MYBA Monthly Meeting September 3, 2013

Meeting called to order at 6:35 P.M. by MYBA President Mike Blumenfeld. Present at the meeting are Lori Mittag, Elise Fine, Bryan Barnes, Alicia Skow, Christine Jackson, Kristie Woelfel, Mike Blumenfeld, Guy Cierzan and Scott Beazley. Not present are Scott Zosel, Brent Gregerson and Bill Garrison.

Motion made to accept the minutes of the August 5, 2013 by Blumenfeld. Passed unamiously.

Treasurer's Report (Update via email from Bill Garrison, Treasurer):

Travel Director Update:

Skow indicated that tryout dates for February need to be secured for the younger ages, 9U, 10U and 11U.

Discussed fall outdoor tryout dates and how the dates conflict with fall ball. It is difficult to find player volunteers.

Registrar update:

Fine indicated that 32 players have registered for fall tryouts. The following are the numbers registered in the age groups:

12U--12
13U--11
14U--9

She expressed the need for another email blast to go out to the membership. The website indicated that the fall tryouts are mandatory. Fine will send out a more forceful email. She will network with the coaches to contact their team members. Fine needs a wifi connection at the field to accomplish registration at the fall tryouts.

Asset Management:

Jackson indicated that there was no update.

Risk Management:

Cierzan indicated that the insurance is valid through the end of 2013. MYBA will likely use the same company and the price will be the same. He will update the application

in November or December. MYBA is covered for concussion awareness and BCA checks for the fall tryouts.

MYBA waiver is being signed by players as part of the registration process for the fall tryouts.

Coach Coordinator Update:

Blumenfeld indicated that MYBA's parent surveys are completed. Jackson and Blumenfeld are doing post season discussions with the coaches on the September 7th. Most coaches are scheduled with the exception of Sullivan, Nelson and Walraff. Blumenfeld has not heard from Jim Anderson.

Blumenfeld sent out an email blast to assistant coaches, too, indicating they can apply for head coaching jobs. A couple assistants are on the agenda for Saturday, the 7th, to be interviewed.

Fall Tryouts Update:

A separate meeting was held regarding fall tryouts. Blumenfeld, Fine, Barnes and Skow were in attendance.

The sub-committee focused on how the time would be spent at tryouts. They decided that for the first round of tryouts, not much would change. There will be the usual running, infield and outfield drills and use of the radar gun. We can do a much better job with outfield drills because we are outside. There will not be much change in the first round.

In the 2nd round of tryouts, there will be a simulated game situation with an adult pitcher throwing to the players with the players running the bases. Too much variation if we use player pitchers. We will use adult pitchers and we will need volunteer help throwing BP. It was discussed having someone simulate an umpire. This will give the batter and catcher more of a real baseball game experience. We will allow 3 to 5 at bats per player if time permits. Maybe do some base running drills. Home to first, first to second, etc. and perhaps do some sliding drills.

Must come to the fall tryouts if you want to play in the spring.

Evaluators:

Skow indicated that she has the following evaluators:

Doug Schildgren, Eric Nelson, K.J., Kevin Earley, and Coach Robert Grace.

However, we need 6 per day. We need to ask the high school coaches again if they can help. $15 per hour is the amount decided to pay for evaluators. Nelson and Earley are doing it pro bono. Mittag will again email the SW coaches. Skow will call other high school coaches.

Volunteers was next discussed. Skow has a new sign up format. "Volunteer Spot" is a website that you can use to sign up volunteers. Skow and Mittag are not available on the 29th. Everyone on the board needs to go to the "Volunteer Spot" and sign up for volunteering.

Tryout #1 we will use the pitching machine.

Desperately need to find some high school players to help at tryouts.

Survey Monkey:

Blumenfeld gave a brief summary of the Surveys conducted of parents in the program at the end of the baseball season.

There were general comments on the program:

There were general comments and suggestions regarding tryouts and how we conduct the tryouts. However, they were not realistic or practical. There were questions on clinics--younger players didn't rate the clinics very high. They were a good fundraiser but didn't teach much.

Other comments suggest that we collect information on tournaments and find out which ones are good and which ones are bad and steer coaches away from the bad tournaments. Ask coaches what tournaments to recommend.

Feedback on the Minnie Millers--very few complaints. One of the few complaints that came up a couple of times was that Zosel exited the program too quickly. Need to follow up with those comments. Need to keep the Coach leader (Leader of the coaches) of the program involved all season.

Pretty good feedback and rate of return on the surveys. Overall, MYBA scored well. On the question, "Would you recommend MYBA to others?" 2 or 3 indicated "No." 144 surveys returned and there are 203 families in the program. 17 teams. Rate of return was better than last year.

Discussion had about working with the park board on portable mounds. Park Board does not mind that we use them, but the Park Board has no place to store them. Someone would need to be responsible for the mound.

Skow does a year end review with Tim Grate, scheduler for the park board, and Blumenfeld wants to be part of that review. Pitching mounds can be part of that discussion.

New Business:

Skow has stuff. Mpls public schools calendar. She discussed the need to schedule times at the YWCA for the tryouts for the younger ages. She wants four days for these tryouts. Feb. 1 , 8th, 9th, 22nd and 23rd are possible dates. Jackson indicated that she would like to go with earlier dates because we always push the uniform orders. Everyone should have tried on their uniform by the first tryout. Jackson wants the tryouts two weeks earlier. The drawback is that is eliminates our ability to do clinics. it was suggest that we start on January 25th. That would be the earliest. Skow will explore the possibility of renting the Y earlier.

Youth Sport University-Alicia is soliciting people for this event on September 14th. Jackson and Skow discussed a potential garage sale for mid-September.

Cierzan has ads in the SW Journal and the Journal for fall tryouts. We will have yard signs as well. Barnes designed signs with removable stickers for the date so we can reuse them year after year.

Cheryl Sullivan wanted to know if there has been more discussion regarding team notifications in the fall after fall tryouts. Blumenfeld is thinking that will happen around October and that there is no value in making players wait. MYBA needs to decide the details.

Cheryl Sullivan wanted to know about new board members. Our November meeting is our annual meeting. We will elect new members to the board at that time. Half the board is up for re-election. It will be a secret ballot. People can talk for two minutes about why they wanted to be on the board. There are 13 board members and we currently have 12.

Motion made by Blumenfeld to adjourn the meeting at 7:45. Seconded by Mittag.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.