**Wetaskiwin Ball Club Minutes**

Monday, June 27, 2016 Stitchin' Magician

**Present:** Stephen Hawkes, Wes Johntson, Daren Gall, Helen Bye, Vanessa Crough, Dalbert Adkins, Codey Soanes, Ben Matthews, Blair Renes, Nancy Fischer.

Stephen called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

**Dalbert moved to approve the agenda, Daren seconded. CARRIED.**

**Codey moved to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting. Vanessa seconded. CARRIED.**

**Reports:**

**President- Stephen:**

**AAA Proposal:** Stephen reviewed the AAA Battle River Bisons Proposal that he had sent out to all board members. This is a 3 page document outlining the proposed joint AAA program between Camrose and Wetaskiwin. The documents compare practice times, costs (fees, umpires, tournaments), and distances required for travel for participants in the AAA league. The suggestion is to start with PeeWee and Bantam in 2017 and move on from there. Practices likely to be in both locations. Examples of combined areas are Spruce Grove and Stony Plain (Parkland AAA). Leduc does not have AAA yet. Need a critical mass of representation on the joint board. We may not have alot of players in the AAA to start but want to be represented.

**Daren moved to support the Battle River AAA proposal as a board, Vanessa Seconded. CARRIED.**

**Parade of Programs (Fall):** WBC should have a table at Fall Parade of Programs to stay in people's minds and get them ready for winter ball programs. Suggest having a sign up sheet for winter and spring ball camps/training.

**Winter Program:** This was successful. We will continue it/expand it.

**Meetings:**  We need to meet all year round to keep things moving with ball.

**Division Coordinators:**

**Rally Cap (Ben Matthews):** 60 players was huge. Optimum is 6-7 kids per coach but b/c of a number of coaches dropping out, there were 10 per team which is too many for this program. It is an easy program to run. Practices are laid out. 7-10/60 kids are already pitching and hitting! It works!

Coaches didn't all follow the program (2 playing a minigame while one practices). Those who did were very happy and had good success. Parent involvement both good and bad. Had 4-5 parents per team helping, which was a big improvement over the previous year. This way the parents learn with the kids. Ben suggests keeping the parents engaged by meeting with them through the season. Now that parents are familiar with the program and how easily it runs, there should be more parents volunteering next year. The information meeting at the start worked. Ben has a list of all the parents who helped out this year. The players all have active report cards that will be continued next year and will give copies of these to all parent helpers for next year. Report cards need to be given to the kids so they know what they can do and to rookie coaches for players moving up. There are a number of players who are ready to move up to Rookie and some who need to stay in the program for another year or two.

Helen Bye commended Ben on the amazing job he did this year coordinating this group. All remarks from parents about the program and Ben have been positive.

**U10 Fastball (reported by Dalbert):**  This group had too many on the roster. More importantly there were too many under age players (inexperienced ones) for the coach to be effective. There were 6, 7 and 8 year olds who could have/should have been in rally cap to learn the basics first. It was recommended that the team be limited to 8-10 year olds (with exceptions for experienced players) and this should be clear on the registration form. **The registration form needs to be updated to make this clear and to show Rally Cap is for all kids (baseball and softball).** The team did not go to provincials this year**. Camrose has Jamboree Style softball which has 7 kids per team at U10. Wetaskiwin should investigate following this program for next year.** We would have had two teams. This style of play also does provincials. Real Softball/Fastball starts at U12.

**U12 Fastball (Blair Renes):** Going to provincials July 15. 13 players on the team. 12 of them are U12 and one U10 moved up to play. Good year for the tournament team that was created.

**Rookie (no Coordinator need one for 2017):** Stephen had some issues with the organizers of the CUB league not getting information out to the teams on time or at all in some cases. Rules for CUB are often misinterpreted or reinterpreted by some teams throughout the year. Need a definition of "impact" positions in the rules. Rapson's team had lots of practices and won thier tier at the year end tournament. Successful and happy parents and kids. Schatschneider's team was good most of the year but a lack of committment at the end of the season made it difficult. There were some good comments about the coach pitch method of play.

**Mosquito CUB (Tammy Williams sent report):** The teams were relatively weak and finished in Tier 3 of the CUB league. Concerns were player and parent commitment issues. People seemed to not be aware that they had to be at the year end tournament even though it was scheduled at the beginning of the season. There needs to be better guidelines as to how you can pull players up if you are short for that tournament. There needs to be some coaching clinics offered and more communication on coaching clinic availability. Need more jersey sizes for this group and jerseys should be big enough to fit hoodies under for when it is cold. There were very positive comments about the umpires this year. Most people thought the Prospects Game was a good outing (Ewart's team as most of the other team didn't go).

**Mosquito AA (Daren):**  Good year. Kids are developing fast. 4 under age. 6 who have never played ball before and are doing well (Tier IV or V). 6 kids move up to PW and 6 stay down (5 for two more years) and 2 of the coaches stay down with them. This keeps the program developing and alive.

**Peewee CUB (Codey Soanes):** This team had 13 players at the start but ended with only 10 and only 9 for the end of year tournament. They were one strikeout away from winning the B finals. They had 6 brand new players at the start of the season who learned alot. They are going to A provincials with 10 Wetaskiwin players plus 2 from Thorsby and one from Camrose. Leduc ran end of year tournament and didn't do a good job of tracking innings pitched, which is a requirement.

**PeeWee AA (Stephen):** Good year. Targetting bottom tier. Team doing better than anticpated. At top of Tier IV at time of meeting. Good coaching staff.

**Bantam (Nancy):** Team developed well with good coaching. Team had regular practices and probably 70% of the team was committed and cared. Entered provincials for Bantam A. Team ended season third in Tier 2 (28 teams: 14 in Tier 1, 14 in Tier 2). In the middle of playoffs at the time of meeting. A final ended up being 2nd vs 4th; B final ended b/n 3rd and 5th. By provincial time 12 of 15 originals stayed on. Picked up a pitcher from Spruce Grove.

**Umpires (Helen):** Only had 7 umpires this year. Well commented on. Losing some next year so we need to get more trained. They had to do alot of games and those who played could only do so many. Need to get receipts when paying out of town umps. For AA and A provincials can get cheques ahead of time or pay and get reimbursed. Umpire equipment: They should have grey pants.

**Equipment (Blair):** Need to upgrade mosquito catching equipment with better chest pads. Maybe some better umpire equipment? Discussion. Get basic but safe equipment. Need a lock box for Rally Cap program. Time to start getting equipment back for any teams not in provincials.

**NEW BUSINESS: Suggestion to poll Bantam parents and discuss possible AA Bantam team for 2017 and gauge commitment level.**

**Discussed Jump Start players who only got partial payment. Need to collect balance owing, if any. Any outstanding fees can be dropped off at Stitchin' Magician.**

**Next Meeting: Monday, August 29, 2016 (location to be determined) 6:30 pm**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:22 PM BY BEN.**