

**Town of Henniker  
Youth Athletics Committee  
Thursday - April 2, 2009  
Grange Hall**

Approved Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Marc McMurphy, Chair, Brian DuBreuil, Sarah Bisson, Jarrod Brooks, Shannon Camara, Holly Cole, Tim Lamphere, Sarah Nelson, Jim O'Rourke, Lori Runksmeier, Valerie Simeone, Jaime Weston

**Members Absent:** Priscilla Fitch, Glenn Sullivan

**Also Present:** C. E. "Rocky" Bostrom, Selectmen's Representative, Peter Flynn, Town Administrator, Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Chairman Marc McMurphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Approval of March 5, 2009 Minutes**

The Chairman called for a vote on the previous meeting's minutes.

**Jarrod Brooks made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of March 5, 2009. The motion was seconded by Tim Lamphere and carried.**

**2. Town Meeting Recap**

Marc McMurphy, Brian DuBreuil, Peter Flynn

Marc McMurphy reported that the softball practice field and the fundraising account for athletic programs both had been approved. He thanked all the directors who had worked so hard to level fund the proposed budget.

Marc invited Brian DuBreuil to speak about the final draft budget for 2009. Brian said the figure had increased by \$1,329 from 2008, and he pointed out the budget page in the meeting handout package. The total budget total for 2009 will be \$42,149.

Peter Flynn explained how the additional \$1,329 for minute taking and the website had been approved by the Board of Selectmen. He also mentioned that the estimated cost for repairing the baseball field fence was included in the approved budget under Parks and Properties.

Mr. Flynn suggested to the Chairman that members of the committee introduce themselves to the new Selectman present, Rocky Bostrom. The Chair agreed and members took turns introducing themselves.

**3. Athletic Guidelines - Marc McMurphy**

Marc invited Jim O'Rourke to report on the progress of updating athletic conduct guidelines. Jim had prepared a multiple-page handout, which was included in the meeting packet.

Jim explained that he had received information from Valerie Simeone and also researched what other towns do. He highlighted on the handout the proposed procedure for parent and coach disagreements and invited members to express ideas.

Valerie Simeone had a concern about the last two paragraphs under the addendum section, which stated, "athletes may be dismissed from the team at the Director's discretion."

After some discussion, it was agreed that the decision should be up to the Director, since decision by committee would require meeting and might take too long. However, it also was agreed that there should be an appeal process, either to the entire committee or a few of its representatives, and that the time allowed for an appeal should be determined. It also should be determined whether the player would be dismissed or suspended until completion of an appeal.

Marc said these items could be re-drafted and brought up at the next meeting for further discussion and a decision by the committee.

**4. Softball Practice Field Planning**

Marc McMurphy and Brian DuBreuil

At the Chair's suggestion, Brian gave a brief progress report on making arrangements to construct the approved softball practice field.

**5. Baseball Update - Tim Lamphere**

Tim Lamphere began by reporting a problem he encountered to insure the Babe Ruth players. He said normally they're covered under a different league's insurance than the rest of the teams. He said that the Babe Ruth league representative has been difficult to contact, and other towns are in the same boat, waiting for news. Marc asked if the Babe Ruth players might be insured with the league for other teams, and he suggested that Tim contact Lee Brown to ask about it.

Tim also said he had met with someone to discuss raking and lining the fields for the first couple of games.

**6. Softball Update - Sarah Nelson**

Sarah Nelson reported her team rosters have been filled and she has stopped accepting sign-ups.

**7. Athletic Website Review - Marc McMurphy**

In Glenn's absence, Marc updated the committee on the website. He said that Glenn now has the administrative information he needs and has agreed to begin working on the website.

**8. NEC Work Study Update - Marc McMurphy**

Marc said two New England College students have agreed to assist with youth athletic programs through work-study. Brian Fay will be preparing fields for play. Caroline Doherty will be coordinating uniforms.

*Transcription Note - April 6, 2009: Caroline Doherty wrote to Marc to say she had concerns about the amount of time involved and had decided not to coordinate uniforms.*

**9. Fundraising Framework - Open Discussion**

Marc said he sees fundraising as a "big issue." He stressed its importance to youth athletics and suggested that a plan will be needed to determine its purposes and to coordinate fundraising activities among the various athletic programs and events.

On the meeting agenda, he listed the following points for the committee to consider: positions (directors and leaders), branding (logo use, quality, consistency), volunteers (recruiting and retaining), sports events (Home Run Derby, team picture days), outside appeals (to parents, at town events), clothing (hats, shirts, sweatshirts, etc.), merchandising (cups, seat pads, stickers, etc.), and food (snack shack, etc.).

Then the Chair invited members to participate in an open discussion and offer fundraising ideas.

Before discussion began, Peter Flynn was recognized and reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had approved situating the snack shack on the soccer field area.

Jarrod Brooks said a fundraising director is needed. Marc called for an informal vote on whether the Athletic Committee should appoint a Director of Fundraising, and consensus strongly supported this. Marc also mentioned that the Board of Selectmen had approved five additional positions on the committee relative to fundraising.

Shannon Camara and Jaime Weston said they might consider working together to direct fundraising. However, they both expressed some concerns about being overburdened. Marc and others encouraged them to recruit another level of volunteers to carry out tasks and additional recruiting. Recruiting suggestions were offered, including recruiting at sign-ups. Lori Runksmeyer said, when volunteers know where the money that's raised will be spent, that serves as an incentive to participate.

For the time being, Marc suggested Shannon and Jaime consider taking on the role of planning the fundraising structure, and possibly consider later if they are interested in being co-directors.

Marc talked about logo use and branding briefly, then he invited further fundraising ideas.

For a brief time, discussion centered on the activities of the Boosters and the snack shack.

Then there was a general brainstorming session on fundraising ideas, including a golf tournament and an annual award banquet. Jim suggested looking into grant funding. The ethics of fundraising were discussed. Clarity of purpose was discussed.

#### **10. Other Business**

Marc invited committee members to raise other topics and none were raised.

#### **Adjournment**

The Chairman called for a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

**Brian DuBreuil moved to adjourn the meeting, Valerie Simeone seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Respectfully Submitted by  
Recording Secretary Sheila Mitchell