

Approved 7/8/08

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION

Meeting Minutes June 24, 2008

Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:38pm.

Members Present: Huck House, Bob White and Rick Kapinos. Larry arrived at 7:40pm

Absent: Mark Goossens

Also Present: Jay Ray

Minutes: The minutes from June 10, 2008 were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Rick seconded. All in favor 3-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Baseball Update: Jay Ray gave an update on spring and summer baseball.

Summer – As of now we have 78 signups in grades K-4 for summer baseball. We had eight signups for grades 5&6 which is not enough to form a team. Jay is working on placing them with Wilbraham. Their numbers are low this year. We will have 3 teams for grades 1&2. Wilbraham may join our Tball town league. Jay acquired three new sponsors for the summer league. Jay will order t-shirts and hats. The baseball account should finish \$2100 to the good. We have 14 summer baseball signups that did not play spring baseball.

Spring – Jay thought that an option for next season would be for the 1st grade girls to play Tball again instead of going into softball. The All-Star game will be at the Park on Thursday. John Flynn is loaning a wireless scoreboard for the game. The Scouts will do the color guard and National Anthem. Jay will look into the PA system. Rick thought that the microphone and speakers at the Park may not work. Looking into a portable PA system would be a good idea and can be used for baseball and basketball. Hampden Sign will be donating five temporary distance signs for the outfield fence. Jay will be getting bids for aluminum signs. The backstops will be painted this summer with donated paint from Sherwin Williams. The new dugouts will be painted in the future. Jay will write a thank you to all of the corporate sponsors and an end of the season letter to the parents which will explain the evaluation process for next season and mention all of the improvements that have been made.

The backstop needs to be replaced at the TWB field next to the golf course. A lot of balls have been lost. There is no overhang and the brush is overgrown and needs to be cut back. The question is where is the property line? A small backstop can be put up in front of the old one. The old one is back quite a bit. Rick has seen this and says that it works well. Maybe this can be done this summer after checking with Noel.

Softball Field: Andrea Stolar came in to the meeting to discuss future plans for the softball field at the Park. Andrea and Paul Stolar have been taking care of the field and it looks great. A future goal would be to move the outfield fence in and put a safety railing on top. There would be no cost. The Stolars have the equipment to do this. Larry will check on the measurements of the field for all ages. Andrea would like to put up signs and charge a fee for advertising and use the proceeds for future dugouts and lights. Rick asked that Andrea put a plan in place and if she had people committed to finishing the job. Andrea will organize volunteers and put a plan in place and come back to the board.

Old Business:

Baseball issue – Larry remarked that he heard positive feedback from the way the baseball issue was handled. People liked the way that everything was spotlighted.

New Business:

Park – The pavilion lights and spotlight have been turned off. They are on a timer and have been coming on during the day. The timer needs to be reset.

Park Bridge – Larry was reminded by Sue Rauscher that the Hampden Lions Club supported the bridge project and may possibly help with repairs. Dana was approached by some scouts looking to do a community project for their eagle badge. Dana offered to oversee the work and work with them if we had them do the bridge repairs. The Board approves of this if the scouts go through the proper channels and present a plan to the Board before getting started. Huck will let Dana know this.

Campership – The Federated Church Ladies Aid has sent the Parks & Recreation Department a campership check again this year to allow children whose families are having financial trouble to attend the summer program. A thank you will be sent.

Dumpster – Huck will review the Allied Waste contract for the Park dumpster.

CPC Representative – Rick made a motion to nominate Huck as the CPC rep. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Summer Program – A request was made to prorate the weeks for an attendee who will also be going to a school program. Huck made a motion to approve the request. Rick seconded. All in favor 4-0. A request was received for financial aid from a family wanting to send their children to the summer program. One week will be offered for one child. RAH also offers scholarships for the summer program.

Huck made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm. Rick seconded. All in favor 4-0.

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

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk