

Approved 2/26/08

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 12, 2008
Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

Members Present: Larry Forrest, Bob White and Mark Goossens. Huck House arrived at 7:08pm.
Huck left at 8:15pm

Absent: Chris McDonald

Also in attendance: Michael Cronin, Michael Weisse and John Flynn

Minutes: The minutes from January 22, 2008 were read. Huck made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

TWB Gym Floor – John gave the Board an update on the TWB gym floor situation. The ceiling has been encapsulated to keep the dust particles off of the floor and bleachers. Also, a non slip floor wax has been applied. Noel contacted the Mass. Department of Public Health and had the dust material analyzed. No hazardous materials were found. Noel sent home a letter to the parents to address their concerns. The janitorial staff did an excellent job with all of the work they put in to improving the condition of the floor. The floor is currently in much better shape. This is just the short term fix though.

The long term would be replacing the floor and bleachers. John has been getting quotes on replacing the floor. He was told it would be better to remove the tiles then to cover them up. A rubberized floor similar to Green Meadows gym floor would be in the \$100,000 range. A wood floor would be in the range of \$130,000-\$140,000. ADA compliant bleachers would run about \$90,000. The bleachers could possibly be taken apart, oiled and straightened and maybe we could get a few years more out of them. They need to be moved back away from the court. We need to look into whether or not the top row of bleachers can be bolted to the wall so that they do not pull out as far. Would Noel have enough seating capacity for school functions if this could be done? Another problem is that people walk from the outside right on to the court. Dirt and sand are always being dragged in and on to the court. Could an entry way be added on to the building? Community involvement will be needed to get this project accomplished.

John stated that the TWB generator is not big enough to run the heating system in the event of a power outage. This was proven during the power outage last week when the power was out for about an hour. The students were close to being sent home because they did not have heat in the school. A larger generator would run about \$100,000. John stated that we are looking at a bond to update and improve TWB. This would take care of the gym floor, bleachers and the generator.

John thanked the Board for all of their help and the Board thanked John for all of his help.

Spring Soccer 2008 – The soccer coordinators, Bob White and Michael Cronin, held a meeting with the parents of the U10 girls. All were called and invited with about ten showing up. Bob and Mike proposed moving the U10 girls up to U11 and playing in the lowest division possible. Their reasoning was that 18 girls have signed up for spring soccer. If they stayed in U10, the league limit is 14 girls per team. Four could not play. Wilbraham only has two spots open in that age group. That would leave

two girls without a team. If they move up to U11, the league limit is 18 per team. All could play. These girls will be playing U11 in the fall on the larger field. They would just be moving up ½ a year earlier. The parents were all in favor of moving up to U11. Bob and Mike are recommending that the U10 girls move up and play U11 in the spring and that Michael Weisse be the head coach of that team with 18 players. Mike Weisse had all eleven players from his team last season return for this season. Janene Kane who would also like to coach had seven former players return.

The U11 team is full. There are two more spots on the U9 team. The girls and boys EL teams still have openings. An instructional coach will be needed for the kindergarteners.

Mike Cronin recommended Bob White as head coach of the U9 team. The Board agreed with all recommendations. Pioneer Valley rosters have to be submitted by February 21st. Photo ID's are needed for the U11 team.

Bob made a motion that the U10 girls move to U11 with Michael Weisse as the head coach because he had eleven out of eleven returning players. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Mark made a motion that the U9 girls program be accepted as recommended with Bob White as the head coach. Huck seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0. Bob White abstained.

Bob made a motion that Bart Lipkens and Peter Simmons return as head coaches for their respective girls' grades 1&2 teams. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Old Business:

Park Camera – There is a warrant article for the Town Meeting to update the Police cameras. Once they have an updated system, the Park camera can then tie into it. John thanked the Board. The Board thanked John for all of his help with the TWB gym floor and the Park camera system.

Sponsorships – Bob confirmed through the IRS website that RAH is a 501c3. Sponsorship donations can be accepted through RAH.

Baseball – Jay will be meeting with the baseball coaches this week. The rosters for the JLS league have been finalized. Sample jerseys will be brought in for the Board to review. The U15 team will have co-coaches George Flanagan and Rick Willis. George will be listed as the head coach on all paperwork. Mark mentioned the possibility of mailing out invoices in order to collect the baseball fees. He will draft a letter to minimize horseplay and safety hazards for the Board to review at the next meeting.

New Business:

Basketball – Michael Cronin gave an update of the basketball season so far. Kindergarteners will be done this Saturday, 2/16. They all got basketballs to keep. Grades 1&2 will have a jamboree on March 8th at 10am at TWB. There are three teams. They will all get medals with their names on them. All but one of the CYO teams will be in the playoffs. There will not be any home playoff games in Hampden since they have to be played in a parish gym. CYO scheduled home games are done. The Board commented on the great job that Rick and Mike did along with all of the gym problems. Mike mentioned that they would like to start a skills clinic in September to get the kids ready for tryouts for the next season. They would hold sessions by grade for a small charge and do skills only, no games for one month.

TWB Dugouts – Per Mike Cronin, the TWB dugouts will be completed in the spring.

RAH Fundraiser – The RAH St. Patrick's Day fundraiser will be March 15th at the Hampden Country Club. This will be posted on the signboard with Bob White's phone number to call for tickets.

New Business Continued:

Movie Night – The next movie night will be on March 8th. The movie will be The Game Plan. Bob made a motion to show The Game Plan on March 8th. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Registration payments owed – Tabled

Prospect Lawncare - Tabled

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Next meetings: February 26, 2008 at 7pm
March 11, 2008 at **7:30pm**

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk