

**Town of Henniker
Youth Athletics Committee
Tuesday - January 27, 2009
Grange Hall**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair *pro tem* Holly Cole, Sarah Bisson, Jarrod Brooks, Shannon Camara, Brian Dubreuil, Tim Lamphere, Jim O'Rourke, Lori Runksmeier, Jaime Weston

Members Absent: Marc McMurphy, Priscilla Fitch, Bob McAllister, Valerie Simeone, Glenn Sullivan

Others Present: Selectman Cheryl Morse, Recording Secretary Sheila Mitchell

Call to Order:

Holly Cole, Chair *pro tem*, in Marc McMurphy's absence, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum being present.

1. Approval of December 2008 Minutes

Jim O'Rourke MOVED to approve the minutes of December's meeting as written, Brian Dubreuil SECONDED the motion, and it CARRIED unanimously.

2. Meeting Change for February

Holly Cole announced that the date for the next meeting had been changed from the 4th week of February because it would conflict with school vacation. The meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 19, at Grange Hall.

Tim Lamphere mentioned he would be out of town on February 19th but would be able to attend a meeting on an earlier date. Moving the meeting date to Tuesday, February 17, was proposed, in order to include the Baseball Director, and that met with some agreement. Someone mentioned that Grange Hall was already reserved for the 17th. Shannon Camara suggested perhaps the Community Center might be available, and Holly said she would look into that and check with Marc McMurphy.

3. Annual Report for Town Meeting

Holly directed everyone's attention to the printout of the annual report that was attached to the meeting agenda. She asked them to please review the report and contact Marc McMurphy by Friday, January 30, with any requested changes or corrections (including correction of typographical errors).

4. Warrant Article Review - Brian Dubreuil

Brian Dubreuil reported on his presentation to the Budget Advisory Committee. He said the Budget Committee had appreciated the level-loaded budget and approved the warrant article to establish a recreation revolving fund (expendable trust fund) plus the warrant article to raise \$10,000 for a practice softball field.

The committee members asked some questions about the warrant articles. Holly wanted more specifics about money received from fees and charges that would be deposited to the revolving fund. Someone asked if revenues raised from activities on the proposed softball field would be deposited to the revolving fund or would be obligated for repayment to the capital reserve fund for athletic fields. Cheryl Morse said she would look into the answer to that question. Tim Lamphere asked if the Selectmen would need to approve expenditures from the revolving fund. Cheryl Morse said the Athletic Committee should make decision to spend funds but should submit it to the Selectmen for review.

5. Softball Field Plan - Brian Dubreuil

It was determined that the Softball Director need not be present for the Committee to discuss and approve the warrant article for the practice softball field, which they did.

6. Softball Update - Tim Lamphere, in absence of Softball Director

Holly informed committee members that Tim Landry resigned his position as Director of the Softball program. She invited everyone to participate in finding a new director.

Lori Runksmeier asked, "What does the Director do?" Tim Lamphere replied that duties include distributing uniforms and equipment, scheduling fields for last-minute or make-up games (not regular game scheduling), setting up practice sessions (usually four or five each season), recruiting and supervising team coaches, and scheduling umpires. Tim also said the director should attend association meetings.

Meanwhile, others have taken responsibility for some duties until a new program director can be found. Tim Lamphere said he has reserved practice space in the field house at New England College, beginning in March. He has begun to sign up some participants and plans to recruit coaches. Jim O'Rourke agreed to estimate how much equipment will be needed and see that it is provided, with advice from Tim Lamphere. Tim Lamphere said he would help publicize the need for a new Director. Holly said she would follow up with Marc McMurphy.

7. Baseball Update - Tim Lamphere, Baseball Director

Tim reported that signups are coming soon, and he is lining up coaches. He has already ordered 50 uniforms. He has reserved the N.E.C. field house for practice sessions, and he plans to reserve use of a baseball diamond behind the Weare Middle School.

Pete Walker, one of the parents, has undertaken the responsibility for scheduling umpires and organizing an umpire clinic.

Picture day was discussed. Tim had planned to have it the last week in April, but it will have to be rescheduled in order not to conflict with school vacation. Jarrod Brooks suggested team pictures could be a fundraising activity.

Fixing the fence for the baseball field next to Town Hall will be submitted under the Parks and Properties budget.

