

Approved 4/8/08

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Meeting Minutes March 25, 2008
Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm.

Members Present: Chris McDonald, Huck House, Bob White and Mark Goossens. Larry Forrest arrived at 7:40pm.

Minutes: The minutes from March 11, 2008 were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Huck seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Memorial Park Policy: The Board reviewed the letter received from Town Counsel in response to a request for a legal opinion regarding setting a policy limiting the public's use of Memorial Park while the Summer Program is in session. It was determined that the Parks and Recreation Board has the right as a board to establish a policy. The Police Department can enforce the policy. The Parks and Recreation Board will limit usage of Memorial Park, in its entirety, to the summer program staff and registered children only during the six weeks of the program. The hours for the 2008 program will be 9am – 2pm Monday, July 7, 2008 through Friday, August 15, 2008. The reason for the limited public access during the designated times is for safety and security concerns for all registered children and counselors. Memorial Park will be open to the public at 2pm Monday-Friday and all day on Saturday and Sunday July 7th – August 15th. This policy will be placed in the Hampden-Wilbraham Times, posted at the Town Hall and Park and in the minutes which are on the Hampden website.

Huck made a motion that Memorial Park in its entirety be open only to the summer program staff and participants during the operation hours of the summer program. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

TWB Gym: The Board was made aware by Noel that the gym door at TWB had been left unlocked this past weekend. Bob is doing the scheduling for gym. He sent an email out to all coaches using the gym to let them know that the door was left unsecured. Bob stressed to the coaches that this cannot happen again and to continue the privilege of using the gym, the building needs to be locked, secured and double checked. Bob copied Noel on this.

Old Business:

Bleacher Quotes – Mark put together a comparison of quotes from several different companies for new bleachers at Memorial Park. They will be aluminum 5 row 15' bleachers. There was a discussion on the different quotes. Mark will confirm the pricing with BSN.

Softball – Evaluations will be held on Saturday, 3/29 at Mile Tree School for 25 U14 girls to create two equal NEYSA C teams. This will be done draft style. The U10 girls will play their home games at Soule Road School where there will be a 35' pitching rubber. The U12 teams will play at Mile Tree School using the 40' pitching rubbers and the U14 teams will play at Memorial Park using the 43' pitching rubbers. There are 10 NEYSA team.

New Business:

Summer Program 2008 Salaries – Pay rates were discussed for the 2008 season of the summer program. Minimum wage is now \$8/hour.

Larry made a motion to raise all rates by .50 and to raise the CIT rate from \$65/week to \$70/week effective for the 2008 summer program. Huck seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Refund Request – A baseball refund request was received and reviewed by the Board.

Huck made a motion to refund the baseball registration fee to Billy Bond as long as it does not negatively affect the rosters. Larry seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Park Gate Opening – There was a discussion as to when to open the Park on a daily basis. The ground needs to dry out before the fields are used. Mark will monitor the weather conditions and decide when to open the gate on a regular basis. A possible date is April 7th.

Pavilion Rental Fees – The Board will be discussing possibly increasing the Park pavilion rental fees in the future.

Parent Letter Received – A letter was received from a parent and reviewed by the Board. The Mother is concerned that her son is playing baseball with younger children who are not at his skill level. The player missed several chances to be evaluated before the teams were formed and is now on a C team. Mark will draft a letter to the family.

Soccer Field Setup – Bob made a motion to purchase a \$50 gift card for John, the man who aligns the soccer fields at the beginning of each season. Larry seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

CORI – Chris will no longer be on the Board after the elections. Huck will take over running the CORI checks for the coaches and assistants.

Huck made a motion to adjourn at 9:23pm. Larry seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Next meetings: April 8, 2008 at **7:30pm**
April 22, 2008 at **7:30pm**

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk

