

WSSL BOD Meeting

Brickhouse Tavern January 2, 2020 Attending: Jim, John, Ric, Ben, and Mike

Membership meeting 1/16, Community Room C, JCCRC 9a-noon

Ben looked at the room and says it is OK, but we will need to bring our own projector.

Public WIFI available – Ben tested

Jim talked to Paul and Carrie at JCC.

Put in notices and business cards at JCC (DONE).

JCC MOU

Ask for comments – Ben & Ric read and are fine with it.

Jim will sign and give to JCC (DONE)

Need to get signed copy to Ric for the file

Does not commit us to use fields

Will need to renew each year

Community Room C for free for our meeting

We need to enforce no smoking policy at JCC

2020 season calendar

All games at JCC

Try to get in 40 games per team, 22 in spring

6 week break in July and August

Last 18 games in September – 6 double headers

End of September & October – rain outs

No night games at this time – these will be additional games

Ben will color code calendar for posting (DONE)

Will still need Kiwanis field if more than 4 teams and for night games

Sponsor gifts

Jim will take care of this.

Colonial Sports – rock bottom price

By-Laws & Rules ready for 1/16?

Ric says YES (DONE)

Ric will circulate

6th Board Position – discuss what to call it. Marketing? still call it “Ad Hoc”

Can include marketing, sponsorship, recruiting

Get committee to do these activities, Board Member in charge of this.

BoD terms? – Yes, included in the Bylaws – 2 years alternating 3 positions each year

Commissioner, Secretary and Web Master

Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, and Ad Hoc on alternate years

We all continue for 2020, then vote for three positions in 2021

Facebook guru

Ben does not feel knowledgeable enough to do it– ask for volunteer at the meeting

Mike Allen agreed to do this at the annual meeting (DONE)

Careful not to have info on Facebook conflict with factual information on Web Site

Survey update

39 responses to date

Close it now and present results at the Annual Meeting

Individual comments – a number of complaints

Not make this public, but the Board should review...and the Managers too
(Ben sent link for Board to review)

John will ask if all Managers will return

After the meeting, we learned that Mike Frost will not continue as Manager

Umpire class

Billy Moore volunteered to do this if we cannot find someone else

After the meeting John was able to contact the Umpire Clinic-man, Mr. Charlie Moss. He has a clinic scheduled for February 22, from 9am - 2pm, with a lunch provided. It is being held at a location in New Kent County – there will be a charge for this. Charlie has also offered to do a clinic for the league at a time of our choosing.

Team assignments

Jim – enough for 5 teams right now

7 new people +1 expressed interest

John forming a committee to select teams

Dave Amor, Frank Hefner, Tony Zotto, Tyler Brooks, Joe Wesolowski

Jim - Mike Allen has done a good job of organizing winter practice

Practices on Tuesday and Thursday

Mike will renew insurance coverage based on 4 teams

Will change if needed

March Evaluations

Evaluation period – John will discuss with committee

Umpire class in Williamsburg – see above

BEN - Web Site

Ben will bring up to date

2020 registration form is available

Team App – pass on this for now based on survey (not on agenda for meeting)

Get meeting slides to Ben for the meeting presentation as soon as possible so that we can make adjustments

Discuss Board members as assistant managers – not a good idea

Allow other people a chance to step forward

Mike – no change in our finances

Jim will reach out to sponsors for 2020

Ric will draft a position description for the 6th Board position and circulate (NONE)

May include: Marketing, recruiting, sponsorship, public relations, lunch locations, banquet

Discuss the total number of Board positions – no change for now – keep at six

Recap 2019 season(s)

membership growth, lunches, newspaper articles, Silver team most victories

Discuss pitcher masks and pitching screens – nothing decided – shin guards up to individual pitchers if they want them

Need to vote on budget, bylaws and rules at the annual meeting

Next meeting – Thursday Noon, February 20 with Managers

WSSL BOD Meeting

Brickhouse Tavern February 18, 2020 Attending: Jim, John, Ric, Ben, Mike and Dick Hoell

Welcome and brief Dick Hoell

Joining the Board as the new Ad Hoc Board Member

Misc: Jim discuss recent meeting with JCC – met with Stephanie DeBold (Facilities Coordinator) and not Kyle.

Everything is OK with regard to the MOU and our tax status as a 501 (C 7)

Discuss field use: Tuesday and Thursday 9 am to noon starting March 3.

New woman player hurt – liability issues? None for of season practices.

Updates

Ric – nothing new since last meeting. Jim has followed up with JCC on several issues (fields and tax status (see above). Ric and Jim will be communications points with JCC.

Talk about communication with Managers and for them to establish communication tree with their teams.

John – has met with managers about team selection. They are not happy, but will go along with it. Have three firm managers (Bill Punch, Mike Allen and Jami Kehayes). John Gregoire will co-manage with somebody so we still need another co-manager to work with John. Mike Frost will be the assistance manager for Jamie.

Managers concerned about the rule regarding outfielders throwing out runners at first base. Any ball that gets past infielder and gets into the outfield, then the outfielder can NOT throw the runner out at first. Discussion about who is an outfielder and who can throw out runners at first. Consensus that there will be four designated infielders and four designated outfielders and that the infielders should play on the dirt and that the outfielders should stay on the grass (when the batter is at the plate) If the short fielder is on the dirt when the batter is in the box, then the short fielder may throw a runner out at first. If the short fielder starts on the grass, then he is considered as an outfielder and he may NOT throw the runner out at first.

BOD - PLEASE REVIEW THIS: If this is the essence of what we decided, then I will modify the rules (and give to the rules committee) to reflect this.

Managers want the jugs hitting nets to use before games – they are about \$149 each - John will purchase. **One or two?** Keep in the box at the field

Discuss box on the field – everybody is in support of this. Jim will look into it.

Discuss bases: decided that they should be 60 feet. Jim will follow up with JCC

Registrations

Mike - 45 paid to date. – plus Wayne

Two paid sponsors – need to transition others over the year so that they will start in Jan \$7,000 In bank

Jim listed player who are not coming back. About equal to new registrants.

