

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Meeting Minutes May 13, 2008
Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:38pm.

Members Present: Larry Forrest, Huck House, Bob White and Rick Kapinos. Mark Goossens arrived at 8:14pm.

Minutes: The minutes from April 22, 2008 were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Huck seconded. All in favor 4-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

New Board Member – The Board welcomed new member, Rick Kapinos.

Election of Officers – Rick made a motion to nominate Larry as Chairman. Huck seconded. All in favor 4-0. Rick made a motion to nominate Huck as Vice Chairman. Bob seconded. All in favor 4-0.

Soccer – RAH will be installing a kick wall at TWB. They have received permission from Noel Pixley. The wall will be 8' x 16' wide with 5 posts and a concrete base. Noel will designate the area for it to be placed. It will be installed in late summer for the fall season.

Signups for fall soccer are in progress now until May 31. The U11 number is high and may require an exemption from the league.

The current U11 assistant coach petitioned the parents to move the team to Wilbraham for the fall season. The parents were upset. Mike and Bob spoke to them and reassured them that Hampden will still support a U11 girls team in the fall. Currently, the U11 team is playing unofficial games. Each girl sits out three games. There was a problem with the league and the number of girls.

Baseball – Jay gave an update on the baseball program and brought in samples of the new baseball jerseys. There are still some people who have not paid their registration fee yet. Jay sent out a reminder email to those people. \$13,000 was raised between RAH and sponsorships and volunteer work. Dugouts were installed at TWB and new equipment and new uniforms were purchased. Jay is looking to raise \$4000-\$5000 in sponsorships for next season.

Field update – At Green Meadows parent volunteers brought in clay, and cleared brush. There are hard rubber bases there now. In the fall it will be over seeded and the holes will be filled in. At TWB field #1 there is a new 6' fence and the dugouts will be installed this weekend. The infield is in great shape. The insect issue will be addressed in the fall. At TWB field #2 the field has been done over and the Fire Department has helped out with the watering. Bill Wilson did a great job. When the field is in use, the soccer goal will be moved and put back afterwards. It is in foul territory. At the Park, distance signs will be put up on the outfield fence. It is a 90' diamond. Sherwin Williams donated paint for all the backstops and Billy Bond donated hydro seed for over seeding in the fall.

Maintenance – The coaches are doing the raking themselves and George Flanagan is lining the two TWB fields and the Park.

Tball – Approximately 38 kids are playing. Jay is heading up the program with some help from parent volunteers. Grades 1&2 – Opening day was held with hotdogs, the National Anthem and an announcer. Grades 3&4 – Monson has now joined the league. The JLS team will have several home games. There are no conflicts with fields. Grades 5&6 – The Tri-Town League is forcing us to have a B team. The team is not doing well. There are two C teams. The coaches divided them up. One team is heavier than the other. Rick recommended that we look at deciding on one league or the other, JLS or Tri-Town, for next season. Grades 7&8 – On June 26 Hampden will host the All Star Game. All teams will be represented. Jay would

like to have the scout color guard and the National Anthem and a concession stand with hotdogs, hamburgers and soda.

Overall, everything is going pretty well. Summer baseball will be July 7 – August 10 with games Monday through Thursday. Teams will be picked draft style. The signup sheets will be sent home through the school envelopes two weeks in a row.

Bob made a motion to give Jay Ray, the baseball coordinator, keys to the RAH building, restrooms, softball shed, TWB shed and Park gate. Rick seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Huck made a motion to support the summer baseball program as presented by Jay Ray and to send out the registration form through the schools for two consecutive weeks. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Larry will address the current T-ball girls and parents so they will know what to expect for next year with softball.

The All Star Jamboree for the first and second graders will be June 14. The pavilion will be reserved for Jay for this event.

Jay will hold an end of season coaches meeting to go over the season. Jay will have recommendations for next year.

Spray Park Opening – South Shore wants to send an electrician to check out the electricity. Huck left a key for him. An opening date needs to be scheduled with South Shore. Two to three people will be needed to help with the opening. Huck will speak to Mark Feeney and check with South Shore on their availability. We would like to have the spray park open around the time school is out for the summer.

Cori – The Parks & Recreation Department needs to be CORI recertified. Huck will take over as coordinator. Deb will look into recertifying. Larry will check with Wilbraham Parks & Recreation. Deb will check with Chief Farnsworth about running the current CORIs now. Table for next meeting.

Old Business:

Friends of Memorial Park Account – The account has been closed out and \$1365.68 will be deposited into the Parks & Recreation revolving account for the spray park.

Park Bridge – Tabled. Huck will speak to Dana.

Bleachers – The bleachers have not been ordered. They will ship within 48 hours and there is currently no room in the RAH building to store the parts. Mark will place the order when we make room in the building.

New Business:

Park Plants – Dave Avery volunteered his time sprucing up the plant beds, mulched areas and pruned the plants. Irrigation, loam and sod will be needed to keep the filter free of sand and dirt. This will be a fall project. Huck will speak to Dave and invite his suggestions.

Softball – Softball bills have been submitted to RAH for payment.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 10:18pm. Mark seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Next meetings: May 27, 2008 at **7:30pm**

June 10, 2008 at **7:30pm**

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk