

WSSL BoD 1/11/2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: John S., Ben D., Joanne W-F, Andy J., Bill L., Wes R. & Steve C.
Venue: Yorktown Pub

The meeting opened with a discussion on the status of the off-season WISC program noting that the 9 and 11 January open houses were well attended and a number of prospective members were present at each. It was further noted that the WISC was notably more assertive in seeking monthly dues from any WSSL affiliated persons who were going to attend our off-season sessions there. The BoD agreed that the league would do our part in encouraging attendees to meet this obligation in return for the use of this facility. Additionally discussed were the six pitching clinic sessions that would begin in February, dates and times yet to be confirmed.

The next issue discussed was calendar scheduling for key 2024 dates, to include what, if any, summer break would the league/divisions have. The Board determined that Rookie Camp would take place on the dates of 19, 21, 26 and 28 March on Quarterpath fields 2 and 3 as in years past. The draft for the Yorktown division will take place on 27 March at 7:00 pm and for the Jamestown Division on 29 March at 1:00 pm. The period of 30 March - 8 April was identified as the window within which league managers can schedule practices/scrimmages with their new teams. It was noted that the league would coordinate these dates with the city to ensure the grounds personnel have the fields in shape for play effective 19 March for Quarterpath and 30 March for Kiwanis as well. After much discussion it was determined that the Jamestown Division's opening day would be 9 April and for the Yorktown Division, 11 April.

The Board next discussed whether a traditional summer break would be utilized this year or whether a modified schedule could be used to play only early games (to avoid the higher temperatures) from mid-July through mid-August. It was determined that such a proposal deserved member input and a very short survey would be crafted and addressed to league membership via a similar mechanism used for the recent e-voting process.

Relative to recruitment initiatives the Board discussed a planned presence at the 15 February W&M basketball game as well as a 2 March event at Eggheads Restaurant in Gloucester. The 2024 Facebook marketing campaign (15 Jan - 15 March) was then discussed noting that this push was expected to yield positive results, similar to the two initiatives in 2023.

The next issue brought forth was a discussion with the respective division presidents regarding the identification of managers/assistant manager candidates as well as resources to address subs and umpires for each division. It was noted by both presidents that good progress has been made on all fronts, although additional time and conversations were needed prior to any final recommendations being made to the board.

The presidents are also proceeding on researching their uniform/hats and equipment needs in preparation for the upcoming season.

It was noted that umpire clinics would need to be scheduled prior to the start of the season to ensure that all volunteers were properly prepared to effectively manage this role in 2024.

The Board set the next BoD meeting for 2/8/2024.