If get into mid 50s, we discussed whether there would be 4 or 5 teams. To be considered as we see the number of registrants initially and during the course of the year

Umpire clinic – Feb 22.

John and Ric attending (later – Mike Allen expressed an interest – John will follow up with him.

Discuss follow up actions. Billy Moore.

JCC regarding "formal registration" of WSSL as 501/tax exempt org.

Jim – everything is OK with JCC (see above)
Formal letter from IRS – Mike says not needed

View sponsor gifts

Only \$20 from Colonial Sports
Present to Brickhouse Tavern

Jim: Still need to recruit – ALL

Is in the "On Deck" section of the sports page of the Gazette
Jim will send a picture in to the Gazette
Daily Press?
Article

John- Managers say ball is too hard, No further discussion on this
Managers need to keep the book – John bought new books as well as eraser boards
Need to check all equipment and put everything in the storage books and assess what is needed. Also suggest buying practice bases.

Survey Results

Ben - sent to managers

Ben – Website renewed
No upgrades to the website at this time

Facebook – Dick will oversee this. He is already looking into this.

Discuss what WSSL wants sponsorship to look like moving forward (Jim will redo/update sponsor letter) Supporter and Team sponsor – different levels.

Put all sponsor names on the shirt?
Do we want to recruit sponsors? No decisions
Will order shirts once teams are set up.

For now, charger Sponsors \$500, will discuss in the future.

Once the managers join us, John can take over with updates and plan for March - Eval period, player assignment, etc.

Bill Punch, Mike Allen and John Gregoire are here.

Batting Tee

Managers not happy with picking teams, but accept our approach for this year

Can adjust in the fall
Substitute players – discuss new rule
April 12 –first game
Single games one at a time
Pregame check list – need to develop
Stretch clinic – march 4 – Mike A
AED - probably not

To Do items: Jim: tool box, picture to paper, bases to 60 feet; John – Hit nets Ric – minutes, rules updates; Dick – End of year banquet Sponsorship – topic for future discussion

WSSL BOD Meeting

Zoom April 1, 2020 Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Mike and Dick Missing John

Test of using Zoom to catch up and discuss some timely items

No scheduled play until fields are open. Based on Governor's orders, probably not before June 10

We may want to consider play through the summer since the spring season is being cut short. Ben suggested polling the membership to see if there is an appetite for this. Jim will do this in his next email blast.

Jim said that the payment to JCC is on hold for now.

Storage box is positioned and worked fine for the few practices that we had before shut down.

Jim delivered sponsor gifts and it was well received.

Overthrow Rule – Ric has not had any communication with the rules committee since the last meeting. Will schedule a zoom conference with rules committee to move this forward

Player Substitutions – Ric circulated via email Billy Wagner's proposal about how to handle it. Having most of the BOD not read it yet, there was a concern about the availability of players for when we started playing two games at the same time. We may not have enough people for this to work. We still may have to make adjustments on the field at game time. Need more discussion about this.

Mike – 57 people signed up so far. Would be good for 4 teams of 14 each with 1 with 15. We will just have to see if anybody drops out before play begins.

Shirts – do not buy any more shirts until needed. Just buy enough for new players and any who will be switching teams.

Jim had a conversation with John, and the player assignment committee has had enough time to evaluate new players and make assignments. This committee also suggested that we should consider keeping the teams as they were at the end of last year and filling in with new players. Consensus is that we should follow this recommendation for this year.

It was suggested that we post the team assignments before play gets started to create some enthusiasm.

Suggestions made to extend Sponsor's time. Jim will take care of this and make all sponsorships start January 1

Next meeting via Zoom– Tuesday Noon, April 28

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/430049258>

Meeting ID: 430 049 258

WSSL BOD Meeting

Zoom April 28, 2020

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Mike, John and Dick

No scheduled play until fields are open. Based on Governor's orders, probably not before June 10 (could be earlier depending on what the State recommends and what JCC decides). If we tentatively set the June 10 date as the start, then we will schedule practices on June 10 and 11 or 12) and start play Tuesday, June 16 and play 5 single games until the end of June. May schedule up to 5 night games during the summer. Jim will encourage players to stretch and exercise on their own prior to starting to play ball. We may play double headers in the fall. Discuss whether to play 5 or 6 or 7 inning games in the double headers. No decision at this time. Jim says based on this we could still get in 40 games this year.

Jim will be in touch with JCC about when we can have access to the fields. Since High School softball is over, we can use both fields at JCC and have all 4 teams playing at the same time.

Discussions about what precautions to take and provisions to make to accommodate social distancing once play is resumed:

- Only the Manager should be in the dugout.
- Players should stay in the bleachers (or bring own chairs) until their turn to bat.
- At home plate, only the batter and the catcher.
- Discuss having the catcher call balls and strikes or have an umpire stand to the side.
- Could have just a field umpire who would be positioned between the pitcher plate and second base. This umpire would make all the calls in the field.

We will finalize these items prior to the start of the season.

Shirts – Ryan says that they can have ready in two weeks. Once we know a schedule and teams will put in order. If not ready by the first game, then players can just use T shirts of the appropriate team color.

John will have teams ready. He has a committee of 5 or 6 players to discuss and decide on final rosters. Will look to get together prior to the first practice to finalize the rosters.

Mike – 56 people signed up so far. Would be good for 4 teams of 14 each. One person chose to drop out at this time. Tom Figgs not playing but wants to be a Manager, so that gives us 4 Managers for 4 teams.

Because of personal commitments, John will not be on any roster, but will be a “floater” filling in where needed and when he is available. Good player moving to W'burg from Wilmington sometime soon and will join the league. – Steve Chisholm.

Rules – no updates on Overthrow Rule or Player Substitutions – will try to resolve before play starts.

Ben – Not much traffic on the Web site.

Decision made to extend Sponsor's time. Jim will take care of this and make all sponsorships start January 1. We have enough funds to get us through until then.

Next meeting via Zoom– Tuesday Noon, May 19
(Ric will send out invitation that morning)

WSSL BOD Meeting

Zoom May 19, 2020 Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Mike, and Dick

- **Team assignments**
Four teams of 14 players each. John as floater. Arthur Shields and Steve Chisholm to be assigned. Jim discussed team assignments and will send out list. (DONE) Managers should be contacting players. Jim will ask John to remind Tom Figg to do this ASAP.
- **Gloves/masks other potential requirements...do we need to buy hand sanitizer?**
Not discussed
- **Dick, please speak to Frank ahead of time and give an update on my VA Gaz item ref volunteer umpires.** Dick will follow up with Frank. Also ask league members to recruit volunteers.
Dick also to revise the sponsorship letter.
- **Response from Tyler Cobb WP&R, and Kyle JCCP&R**
WP&R – phase in stages, not sure when fields will be open. 5 phases
Speculate that we could be approximately one month away...STAY TUNED
No response from JCC yet.
- **Managers get shirt sizes, should we try to repossess and reissue?**
Managers should ask players who need new jerseys because they are a new player or on a different team. Players on same team should keep their shirts.
- **Colonial Sports hat order**
Jim spoke to Ryan – should have 20 hats by the end of next week.
- **Calendar/games/night games during July/Aug?**
If start play June 10, then decide if we want to play July and August at a later date.
- **Extra game item**
For the beginning of the spring season (until the July break), each team will be scheduled to play one game per day on the two fields available to us at JCC Rec Center. At the conclusion of these regular schedule games, there will be a second “pick up” game that will include any players from all of the teams who want to sign up for this game. This will be an “informal” competition and will not count in any standings. Players should sign up for this game via email using the new email address: wsslsubs@gmail.com (players without email may text Ric or Billy Wagner)
Players should send their intention to play in the extra game between 6pm Friday and 6pm Sunday before the games for the upcoming week. Players who do not sign up in advance may play if there is space available.
- **Overthrow rule? PLEASE COMMENT**
If there is an overthrow on a play at first or third, and the ball contacts the fence, the runners may advance at their own risk, but cannot take more than one base on the play. A throw to try and put out the runner constitutes another play.
- **Substitutions**
As all four teams will be playing at the same time, substitutions will have to come from the players available at the time of the games. With 14 players on each team, there should not be much of a need for substitute players. Hopefully, the Managers can work this out for each game and should there be any conflicts, any member of the BOD or the Substitution Committee may intervene
- **Team APP**
Ric discussed setting this up for substitutions and other communications. Ben wanted to be sure that there would not be any conflicts in what we publicize between this APP and the web site. It will be important for Ric (or whoever want to be the APP administrator) to coordinate their communications. Ric will beta test with BOD before rolling out.
- **Next meeting - Brickhouse? June 9 noon. ZOOM or Brickhouse – TBD later (if Zoom Ric will send out invitation that morning)**

WSSL BOD Meeting

Zoom June 9, 2020 Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Mike, John and Dick

- **Update on JCC – Jim** – has not heard officially yet, but thinks we will be playing on the fields on Thursday. JCC plans to open up fields for teams but there are hoops to jump through. (Review Jim's email to the masses.) Only allowing practices now, no games. Discuss scrimmages.
No response yet from Williamsburg City Manager.

- **JCC COVID-19 Procedures – SEE ATTACHED**

We need to post Covid-19 signage as required in the attachment.

Managers will be responsible of asking **each player** these questions:

1. Have they been exposed to anybody with Covid-19?
2. Do they have a fever or cough or any health concern that cannot be attributed to any other condition?

We need to try to disinfect shared equipment. Wipe down shared bats. Other? The league will provide hand sanitizer – Dick will look into this. Everybody will try to find sanitizer and wipes as well.

No more than 50 people.

We discussed clustering on and off the fields. Need to emphasize keeping safe distances and wearing masks when going on and off the field. We all need to police each other on these procedures.

- **Players** – Billy Punch has concerns – Overall have already lost a number of players. Jim has email from new player, John Stout wants to play. Also, John Townson and Steve Chism are probable new players in July. As of now, 1 team of 14 and 3 teams of 12. John will have a meeting with Managers to address team and player assignments.
- **Senior Bats** – For women and older players **will not be allowed.**
- **Calendar** – still up in the air until we hear from JCC. Until then, Managers should continue to go through Mike Allen to schedule practices on fields. Ben brought the issue of “practice fatigue.”
- **Hat Replacements** – As agreed, if you want another hat, the person will pay for it. As discussed previously, we will provide new hats every two years. We will provide new hats for all players at the beginning of next year (2021) and every two years thereafter. Mike says that we can budget for this. May need to increase fees to \$75. New players get a new hat when they join the league.
Include this as an agenda item for November or December meeting.
- **Shirts** - Managers have attained all information and we have ordered them.
- **Recognize Silver Team for winning last year and MVP Awards - Dick**
Discuss this at length. We should look into this at some point in the future.
Ric - NVSS – All Star game. No MVP. If win tournament, players get T-shirt.

Group liked the idea of T-shirts instead of trophies.
Ben will post something about last season winner on the Web site.

▪ **Misc. Items (Jim):**

- Jim recognized work of Billy Wagner on Subs Committee.
- Losing Frank who has volunteered for a number of things. No volunteer umpires yet. (Jane knows some people)
- Someone needs to be contact person with Gazette to report scores or other items. Dick will check with Frank for this.
- We need to identify a back-up person for Ben for the Web site.
- Matt Jenkins in Hospital.
- Discuss posting or distributing of everyone's email and phone number – not resolved in past discussions. Maybe ask membership how they feel about this. Who, Jim?
- Mike Dement – anybody know his status (after the meeting, Jim reached him and he will be playing)
- Banquet – Dick has lined up **Journey to perform!**

▪ **Survey Results – Ric**

Summarize results on chart provided by Billy Wanger (at provided before the meeting)

- 43 of 59 people responded (73%)
- Players interested in playing second game: Yes for 33 of 43.
So there clearly is an interest for moving forward on playing two games each week with the second game being a “pick up” game using players in the pool. See the minutes from last month about the setting up the player pool for this.
- Play in July and August this summer: Yes for 37 of 43. So, Jim will work on a schedule when we know when we can use the fields for games
- Play evening/night games: Yes for 40 of 43.
- Start play at 8:00 am: Yes for 33 of 43. However, after discussion we decided keep the starting time at 9:00. May change this later.

