

## WSSL BoD Meeting - 06 January 2022

(Meeting held at 3:30 pm via Zoom)

Attendees were Jim R. John A. Ben D., Dick H., John S. and Steve C.

Guests present for the initial two topics were were Bud Ramey (Recruitment Committee) and Larry Rouse (Rules Committee).

Initial topic of discussion was related to COVID's impact on the WSSL's planned activities related to the start of WISC based off-season training program and the timing and venue for the annual membership meeting. After discussion by the board the decisions were reached that the start of the WISC program would be delayed until 31 January and the annual membership meeting would be delayed until February - and tentatively the venue was identified as the WISC. Relative to the membership meeting, it was agreed that confirmation would be needed through contacts at the WISC and our plan to use WISC provided chairs to spread out within the confines of turf field could be accommodated.

Bud Ramey next discussed his overall plan to organize and coordinate WISC based pitching clinics with the support of other WSSL pitchers as instructional resources. It was decided that this effort would involve both direct communication with pitching prospects as well as the use of the Team App to facilitate the clinics as well. Bud advised that a schedule for these clinics would be tentatively set once he had commitments from other resources. This schedule would then be made available on the app under the Training tab. The board thanked Bud for his leadership on this important initiative after which Bud signed off.

Larry Rouse, head of the Rules Committee, then led a discussion of the three (bats, game times, and heat index) areas that the BoD had asked the committee to look at for potential revisions and updates. Larry and the Committee's recommendations on the topic of legal/illegal bats and heat index were largely agreed upon by the board members, however, the area of game time was one where Larry was asked to go back to the group to massage the recommended changes (i.e. last inning warning at 75 or 80 minutes vs. current 70) per board guidance for future review. The board thanked Larry and the team for their excellent work to date and, prior to signing off, the board requested that Larry consider the role of head of the soon to be established Umpire Committee. Larry was agreeable to consider same and further discussion on the matter with his is planned.

The board turned the discussion towards 2022 recruitment efforts and the newly established page on the WSSL website dedicated to recruitment. The FAQs were mentioned as ready to go with the goal to address anticipated questions and concerns that a prospective member could have. The board advocated that this effort could ideally be publicized to the larger membership by an email from the Commissioner encouraging all to actively recruit new members, and to use the linked FAQs to address potential questions they may receive during this process. It was mentioned that 13 applications/checks had been received to date for the 2022 season.

The board next discussed league sponsors with two existing sponsors having already confirmed their sponsorship status for 2022 and one new sponsor being discussed as a potential add.

To aid in recruitment and publicity efforts the board discussed acquiring a new, truly high resolution vector file for the WSSL logo. It was agreed that any existing files did not have the requisite level of detail to work with going forward. Options were discussed to have a vector file fabricated from scratch to address this need.

The board next turned to discuss options for the dollar threshold amount any board member could spend and reimbursed for without first seeking approval from the larger board. Various amounts were discussed with the amount of \$100 being agreed upon. It was noted that this will require formalization through the bylaw change process with a membership vote at the annual meeting. It was also agreed that the annual expense of maintaining a PO Box (that has not been used to date) was unnecessary and that the WSSL would not renew this expense for 2022.

A season start date of 1 April 2022 with a total of 50 play dates was used as an initial discussion point as board members are not yet in agreement on the number of games that should be scheduled, as well as the exact timing of the mid-summer break period - although the months of July and August were generally agreed to as the window of time within which the break would occur. After some discussion it was agreed that the matter of games to be played and the break timing would be added to the member survey questionnaire with the results assisting the board in reaching a final decision.

AEDs were briefly discussed and the board agreed to table the matter in the immediate and revisit at the next meeting.

WSSL business cards were brought up with the recognition that no one was formally responsible for new cards, It was acknowledged that Ric Z. had printed the initial batch and that he would be asked to print a new batch.

The need for a new Facebook page focal point was discussed with John Ancellotti having been approached as a possibility. An initial discussion with John had yielded his agreeing to consider the role, although he was upfront about being no expert on FB. This will require additional follow-up.

A potential lunch between the mayor of Williamsburg and the WSSL Commissioner was discussed as not yet scheduled, with the goal to do so within the next month or so.

A potential title revision of Dick H.'s current board position as "Member At-Large" was discussed due to the new recruitment responsibilities that he has assumed. Such a change would involve a bylaw change membership approval at the next annual meeting. Additional discussion will be required to determine if this will move forward and, if so, what the proposed title's wording would consist of.

The discussion then turned towards the recently concluded effort by the Ratings Committee's work done to assess each existing WSSL player's skill levels and abilities. It was reinforced how challenging this effort has been and just how necessary this leveling data will be to ensure

the success of the pre-season team drafting process and for the fair application of the in-season Substitution Committee's work to address weekly roster shortfalls in 2022. It was noted that this rating process will be also conducted at the end of "Rookie Camp" looking at new players and those associated ratings will be incorporated into the larger dataset prior to the drafting of the new teams for 2022. It was also stressed that this process is a living one and all ratings are subject to review based on individual player actual performance once the season is underway.

