

**Town of Henniker
Youth Athletics Committee
August 21, 2008**

Meeting Minutes - Approved

Members Present: Chair Marc McMurphy, Sarah Bisson, Holly Cole, Priscilla Fitch, Timothy Lamphere, Desiree Lloyd, Robert McAllister, Cheryl Morse, James O'Rourke, Lori Runksmeier, Jamie Westin

Members Absent: Shannon Camara, Monica Denham, Brian Dubreuil, Valerie Simeone

Others Present: Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary

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

Item 1: Approval of July Minutes

The Chairman invited corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of July 17th from members of the Committee, and none were offered.

Sarah Bisson made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 17, 2008, the motion was seconded by Jamie Westin, and it carried with all in favor.

Item 2: Budget Review

Marc McMurphy reminded program directors that budget requests for the next fiscal year will have to be submitted soon. He encouraged them to bring estimated dollar amounts to the next committee meeting in September, when Brian Dubreuil is expected to attend and possibly serve as Chair in Marc's anticipated absence.

Item 3: Field Proposal Update

Marc reported receiving a positive response from a landowner in the area near Pat's Peak. If it's decided that Henniker is interested in purchasing the land, Marc intends to seek grant application assistance from Senator Gregg's office.

Item 4: IS - Website

As of this week, soccer practices have begun, and Marc said it is probably too late to run a mock season on the website for that program, but there is still time to prepare a sign-up trial on the website for basketball.

Marc urged the directors of soccer and basketball to provide spreadsheets with sign-up data to Monica Denham, explaining that information on spreadsheets can be scanned and uploaded directly into the computer. Monica has been out of state for a while, on vacation.

Jamie Westin said information about soccer has been provided to Monica already. Holly Cole said that preparation for the season has made things hectic, but now would be a good time for follow-up with Monica. Priscilla Fitch agreed that this would be a good time for her and Valerie Simeone to meet with Monica about basketball, and she reported that they have plans already to request a meeting with Monica when she returns from vacation.

Item 5: Soccer Season Update

Jamie said a meeting for soccer coaches has been held, and they went over equipment, goals, handbooks, et cetera. Also, soccer practices have begun. The teams are planning to participate in soccer clinics in the area, including a training session soon in Weare.

Referees still need to be recruited. Lori Runksmeier offered to help publish the opportunity among the college community.

Holly brought a sample uniform shirt (produced by Teddy's T's) to show to the committee. It was white, with a red "H" inside a blue circle on the left side of the front, and a soccer ball on the right sleeve. There were enthusiastic expressions of appreciation.

Holly and Jamie both voiced concerns about problems caused by late registration. To mention a few issues they raised, last-minute sign-ups make it challenging for directors to plan to cover all the participants under insurance, to order equipment, and to provide enough uniforms in the right sizes. Problems also are caused when uniforms are not returned. The Chairman asked that further discussion of these concerns be tabled until a future meeting.

Priscilla brought up a concern regarding placement of the soccer goals after the end of the season. She mentioned that there is a snowmobile trail near the goal zone of one field, and it can be difficult to see the white goal posts under cover of snow. Holly assured her that, at the end of each season, the goal posts are gathered in one location, positioned face to face, then locked in place together. "Break-down" day was then discussed briefly, and recruitment of college students for volunteer labor was suggested.

Item 6: Equipment Update

Jim O'Rourke reported on the status of equipment:

- First Aid kits have been ordered and received.
When Timothy Lamphere suggested ordering a couple more, Jim agreed to do that.
- More cones for soccer have been ordered.
- New portable air pumps for soccer and basketball should be ordered.
Jim plans to obtain estimates for these.

Basketballs need to be ordered. It's been a while – as long as three years, Jim said – and basketball supplies need to be caught up. The estimated number needed right away is 48 balls, expected to cost \$1,000-1,200. Jim said there should be money in the budget.

- Jamie suggested ordering equipment bags and mesh bags for soccer.

Jim is still in the process of meeting with program directors to estimate their equipment needs. He invited those present to schedule meetings with him to plan for future equipment requests.

Marc reminded everyone that their budgets will be due soon, and they should attempt to hold

down costs for the next budget year. He strongly suggested that program directors prepare between now and the next committee meeting in September and come to the meeting with amounts ready to be proposed for next year's budget.

Item 7: Baseball Season Update

Timothy Lamphere brought the committee up to date on preparations for the next baseball season and reported that uniforms had been secured, the team members had been contacted, and the insurance has been paid.