▪ **Team APP**

Everybody seemed to be receptive to doing this. Ric will coordinate with Ben to make sure that the information is consistent with the Web site. Ric will first include the managers before rolling it out to the league.

▪ **Overthrow rule (from last meeting)**

If there is an overthrow on a play at first or third, and the ball contacts the fence, the runners may advance at their own risk, but cannot take more than one base on the play. A throw to try and put out the runner constitutes another play. **There was a consensus to APPROVE this wording.**

▪ **Raise the Minimum Age to 55 - Dick**

Discussion – probable not at this time...will revisit in the Future

▪ **Next meeting - June 24 noon. Format and/or location – TBD later
(if Zoom Ric will send out invitation the day before)**

WSSL BOD Meeting

Zoom June 12, 2020

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Mike, John and Dick

- **Update on Fields – Jim**

JCC plans to open up fields for teams. Only allowing practices now, no games.

Williamsburg P&R – fields available on a first come first served basis.

- **Schedule – start next week**

Scrimmages for all four teams on Tuesday (6/16) at Kiwanis
(if rained out, then no scrimmages)

Start playing scheduled games on Thursday (6/18)

For June, two games per day for each of Tuesday & Thursday
(two games per week per team)

Starting sometime in July, only one game per day and that would start at 9 am
Teams would only play one game each week.

No make-up of rain out games.

No night games now, maybe later in the summer

We decide fall schedule in August.

Potential of 31 – 35 games for each team for the season.

- **Hats are in. Still working on shirts**

- **Substitutes** – See handouts from Ric

Jim (and others to provide feedback)

Open to active roster players and floaters

Will send out notice before next week according to handout

Ric will try to set up Zoom call with Managers to review before next week.

- **Next scheduled meeting - June 24 noon. Format and/or location – TBD later
(if Zoom Ric will send out invitation the day before)**

WSSL BOD Meeting

Zoom June 24, 2020

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, Mike, John and Dick

- **Fields** – continue to use Kiwanis for now. Will reevaluate the use of JCC fields at a later date. Not paying anything for field use for now because Kiwanis available on a first come first served basis. If we decide to play some games at JCC, Ric will talk to Kyle about giving us a price break (I will wait to have this conversation until we decide what we are) Await to hear Phase 3 recommendations before deciding on night games.

John will talk to Kiwanis groundskeeper about using diamond dust on field.
After rain outs last week, opening game went well yesterday.
Grounds keeper pleased that we were out there. Raking began at 6 AM

- **Schedule discussions**

Single games start July 14.

Right now, two back to back games on same field serving us well.

After group discussion, decide NOT to schedule a third play date each week.

We can play pick-up games on Saturday morning. Mike Allen will organize.

Do this ad hoc on an unofficial basis.

Current arrangement we are not paying anything. Fields are first come first served.

- **Waivers**

As of today, 52 received of 55 roster players. Missing: Andy Jacobs, Dave Pape, and John Townsend. Ric will task the Managers with getting these and any new players. Did not injured players and any who have said that they are not playing now.

- **Umpire Clinic** – John has not had much response to date. John will ask Billy Moore to do this on a free date. He has an ask out to Billy for July 2 – not a play date for us.

- **Substitutes**

Had some grief yesterday because of initial assignments based on alphabetical assignments. John had discussion with Billy Wagner and he will help Billy to make assignments based on skill levels. We have come a long way from last year.

Attempt to have 12 players to start a game.

Batting order – subs always bat at the end of the line-up.

Try to play subs where they want to play – not try to micromanage managers.

- **Web site - up to date**

Carl Olexa offer to help out.

Dick will reach out to Frank to get for Gazette contact. Remove request for umpires.

Dick might have a volunteer to ump – Ric requested waiver from anybody who does this.

- **Next scheduled meeting - July 15 noon. Jim suggests Brickhouse
(if we decide to Zoom Ric will send out invitation the day before)**

WSSL BOD Meeting

Brickhouse July 15, 2020

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John and Dick

JCC proposal

Not want to give us a prorated rate for only half a year.
We may reevaluate the use of JCC fields at a later date.
Not paying anything for field use for now because Kiwanis available on a first come first served basis. So, we will continue to use Kiwanis for now.

JIM: We should notify JCC that we are not planning on using their fields this year (so we do not have to pay), but would like to start again next year. The only other issue is the box that we have there. Maybe we should leave it there for now until they request us to move it.

Substitution Update - How's it going?

All agree that it is going well. A little bump at start, but OK now.
Commend Billy Wagner for job he has done.
Some surprised that we have NOT needed to use it a lot.
Key factor so far has been the heat.
Only two players lost to injury so far, Troy (he back now) and Tom Medina
Second game on another day? Billy Wagner sent out a survey to determine interest in doing this,

New players/Team assignments/Balancing:

Steve Chisholm assigned to Silver.
John Townsend going to Red. Red down two players now.
Carl Borst returning to Gold.
Blue lost Frank Heffner.
New guy Ray(?) at practice would like to join – Jim invite to game tomorrow.
There may be a few others.

Discuss Dick as Assistant Manager of Blue.
May have to name Tony Zotto as Assistant Manager.

Phase 3 Update

Worried that the Governor might back track, but that has not happened.
Will keep our eye on things as the year progresses.
We need to remind people to continue to follow our guidelines.
BOD and managers need lead by example.
Manager have hand sanitizer. They need to put it out at each game and practice
Ric will take care of putting up the signs.

Rule 5.2 Home Teams - single game format vs double header format

Team listed second as home team. Ric will change the rule to read:
In single game format, the team listed second is the home team (As it clearly states on the schedule). When two teams are playing each other in a double header, then Rule 5.2 as written applies.
Managers need to be aware who is home and away team and should go to the appropriate dugout.
Jim has strike plate and the scoring plate and will keep track of them.

Game Time Limits

Game delayed because of field being mowed. Jim advised not to start inning after 10:15. The rules states that a game should be limited to 75 minutes. The umpires and the managers should keep track of the start time.