The use of tools such as stretching bands for use at the off-season WISC for warmup purposes was discussed. While all agreed that it could be an excellent initiative the potential cost and the practical challenges of incorporating these into the program in a cost effective manner led the board to decide that for 2022 the matter would be tabled.

The potential of the Team App to be used for weekly lunch meet-ups was discussed as a very useful tool going forward.

To conclude the meeting it was agreed that the next BoD meeting would be scheduled for 2 February 2022 at noon.

## WSSL BoD Meeting - 26 January 2022

(Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom)

Attendees: Jim R., John A., Dick H., Ben D. John S. and Steve C.

The meeting kicked off with a discussion on recruitment efforts as recently outlined in the Recruitment Committee's plan. There was an emphasis on reviewing options that are low cost, however, the board agreed that some cost needed to be borne to best reach the audience and demographic that reflects our membership.

Facebook ads were an expense that the board deemed worth trying for at least an initial 30 days, along with an associated administrative fee to set the ads up and to monitor the effort. It was agreed that some demographic assessment was required before this effort would be formally underway. The sum of \$400 was approved by the board to fund this effort. It was also agreed that an agreement is needed to provide the Recruitment Committee an annual budget going forward from which funds could be spent at their discretion versus the board reviewing each expenditure request.

Posters and flyers posted around town in businesses and restaurants were discussed as an effort already underway as well as a strong push to encourage current membership to personally recruit in their social circles and communities. A "meet & greet" for prospective new members was discussed and it was agreed that the lunch after the annual meeting on 17 February at Revolution Golf would be used in such a fashion. A request was made to include Marcia Bowlds of the Recruitment Committee on any emails to/from prospective players for tracking purposes. The board also agreed that a presence at the first available "Second Sunday" in March (3/12) would be an excellent opportunity to recruit in-person with a strong and visible presence.

The board agreed to take up Vance Carroll's voluntarily agreeing to be the WSSL Facebook Administrator. In this role he will act as the primary focal point for the WSSL FB page and will have "gatekeeper" authority over all posts on the page.

The board next discussed the preliminary results of the ongoing membership survey. The survey will run until 31 January 2022. Some initial results reflected a preference for a 30 day summer break as well as at least half of the respondents viewing a two division set-up favorably. From the survey it was clear that direct recruiting from members has been the most effective marketing approach to date. The survey revealed the league was receiving high marks overall, however, it seemed apparent that more members are needed to use the Team App to respond to league communications. It was noted that a Part 2 survey was still needed and will be rolled out after the annual meeting in February.

The group next discussed the WISC off-season workout program that is scheduled to kick-off on 31 January and run through 1 April. It was assessed that sign-ups were lagging a bit initially due to some members not using the Team App yet. It was agreed the schedule could also be made available on the WSSL website and that members could write Dick H. an email and he could then RSVP for them to the session of their choosing.

It was agreed that the annual membership meeting would be held at the WISC at 11:00 on 17 February 2022. A lunch at Revolution Golf would be held immediately after the meeting.

At the annual meeting a series of presentations will be made, to include votes to address league bylaws on \$100 financial threshold approval for any board member, potential title change for Dick H.'s "At Large" title to one with a recruitment flavor, and a vote on the length of board terms. A WISC update will be provided as well as a presentation by the Rules Committee addressing changes to 2022 rule updates on WSSL approved bats, game time limits, a new pitching distance requirement, and how the league will address the heat index on game days.

The WSSL schedule for the year was discussed with an agreement that the specifics for the summer break need to be outlined as well as the board agreeing that the all-star game(s) will be held immediately after the season vs mid-season to avoid the heat and give more summer time off to the selected players.

The board next turned to a discussion of sponsors for 2022 and it was noted that eight of the ten existing sponsors had already indicated that they were going to continue their sponsorship with potentially up to three new sponsors in the works.

The group discussed the issue of formalizing the exact distance that the league will require pitchers to pitch from during games. It was agreed that the distance would be established at 50 feet. A rule update will be required and this requirement will be taught at the WISC pitching clinics as well as briefed to the membership at the annual meeting.

It was noted that the James City County Board of Supervisors recently (1/25/22) approved a county masterplan update that includes the establishment of baseball and softball fields. At the board meeting there was a brief and very supportive discussion of senior softball which hopefully bodes well for our future.

The next WSSL BoD meeting is scheduled for 1 March 2022 at noon at Brickhouse Tavern.

WSSL BoD Meeting Minutes  
6 March 2022

Meeting held at Billsburg Brewery

In Attendance: Jim R. John A, Ben D., Dick H. John S. And Steve C.

The meeting opened with Jim R. advising that an AED is being donated to the WSSL by “In a Heartbeat”.

