Board Members Present:
Crystal Confer, Bob Gillespie, Beth King, Brian Niewinski, Shannon Stover and Rich Sweitzer

Board Members Not Present:
Mike Watson

Others Present:
Judy Brooks, Alicia Cornali, Michele Houtz, Fred Ironside, and Mary Stoner

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Brian Niewinski.

Public Comments:
There was a general discussion about needing clearances if a person already has them for volunteering purposes (school or other sports). Brian will confirm with Little League International (LLI). He will keep us posted and share the information with the public. Brian did announce that Denise Sweitzer and Kelli Brungart have both agreed to offer free notary services for any affidavits that need finalized. Alicia Cornali also offered, as she is a Notary. The plan is to have them available at an upcoming coaches meeting and/or player evaluation depending on the need.

There was a general question if any open gyms have been scheduled yet. Brian confirmed he has reserved a couple for mid-February but didn’t want to schedule too many until more clearances are completed.

Treasury Report:
Rich Sweitzer gave a detailed treasurer’s report. The recap is as follows:

Income:
--Online Registrations -- $1,545
--Registrations -- $4,108
--Donations/Pants/Old Clothing -- $221
--Department of Corrections --$200
--American Legion -- $400

Balance to date is $7,203.93

Registration Update:
Brian reported there are 138 players registered to date. Last year at this time, we had 129 registered. There are more registrations coming in both online and in the mail. A total of 45 online registrations were completed. At this time, we only have
four we are waiting on payment from. The online registration was successful and the League will have to use again next year. There were a few who suggested to having confirmation sent for online registration. Brian and Crystal both agreed this would be an improvement for next year’s registrations.

The Board was asked if there was a breakdown in ages. Brian reported not yet but he thought we should have a lot of kids eligible for majors given the number of 10 year olds that have registered.

Brian asked the Board their thoughts on having a registration end date of February 14. The Board agreed to this. A question about turning players away if missed the deadline. Brian reported we wouldn’t turn a player away, but a cut off date is needed in order to have player evaluations, drafts, order uniforms, etc. An email will be sent out to the public with a reminder about registering and the cut off date.

The Board was asked how new families will be notified of PVLL’s communication. Brian will make a listing of all new email addresses to PVLL and will send to Crystal to update before our next message is sent out on our listserv.

**Board and Officer Positions:**
Beth King was officially announced as our safety officer after Joe Shouey decided to step down from this position. The Board approved the following new officers: Kelli Brungart as Social Media Officer, Zoe Meyer as Team Parent Coordinator and Christine Sailors as Fundraising Coordinator.

The following positions are still available: Field Maintenance, Umpire Coordinator Equipment Officer, and Tournament Director. These positions and duties will remain on our website and we will remove the ones that are now filled. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested, please have him or her send an email to the Board at pennsvalleybaseball@yahoo.com. It was suggested to send a reminder out once the new email addresses are added to see if there is any interest.

**Player Evaluations**
Penns Valley Little League Softball received an invitation to use the Bellefonte Sports Academy in Mingoville, PA, for their tryouts and it was extended to baseball. Brian has been in contact with Rich Rogers, part owner of the facility, and is working on scheduling a time to have our player evaluations.

The Board would like any child that is age 9 – 12 and has not played in the Major Division to be evaluated as to which Division they should be placed in. The coaches will do the evaluation and make a recommendation to the Board on all evaluated players. The Board will meet to discuss evaluations and will contact parents if they recommend a different division than what is stated on their registration. Parents will have the final decision to which division they agree upon.
There was a question if coaches have been determined for the divisions yet. Brian announced a few are returning with the two remaining Major Teams from last year and others have expressed interest but the Board hasn’t decided on any additional coaches at this time. The plan is to have coaches selected for the player evaluations. All clearances will have to be completed in order for the coaches to get invited and participate with player evaluations. The returning Major players won’t be evaluated and we are working on having a possible open gym for them to see the facility in Mingoville.

**Fundraising Report:**
Christine Sailors wasn’t at the meeting to give a formal report, however, there was a general conversation on ideas for upcoming fundraisers.

A Cash Night was offered as a suggestion and discussed. A group in Philipsburg had a Cash Night and it was very profitable. We could easily do if we can decide on location; guest speaker and either PVLL cooks or we have a meal catered. The suggested cost was $25/$50 a person and $50/$75 a couple. The cost would cover your food and guest speaker. A silent auction could be held and maybe tear off cash raffle. The Legion is willing to help us with this event.

There was a question about us having tournaments. Brian thought that this might fall under fundraising, but would be a team effort to have others (coaches/board, etc.) pitch in to have a successful tournament.