Thrown ball hitting runner

If it happens, it is a live ball. It is considered incidental. If a runner tries to run into a thrown ball, then it is interference, and the runner is out.
Discuss fair territory for runner is 3 feet on each side from the line.

John question on second foul ball when it hits the plate. If it goes foul, then it is a foul ball. Not like a tipped catch.

End of year banquet

Because of Covid-19 regulations. It is hard to plan at this time but should start to look at alternatives.
End of October, early November. The consensus is that we would like to do this.
Discuss possible locations
Dick will investigate alternative. Plans to have band – Jhourney.
He will form a committee to work on this and have Jamie help with this.

Ben working with Carl Olexa to be his back up for the Web site. Carl Olexa learning, but he is not a tech guy. He will fill in when Ben is out of town.

Ric – needs to keep up with Team App. Only 30 people signed up so far. Will continue to use Web site and email blasts as main means of communication.

Dick and John – nothing else.

Next scheduled meeting - August 19 noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

Brickhouse August 19, 2020 Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John and Dick

2nd game returns next Tuesday, 8/25

Everybody is fine with this. Discuss start times.

Until the end of September, start first game between 8:45 to 9:00 (at the latest) and start the second game 10:15 to 10:30 (at the latest).

Manages tell people to be there by 10 am for 2nd game.

We will revisit this at the next BOD meeting in September.

Jim will inform the membership about this.

Game Cancellation Notice(s)

Ric – tell people if there is **no news, then it is “Game On”** As soon as I hear something on any given day, I will notify the BOD and the Managers and Webmaster right away. Ben (or Carl) will put on the web site, and I will post on Team App.

Managers responsible for notifying their teams. I **will not** notify individuals who do not have email addresses...this will be up to the individual Managers.

Schedule Make Ups, necessary?

Aug 4 game Blue vs. Gold cancelled because of hurricane. Will leave up to the Managers of these teams to decide whether or not to make this game up outside of the current schedule.

Night Games - WP&R dates and times

Ric will checked with Tyler Cobb about whether or not they will do this and what the cost of having the field reserved and the lights on for a night game. **They will do night games, but require advanced reservations. Cost \$25/hour for lights.** Last year, we played two games 6 – 7:30 and 7:30 – 9:00 at night.

All Star Game?

Ric suggest that the teams will pick 6 players per team (and maybe one alternate). Then we schedule a game between two blended teams. Suggest 1st and 4th place teams play as one team the 2nd and 3rd place teams play as the second team with the Managers of the 1st and 2nd place teams serving as the respective Managers for the game.

Maybe we play this game as a night game.

Jim will bring this up to see what the membership thinks about doing this.

City Council (5 mins) & County Board (15 mins) in October (?)

Jim will draft a straw man Presentation and circulate to the Board to review and make comments. Need to schedule dates and decide who will be going. Will announce to league membership to see if anybody would like to attend.

New guy, Rich Tindall - fill in?

No place for him on any teams for now. Will keep him on the sub list. Same for Mike Kroeger when he returns.

Ben - How's Carl working out?

Ben working with Carl Olexa to be his back up for the Web site. Ben says that he is doing fine. He will fill in when Ben is out of town next week.

After Game Lunches

Dick will organize something. He will coordinate with Jamie. Ben will provide a list of places that we went to last year.

John - Update on Sandlot Sports Club

Winter event that we try out as an evaluation (November through February). Does not see us using it the rest of the year. Cost for part of year use? TBD
Not do as a league, maybe do it on an individual basis. Still a work in progress.

Substitute Runner Rules

Just a clarification. Two types of sub runners, base sub runners and home sub runners. No limits on the number of substitute runners from first base (each person can serve as a substitute runner once per inning). Only three substitute runners from home. See Rule 8.5. **No strategic sub runner rule.**

End of Year Banquet - Dick

Dick has formed a committee with Jamie to work on location and Billy Moore to work on entertainment. Because of Covid-19 regulations, it is hard to plan at this time but looking into alternatives. Some discussions about venues.

Possible Recognitions (at the end of the year banquet)

Sportsmanship
MVP
Most Improved.

Will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Ben and John – nothing else.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday, September 23 noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

Brickhouse Sept 23, 2020

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John and Dick

BOD Members

Mike Kroger will not continue as Treasurer after this year.

Will need to recruit someone to take his place starting in January

Election to take place at that time.

John willing to run again as Assistant Commissioner

Dick willing to run again as Ad Hoc Board member

Formally, they will run again in January.

Post Season Banquet – Dick

Committee consists of Mike Sloan, John Stout, Jamie Keyhayes, Billy Moore

Currently schedule for Friday, Nov 6 at Mike Sloan house.

See Dick's email of September 21 for details.

Question – do we want to go through with this now because of Covid?

Alternative – may schedule in March as a preseason party.

Jim will poll the membership in his email newsletter to let them decide.

BOD prefers March of 2021, but let the league members voice their opinion

Awards mentioned, MVP, Sportsmanship, Most Improved – nothing done about this.

Dick wants to recognize player achievements.

Tom Figgs offered to make a trophy. We will inscribe with name of champion team.

Will be kept at Quarterpath or JCC, depending on where we are playing.

All Star Game

Players to vote for 6 players – next week, Tuesday & Thursday

John will collect the votes and make any decisions if players are needed such a pitchers or SS. It will probably work itself out.

Teams will be 1st and 4th place teams vs 2nd and 3rd place teams with the managers being from 1st and 2nd place teams with assistant managers coming from 3rd & 4th teams

Decide no shirts, maybe a patch that members can put on a shirt or jacket.

Not do an B game, just an A game.

Schedule game for the first week of November or last two weeks of October. Ric will check with WP&R for availability of Kiwanis for night games at this time.

Jim sent around **catalogue about shirts** for next year. Other than responses from Jamie and Billy Punch. Not do anything about this now.

Masks with Logos –

Jim will talk to Colonial Sports 75 masks at \$10/mask. Give to

each player at the end of the season. Not wear for play but to wear around. End of season gift for all participants.

Managers – John would like to reexamine for next year.

Collection for Kiwanis groundskeeper - \$315 collected.

2 rainouts the past two weeks – not make up these games.