The Board next discussed the WISC training program and the need to prioritize outdoors workouts towards those who have paid the monthly WISC membership fees. It was noted that a recent outdoor session was attended by a multitude of individuals who were not WISC members and this resulted in a group size that was difficult to manage productively. The decision was made to review the attendance of future outdoor sessions closely and to use the Team App notification method only to organize versus broadcast emails.

The Board next turned to calendar requirements, determining that the WSSL “Rookie Camp” would commence on Tuesday, 22 March and run again on the days of 24, 29 and 31 March. It was noted that a need to deconflict the SME resources required to run the Rookie Camp as many of these individuals were involved in running the WISC training session that would be running concurrently.

A decision was also reached to target the official start of the 2022 WSSL season as 12 April with the league draft held on either 4/1 or 4/2. Practices dates would then be available for league coaches from 3 April through 12 April to schedule individual team sessions or to organize scrimmages with other teams.

It was noted that the first Umpire Clinic would be held at the WISC on 8 March with additional sessions to be held - although dates are not yet determined.

The Board next discussed the need to schedule an annual WSSL Treasurer audit. Two volunteers will be needed and Jim R. stated he would take the lead in getting those volunteers on board.

The emergency contact initiative discussed at the annual meeting was discussed with the need to get the sealed envelopes to the Commissioner or to the Secretary for organizing same and setting up a secure box to be placed into the locked equipment box located at the Quarterpath fields. It was additionally noted that emergency contact info written on luggage tags and attached to each player’s bat bag would be useful in efficiently notifying any player’s emergency contact if necessary. The League will provide the tags at season’s start and it will be strictly voluntary for a player to use same.

Relative to recruiting it was discussed that a mass email would be useful in reminding all league players to redouble their efforts to bring in additional players in the next few weeks. It was noted that with the current trajectory of new players joining and former players advising they will not play in 2022, the projection was currently for six teams with 14-15 players on each roster. This will be revisited accordingly if the projections significantly shift.

Additional locations to post flyers was discussed with Billsburg/Hungry Pug being noted as agreeable to posting our flyers. Veterans Park and the WISC were also noted as “in the works” as potential additional sites.

Recruiting at the 13 March and 10 April “Second Sunday” events downtown were then discussed and Jim R. noted that he had a tent, table, and a banner ready to deploy. Volunteers to staff the table from 9:00 am through 5:00 pm will be needed.

The Board approved using the team jersey style used in 2020 for season 2022, with the front logo being comprised of the WSSL logo only on the front, with the back devoted to sponsor logos. It was determined that at this time additional new hats would not be ordered.

It was noted that the yoga sessions on Wednesday morning at the WISC were going well. The status of BDefined workouts were not set as yet and are TBD.

It was noted that the lunch with the Mayor of Williamsburg was not yet set and that any board members who wished to join would be welcomed.

An initiative to have a BoD member present at a monthly Kiwanis meeting was raised. Dick R. advised that he would step up to handle it.

A plan to hold a pre-season party at Mike Sloan’s home was discussed, with the afternoon/evening of Saturday, 9 April proposed for same.

The Board determined that the next monthly meeting would be scheduled for Thursday, 24 March at Old City BBQ following the Rookie Camp session that morning.

WSSL BoD Meeting  
24 March 2022

Meeting held at Brickhouse Tavern

Attendees: Jim R., John A. Ben D. John S. And Steve C.

The meeting kicked off with a discussion regarding the WSSL branded apparel sale initiative. It was noted that the proposed product page on the vendor's website is ready to go "live". The Board agreed that the current products displayed on the page were ready to market to the league members.

The subject of the WSSL pre-season party was discussed next. The Board agreed to formalize the proposed date of Friday, 8 April with the 9th of April identified as a rain date. A Sign-Up Genius page is being drafted by John S. and will be available soon for league members to respond to. Jim R. advised that he promote this and the online WSSL merchandise in a league-wide email.

The Board next discussed the proposed plan for the 2022 season draft. After vigorous debate a plan was agreed to and John S. advised that he would document the plan and provide same along with supporting documents to managers to allow them to prep for the draft. It was noted that unknown was how many new players could potentially walk-up to the remaining rookie evaluation session. It was also noted that it was getting late in the game for a number of new and experienced players to get their dues to John S. It was agreed that if funds were not received by 29 March then late payers would be held on a wait list and activated as necessary in the order of their payments being received by the league Treasurer.

The need to lock in the 2022 League Calendar was then discussed with rookie evaluations winding up and the league draft being planned to take place prior to the end of March.

The need for volunteers to umpire and scorekeeper was raised. Additionally, the scheduling of a second umpire clinic was also discussed. It was determined that an email soliciting volunteers to umpire and scorekeeper would be sent league wide. Steve C. advised that he would request Billy Moore and Larry Rouse schedule another umpire clinic to take place prior to the 12 April season start.

The future of softball fields at the James City County sports complex was raised. It was agreed that WSSL would stay in front of this issue to ensure that fields are appropriate (i.e. fence distances) for our league would be planned for and delivered.

