

**Penns Valley Little League Baseball
Board Meeting Minutes
Sunday, March 13, 2016 – 5 p.m. at PVEI Cafeteria**

Board Members Present:

Crystal Confer, Bob Gillespie, Beth King, Brian Niewinski, Shannon Stover, Rich Sweitzer and Mike Watson

Others Present:

Judy Brooks, Kelli Brungart, Chris Evans, Michele Houtz, Fred Ironside, Zoe Meyer, Shawn Robb and Mary Stoner

Meeting called to order by Brian Niewinski at 5:06 p.m.

Invited Speaker – Erik Hoffman, State College Spikes:

Christine Sailors, fundraising chair, invited Erik Hoffman from the State College Spikes to attend our meeting to discuss the upcoming Spikes Ticket Fundraiser. Erik reviewed our sales from last year and 250 tickets were redeemed, 100 of those were on Penns Valley Community night. This year's Penns Valley Community night is set for Friday, July 29. The players are already signed up for the Field of Dreams, where they can go on the field and run out with Spike's players.

Erik suggested another option for fundraising is for parents to work the concession stands. You get 10% profit of what the overall stand does that evening. A question was asked what the clean up detail consisted of given a bad past experience with the Bryce Jordan Center. Erik was going to check into this and let Christine know more details. Christine mentioned there are testimonials on the site and some groups have made \$1,000 in a night. We might consider this depending on the details.

Erik spoke to the group about the different levels of tickets. PVLL usually sells the Bull Pen Box Seats for \$8 with a \$2 profit to PVLL. Last year, PVLL committed to sell 400 and had a hard time selling the last 50. The Board discussed what we wanted to commit to this year given we are up about 35 more players than last year. Erik mentioned we could start by committing to 300 and PVLL would pay \$5 per ticket, as we pay in advance for the tickets. If we get close to that number, we can always increase to 400. This way the League isn't over committing. The Board liked that option and agreed to start with selling 300 tickets.

There was a discussion about offering Flex Books in addition to single tickets. Erik mentioned it would still be cheaper for people to buy individual tickets opposed to buying Flex Books. He wasn't sure what the profit would be on Flex Books.

Christine will stop by to finalize the fundraiser.

There was a discussion about using the Spikes' indoor batting cages for Rookie and T-Ball Divisions. Erik will look at the schedule and suggest some dates/times that might work.

Public Comments:

There was a question to when Rookie and T-Ball drafts would take place. Brian reported the Rookies are hoping to be drafted this week. We still need one more Rookie Coach and T-Ball Coach before moving forward with the drafts. The League is hoping to have four Rookie Teams and 3 T-Ball Teams. Crystal Confer suggested Josh Price as a Rookie Coach as he mentioned he would coach, if needed. Brian will follow up with Josh and hopefully get drafts done soon.

Shawn Robb, Major Division Coach, wanted clarification on the Volunteer Service Records as to who needs to fill out the form. Brian reported the managers and assistant coaches **do not** need to fill out. All other volunteers that have their clearances and are helping on the field during practices are encouraged to fill out the form. All hours' logged need to be verified by a PVLL Board Member, Team Manager or Team Parent.

There was a general question on how many players were signed up. Brian reported around 155.

Treasurer's Report:

February's reported balance is \$7,203.91. Our current March balance is \$5,283.51. Our deposits were \$1,777. Our credits were \$3,697.42 for uniforms/clothing from 2015 season, \$100 for Little League Fees/Insurance and \$128 for website domain, which is paid annually.

Christine Sailors, fundraising chair, asked if there was a breakdown of funds as she is working with some larger donations and companies want to know how our budget is being spent. Rich will get to Christine so she can move forward. This was also reported in the December 13 meeting minutes.

Open Gyms:

Majors are currently practicing outside given the nice weather we are experiencing in early March. Brian did send the Open Gym schedule to the Major Coaches and they are finalizing. Brian will be sending the schedule to the Minor Coaches next. The gym is filling up quickly during the week due to the high school sports. PVLL will be utilizing the gym space at Centre Hall Elementary and Penns Valley Elementary/Intermediate. Brian is hoping to schedule weekends for the Rookie and T-Ball divisions.

Officer Reports:

Fundraising – Christine Sailors

Christine set up an email specific to PVLL Fundraising. The email is pvllfundrasing@gmail.com. She will work with Crystal to get this on the PVLL website and out in a

listserv message so if there are ideas or suggestions, people can reach out to Christine. She is currently reaching out to the Grapevine to get the Patron Contributions Ad placed in the April issue. This will be similar to last year with tiered contributions of a single (\$10 donation), double (\$25 donation), triple (\$50 donation) and homerun (\$250 or more). Christine is also planning to have the Patron Contribution in the concession stands in case someone would like to make a donation throughout the season. Christine is working on a mailing to smaller businesses and asking for their sign renewal. She is planning to visit larger businesses to see if they would be willing to donate any funds. Brian mentioned he wasn't able to attend the Gregg Township meeting, but Rich did and they did give us a donation. The Board is attending other Township Meetings to ask for donations too.