Blue & Gold schedule make up doubleheader for October 15 for lost summer game.

Night games – decide not to do this fall (except for All Star game)

City Council & County Board Presentations in November – 5 min for each – Jim & Ben
Will prepare a fact sheet

Game start time – first game will start at 9:00 am starting in next week.

Rules – a few tweaks presented by Ric. A wordsmith adjustment provided by committee.
Ric will send updated rules to Ben for the Web site.

Rule 5.4 Discuss substitute runner rule in extra inning game

New Rule 7.4 A batter who carries a bat to first base on a hit ball will be called out.

Designated Hitter – Someone who can bat and not play field – NO

Rules Committee – Replace Carl Borst as Chair (inactive). Ric will contact members for their willingness to continue on the committee. Will seek a new Chair and a member from Silver Team. John Stout suggested.

Player Exchanges discussed – need to have better communication. No one informed Ken Gold that he was traded. Need for both Managers to discuss with the player

Substitution Committee –

Everyone agrees that Billy Wagner is doing a great job.

Just need to tweak the system. Effort being made to be fair in assigning subs, but sometimes, it appears to be loaded. We will include John to review fairness of the player substitutions being made. Much discussion about the process.

Managers – John wants some help. How do we change this? Recruit Assistant Managers, look for someone else to step up. Need some replacements.

70+ players (Legacy Division) – maybe advertise? Try to recruit more?

How many in the league? 10 – 15 . Maybe lower age to 67 or 68 as a soft number.
No resolution at this time.

Silver Team needs additional player – Chuck Winter will be assigned.

Still need to recruit more umpires – do not need to be players.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday, Oct 14, noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

**Brickhouse: Oct 14, 2020 Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John and Dick
and John Stout (to discuss the All Star game)**

The following are Jim's notes to the league on 10/14:

Running for a Batter from Home - Effective with games tomorrow, the two umpires will meet with the two managers before the game to determine batters who need a runner from home. The home plate umpire has final say in allowing runners for batters. Once a decision is made, there will be no other allowed runners for batters during the game. If a player sustains an injury, and they cannot bat and run to first base, then they must come out of the game. There will be no penalty for such an injured player, i.e. when their time to bat comes up, the spot is skipped, there will be no out called. This rule has been the cause of much "gnashing of teeth" this season and will be the first item assigned to the rules committee in the off-season.

All-Star Game - Voting is in and the representatives appear to be set. John Stout (Silver) and I (Red) have opted out of the game to attend to other duties. John will be announcing the game, and I will be attending to "Commissioner stuff". We will be replaced by Jen Hall & Tyler Brooks, respectively. We are delighted the Mayor of the City of Williamsburg will be attending the game and throwing out the first pitch. Our own, late season addition, Pastor Chuck Winner has agreed to provide a short benediction before the game. The pre-game activities, including the introduction of the players and the national anthem, will begin at 9:45am.

IMPORTANT NOTE!!! We will still be adhering to the required Covid-19 prevention practices as set forth by the governor. Unless a player is playing in the field, at bat, coaching bases, or running the bases, they must have a suitable protective mask covering in place (over the nose and mouth). If not, they will be asked to leave the field. The Mayor will be in attendance, and probably members of the Parks and Recreation Staff, ***there is no overlooking this item!***

Awards Voting - We wish to recognize some folks for their season-long performances. Next Tuesday and Thursday, you will be asked to vote again for an MVP and a Most Improved Player, with a slight twist...our MVP stands for Most Valuable Person! This person should embody what the league stands for and best exemplifies the "sportsmanship" we all wish we had! A short description of this player is "shows athletic ability, teamwork, leadership, and self-sacrifice. Often placing their team and the league ahead of their own accomplishments." Please, be prepared to write the name of your MVP player on the ballot. The player with the most votes and at least 20% or more of total votes wins. A run-off procedure will be implemented, if necessary. In addition, each team will vote on a Most Improved Player. There will be a winner from each team. Vote for the teammate who, in your opinion, improved the most from pre-season to end-of-season. Ballots will be handed out listing your teammates and a space for your MVP.

Williamsburg House of Mercy Food Drive - From their website - "Williamsburg House of Mercy provides quality compassionate human services to all people, especially the most vulnerable, regardless of faith. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for area homeless to find respite, receive services, and work toward ending their homelessness, and emergency assistance and supportive services to those struggling to maintain housing and regain stability." **website:** <https://williamsburghouseofmercy.org/pages/giving/>
It was brought to our attention this organization is looking to restock their almost empty food pantry. During the week of October 26, we will be accepting donations from our membership (YOU!!) and deliver them to the house after the All-Star game on November 3rd. They are currently in need of baked beans, pork & beans, Spaghetti sauce, canned pasta meals, canned tuna, canned chicken, granola bars, mac & cheese, soup, peanut butter, and jelly.

Season Championship Trophy - Our own pewter artisan/master/sensei, Tom Figgs, has offered his expertise to engrave a championship trophy for the WSSL. We are currently working with Tom to select a trophy and hope to be able to "show it off" at the All-Star game. Yes, Billy Punch, the Silver team from our inaugural season will be first to be etched into eternity, but which team will follow for this year?

Soliciting Game Volunteers - For next season, we would like to solicit a list of volunteer "score keepers". These folks would be tasked with keeping a simple scorebook, no errors or fielder's choice decisions, just be able to identify if someone reached base, scored, and who is up next. The specifics have to be worked out, but the idea is to take the pressure off managers, who also may be playing, and have the information readily available if necessary. More to follow...

Other Items:

BOD Members

Discusses with John Stout the Treasurer position. He will touch base with Mike Kroeger for . Other possible candidate is Ed Conner. Jim had spoken to him about this. We will need to have a candidate to vote on at the beginning of next calendar year.

All Star Game

Umpires selected from regular season umps not in the game. This will include Billy Wagner, Ed Conner, Larry Rouse and Ben Di Vito. Umps will wear pinney vests rather than a new shirt. Shirts to be used by umps next season.