Performance standards were discussed and it was agreed that WSSL would evaluate the criteria to be considered and implemented prior to the start of the 2023 season. It was agreed that Jim R. And Steve C. would head this effort up.

The likelihood of the need for a seventh team was raised and the Board discussed the different steps being taken to be ready for such an eventuality.



The Board agreed on the date of Wednesday, 6 April for the next meeting (noon- Brickhouse Tavern).

## WSSL BoD Meeting – 6 April 2022

Location: Brickhouse Tavern

Attendees: Jim R., John A., Ben D. Dick H., John S. and Steve C.

The meeting commenced with a discussion involving the WSSL “Wait List” (undrafted players who are not yet rostered with a team), the Substitution list process, and how player injuries will be tracked by the league.

Next the Board turned to a recap of the draft process and what worked well and what can be reviewed for potential changes going forward.

League schedule and calendar were then discussed.

Following onto the policy regarding player substitutions for 2022, the need to gather an updated umpire and scorekeeper lists were discussed.

The Board agreed to formally approve the revised rules for 2022 based on the work done by the Rules Committee and briefed at the annual meeting.

It was noted that automated timers for monitoring game times have been received and will be used from Opening Day forward.

It was additionally noted that the orange league storage box located at QP contained all necessary items for play at Fields 2 & 3. Most items have been moved from the WISC and are in the box as well.

It was noted that the Treasurer’s audit was conducted just prior to the Board meeting start with the formal audit assessment forthcoming.

The Board then turned towards the logistics of the league pre-season party scheduled for the 8th of April. It was agreed that a final reminder email would be released league-wide to encourage attendance.

The schedule and logistical arrangements for the league’s presence at the April “Second Sunday” event downtown was then discussed.

The Feld Set-up coordination effort headed up by Bill Punch has kicked off and it was noted that he was working directly with team managers to ensure that responsible individuals were identified and notified for setup and tear-down for each game. Any issues with this process will be addressed via Andy Jacobs with the managers.

The Umpire Clinic headed by Larry Rouse scheduled for 11 April at QP was then discussed and a Team App blast encouraging signups will be sent out asap.

AED Status - it was noted that WSSL will receive one free AED at the end of calendar year 2022.

The next WSSL BoD meeting was scheduled for 11 May 2022 at Brickhouse Tavern.

## WSSL BoD Meeting - 10 May 2022

Location: Brickhouse Tavern

Attendees: Jim R., John A., Ben D., Dick H. John S. And Steve C.

The meeting kicked off with a discussion of the Substitute Runner Rule (runner from home plate). The Board agreed to maintain the two active player approvals (Tom Garcia and Jim Kladder) and one currently inactive player (Matt Jenkins).

The Board next discussed the status of a number of players and the current player waiting list and whether these players could/should be used as substitute players to get them playing time. The Board agreed that this should be done where needs match up with skill level.

Additional storage for WSSL field usage requirements at QP were discussed. It was acknowledged that the current lone box at the QP is not adequate to hold everything the league would like to have located at the fields. Options were discussed, to include a larger box/shed, or adding an additional box. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with Tyler to determine the City's willingness to allow us additional storage at the fields.

The need to order additional WSSL business cards was acknowledged and approved.

A discussion of a potential seventh Board position was raised, Duties proposed for the position's portfolio included sponsor interface and recruitment, documentation and tracking WSSL strategic initiatives and goals, and action-tracking to ensure that WSSL initiatives are documented and progress monitored.

The potential of exploring whether the WSSL would be eligible for grants from the county or city was discussed. The Board agreed that this held promise and deserved follow-up.

The Board next discussed the subject of umpire judgment calls and the possibility of Larry R. initiating an ongoing weekly "chat" where umpires raised situations that were new or challenging to the group so that all could learn in a collaborative way how to handle such situations going forward.

The Board determined that the Rules Committee would be tasked with reworking the 2021 rule relative to managers requesting specific skill substitutes if their pitcher and/or shortstop was unable to play in any given game. This change will align the official rules with the 2022 WSSL approach where no substitutes are provided should a team be able to field at least 12 rostered players.

The Board determined the next meeting would be post-games on 21 June 2022 at Brickhouse Tavern.

## WSSL BoD Meeting Minutes - 21 June 2022

Attendees: Jim R. John S., Ben D., Dick H. And Steve C.

Location: Brickhouse Tavern

The meeting commenced with a discussion re: the 16 July 2022 summer break party. It was determined that grilling the main course would not be an option for this event, and that the league would fund the cold sandwiches that would comprise the main course. Attendees would sign up as usual to bring sides and desserts and the host (Mike) would provide one small keg of beer. It was determined that the start time would be 4:00 pm.

The next topic was the 14 July home run derby and base running contest. It was determined that the event would be held at Field 3 at the Kiwanis complex and that each team would be permitted two entries in each contest. A start time of 9:00 am was decided for this day's events.

The group next discussed the idea of holding an umpire clinic during the break and promoting the idea of expanding the umpire cadre to share the wealth going forward. A discussion of whether the league should incentivize umpires to increase the cadre's ranks was tabled for a future meeting.