8. Wrestling Update - Jim O'Rourke

Jim O'Rourke said he has begun to advertise about a wrestling program in local publications, such as *Outlook* and the school newsletter, so he can gauge the level of interest. He thinks perhaps a team of 20 or so would be a good number. He's already received interested responses for 12 children from 7 families. The age of participants would be between kindergarten and 4th grade.

The season should last 6 to 8 weeks, Jim said. He thought they should be able to use the gymnasium at John Stark High School every Saturday, and he might increase the number of sessions to twice per week.

He was not sure at what point in the year a wrestling season should be scheduled, and he asked committee members for advice. Others seemed to think it would be all right to overlap with other program seasons to a limited extent. Cheryl Morse suggested it should be okay as long as events and practices were not scheduled at times that conflicted with the other programs. Consensus seemed to be that February might be a good month in which to begin. Tim Lamphere suggested Jim plan the season to begin and end before the start of summer vacation.

Jim said he believes the program would not be ready to launch until 2010 but wondered if some expenses should be included in the budget that will be put together in the fall of 2009, such as insurance and other advance costs. Regarding equipment, Jim asked Sarah Bisson if the cheerleading mats might be borrowed.

Holly Cole suggested to Jim that he might direct parents to wrestling activities outside of Henniker until a program could begin. Jarrod Brooks said wrestling meets are held in private venues in the town of Bow on a regular basis.

Holly pointed out that the Basketball Directors were not present to give an update, and she invited Sarah Bisson to report on Cheerleading.

9. Cheerleading Update - Sarah Bisson, Cheerleading Director

Sarah said it has been a challenging season. Several practices have been missed due to winter weather. There was an issue with a coach who stopped showing up, and others are filling in for that coach for the remaining 5 weeks of the season. In addition, a parent was upset about schedule changes and broadcast an e-mail to other parents that contained inappropriate language. Sarah was able to resolve the issue and the parent apologized.

There will be a competition in the first week of March, and Sarah requested \$130 to pay fees for the event before the budget is reviewed at Town Meeting in March. Brian Dubreuil agreed to follow-up regarding funding for the competition.

10. Goals and Priorities for 2009

Holly invited members to share ideas about goals and priorities for 2009, and the following were emphasized:

- **Program Funding / Fundraising / Fundraising Director**

Jarrod Brooks said he believes funding of existing programs must be addressed urgently before adding new programs. He suggested fundraising ideas, such as: hosting tournaments, applying for grants, selling team pictures, and offering uniform accessories, such as jackets, hats and sweatshirts, for sale.

Jamie Weston suggested opening a new appointment of Fundraising Director.

- **Uniform Returns / Uniform Coordinator**

Jamie Weston brought up the problem of collecting uniforms at the end of the season. Brian said the only leverage the youth athletic programs have is prohibiting someone from signing up for another program if they haven't returned a uniform. Cheryl Morse asked if there is any follow-through for that, and there did not appear to be any.

The possibility of requiring a uniform deposit, and how much, was discussed. It was thought that it might be a problem to ask coaches to collect and return deposits.

- **On-Line Registration of Teams / IT Director**

Holly Cole said this must be addressed and said it had not worked this year because a software program was selected that required an IT manager.

- **Softball Program**

Brian Dubreuil expressed a concern that this program should continue.

11. Other Topic

Cheryl Morse talked about the Henniker Community Profile project that is being planned for Friday evening, April 17, and Saturday, April 18. She talked about the opportunity for people to express concerns and goals for the Town of Henniker and potential contribution of ideas toward the Town's Master Plan.

She mentioned that refreshments would be provided on Friday evening and Saturday morning, and that a luncheon is being planned for Saturday at the conclusion of the event.

She said the last time a profile event took place it had an outcome of recruiting volunteers for programs like youth athletics.

Mrs. Morse suggested it might be possible for the Youth Athletics Committee to have a display table at the event if approved by the Community Profile Steering Committee. Holly made a note of it.

Adjournment

Chair *pro tem* Holly Cole called for a motion to adjourn. Lori Runksmeier MOVED to adjourn the meeting, Jarrod Brooks SECONDED the motion, and it PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes
Respectfully Submitted January 29, 2009
By Recording Secretary Sheila Mitchell