Brian mentioned that Christine is going to talk to Kim Claar about Spikes Tickets, if everyone is interested in selling them again. There was a general discussion but consensus was to participate because it’s building relationships and they offer more than just tickets. The kids love attending the indoor practices at their batting cages. It was suggested to have Christine talk to Spikes about maybe offering Flexbook Vouchers. Brian mentioned having someone from Spikes come to an upcoming meeting to see what they could offer us this year.

**Concession Report:**
Alicia and Mary met and have a long list of items they plan to reach out to local vendors to see if they would be willing to donate. They will put together what else is needed and send out a donation request in Signup Genius for any remaining items.

Mary discussed getting a Slushy Machine, as there has been interest to purchase one of these. She reported they are not cheap, but suggested doing a separate fundraiser with all profits going towards the Slushy Machine. Mary found machines for $995, that doesn’t include shipping or tax. She has looked on eBay and it’s the same price and they list shipping as $175. Mary also reported the cost for the neutral base, which is what makes the ice, is $68 and you get 4, one-gallon containers; the cost for the flavors are $22 for a gallon. We can choose which flavors and how many we want to offer.
Mary looked at a few fundraisers to have and presented the following to the board: Bonfatto’s hoagies selling less than 300 items, you receive a profit of $1.00 each item; 300 – 499 items sold, you receive a profit of $1.25 each item and the profit continues to go up in increments of $.25. The most you can receive is $2.00 profit per item. Another idea is selling Texas Roadhouse rolls and butter. They offer half profit; Home Delivery offers food vouchers. Mary wasn’t sure of their profits, but will call to find out. Sheetz Coupon Books was suggested but you have to purchase those upfront, hand out and you receive a profit from the number of books sold.

Mary would like to have a fundraiser soon as she is hoping to have the machine in time for our first games in Centre Hall.

Beth King mentioned there is a form that you can fill out at Wegman’s and can get up to $200 donated. She thought they would support this item.

The Board approved Mary/Alicia to move forward with the fundraiser for the purpose of a Slushy Machine.

There was a general discussion about which fields will be used for this season so Mary/Alicia know how stocked each concession stand needs to be. The plan is to use all fields again this year.

Spring Mills needs a trench to get power to the concession stand. It was suggested to have certain divisions play on certain fields, but downfall is distance to the Rebersburg and Millheim fields. One suggestion was to have games booked on both Spring Mills fields on a Saturday and makes it worthwhile to have that concession stand stocked and open. Fred Ironside reported that Softball parents would be willing to help too. Brian will make an effort to work towards that.

Sam’s Club hands out donations monthly. Some months they have more than others, but we should check in to see what we could benefit from. Alicia asked if we have an account there. Brian thought we did, but was going to check as Rich didn’t recall an expense to renew our membership.

**Clothing:**
Shannon shared the designs that Five Points created for our upcoming clothing sale. There was a general conversation about the logos. Brian asked the Board to let Shannon know by the end of the week which logos they prefer. Shannon will continue moving forward. The goal is for everyone to receive merchandise sooner than end of season.

**Other questions or comments:**
Softball is considering having a tournament for their Minor League and wanted to know about using the baseball fields to keep the tournament moving along. The Board didn’t see any issues with this as Brian does the scheduling for the fields.
Brian asked to get dates, as he will soon begin scheduling the fields. Softball is thinking mid-season and it would be a Friday night and Saturday tournament.

Fred Ironside reported the Spring Mills field would need at least two more loads of field dirt mix to get ready for spring playing. The dirt is about $700 a load. He asked the Board for approval of paying for another load. Softball will take care of spreading it and getting the bases on the field. The Board agreed to pay for another load of field dirt mix.

There was a general discussion about getting players to pitch at the Rookie Division. Softball’s Minor division, the pitcher throws 4 balls and then the coach will pitch. Currently at the Baseball Rookie Division, coaches pitch. It was suggested getting kids to start pitching with only Penns Valley teams. The Board liked the idea, but Brian suggested having pitchers have a 2 inning limit, be cautious of the pitch count per age and a batter only gets 5 pitches, this included what kid and coach pitches.

A question was asked about the status of our Bylaws. Brian reported they are about 75 to 80 percent done. The goal is to have them completed in time for the start of the season.

It was suggested to have someone with pitching experience attend our open gyms.

A general question if sponsors were still needed for this season. Mary has someone who is interested, if not they will make a donation towards the Slushy Machine. Brian commented the sponsorship letters haven’t been sent, but he thinks we should have enough for the season.

Adjournment at 4:13 p.m.