A discussion of applying a "rank" to each new league member was discussed with the group determining that the Deputy Commissioner was best able to efficiently determine and appropriately tier these players until the off-season - where they will be assessed by the group looking at the entire league population.

The potential of organizing a month-long "Senior-65+" league in November was discussed. The group thought the proposal had merit and additional discussions will be held to move this forward.

The Board addressed coach-initiated early starts (8:45) as the weather has been getting warmer and agreed that things seemed to be working smoothly.

It was noted that 2 or 3 games would need to be continued before the end of the season as they had not reached the fifth inning when play was terminated.

The Commissioner noted a recent near-disaster where a line drive down the third base line hit a player standing on third base in the legs had prompted an informal discussion re: making batting helmets available for runners on third (and first) on a voluntary basis. The group agreed to purchase two batting helmets to be hung on the fence so runners who chose to wear one had one readily available to them.

The question of additional field storage for WSSL equipment was raised and all agreed the need was legitimate and other options were no longer practical. The decision was made to approach the city to determine what they could live with given our needs.

It was noted that the Rules Committee was currently undergoing a review and rewrite of the WSSL substitution policy to line up with the new approach being taken in 2022.

Next meeting: 7/14 at Billsburg Brewery after the events at Kiwanis are over

## WSSL BoD Meeting

Date: 24 August 2022

Location: Brickhouse Tavern

Attendees: John A., Ben D., Dick H., John S., & Steve C.

The Board opened with discussing the topic of WSSL league member Scott Cash being one of the subjects of a Fall 2022 issue of "Next Door Neighbor" magazine. The Board agreed that Scott's interview would be an excellent opportunity to publicize the League's mission and what we have to offer regional seniors.

With the recent resignation of Jim R. the Board then turned to the need to name an interim-Commissioner to help steward the League through the remainder of the 2022 season as well as the new division trial run that is planned for the first three weeks of November. As the League's Deputy Commissioner John A. agreed to step up to fill this significant void at the request of the Board's other members. The Board spent some time discussing how best to assist and support John A. during this period as he will also continue to address his responsibilities as Deputy Commissioner during this time-frame. The Board informally determined that the optimal timing for WSSL elections for existing positions (Commissioner, D/Commissioner, and potential new positions - as many as three) was early December and it was agreed to begin work necessary to address this timing and how nominations and the election itself would take place.

The Board addressed a formal request by a WSSL manager to consider a tournament at season's end. The Board considered this proposal and, while agreeing that it has merit in multiple aspects, it was assessed in the end as potentially disruptive to the schedule for this season, particularly with the November mini-season's planning well underway. It was agreed that this would be a topic brought forth in the off-season to determine if enough interest existed to factor this in for the 2023 season schedule.

The Board turned the discussions on how to approach the use of new game balls for games going forward. The Board determined that the use of two new balls per each game was a worthwhile expense going forward given the importance of this particular piece of equipment to the game we play. The Board agreed that two new balls would be used per game going forward and that at the end of each game one game ball would be retained by each team manager to add to their team's collection of practice balls. This would also make it much easier to find a suitable backup ball for a game situation where one or both balls are irretrievably lost out of play.

The Board next recognized that the Sub Committee needed to retain a second set of senior hands with Jim R.'s decision to step away from this role. The Board agreed that Ken Fones-Wolf should be approached to gauge his interest in taking this on.

The Board addressed the status of a recent decision to permit a substitute runner from home for a WSSL player recently returned from rehabbing from a major surgery. It was agreed that

this decision to temporarily permit a sub runner seemed to have provided a suitable solution to a somewhat unique situation, such that that it was the Board's assessment he would not need such an accommodation for the final game identified in our original approval. Discussions with the player and his manager prior to this game were agreed as necessary to ensure all are on the same page.

The issue of access to, and the use of, the WSSL gmail address/account used by the Commissioner was discussed. While the previous Commissioner advised he would return that access to the League, it was agreed that Ben's assistance to the D/Commissioner in getting league-wide emails out to all members in the interim had worked well. In the immediate this work-around was deemed serviceable for necessary league-wide communications and the WSSL email address would be brought back online at a time to be determined.

The League's initiative to collect donations for the local chapter of Meals on Wheels has resulted in \$500 collected to date from WSSL members. A discussion was held to determine how best to manage the transfer of these funds while optimizing positive exposure to MoW, the WISC (where MoW is now headquartered) as well as the WSSL. The initial proposed course of action was determined to discuss such an opportunity with these other organizations with potential publicity provided by a relevant piece/photo in the Gazette.

The 25 August scheduled umpire clinic was discussed next with all agreeing that measures to promote such volunteering across the league are worthy of prioritization. Specific to the umpire cadre it was noted that the current umpire list should be reviewed to determine the names reflected are current league members and possess the skills/experience necessary to perform this task adequately. Delineation of qualified/experienced home plate umpires will be reflected and new, or less experienced umpires will be initially paired with these experienced home plate umpires. Post-clinic, new names may also be added and the list will be scrubbed by Steve C., Larry R. And Bob L. The list will then be provided to the Board for review, comment and potential editing.

