

Town of Henniker – Youth Athletics Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday February 4, 2010

7:00 PM, Community Center

Members Present: Tim Lamphere (Interim Chair), Chad Carter, Sarah Nelson, Sarah Bisson, Chris Woodbury, Greg Jensen, Christine Aucoin, Jim O'Rourke, Rocky Bostrom had to leave 7:10pm

Members Absent: Marc McMurphy, Brian Dubreuil, Jarrod Brooks, Don Gage, Holly Cole, Lori Runksmeir, Priscilla Fitch, Valerie Simeone

Minute Taker: Nicole Gage

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:04 PM.

Approval of 12/17/2009 minutes: Motion by Sarah N. to accept minutes as presented. Sara B. seconded. Unanimously approved.

Budget Summary: Chris Woodbury summarized the 2010 budget process. Initially he presented a budget that was 8% over 2009. The Town Administrator was charged by the Selectmen to level-set the budget back to the same as 2009, which Chris did. He noted that Wrestling is new and in prior years Cheerleading was under-funded, so funding for other sports had to decline for the 2010 proposal. However, individual costs under each sport do not have to be exact as long as the overall amount reaches budget for the year. Chris presented a summary to the Budget Committee, noting that he had to wait over 2 hours to give a 10 minute presentation. The Budget Committee not only accepted the proposed budget, but expressed many compliments to the general athletic program. Chris will be meeting with the town's Finance Director to close out 2009 expenses. *If Directors foresee shortfalls in their particular budget item as they come into the season, please be certain to communicate this to Chris..*

Christine A. noted she may need more "bins" and that she has not yet looked over the softball/baseball uniforms. Christine is making more bins with the help her father-in-law.

Directors were asked to please report to Chris W. how many players you have for each sport as each season begins.

Greg J. asked if shelves can be built in the basement of the Grange. Per Jim O. yes that has been approved and we have money in the budget for that. *Chris W. offered to help Jim O. with building shelves as a weekend project.*

Website Update:

- • Chad C. noted that progress has been made since November. The following pages are now updated and up:
 - ○ Homepage
 - ○ Wrestling
 - ○ Baseball/softball
- • General content should be given to Chad.
 - ○ As the seasons come closer, the content should get more specific, such as how to pick up uniforms.
- • Please get Chad the notices for baseball/softball now.
- • Chad emphasized the need to plan for when content needs to be updated.
- • If members do not have access to specific website areas that they need, contact Chad and he will assist you.
- • Chad cautioned the group to only go into areas you are familiar with, to prevent accidental deletion.
- • Next month Chad will schedule web training for committee members.
- • Chad noted he cannot update all content; directors need to change dates and specific information as needed.
- • Tim L. questioned how the email list will be updated season-to-season. Chad explained various options.
- • Tim requested that each sport have a general overview posted on the website.
- • **Promoting the website:**
 - ○ Jim noted we should always be promoting a need for coaches.
 - ○ Tim noted that scheduling and league information is important.
 - ○ Future links to Youtube training and coaching websites may be part of the website down the road.
 - ○ Brief discussion ensued regarding paperless vs. paper. Jim suggested that paper sign-up be made available through Town Hall.

- ○ Tim suggested a sandwich-board in front of the Grange to advertise the website at the start of every sport season. Jim ORourke will look into obtaining and permitting such a sign.
- ○ Tim asked if the town's Waiver and Code of Conduct could be signed electronically. Selectman Bostrom will look into that.
- ○ Online registration will have to be merged into a master list of players, behind the scenes, after registration closes. Chad will make sure that additional enrollments get into the master list.
- ○ Some data will be maintained behind the scenes, but only available to Directors, such as kids names and contact information. Discussion ensued about privacy concerns. While rosters may draw parents to the website, and get kids excited about their new teams, they may provide too much information for the world-wide-web, even if only first names were used.
- ○ Chad is still open to ideas; please send him your ideas so he can continue working on the idea list.
- ○ Chad emphasized that marketing the website is very important.
- ○ Jim O. noted that our web address should be on everything we give out to parents.
- ○ Greg suggested a blast to the master list, regarding the availability of the new website.
- ○ Chad noted that the website now have Google analytics, so we can know how many visitors, returning visitors, and other data.

The committee thanked Chad for all his good work and contributions.

Setting 2010 Goals: Tim L. asked members to compile ideas of what you'd like to see done in 2010. The following ideas were suggested:

- • Fundraising
 - ○ It was noted that NEC allowed the group to move the snack shack onto the NEC field and to use the NEC electricity.
 - ○ "Henniker Athletics" sweatshirts or windbreakers, as a fundraiser.
 - ▪ Christine noted there are portable silkscreening companies that could come to events, such as picture day. Tim will email Jaime about this. Christine will check with Teddy Ts.
- • Fill open positions

- ○ Chair
- ○ Communications Director
- ○ Equipment Director
- ○ Soccer Director
 - ▪ An ad needs to go into the Friday Notice soon, as this is a very large, demanding sport.
 - ▪ Tim will write ads for the above openings and get it to the website and Friday Notice.
- ● Wrestling
 - ○ The goal for Wrestling this year is a short introductory season for K-4.
 - ○ Future goal maybe to move the season to the same season as basketball, which is when youth wrestling happens in NH.
 - ▪ This could be a cost-savings for insurance purposes.
 - ▪ Finding practice space will be a challenge/goal, particularly because of limited gym space and conflicts with basketball and cheerleading.
- ● Continue to find additional space for fields.
 - ○ It was suggested that Marc M. may be able to concentrate on this goal
- ● Coaches' night
- ● First aid training
 - ○ An alternative to training would be include educational first aid pamphlets in the first aid kits
- ● Become a member of a national sports association:
 - ○ Discussion ensued on how training a person in first aid could bring up liability issues, and how that may relate to the "good samaritan" law. Greg noted that guidelines on this topic may be found by associating with a national sports association, and therefore may be worth the cost of associating. Benefits of belonging to a national sports association could also include access to information on:
 - ▪ Sports management practices
 - ▪ Policy and guidelines

- ▪ Positive coaching
- ▪ Youth sport coach recruiting
- ▪ First aid management
- ▪ Sarah B. noted these topics may be available to the town through the liability insurance company.
- ▪ GOAL: Research associations and present to groups.

Softball/Baseball update: U9&10 is the strongest age group, with the most participants. Sara suggested definite cutoff dates. Team counts need to be in by March 1st. Be sure to communicate with the IT director about dates. Sarah N. questioned the condition of the new softball field: are the fields going to be dug in? Or grass only? She will contact the Town Administrator.

New helmets are needed for both baseball & softball.

Bags are also very much needed.

Dates for future meetings. Most members present prefer the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm, however Jim and Chad may have conflicts. The recording secretary will check room availability and get back to the chair.

Next meeting (date to be determined): Talk about goals more in depth, and review the deferred topics that have been on the agenda for extended periods of time. Please email your goals to Tim so he can pool them together before the meeting, or bring them to the next meeting.

8:06 PM Jim O. motioned to adjourned . Sarah B. seconded. Unanimously approved.