

Henniker Youth Athletic Committee
September 24, 2008
Grange Hall

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair Marc McMurphy, Sarah Bisson, Shannon Camara, Holly Cole, Brian Dubreuil, Priscilla Fitch, Tim Lamphere, Desiree Lloyd, Jim O'Rourke, Lori Runksmeier, Valerie Simeone, Jamie Westin

Others Present: Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary

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

1. Approval of August Minutes

Desiree Lloyd made a motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 2008 as written. The motion was seconded by Jim O'Rourke and carried with all in favor.

2. Budget Review

Brian Dubreuil distributed spreadsheets of the proposed 2009 budget (Version 1:0). Marc McMurphy explained his and Brian's thinking that the proposed budget should be conservative, in keeping with the current economic challenges being faced nationally and locally. Brian then went through each program and asked the Program Directors which line items were absolutely essential to run the programs. He took notes of their responses and promised to revise the budget with their input into Version 1:1.

3. Information Services

Marc confirmed that Monica Denham has resigned from the Youth Athletics Committee and from managing the Committee's web page. He said the website needs to be someone's pet project: to input data, to manage the data, and to support the Program Directors by posting useful, current information. Marc invited Committee members to think of candidates and to talk to people who would be willing to take on this project. He also is considering placing an ad in *Outlook*. Jim O'Rourke asked how proficient in computer skills and web language the candidates should be, and Mark said they at least should be familiar with using computer databases.

4. Basketball Update

Valerie Simeone reported that sign-ups have begun and there has been great participation. They've engaged a new coach for the kindergarten to second grade program, named Jared Brook. Jared works as a physical education teacher in Goffstown. Priscilla Fitch reported that the floor is excellent, guaranteed for another two years, but the program is still short of basketballs. Brian will follow-up on funding for the basketballs.

Valerie announced that she and Priscilla plan to change the evaluation process for third and fourth grade participants. Their skills will be assessed not just by coaches but by the Program Directors as well. Marc asked if this change would be in line with league guidelines, and Valerie and Priscilla confirmed that it would.

5. Cheerleading Update

Sarah Bisson reported that sign-ups have begun, in conjunction with basketball sign-ups, and there's been a great response with the kindergarten through 4th grade. Tumbling has been added to the program. The mats work well and everyone's happy with them.

The uniform shirts that were donated by John Stark are not ready to go. The old logos need to be removed, and Sarah is finding it challenging to recruit people who can remove the old logos and apply new ones. However, once this has been accomplished, it will save money for this program year. There is also a problem recruiting head coaches. She has many volunteers to be assistant coaches but not many willing to take on the head coaching responsibility.

6. Soccer Update

Jamie Westin summarized upcoming events and schedules for Committee members. Holly Cole said she and Jamie are considering how to possibly re-classify the teams for next year, and whether categories should be by grade level, be co-educational, or not.

7. Participant Skills and Team Organization

The topic of potential team re-classification led into a discussion of evaluating skill level of sports participants. Some on the Committee said they would welcome a new skill assessment method; some expressed reluctance. The goal would be to have more evenly matched teams, especially as they are paired in competition with teams from outside of town. A special challenge is faced by Program Directors in Henniker because parents are recruited to be coaches (instead of, for example, physical education staff); and often, when parents decide team make-up, they might become overly committed to the blending of a particular team. The league provides basic guidelines, with practical direction set by the Committee and the Program Directors. The Chair said he believes the Committee should support the Program Directors to make the decisions they think are necessary when it comes to skill assessment and team organization.

8. Coach Recruitment and Evaluation

It was suggested that Program Directors recruit coaches with positive qualities that will benefit the young participants and support the athletic programs, and then build in systematic training and evaluation to enhance their coaching abilities.

Adjournment

Holly Cole made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Valerie Simeone and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Approved Meeting Minutes
Respectfully Submitted
By Sheila Mitchell
Recording Secretary