

**Town of Henniker
Youth Athletics Committee
Tuesday – June 23, 2009
Grange Hall**

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Marc McMurphy, Chair, Sarah Bisson, Jarrod Brooks, Shannon Camara, Holly Cole, Brian DuBreuil, Priscilla Fitch, Tim Lamphere, Sarah Nelson, Jim O'Rourke, Valerie Simeone, Glenn Sullivan, Jaime Weston, and C. E. "Rocky" Bostrom, Selectman ex officio

New Member: Chrissy Aucoin

Absent: Lori Runksmeier

Also Present: Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary

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

1. Approval of April 30, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Sarah Bisson MOVED to accept the minutes of April 30, 2009 as submitted, Jarrod Brook SECONDED the motion, and it PASSED with a majority in favor.

2. Introduction of New Uniform Director, Chrissy Aucoin

The Chairman introduced Chrissy Aucoin to the rest of the Committee and explained how she had come aboard and become the Uniform Director.

3. Athletic Guidelines, Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Process

The Chairman deferred discussion of this subject until later in the meeting.

4. Softball Practice Field

Brian DuBreuil gave a brief update of planning and progress to date.

5. Baseball Update

Tim Lamphere announced that the season is over, with the exception of Babe Ruth. He mentioned some issues that had come up in playing with other towns this past season; for example, one town has high school students as umpires. He said he'd gotten the T-balls back.

6. Softball Update

Sarah Nelson reported that the season is over, and she thinks it went really well for her first season as Director. She does plan to do things differently with sign-ups next year, she said. She also reported there had been an issue created when New England College removed equipment from the field, but she said they had managed to supply what was needed on their own.

7. Equipment

Jim O'Rourke reported briefly on some items of equipment. He also wondered how the budget for next year would work. Various members discussed budgeting timelines, including initial submission in October and final approval at Town Meeting in March. Brian DuBreuil said he would make sure there was a line item for equipment.

8. Wrestling

Jim O'Rourke said that 25 children were interested and the estimated cost per child is \$17.

9. Fundraising

Shannon Camara and Jaime Weston reported that proceeds from the Snack Shack came to \$2,400, minus \$500 repaid to the Town of Henniker, which brought the net total of money raised through the Snack Shack this season to approximately \$1,900.

Marc congratulated the Fundraising Directors, and pointed out that this was \$200 more than the \$1,700 that was raised the previous year.

Jaime said there is some remaining inventory from the Snack Shack.

Sarah Nelson commented that she thought the snacks were much better this year.

Shannon wondered how she and Jaime should respond to requests from groups outside the Youth Athletics programs to have fundraising events.

Marc encouraged Shannon and Jaime to come up with a basic plan for fundraising next season, hopefully allowing them to better share the workload with others. He said the plan could be a general one and shouldn't need to have too many details at this point. He encouraged them to have a plan in place before the next soccer season begins.

Jaime brought up the idea of moving the Snack Shack. She said that there is a new location in mind. Marc suggested that electricity would need to be put in place for it, perhaps burying an electrical line. Marc asked if Rocky would please ask Peter Flynn what the Youth Athletics Committee should do about possibly moving the Snack Shack and having electricity for it.

Marc suggested fundraising at practices as well as games. Shannon said she would be concerned about being able to recruit volunteers for more events.

Jarrold Brooks suggested recruiting groups of young people (with adult supervision) and offering them a percentage of the profits from snack sales. He suggested 10 percent.

Marc said the subject of recruiting volunteers could be returned to, but first he would like to see the Co-Directors come up with a general plan for fundraising next season.

10. Fundraising at Soccer Tournament - July 8, 2009

Holly Cole asked the Youth Athletics Committee to approve an agreement she had made that would allow a one-time fundraising event by 8th Grade Students at a Soccer Tournament.

There was a brief discussion. Then the Chairman called for a motion.

Priscilla Fitch MOVED to approve the fundraising event by 8th Grade Students at the Soccer Tournament of July 8, 2009. Valerie Simeone SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED with all in favor and none opposed.

11. Request on behalf of John Stark Generals to Reduce Charge for Field Use

On behalf of the John Stark Generals, Glenn Sullivan asked the Committee if it would consider pro-rating or partially charging for field use while the Generals train and practice during the summer. The Committee had previously voted not to waive the field use fee for the Generals.

Discussion followed, covering the amount of the usage fee (\$150 per season per team), whether or not the Generals would be a team or several teams at that point, plus cheerleaders, and the fact that field use fees are deposited to the General Fund for the Town of Henniker rather than into a fund for Youth Athletics programs.

Glenn made the point that some young people from Henniker would be part of the team.

Shannon asked Glenn what amount he thought the fee should be, and he did not provide an answer.

The Chairman called for a motion. Holly Cole MOVED not to reduce the fee for field use to the John Stark Generals. Priscilla Fitch SECONDED the motion.

Discussion resumed before a vote was taken. Tim asked how many young people from Henniker would be on the team.

Someone asked what time period was under consideration. Glenn replied it would be this August and September, before the start of school term.

Jaime asked if it could be considered a “camp.”

Chair Marc McMurphy began an amended motion but did not complete it.

Valerie asked if fees to players might be increased to cover expenses, and Glenn said that would present a hardship for some participants.

The Chairman called for a vote on the original motion. The motion not to reduce the field use fee PASSED, signified by members saying “aye,” with a majority in favor. Two members were opposed: Jim O’Rourke and Tim Lamphere.

The Chairman directed discussion to a return to the following item:

3. Athletic Guidelines, Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Process

Jim O’Rourke revised the document according to previous discussions to include: a preamble, 21 items to which parents must agree, sections regarding Suspensions, Appeals, and the Appellate Procedure, plus a signature block for parents.

The Chairman invited Committee members to make suggestions for removing items, and Holly suggested combining Items 4 and 5.

Marc asked if there were any suggestions for change or enhancement.

Priscilla addressed Item 17.

Sarah Bisson suggested that addressing only negative behavior would improve the document by significantly reducing the number of items.

Sarah Nelson said the guidelines should be very specific.

Marc said that some parents do not know the basics of acceptable conduct.

Sarah Nelson asked Jim if this agreement would only apply to the sport in which each child is participating.

Jim replied that if disciplinary action rises to the level of a written warning to a parent, the record would follow the child to all the sports in which they participate.

Tim asked where a copy of a written warning would be kept.

Jarrold replied it would be kept by the Director of each program.

Someone asked how long a written record should be kept, and Jim suggested two years.

The Chairman invited suggestions on possibly combining items.

Jarrold suggested combining Items 1 and 2, Items 3 and 6, and Items 10 and 11.

Glenn Sullivan recommended combining Items 8 and 12, Items 13 and 14, and Items 15 and 16.

Then the Committee briefly discussed Suspensions, Appeals and the Appellate Process. Marc reminded everyone that this section had been discussed at previous meetings and revisions had already been made.

Marc asked Jim to prepare a revised version of the document covering Athletic Guidelines, Code of Conduct, and Disciplinary Process in time for the Committee's next regular meeting so a vote on adoption might be possible.

12. Request from John Stark Lacrosse Team to Drop Charge for Field Use

The John Stark High School Lacrosse Team has requested a waiver of usage fee for a particular field on Old Concord Road.

Marc asked if Henniker Athletics use the High School fields for activities. Sarah replied that softball is played on their fields, and Tim replied that their fields are also used for baseball.

It was also determined that players are not being charged participation fees.

Marc McMurphy MOVED to waive the field use fee for the John Stark Lacrosse Team, and Jim O'Rourke SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED with a majority in favor and one opposition by Brian DuBreuil.

13. Website Review

Glenn reported that there has been no progress on development of the Youth Athletics website. He has been having trouble getting volunteers from the college.

14. New Business

Marc reviewed the role of Uniform Coordinator, and said it will be necessary for Program Directors to follow the new Coordinator's system.

Adjournment

At 8:15 p.m. Jarrod Brooks MOVED to adjourn the meeting, Sarah Nelson SECONDED the motion, and it PASSED unanimously.

Meeting Minutes Approved July 28, 2009

Respectfully Submitted by

Recording Secretary Sheila Mitchell