected snow fall. An open call was held during the last practice at D-Bats on Feb. 27th. Advertisement was done through a flyer at

McKinley Middle School. Franklin was contacted but didn't return the call; Harding was contacted but wouldn't publicize without district approval and would only put it in the virtual backpack. The open call yielded 2 new players – one for each team. Not too bad for the limited effort. More needs to be done for Fall teams – Suzanne disclosed that if all current players return, there will only be a U14 team as all but 3 players from U12 move up. **Planning for July Tryouts needs to begin now.** Suzanne suggests that tryouts should happen before the end of June – to allow for all activities to occur before practices begin in August. Sheri Dye and Cami Kay stepped up to coordinate the recruiting and plans for tryouts.

Budget – Since the budget was sent out . . . 1. Quentin completed ACE training and his reimbursement issued. 2. U14 committed to a tournament April 3rd – registration was submitted online. Suzanne asked for questions – none were brought up. She restated that currently the budget looks on track but is going to get expense heavy before the season is over but reassured that the association has the money to carry the deficit.

Fundraising – Fan Apparel was offered, given the low numbers – we had a fairly good response. Board members were not given the opportunity to purchase Fan apparel at the meeting – since the meeting an email providing the opportunity was sent. **The Butterbraid fundraiser** was rolled out on Feb 27th. Turn in will be March 13th with delivery March 29th. Everything seems to be on track.

New Business/Miscellaneous

Denita brought the recent Discrimination Claim & Refund request to the attention of the entire board. Stephanie (as Chair of the Discipline Committee) had many questions & points of clarification. The communication exchange with Denita was outlined. Specifically noting that the claim of discrimination was made and the offer to meet was declined by the complainant. Suzanne shared her exchange – documentation of her communication has been given to Stephanie – noting that she is the one who originally suggested meeting. The board questioned why the complainant would make such an allegation and then refuse / decline the meeting. Members expressed concern about the discrimination allegation – “this is a serious charge”. The discussion raised more questions than it answered, brought light to areas that JWS should give more attention. Not all board members were in agreement as to how much “hand holding” should be done stressing that those in question are adults and need to take responsibility for their actions and their role as coaches. Discussion ended with the motion to “refund the amount granted to others after the cancelation of the fall 2020 season”. Sheri made the motion, Bre 2nd. The motion carried. Suzanne will issue the refund. Denita will notify the complainant of the decision.

Suzanne made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheri 2nd. **Next Meeting scheduled Wednesday, April 7th @ 5:30PM.** Meetings will continue virtually. The suggestion was made to publicize the fact that board meetings are open to all members in the hopes that more parents will get involved. Concerns were raised as to how effectively we can conduct a meeting virtually with a large number of extra attendees.