

**Town of Henniker
Youth Athletics Committee
Thursday - April 30, 2009
Grange Hall**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Marc McMurphy, Chair, Tim Lamphere, Sarah Nelson,
Jim O'Rourke, Jaime Weston

Members Absent: Brian DuBreuil, Sarah Bisson, Jarrod Brooks, Shannon Camara,
Holly Cole, Priscilla Fitch, Lori Runksmeier, Valerie Simeone,
Glenn Sullivan

Also Present: C. E. "Rocky" Bostrom, Selectman ex officio
Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Chair Marc McMurphy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Approval of April 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Timothy Lamphere MOVED to accept the minutes of April 2, 2009 as written, James O'Rourke SECONDED the motion, and it PASSED unanimously.

2. Athletic Guidelines – Jim O'Rourke

At its previous meeting, the committee had gone through athletic conduct guidelines and decided that there should be an appeal process for disciplinary decisions, either to the entire committee or a few of its representatives. It had also been stated that the time allowed for an appeal should be determined. And it had been pointed out that whether a player should be dismissed or suspended during an appeal should be decided in advance.

For this meeting, Jim O'Rourke prepared a draft of a proposed policy on discipline and appeals.

Committee members reviewed the draft and changed disciplinary action from three to two items:

1. Temporary suspension from the team – to be decided by Team Coach and Program Director
2. Permanent suspension from the team – to be decided by the Program Director

As for the third item (measures leading up to suspension), committee members decided not to include it in the written guidelines, and agreed that less official methods of discipline (such as "benching" an athlete for part or all of a game) should be left up to the discretion of each coach.

The members agreed with the proposed appeal period of 72 hours, and they did not see a need to make changes to the proposed procedure for appeals.

What is more, they decided that athletes should be allowed to participate in a game if a game should happen to occur during the appeal period. Jim said he would make revisions to include this provision and submit a new draft for review.

Rocky Bostrom asked if these guidelines would be published. Marc explained the intent is to get a copy into the hands of every player and coach before a season begins. He said it hasn't yet been decided whether to require parents to sign them. Tim added that the guidelines might be posted on the athletic website in the future.

Rocky wondered if including the section about discipline and appeals would be too much. It was agreed that the section could be structured as an addendum to the general guidelines.

3. Additional Item: Report on Community Profile Event – Jim O'Rourke

Upon Jim O'Rourke's request, the Chairman allowed for the addition of this item to the agenda. Jim is a member of the steering committee that organized the event that brought 60 community members together on April 17th and 18th to discuss the "past, present and the future of Henniker."

Jim handed out a copy of a two-page report and highlighted a couple of points: (1) the desire for a community center that would coordinate a wide range of programs for all members and ages in the community; and (2) a desire for less "fractured" communication of what's going on in town, including a shared bulletin board and improvements to the town website.

4. Softball Practice Field Planning – Marc McMurphy

Marc offered background for Rocky's benefit. He said work to erect a fence and grade the field is currently awaiting a "go-ahead" from the Town Administrator. Sarah said she had heard from a citizen who is willing to volunteer all the labor needed if the town will provide materials. She said she had also made Brian DuBreuil aware of the volunteer offer.

5. Softball Update – Sarah Nelson

Sarah said everything is going well and there is a game on Saturday.

6. Baseball Update – Tim Lamphere

Tim reported that a vendor has been selected to repair the fence and backstop. He also said that Peter Flynn plans to present the plans to the Historical Society at their next meeting since this activity would occur in the Historic District of town. Marc said he would be available to help present the plans if asked.

7. Fundraising, including Snack Shack and Baseball Picture Day – Jaime Weston

A. Snack Shack:

Jaime reported that the snack shack had been operational for jamboree recently. She said they borrowed \$500 from the town to initially stock the shack with supplies and have repaid \$300 to date, setting aside some funds for further supplies and a cash box fund. She expects that the full amount of the loan will be repaid soon.

Jaime also reported that the lock has been changed and access is limited to a few people, including Peter Flynn, herself and Shannon Camara.

Marc pointed out that coaches might be recruited to help with staffing of the snack shack. Sarah and Marc both suggested recruiting children, saying that they really enjoy helping.

There was some discussion of whether a snack shack, or perhaps a snack table, could be set up at the softball field on the college campus. It was decided it was impractical at this point in time to have a snack table because volunteers would need to be recruited to carry in any refreshments. It was also agreed that, even if allowed by the college, keeping supplies in the shed on the grounds would not be secure enough.

B. Picture Day:

Jaime said picture day went well.

C. Fundraising Ideas:

Jim asked, and Marc answered, that any acceptance or solicitation of donations should be a coordinated effort, to be approved beforehand by the committee.

Marc emphasized that the new Henniker logo should be used on promotional items.

Tim suggested that a box of t-shirts that is left over from past tee-ball programs might be sold to raise funds. The other members were receptive to the idea.

Sarah suggested there might be other items in storage that might be sold to raise funds.

8. Athletic Website Review

The Chairman decided to forego discussion of this subject since Glenn Sullivan was not present.

9. Announcement

Marc McMurphy announced that he intends to step down from the position of Committee Chair, effective December 31, 2009.

Marc explained that his decision was reached after careful consideration of his increasing professional workload against the Chair's responsibilities, which include not only moderating monthly committee meetings, but also preparing for committee meetings, corresponding by email, representing the Youth Athletics Committee before other boards and commissions, and reaching out to participants, parents and members of the larger community.

Marc said he believes a lot has been accomplished by the Committee over the last three to four years (during his tenure as Chairman), and he thinks that the committee has reached a point where it must address a few clearly defined "big projects," such as more comprehensive fundraising, development of the website for online registrations, and obtaining parcels of land that might be dedicated to use for youth athletics. Marc went on to say that he thought these big projects might be advanced by an infusion of "new blood" in a change of leadership.

Tim asked how the committee would go about finding a new Chair. Marc said someone would volunteer or be nominated to serve.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, which is the 4th Tuesday of the month and marks a return to the regular meeting schedule.

Adjournment

At 8:03 p.m. Marc McMurphy MOVED to adjourn the meeting, Sarah Nelson SECONDED the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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Respectfully Submitted by
Recording Secretary Sheila Mitchell