ASC Publicity

Jim will contact Last Word
Dick will talk to his Gazette contact

.Masks with Logos

Jim says that Colonial Sports still working on it

City Council & County Board Presentations in progress

Rules Committee – No Managers to serve on the Committee.

Need to replace Carl Borst as Chair (inactive). Ric will reach out to members for their willingness to continue on the committee.

Post Season Banquet – Dick

After polling the membership, it is decided to have the event this fall.
Alternative – we may schedule in March as a preseason party

Next scheduled meeting - Friday, Oct 30, noon. At Brickhouse

WSSL BOD Meeting

Oct 30, 2020: Craft 31

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John and Dick

Jim showed the championship trophy – cost \$105, we will put on a wooden base with an engraved plaque showing the championship team.

All Star Game discussion: Ric replace Billy punch for Gold/Silver Asst. Mgr.

- Runners will be allowed for only Tom Garcia, Tony Zotto, & Matt Jenkins from home plate.
- There will be no substitute runners on base unless an injury occurs.
- Players to, stay off the infield prior to the game. Running, playing catch, etc. is fine in the outfield only. Any infield practice must be done on an adjacent field.
- There will be no appeals entertained on umpire judgement calls, i.e. calls for a force play at any base.

In addition, see Jim's email to the league from 10/29 (attached) which has more details.

All Star photo and notice in Gazette and Next Door Neighbor article about Tyler Brooks.

TV coverage – not sure what they will do but will be there early and probably will do some interviews.

All Star Patches

Jim found someone in West Point to make and has already picked them up. Black for Gold and Silver teams and white for Blue and Red teams. Iron on instructions included. Put on the left sleeve, just above the seam.
(Note: Colonial Sport has not been responsive lately)

Treasurer position

Brief discussion about John Stout. Mike Wells has exchanged emails with Mike Kroeger. Not determined yet. Membership should vote on it in January

Sponsor letter

Brickhouse Tavern sponsor liked it.

Scoreboard

Not done yet. Ric to follow up with Tyler Cobb. Will do first thing Monday morning. Also, request again that rest rooms be opened up.

Umpire pinnies (sp ?) for next year

Jim showed catalog page. He will order 20 in black - \$2 each
Need to get more people to umpire for next year.

Lunch Tuesday after the All-Star Game

28 people signed up so far

Recognition for Award winners

No gift cards for MVPs and MIPs

Ben will create Award page on the web site

Other Employee recognition

Gift cards for Stout (\$50) and Wagner (\$25) Note- emails exchanged after the meeting and Jim will get from local businesses rather than Amex or Visa.

Jim will present hats to the Mayor and Tom from the field maintenance. Ric request that he recognize Tyler Cobb too.

John Stout for doing publicity next year. Will move Facebook page from Mike Allen to him in this position.

Page on website for members to advertise their business – something to consider.

Golf - Ric

16 people signed up to play on November 10 start at 12:30

Williamsburg House of Mercy collection at All Star Game

Ric will set up table to collect food. Would like to get a picture too to put in Gazette. Jim will include in his announcement to the league.

Dick - Inquiry from some players about keeping teams the same for next year – no decision made on this issue. Depends on the number of teams. Cannot determine at this time. Depends on number of new players

Substitute Runners – John would like an email from a player requesting a runner. Would like to take this responsibility away from the manager. Need to clarify the position of the league.

Rules Committee - Ric

No Managers to serve on the Committee. Will use Stout if not on BOD. Larry Rouse from Gold. Bill Aviles wants to get more involved - maybe a good candidate.

2021 Player recruitment Plan - Dick

Spreadsheet of items to consider.

Value proposition.

Intention to more people involved.

Brief discussion of minimum age for league. Two players under 55. Again, discuss runners from home. Nothing decided at this time.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday, November 18 noon. At Brickhouse

From: WSSL Softball wssl2019@gmail.com
Subject: BoD Mtg 11/18/20
Date: November 18, 2020 at 9:33 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Bcc: rzakour@gmail.com

All,

Your board met today and discussed quite a few items. Here is a run-down:

The season is complete and there were zero setbacks due to the Covid-19 virus! You are all to be commended for that...outstanding!

The season-ending all-star game day could not have unfolded any better logistically. The pregame activities were right on schedule, the food donation was monstrous, the weather was perfect, the emcee was top-notch (except for that wardrobe!) and the only piece we had no control over...the game itself, was well played and exciting.

Those of you who were at the game had a chance to view our newly purchased championship trophy. Kudos to Tom Figgs for purchasing it for us. Tom and Joe Wesolowski have a plan to add a rich wood base that will hold a small plaque of the champs team name and year. I am working to schedule a meeting with them soon to finalize the plans. We have also requested display case space with the JCC Rec Center to provide a home for the trophy.

We recognize the need and desire for everyone to continue to practice and "stay loose" during the off-season. While it is not feasible for all our members to attend a single practice, because we would have too, too many players involved, we have chosen to hold two separate regular practices. The practice Mike Allen has been organizing will continue, no changes. In addition, Dick Hoell, ably assisted by Billy Wagner, will hold a separate practice. Determining who gets invited to which practice is very subjective at this point, but everyone will be invited to one of them. This is something new for us, so if you do not get an email or text invitation, please, let me know and we will take care of it.

One of our founders, Wayne Glass, spent some time in the hospital the past few days. All reports I've heard are that he is expected to be home today or tomorrow. The board agreed to send Wayne and his wife, Guri, a "Get Well" flower arrangement from the "WSSL membership". It should be delivered tomorrow.

Along the same line...Tony Z is scheduled for hip replacement next Tuesday. Please, keep Tony & Wayne in your prayers.

Glad we got our season finished when we did! New virus restrictions limit gatherings to 25 people or less both indoors and out!

We would like to put out another end-of-season member survey. This is your chance to grade us, and provide valuable input into the activities of the WSSL. If you have any items you would like to see presented for membership input, please contact Ben Di Vito at bdivito@cox.net

The pickleball 101 group is meeting again tomorrow (Thursday) at 11am, Veteran's Park. If you are interested in joining them, please, show up and contact John Antretter at johnant36@gmail.com

The City of Williamsburg has cancelled the Christmas parade for this year...that was fun! Bummer!