The meeting John S. And Steve C. held with the new head of the City's recreation department's grounds operations was discussed. It was noted that, while the league had a very solid relationship with the previous supervisor, it is clear that Patti's support to the WSSL seems to be unqualified. This opens real possibilities relative to the use of QP Field #1 and accommodating the WSSL's request to consider additional equipment storage capacity at QP. Patti shared the noteworthy developments that the City had doubled the hourly rate for her grounds and maintenance staff positions which has made a crucial difference to her staffing needs. She also disclosed that she ensured the the renovation of QP Field #2 was funded in the City's budget and that this would involve installing French drains to permanently address the drainage issues on the field, as well as the funding necessary to use sod to finish the project, resulting in a positive impact to how long the field would be off-line. She advised that the start of this project was currently TBD.

The Board then returned to a request by league member Andy Alford made earlier in 2022 that was favorably received, however, nothing was definitively decided regarding how to proceed. The request involves a bat vendor known well to Andy providing WSSL members the opportunity to assess/try out (and potentially purchase) different bat models that meet our playing requirements. The Board reiterated support for this initiative and, as Andy is a Red team colleague, Steve C. assumed the lead to make Andy aware of this favorable decision.



Dick H. Advised the 35 league members had expressed interest in playing in the November league. He noted that realistically a minimum of 48-50 players is ideally required to provide the experience we are looking for. It was noted that time existed to address this and that a positive was that many members ineligible to play would be available as umpires and scorekeepers to support this effort.

The Board next discussed the outstanding invoices the League has yet to receive for a considerable amount of jerseys and hats that Colonial Sports has provided to the WSSL. It was noted that the League (in the person of Jim R.) has repeatedly pleaded with Colonial Sports to address this issue. John A. agreed to take another run at them in hopes to reconcile our account.

The 28 October WSSL end of year party was discussed next, and it was noted that this was the day after the WSSL All-Star games on the 27th and it was also noted WSSL league member Mike Francis' band is available to play at the party.

The Board then noted that the Xmas Parade is scheduled for 4 December this year and that use of Steve C.'s decorated golf cart is being planned. Finding a trailer to get the cart downtown will be necessary, although one can be rented for the date via UHaul if needed.

The proposal to invite all league members to the the final 31 August 2022 downtown Williamsburg Summer Breeze outdoor concert featuring Bobby Blackhat Band was raised and the Board agreed this is a good opportunity to gather our members for a fun event.

The matter of holding a meeting to discuss the lessons-learned from the WISC off-season program was raised. It was agreed by all that a meeting of those involved with planning and implementing the program, as well as some key attending members, would be put together in the the next 60 days or so to allow for the scheduling and planning of the 2023 off-season program. Steve C. will take lead on getting this meeting scheduled.

The Board next discussed the recognition of the need to hold our annual meeting in early December to facilitate league elections so we can hit the ground running in 2023. It was noted that the WISC is likely our best venue as it worked well for our last annual meeting. It was agreed that much work was required to get this accomplished by early December, however, pro-active planning would address this.

To address the likelihood of significant change to the Board itself by the end of 2022 the Board agreed to individually draft the duties and responsibilities for each currently existing position, to include additional duties that could/would logically fall into that position, or existing duties that would potentially line up better elsewhere, to include a new position. The deadline for this task was determined as 31 August. It was also decided that a meeting on Wednesday, 7 September to follow-up on this initiative as well as to discuss any immediate or priority process/procedure/rule was required to ensure we track towards December.

Finally, the Board agreed that the next scheduled monthly Board meeting would be 28 September.

## WSSL BoD 9/29/2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: John A. Ben D., Dick H., John S. & Steve C.

Venue: Brickhouse Tavern

The meeting opened with a short discussion on the recent increase of the use of “courtesy” runners in league games. While the board noted that such liberal use of the rule allowing for the use of such courtesy runners, this recent usage was not necessarily as intended, however, the practice fell loosely within the current rules of the WSSL. The BoD agreed that, among other issues, this matter could be forwarded to the Rules Committee in the off-season for review and potential adjustment.

The next issue discussed was identifying a focal point for the maintenance and updating of the WSSL member email master list. While it was agreed that the role was not currently assigned to any particular Board member, it was determined that in the short term the position of league Treasurer would address this need.

The next issue brought forth was the ongoing issue of the league’s outstanding monies owed to Colonial Sports for 2022 hats and league team shirts. It was noted that despite the repeated efforts of the WSSL to procure an invoice for these items from our vendor, such an invoice(s) has yet to be received. John A. and John S. agreed to personally visit the vendor and try once again to make headway on this issue. The BoD expressed frustration with this situation as Colonial Sports is a WSSL sponsor in good standing and has provided good value for what has been provided to the league to date. That said, it was noted that it could be in the league’s best interest to pursue using a different vendor who can offer better service and responsiveness even if costs increase marginally.