Sponsorship letters went out and those that sponsored teams last year will get priority to sponsor again this year. There have been a few new requests to sponsor teams. The letters are asking for \$350 sponsorship fee. The Board approved an increase of \$400 for 2016, but given the letters went out it will remain the same as last year. Christine will make a note for next year.

Chris Evans offered the Centre Hall American Legion would be happy to sponsor a team. Shannon Stover will work with Chris to get a logo for the uniforms.

Marcia Kimler reached out to Brian about having her husband sponsor their son's Minor team. Shannon confirmed Live Wire Construction would be a sponsor. She is working with Marcia on a logo for her husband's business. Marcia will get a check to Brian.

Zoe Meyer is working with Dick's Sporting Goods to get a company donation. Brian thanked Zoe for helping with this. Christine mentioned Lowes has an application deadline of March 15 for their company donation and is finalizing the application.

Christine saw in the minutes that tournaments would fall under fundraising. She agreed to help with tournaments but asked for clarification. Brian reported it would be a group effort but Christine would mainly be the front person for accepting registrations.

Concession – Mary Stoner

There was a discussion about the slushy machine. Rich reached out to a food vendor, W.A. DeHart, Inc., who has a program. They deliver and set the machine up in April/May. The advantage to going with this vendor program is they maintain it during the season and remove it at the end of the season so it doesn't freeze. The League would be responsible to buy solution, cups and flavoring. The profit with this vendor program is about \$.40 a cup. The vendor we are considering has machines with other surrounding little leagues--State College, Nittany Valley and Bellefonte. We don't pay for the machine, just the supplies to make the slushies. This vendor also has other food supplies and we would buy as much as we could

with the vendor as they waive the fee if you do. The League will ask for donations of drinks and possibly other items that we can't buy from this vendor. Alicia is working with them on getting a machine and other items we might be able to use. They do sell bags of cheese and a warmer that would replace our current crock pot warming method, which Mary reported to be a hassle to clean up. This vendor does weekly deliveries, so we can take inventory to assure we are set for upcoming big games.

There was a general discussion about when to start donating items. Games could start as early as April 9, no games on April 16 due to first day of fishing season and also Penn State's Blue/White game. Nittany Valley is having their opening day on April 23. The League would like to have an opening day if supported by the board. The Legion could have a dedication of the field with players and families. It was asked when this would happen given all teams haven't been drafted yet. Late April was suggested with all teams and divisions invited to participate in an opening day. There will be more of a discussion about this with the Board.

Clothing – Shannon Stover

Shannon gave an update that she is still working with FivePoints from Lewistown on finalizing the website for online orders of PVLL and PV Baseball merchandise. There are a lot of nice items. We will have this as a fundraiser with paper and online ordering. We will start this soon. The online ordering will stay up and run through regular season. There are options to have names and player's numbers added to items. An idea is to change items in the fall and do a reminder for people to order additional items as holiday gifts. Prices are reasonable, some dri-fit items are a little more but that's expected. The PVHS Baseball team is currently having a sale, but not sure who the vendor is. Our items will be different from what they are doing this year.

Other Items:

Shawn Robb reported that a one of his players' grandfather agreed to sponsor a team if needed. Brian thought we had enough sponsors for the 2016 season but would consider him if something happened with any of the other sponsors.

Penns Valley Little League Softball will have three Minor Teams this year. Most of the games will be held in Centre Hall, not in Spring Mills like anticipated. The numbers are down and have about 60 girls. It seems most are going to soccer.

Brian reported about the district meeting he attended earlier in the day. There was a discussion about State College Little League combining their National and American Leagues into one on a trial basis. Little League International will review this in two years, 2018 season.

There will be some new proposed bat rules in 2018. Composite Bats will be prohibited. It was suggested if you were buying a bat this year, you would be fine,

but suggested not to buy any Composite Bats next year. There are no details yet, but once it's announced Brian will share the information and post on the website.

Tournament Fees have increased from \$150 to \$200. We usually do two.

The district gave team gift bags to all players. Brian received 15 – 20 bags that gave Gatorade bottles and Gatorade.

It was suggested to have an option to opt out of fundraising. Instead of participating in fundraising either give a donation or making a note that if you choose not to sell this fundraiser please make a donation in the amount of some dollar value. Most organizations are doing this as it's becoming hard to sell and deliver items with busy schedules.

Kelli Brungart is working with Beth King, Safety Officer, on getting volunteer badges for all volunteers who have their clearances. This will ensure the safety of our kids and help identify who is approved to be on the fields.

Adjourned at 6:07 p.m. by Brian Niewinski.