Thanks,

Jim

From: WSSL Softball wssl2019@gmail.com

Subject: Rumor

Date: November 19, 2020 at 7:21 AM

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Bcc: rzakour@gmail.com

All,

Apologies, I forgot something very important in my BoD Update...there is a rumor going around that a hot bat was used during the All-Star Game. I am totally confident that rumor is FALSE! I say that because I personally checked all the bats prior to the game and actually took one out of circulation. That was because it had no markings and I could not tell if it was allowable or not. I checked both dugouts again after the third inning and found no illegal bats, During the game, I paid close attention to players batting to see if anything seemed amiss...I saw nothing.

"Hot bats", "Senior bats", "Altered bats" were a very "hot" topic for us as we began this league last year. We spent a lot of time researching the different certifications and what they mean. Our current rule regarding bat certifications is, in my opinion, a sound, reasonable and safe regulation.

With that in mind, there is basically a no tolerance policy for players using an illegal bat. According to our overhead affiliate, USA Softball, there are severe penalties for using an altered or illegal bat during a game, including immediate ejection. A second attempt carries suspension penalties of substantial time.

I totally support those types of penalties for two reasons: 1) The WSSL does not want anyone playing who thinks they need or deserve that kind of advantage over the rest of the membership, and 2) A hot or altered bat is not a tool but a weapon which can cause serious harm to a player in the field.

I know a couple of folks have senior bats and like to use them at off-season practices and that is ok. Those are not WSSL official practices. However, during our March evaluations and once league practices and games begin, those bats will no longer be allowable.

If you have any questions, please, ask!

Thanks,

Jim

WSSL BOD Meeting

Dec 15, 2020 Brickhouse

Attending: Jim, Ric, Ben, John A., Dick, John Stout, and Joe Wesoloski (guest)

Joe showed us the design for a base for the Championship Trophy. There will be maple posts from the trophy base to the overall base of walnut. Overall height will be 21 inches. Plaques indicating the championship team will be added to the base each year. The trophy will be engraved in "Old English" font by Tom Figgs. The inscription will be: "Williamsburg Senior Softball League, Established 2019 Champions" The trophy will be ready for the membership meeting in February. Joe stayed for the meeting.

Welcome John Stout – appointed acting Treasurer until he can be voted in at the Annual meeting in 2021.

2021 Membership Meeting – Shoot for Feb 2. Time and Place to be decided. We may have to do a Zoom meeting because of state Covid regulations. John Stout has an unlimited Zoom account that we could use.

New Flyer – Designed by Ben and revised (Approved by consensus) Includes All Star Game photos Not Jamie sliding into second). Will print 100 copies initially to distribute.

2021 Player Application - Agree to keep dues at \$50/year
We will use John Stouts address on it so that we can get it out now.
Ben will post the application on the website soon – **DONE 12/16**.

Agree to get a **Post Office Box** as our official address. - \$106/year.
This will be done for future use.

Fields Discussion – As per Ric's discussion with Robbi Hutton, Kiwanis field 3 is being converted to short fence (200 ft) field in 2021, and thus will not be suitable for WSSL. JCC is an alternative, but early in spring (until the end of school), only one field available because the other one has a temporary short fence for Lafayette Girls Softball. An alternative would be to see if WP&R would put up temporary fence for WSSL at 250 – 260 feet and have 60 ft. bases. Ric will contact Tyler and Robbi to discuss. We will keep open our relationship with JCC because we may need to use one field there depending on the number of teams as we grow. Will keep our box at JCC for now because there is no place for it at Quarterpath. The flag pole at Kiwanis Park is a non-issue because we will not be playing there.

Cost of fields: JCC - \$15 per person for JCC residents and \$25 for non-residents
For 50 JCC people this would be \$750 and 25 not JCC \$625 for a total of **\$1,375**
For WP&R (Kiwanis) we paid \$20 per field per play date in 2020. If we use 2 fields per play date and assume 40 play dates, that works out to **\$1,600**. **NOTE, THIS IS A DIFFERENT TOTAL THAN WAS REPORTED AT THE MEETING.**

We will probably keep one game per team per week during July and August.

Player Survey – Ben initiated and we had a lot of back and forth discussion. In emails following the meeting, a final list of 10 questions covering a broad range of topics was agreed upon. Ben will be getting this out soon so that we have some feedback for the BOD and the Rules Committee going forward.

Some discussion on how to select teams. This is included in the final survey to get feedback from the membership. John A. will also discuss with the Managers. We will need to recruit new managers as the league expands. Jim presented this to the membership in his summary email.

Discuss having only 12 players per team. This will work only if enough substitutes are available. May be a challenge if we have an even number of teams as no substitutes would be available. Need to see how this works out with the number of teams each year. Billy Wagner commended for his work on the substitution process this past year.

Presentations to Williamsburg City Council and JCC Board – Jim, Ben and John S. will work on this. Will need to schedule a date.

Rules Committee – Have met twice already and have plans to have new rules for approval by Feb 15 (Ric will let the committee know that we would like to have something for the Annual meeting on Feb 2). The committee consists of Billy Wagner (Blue team and on the committee last year), Ed Conner (Blue), Larry Rouse (Gold), Mike Wells (Silver), and Jim Wilson (Red). All seem very enthusiastic and willing to roll up their sleeves and get things done. Already deciding to separate processes (i.e., the substitutions process) from rules. These processes will be included as an appendix to the rules, but will be more flexible.

Treasure Report: \$5,000 in bank.

Try to keep membership rates low. Maybe reduced rate for returning members vs. new members. Nothing firm decided. For anyone who recruits a new sponsor, the membership fee is waived one time. This should apply to Mike Sloan.

Jim thinks that all 5 sponsors from 2020 will return for next year. John S. has a potential new sponsor line up.

We need to recruit members so serve on sponsorship committee with Dick.

Discuss the use of the Team Ap. Ric express is intent to have more people sign up for this (currently, only about half of the membership has signed up) He is willing to answer any questions and help anybody who needs help signing up in the meantime and/or at the membership meeting.

Next scheduled meeting - Wednesday, January 6, 2021 Noon. At Brickhouse