The BoD next discussed details for the 28 October league post-season party to include the proposed use of a caterer to address the food requirements. Also addressed were the two all-star games scheduled for 27 October that will potentially be held at QP Park Field #1. It was also noted that all-star selection ballots for these games will need to be printed and distributed soon.

The next item discussed was an update on the November league plan. It was noted that the numbers responding to date were sufficient to field four teams of at least 12 players each (there will be no short fielder for this short season). The season will commence on 1 November and conclude on 29 November. The appointment of managers was discussed with one position confirmed with three remaining to be filled. Options for filling these key roles were discussed.

The 4 December Williamsburg Christmas Parade was discussed and the formation of a committee to organize WSSL participation was suggested. It was also noted that the use of a lighted and decorated golf cart, audio support, pronounced signage and a bat drill team would notably increase the impact of our presence.

The 8 December annual league meeting was next discussed. The venue for this meeting will once again be the WISC and the time was projected to be 10:00 - 12:30.

The Board then discussed the plan to fill the three current BoD positions (Commissioner, Treasurer and Communications Director) upcoming vacancies and two new BoD positions (Division Presidents) needing address. To resolve the need to stagger BoD terms, and as the projected two division alignment for 2023 will not be truly solidified until the Spring 2023, it was determined that the two new division president positions would be initially established as one-year term positions. While these positions will initially serve a one-year term, during this term they will serve as full fledged BoD members. A determination of the way-forward longer-term on these two new positions will be addressed in late 2023.

The BoD then discussed what, if any, qualifications would be required of a candidate for a Board position. The consensus of the Board was that any candidate must have been a member in good standing for the 2022 season.

The Board next identified the 1st of December 2022 as the date for a WISC off-season lessons-learned meeting to prepare for the planned 2023 program . Key SMEs and league members who attended a significant number of seasons in Feb-March 2022 will be invited to assist in our drafting the plan for 2023. The venue for this meeting was tentatively determined to be Revolution Golf. Steve C. has taken the lead to identify attendees and to draft the invite email for this meeting.

The Board set the next BoD meeting for 10/19/2022 and will be held at the Brickhouse Tavern.

## WSSL BoD Meeting Minutes - 10/19/2022

Attendees: John A., Dick H., Ben D., John S. And Steve C.

Location: Brickhouse Tavern

The Board opened the meeting by hearing an update on the 12/4/22 2022 Christmas Parade from John S. Who had just dialed into a virtual meeting on this topic just prior to the board meeting. John advised no major updates but did add that the crowd estimate for last year's parade was 15,000. It was noted that additional exploration was needed to determine if a PA system could be used with a 12v battery and deployed on the golf cart that will be decorated and part of our presence. The matters of how to best illuminate our WSSL banner was also discussed.

The Board next discussed the need to resolve the still to be received 2022 Colonial Sports invoices and John A. and John S. Agreed to make one more visit to the vendor prior to the December 2022 annual meeting.

The Board next determined the deadline for All-Star voting to be 20 October (weather permitting).

The 28 October 2022 "End of Season" party was briefly discussed with no significant adjustments decided.

Dick H. next discussed the latest developments for the November "Jamestown Division" trial season. Managers for each of the four teams have been named and the rosters for each team are being drafted. It was noted that the WSSL was being entrusted by the City Rec Dept with a key to the press box on Kiwanis Field 3 for storage purposes. Umpires, subs and scorekeeper being organized were also discussed for the November league.

Status if election nominations was updated by Steve C. The deadline for nominations was identified as circa 23 November.

The 8 December 2022 Annual Meeting at the WISC was discussed with a decision made to largely mirror the format and presentation of the last meeting,

Steve C. and Dick H. provided details on the planned 1 December meeting to document lessons-learned from the Feb-March WISC off-season program and the November Jamestown Division trial mini-season. The meetings will be held at Revolution Golf from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. (WISC session from 5:00 - 6:00, Jamestown session from 6:30 - 7:30. From 6:00-6:30 will be a brief social where WSSL will thank all attendees for their assistance by providing a beverage and appetizers.

The next WSSL BoD meeting is planned for 16 November 2022.

## WSSL BoD Meeting Minutes for 11/16/2022

Attendees: Dick H., Ben D., John S., Steve C., and John A. (via dial-in)

Location: Brickhouse Tavern

The meeting commenced with a discussion of whether a survey to the league members is needed at this time. It was determined that nothing new existed to prompt a survey.

The issue of reconciling 2022 invoices with Colonial Sports was discussed with John A. and John S. agreeing to visit this vendor during the following week to try once again to pay for services rendered to WSSL in 2022 that have yet to be billed to us.

The board then turned to the draft ballot where existing nominations/candidates for the five positions being determined on 8 December were discussed. It was noted that all positions reflected at least one candidate, with the exception of Treasurer. A number of potential candidates were discussed and John A. agreed to work this issue to surface at least one suitable candidate.

