

HENNIKER ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

December 19, 2011

Minutes

Members Present: Tim Lamphere, Chairman; Marc McMurphy; Chris Woodbury; Jarrod Tirrell; Chad Carter; Sarah Nelson; Jamie Weston; Tracy Shattuck; Liz Brennan; Nicole Patterson; Jeff Dowst

Chairman Lamphere called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Review of Minutes: Mr. McMurphy **MOVED** to accept the minutes of the October 2011 meeting as presented. Ms. Nelson **SECONDED** the motion, and it **PASSED**.

Budget Update: Mr. Woodbury explained that any money that remains at the close of 2011 goes into the general Town fund. He distributed a copy of each sport's budget to the Directors. Mr. Woodbury explained that they did not offer Cheerleading this year which leaves approximately \$3,000 in that line item. There is approximately \$1,800 left in the soccer budget. He stated that the budget shows that there is \$5,000 in the basketball budget, but no bills have been paid yet and a league bill will be due soon.

Ms. Shattuck said that there are two sets of broken soccer goals in two different sizes. One may be able to be welded, but the other set needs to be replaced at a cost of about \$3,000. After discussion, it was decided that Tracy would order the set of goals from Everett Sports as they will bill the Town directly. It was noted that uniform bins are needed. Mr. McMurphy suggested that Liz and Nicole, the new Uniform Directors, speak with Jim O'Rourke about racks that he had wanted to use to store bins in the basement of the Grange. Marc also suggested that locking bins may be useful to keep better control of inventory. Other needs include softballs and possibly some baseball uniforms. Mr. Woodbury asked that any other needs be emailed to him this week.

2012 Budget: Mr. Woodbury said that the Committee has prepared a flatline budget, totalling \$42,149 for the upcoming year. This had been approved previously by the Board of Selectmen, and he does not anticipate any problems when he presents the request to the Budget Committee.

Basketball: Mr. Lamphere said that he was only aware of one issue during the basketball season so far. Greg Jensen has moved out of state and is trying to continue to run the program by email and with the help of his wife. One of the players from Bow on the 5th/6th grade team broke her collarbone during a game in Henniker last Saturday.

Ms. Weston said that basketball pictures have arrived, and she has emailed coaches to pick them up. They raised \$162 through pictures. Apparel has also been received, and Ms. Weston will contact those who have placed an order. She also stated that the fundraising committee has arranged for a Henniker Youth Athletics Night at a Fisher Cats game on August 24, 2012. Tickets are \$12 each, and the committee earns \$4 per ticket. They have committed to selling 100 tickets with half being paid for already and the other half due by July. Mr. Lamphere suggested that the information be posted on the website, the Facebook page, and selling tickets at the snack shack during games.

Recreation Director Update: Mr. McMurphy distributed an Executive Summary of the part-time Recreation Director position. He explained that the Athletic Committee voted 1-1/2 years ago to

investigate the feasibility of having a paid employee to oversee the athletic program. The Board of Selectmen suggested that a feasibility study committee be formed. Several key people in Town worked on that committee where it was determined that this position would benefit the Town. The Town athletic programs operate with over 100 volunteers, and there is much more liability now than there used to be. Another committee was formed to create and define the position. He stated that he will report the results of that committee to the Board of Selectmen at Tuesday's meeting.

They are proposing a position consisting of part-time, 20-hours per week, paid \$15-\$20 per hour (approximately \$23,000 per year earnings). The goal is to make this a self-funded position with various funding options in order to keep the Athletic Committee at the same operating budget. One idea is to charge \$20/child/sport, although *no child would ever be turned away due to the parent's inability to pay*. This proposal would grant anonymity to anyone who chooses for whatever reason not to pay and an option is provided that in lieu of paying a fee, parents would volunteer three hours in the snack shack or providing other needs (lining fields, keeping score, etc.) Plans are being developed to boost fundraising from \$6,500/year to \$15,000/year.

Mr. McMurphy said that there were over 600 individual players when this statistic was checked three years ago. If the Recreation Director manages the budget well, they will want to manage their time well, too. Responsibilities would include coordinating volunteers, managing the budget, website maintenance; this person would report to the Town Administrator. The committee has planned to get to as many public meetings, school events and community events to spread the word of this positive change. The Warrant Article has been drafted.

Mr. Tirrell said that he appreciates the effort to make this parent-friendly, but he is concerned that some kids will lose the opportunity to play if their parents are expected to participate in any way. Oftentimes, those are the kids who need to be involved the most. Mr. McMurphy said that the idea is to best organize a stable program for the kids. He said that New Boston charges \$60 for kids to play; Hillsborough and Weare charge \$50/child. This proposal requests \$20/child and offers an alternative for those families to participate and meet the needs of running the athletic program.

Uniform Directors: Liz Brennan and Nicole Patterson were introduced as the new Uniform Directors. They requested purchasing clear bins for organizing the team uniforms. Mr. Woodbury said that they have an account at Edmund's where those can be purchased.

Softball: Sarah Nelson is resigning as the Softball Director. She introduced Jeff Dowst who will take over this position.

Website: Mr. Carter said that he is trying to resolve a problem that they are experiencing with spam. He reminded Directors to let him know when to update information on the website. He will put softball/baseball sign-up information on the website at the end of January. Ms. Nelson said that holding one personal registration is still a good idea to make contact with parents about coaching and other needs.

Mr. Carter said that he would like the committee to develop a plan for recruiting coaches since this seems to be an ongoing problem. Mr. McMurphy encouraged the Directors to let people know that the only responsibility is to coach as other issues such as uniforms, equipment, etc. are handled by committee members. Making coaching instruction and clinics available help to alleviate fears that parents may have about coaching. Ms. Patterson asked if drill books, or links to instructional websites,

for the various sports were available. Mr. McMurphy said that he has a lot of information for practice guidelines for various age groups. Mr. Lamphere asked people to bring ideas to the next meeting.

Other: An issue was raised about a child who does not live in Henniker but pays tuition to attend the Henniker school. Through an oversight he was allowed to play soccer and baseball during the past year. Mr. Woodbury said that there have been cases in the past when another town offered a sport but could not support a team and the town asked permission for one or two of their children to be placed on a Henniker team. This was allowed if there was room on a Henniker team, and fees were paid to Henniker that the family would have paid to their own town if they would have had their own team. The Board of Selectmen also has to grant permission for a child from another town to play in Henniker. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee that a child should play in their own town unless there are unusual circumstances. Mr. Lamphere said that he will discuss this issue with the Town Administrator.

Adjournment: Mr. McMurphy **MOVED** to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Ms. Nelson **SECONDED** the motion, and it **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Astholz
Recording secretary