

JWS Board Meeting
Sept 7, 2022
Minutes

Attendance: Denita Peterson, Suzanne Nichols, Quentin Thurmond, Oakley Etter, Cassie Wickham, Breann Sells, Sheri Dye

Year End Budget – The final budget was shared. The program ended the '21-'22 fiscal year within \$300 of having a balanced budget – did spend more than we took in.

Suzanne presented a **Proposed '22-'23 Budget** – numbers are based on last season's actuals. We may struggle to meet this budget as there are fewer number of players to assist with fundraising and only have 2 families currently soliciting sponsors. Sheri Dye moved to approve the budget; Cassie Wickham 2nd the motion. Proposed budget was approved.

July 28th Minutes – The minutes from the previous meeting were not presented. No evidence that they were even sent after the meeting. Suzanne needs to gather those and send them out via email for approval (after this meeting).

Committee Updates:

- **Teams** – player commitment along with additional players picked up since tryouts – JWS is fielding a U14 and a U10 team this season.
 1. **Coaches** – U14 head coach is Ben Wickum with Katlin Borchardt & Ally Cortez assisting. Cassie Wickham & Oakley Etter have stepped up to coach the U10 team. There are several parents expressing a willingness to help out.
 2. **Rosters** – U14 has 9 players (actually age eligible & registered to the team with USSSA). They have an additional 3 players that are U12 age eligible playing with them this fall. All have paid their fees except 1 (happens to be the coach's player). U10 had 7 players going into tonight (recruited one more at practice) – team is not registered with USSSA as they are not playing in Fall league. Will register USSSA for the spring. Have collected fees from half of the players. Need to send fee statements by the end of the month.
 3. **Practice schedules** – U14 practices on Mondays & Thursdays (5:30 – 7pm). U10 practices on Wednesdays (5:30 – 6:45pm). All practices are held at the WHS varsity softball diamond.
 4. **Fall League** – U14 plays on Tuesday nights at 6:45pm at Triple Play Park (will play at 8:10 on 9/27). U10 plans to schedule parent/child games and a couple of scrimmages.
 5. **Tournaments** – U14 is registered for the Lions tournament on 9/25 & the Prairie tournament on 10/2.

- Field Condition & Usage** – The question was asked of Coach Sells, “what can we do to help her and the field – the weeds are starting to multiply”. She said she has a work order in but if JWS wants to spray, “go ahead”. Suzanne shared that we are budgeted to provide field maintenance and questioned if we want to move forward with that expenditure. Quentin shared that his company has access to chemicals to treat weeds. He has used them on his yard and they work well and work quickly – but are hazardous - players shouldn’t be on the field for a couple of days after treatment. Chemicals are very strong (will kill the grass) so care need to be taken to only spray where necessary. It was suggested that treatment should be done on a Friday – possibly 9/16. The exact date is TBD – weather and Quentin’s work schedule are contributing factors.
- Parent Meeting Summary** – Individual team meetings were held . . . both went well. U14 parents gathered at the field during the first team practice – coach spoke to players about expectations. U10 team meet at WHS – meeting was more interactive than U14. U10 parents asked many questions and seemed to be very engaged and willing to help out.
- Indoor Practices**

 - 1. Location** – We are pleased with our experience at Mt. Mercy’s indoor facility. Location is central for most players. The board asked that Denita reach out to Larry Yoder to confirm this is an opportunity for us again.
 - 2. Cost** – previously we have paid \$100/hr. Need to confirm that we may receive this rate again.
 - 3. Frequency** – Based on coaches’ feedback, beginning in Nov. is too early. Coach Sells suggested a January start with twice a week. Oakley requested that each (teams would have to split or share the time/space). Mt. Mercy’s availability will determine what is granted. Denita will work with Sheri to contact Larry Yoder and secure Mt. Mercy.
- Sponsors** – Currently there are only 2 families attempting to secure sponsors. It is believed they are each reaching out to 1 sponsor. The board was asked for referrals. Coach Sells needs to hold her sponsors for the HS program but suggested the online sponsorships with Casey’s & QuickStar. JWS sponsorship program is still the same – full sponsorship is \$500.
- Apparel** – Oakley Etter was thanked for her work with apparel last year, was asked if she was wanting to continue in that capacity now that she is coaching. There is a U10 parent who has expressed an interest/willingness to help with apparel. Oakley is willing to pass off apparel.

- **Board Members & end of terms** – Suzanne, Denita and Sheri’s term expires at the end of this month (Sept. ’22). Quentin, Oakley and Cassie’s term expires Sept ’23. Coach Sells’ term on the board is on going given her role as WHS varsity head coach. The question was presented – “Who is re-upping their service?” Denita is out – has more responsibility at work with a larger territory. Will be happy to advise but unable to continue to commit. Sheri will re-up. Suzanne will re-up. Quentin was unclear what was being asked. Denita explained the structure – “with him serving as VP this year it is somewhat expected that he moves up to President as she steps down” but with his player not continuing with JWS . . . is he wanting to exit as well? After some additional Q&A – Quentin will serve out his term.

New Business/Miscellaneous

Pitching coaches/Clinics – it would be great to secure someone to work periodically with the U10s to get them started / developed for spring. Coach Sells was asked who is still on staff with her at the HS program. She replied that both pitching assistants were no longer with her. “Grandma Sue” (the pitching coach Maybanks’ use) isn’t the best fit for beginners. Is it possible that any of the Mt. Mercy pitchers would be willing/interested in working with our youngest players? Sheri suggested we post the various camps being hosted by Coe, Mt. Mercy, Kirkwood, Mt. Vernon, D-Bats, etc. and allow parents to take responsibility for getting their player instruction.

Transition – Denita changed the authorization on the JWS@gmail account to Suzanne. Suzanne & Coach Sells will get the notifications on the account now. **Quentin** needs to have access to each of the team’s communication accounts (TeamReach & MOJO) and the JWS@gmail account. Cassie gave him access/login information at the meeting. Suzanne needs to send him access/login information for the email account.

Next Meeting scheduled Wednesday, Oct 12th @ 7PM @ the TicToc.