Dick H. next provided an update on the November League's play to date, which was being received extremely favorably by both participants and observers. Based on a few instances of a small number of players in this league exhibiting limited skills, mobility and/or reaction times the board agreed that it was time to revisit the consideration of establishing a WSSL Minimum Performance Standard (MPS) prior to 2023 season play. The MPS established by the Northern Virginia Senior Softball League was reviewed and it was agreed that this document was a good starting point for the WSSL.

The board then turned to the 1 December WISC/Nov League lesson's learned meeting scheduled from 5:00 - 7:30 at Revolution Golf. Steve C. advised that about ten RSVPs had been received to date. John S. confirmed that the large private room had been reserved with the manager for this time-frame. John S. Also confirmed that Revolution Golf was aware of our lunch plans there post-Annual Meeting on 8 December.

The Williamsburg Christmas Parade was discussed with Steve C. advising that the reservation for a trailer to transport the golf cart to/from the parade had been made. A call for volunteers to assist with crowd interface along the route has gone out.

The board next discussed the 8 December Annual Meeting and the need to update the Powerpoint slides from the 2021 meeting. It was also agreed that the election specific part of the meeting would take place at 10:45 with results tabulated immediately post-meeting and the election results announced at the lunch being held at Revolution Golf and then sent out to league members via email.

The board next discussed the tentative schedule for early 2023 and proposed the following:

16 January - 10 March	WISC Off-season Program
14/16/20/23 March	Rookie Camp

23 & 24 March  
27 - 31 March  
4 April

Draft for Jamestown/Yorktown Divisions  
Team practices  
Season start

The next BoD meeting is scheduled for 14 December 2022

WSSL Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
16 December 2022

Attendees: John A., Ben D., Dick H., Steve C., and John S.

Guests: Wes R., Joanne W-F, and Andy J.

Venue: Brickhouse Tavern

The meeting opened by welcoming special guests Wes. R. (Treasurer-Elect), Andy J. (President-Elect of Yorktown Division) and Joanne W-F. (Communications Director-Elect) to the meeting.

The Board discussed the status of the ongoing survey of 2022 WSSL players (via team managers) to determine intentions of playing again in 2023. It was noted that manager responses were beginning to come in and it was expected that within the next week the survey would be largely completed, giving the Board a sense of a baseline of players to begin 2023 with.

It was further noted that most of the unanswered questions posed to the audience of our annual meeting remained so, to include a question on the minds of many of which fields would be utilized for the Jamestown Division games in 2023.

John S. noted that at a recent meeting with Patti McGrath, the Parks Superintendent for Williamsburg City Parks & Rec, field #2 at Quarter Path Park is slated for a complete renovation in the near future. Patti did not have a firm time-frame for this project to take place, however, she noted that the funding was in place to cover the project's projected cost. It was again noted that Patti remained favorably disposed to permitting WSSL to utilize QP #1 if the need arises. Patti also addressed the question of the use of the Kiwanis fields for informal practices, she stressed that coordination with her staff was critical in such circumstances as they must ensure that any such activities do not adversely impact other scheduled activities at that location.

The Board next turned to the question of whether the current amount of \$75 for WSSL annual dues should be adjusted for 2023. After some discussion the Board agreed to retain the \$75 amount for 2023.

The requirement for new hats and jerseys required for 2023 play was then discussed. The current quandary faced with our past vendor (and sponsor), Colonial Sports, was noted as yet unresolved. It was agreed that a dialogue with this vendor was still in order, to address the needs for 2023 the option of Parkway Printing was surfaced again. The Board believed it would be in the best interests of the WSSL to approach Parkway to discuss a potential proposal.

The Board next turned to the subject of the WISC. John A. proposed that an open house for current and prospective WSSL members to visit the facility for a familiarization tour. The 5th of

January was proposed and a potential date the following week was also discussed. John A. advised that he would coordinate with the WISC and firm up dates and times with them.

The next WISC item discussed was the need to get a WSSL banner displayed over the WISC indoor soccer field, to increase awareness of the League's existence with those attending games at that facility. It was also discussed that it was time for WSSL recruiting materials to be updated with new contact information

It was noted that the WISC off-season program was in the planing stages and that an email would be out shortly to solicit instructor/SME resources to assist with these sessions that would commence on 17 January (16 January is a holiday and schools with be closed).

John A. surfaced the need to procure new indoor use only softballs in preparation for the WISC program. The Board concurred with this request.

The Board then discussed the need to identify a summer break schedule for member planning purposes. The dates of 30 June - 14 August were proposed for this break.

The Board turned to the possibility of holding weekly league sanctioned batting practice sessions at Quarter Path #3 during the off-season. This activity would be coordinated with the City Parks and Rec team as WSSL would be billed for field use and weather/field conditions/availability discussions could be held as needed.

The Board agreed that 5 January 2023 at noon (post-WISC open house) would be the next monthly meeting. (Brickhouse)