

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Regular Meeting Minutes February 27, 2018
Town House

Approved March 13, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Members Present: Terry Ford, Dave Paradis, Phil Tarsi and Heath Joseph

Members Absent: - Eric Jacobson

Invited Guests: – Kristina DeGray, Heather Jolicoeur, Carrie Gray Joseph, Derrick Biermann

Also Present: - public, (attendance sheet signed)

Bills: - signed

Mail/Correspondence: - none

Agenda Items:

Basketball Parent complaint received by both office and basketball coordinator. Parent invited to attend meeting and placed on agenda. AD called parent during meeting and parent stated that they were unable to attend. Heather reviewed the two complaints from the girls 5/6 team. She wants to address the name calling. She has followed up with other parents and found no problem with coach/asst coaches, but that some parents agree there has been name calling and specific parent claims that it has not been addressed. Both coach and asst coaches never saw bullying or intimidation. One player seemed to be socially isolated from the rest of the girls on the team and only typically attended one practice per week. The coach addressed team, telling them that they were team mates and were a group to play together, be competitive and win together. Heather stated that the father of the player said he felt that it was not addressed and other parents said they never heard it was addressed by the coach/asst coaches. Heather stated that her biggest problem was that this could've been easily rectified. One assistant coach said that it was definitely addressed at practice along with rules about playing time versus being at practices. Heather went on to relay recollections of other players via the parents on instances on the court where this specific player yelled at another player for trying to direct her. The parent thought that the direction should come from coach and Heather explained at this age players tell each other. Heather stated that "name calling bothers me". Phil interjected that you would never know that there was any rift, when his team came in the gym following this other team, the girls would be carrying on, joking and laughing. Terry added that there was a huge talent discrepancy and that he was taken back by the accusations. Heather replied that the worst thing for her is that the girl quit and that she doesn't think she is coming back next year which really bothers her. She went on to say if she hears of name calling during the playoffs she will pull those players from playoffs. She also stated that this can't go on, (it's) not fair for other girls. One assistant coach added that she had offered to pick up/drop off this and other players for practices and that this specific player showed up for home games and only one away game. The coach added that the father had said at one point that his daughter didn't feel like part of the team and he played her more the following game trying to compensate/accommodate, he also tried to ask her opinion at times and tried to pay attention to interactions with other girls on the court.

Scott Walker, the coach of our girls 3/4 team who is also a unity coach, former STCC women's basketball coach and former head of the Lady Ballers team is holding a skills and drills clinic from March 13th through June 12, two sessions per week \$40 for registration fee for all girls. AD will send out email to girls.

Heather will be discussing and trying to address the sandbagging issue with CYO next season. She doesn't want to give up on CYO

The K-1-2 jamboree will be at 2pm on March 10 at TWB. Heather would like the commissioners to show up and help. Phil suggested having the older kid teams to help out, too.

Carrie Gray Joseph: Carrie came in to propose a school vacation program for elementary aged children. This idea grew from sitting at basketball with other moms and pondering over what to do for school vacation week for childcare as moms were scrambling for February school vacation. Carrie had heard that the Parks department was looking to expand itself into the community more and came up with the following proposal:

Using the gym, cafeteria, playground area and restrooms at Green Meadows she would like to run a day program from 8:30-2:30 to mimic school hours similar to our summer program as well. She would like to have up to 25 kids, ages 3-12 and based on her cost analysis and research she feels that \$25 per child/day, (\$20/day for siblings) would provide the Parks department with a small profit at the end of the program. Parents would need to provide a lunch and a snack. She feels she would need 2-3 counselors and could pull from the summer program staff. She currently has 10 families that want to sign up. Dave is concerned in regards to the availability of the school. AD has preemptively checked and school is available. Terry thinks this is a great idea and directed AD to send out email for interest, Dave asked the supply cost and Carrie replied that there may be duplicate supplies with camp to use or add to.

Soccer: Reconvening from earlier meeting. Currently have 10 recreational registrations, eight and a goalie are need per team. Roots can take up to 16 per team.

Dave Paradis moved to run two teams, one rec team of up to 16 players and 1 Roots team up to 16 players, with late registrations being accepted for both. Terry seconded, all in favor 4-0

Matt & Krystyna Sullivan have a 2nd grader that they are requesting be allowed to register for the Roots 3-4-5 team. Last years fall coach, Dan Slattery, had let the child practice with his team. Kristina DeGray, soccer coordinator feels that because the team is U11 and the teams they will be competing against are mostly 10 and 11-year olds and that having a second grader would be too much, too big, of an age gap. She feels it would be ok for him to play on a recreational team, where there won't be a three-year age gap. Matt Sullivan replied that the Roots team is a much more convenient option for us" and that they want to challenge their son. Phil wondered if they could start with the Roots team and move him back if it is too challenging. AD asked if this would be an opportunity for all second graders? Dave shared his thoughts; this is a big age gap, he has concern for a discouraged child, he hears the coordinators concerns – Kristina interjected that he is a good player and she has played kids up in the past but she feels this is a huge jump and added that we don't even know what the Roots teams will look like. Dave stated that if registrations hit 16 the child will have to be removed from the team. *Dave moved that the child be allowed to play on the team and is the registration gets to 16 then he will have to leave team Phil seconded, 4-0 in favor.*

Baseball: Derrick explained the changes in the league. Ninth graders can play if age eligible they cannot play if they also play on HS, Jr Legion or on another travel team. He went on to inform the board that neither Palmer or Monson have freshmen baseball. Pinot will be using a RIF5 baseball. The home team will now pay for both referees during playoffs and ump fees have been raised from \$50 to \$55 and we will now be using the Arbiter for grades 5/6. Home teams will now supply baseballs and the 3/4 teams must now use a catcher's mitt. Derrick will be sending out flyer for coach's clinic. In April there will be a catcher's clinic. Koufax will start on May 14 and end on June 24. Our teams need new uniforms, Derrick would like Dri-Fit shirts. New bat rules, change to USA baseball bats, these are equivalent to HS bb core bat to reduce rebound for the 2019 season. Two to three bats will be needed per team, no other equipment will be needed. Heath asked what the age of the helmets were as he wants to plan for replacement, he also suggested each team receive one new bat this year and next year. The basketball coordinator will get Dick's Sporting goods contact information to Derrick. Derrick would like to get the edges of the base paths rolled before putting sod down. We are set to have Haluch's install sprinklers once the weather permits.

Hardware/Software: The board would like the vendor to increase the refund period by six months for an extended trial since we are still not able to use the program.

Heath made a motion and Terry seconded to allow the purchase of hardware backup up to a cost of \$250.

8:06pm: Terry made a motion to move to executive session

8:42pm: Reconvene from executive session

Minutes:

Heath made a motion to accept minutes with correction, Terry seconded, all in favor 4-0

With no further business, Heath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:48pm Phil seconded, all in favor 4-0

Next meeting scheduled for March 13th at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors,
Assistant Director