He also said the players might be able to practice for games on 70-foot diamonds at the "fall ball" field. He asked the committee for their approval to proceed with fall ball.

Holly Cole made a motion to go forward with Fall Ball. The motion was seconded by Robert McAllister, and it carried with all in favor.

After the motion carried, Cheryl Morse offered an opinion that the Board of Selectmen should not have objections to proceeding with fall ball, since the issues from last year have been resolved: funds for the program have been requested, it's been paid for, and the players all will be from Henniker.

Tim has obtained estimates for repair or replacement of the baseball field fences. First, an estimate for replacement of the backstop comes to \$1,990, and there is money in the budget for it. That would be for mesh only (with thicker wire on the bottom) and would not include poles.

Next, repair of the side fence should come to \$2,800. Tim has volunteers for the labor. He had a written estimate with him, and Marc requested a copy to show Town Administrator Peter Flynn, saying that Peter intends to check into partial funding from the Parks and Recreation budget.

Tim also has obtained an estimate for replacement of the outfield fence. Three fence posts have broken. The new fence would measure 4 feet high (the league standard) and cost \$5,800, plus \$2,500 for bottom tension wire.

Item 8: Recycling at Athletic Events

Cheryl Morse reported that three large recycling bins have been obtained (currently being stored at a garage in town), and she asked if the Booster Club would support the bins being set out during athletic events where refreshments are sold. She received positive responses from Holly Cole, Jamie Westin and others.

She said the Recycling Committee is currently looking into possible arrangements for transportation of the recycling bins to athletic events and then to the transfer station. She cautioned that someone at the events would need to keep an eye on the bins to guard against theft and possible damage due to vandalism.

In addition to coordination with the Booster Club, the Recycling Committee is exploring the possibility of starting up recycling clubs in the town's schools.

Item 9: General Discussion

The Chairman invited committee members to bring up other topics for discussion.

1. Cheerleading: Marc told Sarah Bisson the mats are ready. Later in the general discussion, Sarah returned to the subject and asked Marc's advice for the next step. Marc suggested she request the money from Brian Dubreuil and seek his assistance in coordinating funds between Boosters and Athletics. When she asked about lettering for uniforms, he advised her to talk to Brian about that, too.
2. New Snack Shack for Soccer Field: Someone has volunteered to supply material and labor to build a snack shack for the soccer field. Bob said the Army Corps of Engineers requires that any structures on the field be movable, and the Corps will need to approve the plans, so the shack will be designed to sit on a sled. What is more, Marc suggested, if designed properly, it could store supplies for soccer.

Cheryl Morse made a motion to support the Booster Club's plans to build a new snack shack for the soccer field, provided the Booster Club returns to the Youth Athletics Committee to request design approval before construction commences. The motion was seconded by Desiree Lloyd, and it carried with all in favor.

3. Proposal for Warrant Article: The Chair said there is an expendable trust for youth athletics currently in place. This trust is carried over from fiscal year to fiscal year. It currently has a balance of approximately \$27,000.

The Chairman asked the members of the committee if they thought it would be a good idea to propose a warrant article for additional funds to increase the trust to a balance around \$50,000 – which would allow the potential of offering additional programs, such as softball, in the future.

Holly Cole made a motion to draft a proposed warrant article requesting additional funds for the Youth Athletics Expendable Trust. Desiree Lloyd seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion, during which Cheryl Morse advised that the proposal be prepared with specifics, justification of expenditures, and overall coordination among the various athletic programs. **Priscilla Fitch moved to have the Chair call the question and he did. The motion passed by a show of hands with no objections.**

4. Equipment - Basketballs: Priscilla said new basketballs will be needed for the upcoming season and asked how soon they might be purchased. Marc replied that the Selectmen are currently reviewing a donation that might be used for that purpose.
5. Field Scheduling: Bob said that Nicole at Town Hall has been handling requests to schedule fields, and he proposed that arrangement be continued, to which everyone agreed.

6. Possible New Committee Member: Jim said he knows someone who wants to join the Youth Athletics Committee. He suggested that person might be assigned the duty of uniform coordinator, and everyone wholeheartedly supported that idea.
7. Soccer Co-Director: Holly said she has found someone to replace her.
8. Soccer Field Maintenance: Jamie asked for approval to schedule lining of the soccer fields. Bob said to go ahead.

Adjournment

Cheryl Morse made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Priscilla Fitch seconded the motion, it was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Meeting Minutes
Submitted by
Recording Secretary
Sheila Mitchell