

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

Approved April 10, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

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

Members Absent: - none

Invited Guests: – Michael D’Agostino, Derrick Biermann, Heather Jolicoeur

Also Present: - Tim Connors

Bills: - signed

Mail/Correspondence: - none

Agenda Items:

Basketball: Heather Jolicoeur asked Michael D’Agostino to attend the meeting in regards to a parent complaint that she had received from the parent of a Wilbraham player. The father of the player was upset and had emailed both Heather and Michael because his child ‘was benched’ during the championship game. Heather feels that benching kids is not something we should ever do unless the parents says the child cannot play or due to illness. Michael stated it was the coach’s decision not to play the child. Heather commented that she looked at it from the kid’s perspective and that she hoped Michael understood where she was coming from. She has reached out to other parents and coaches and she ‘wants to keep Mike’ She reached out to both Sean Fitzgerald and Marty McQuade to see if they would coach with Michael, both agreed but Sean called back and told her no, he wasn’t doing this after all that Michael has done for the program, he’s been with the kids since kindergarten. Heather quoted Marty’s comment that ‘something must have pushed Mike to this’, Heather had also received emails from parents who had heard of the situation. Her opinion has now changed. She stated she has to ‘keep Mike’. She directed to him that “I would hope you would never bench another kid”. Michael then addressed the commissioners. He detailed how he runs his season: He starts with his roster, calls parents to get reacquainted, leaves voicemails, emails. He communicates weekly with parents, sends out a weekly update with practice/game schedule, plans, etc. He asks for players availability for practices and games. He explained how he puts together a practice plan for the day, week and based on games. He takes attendance at each practice. Out of 26 practices, the player missed 13, and also missed the two playoff games leading up to the championship game. Michael told the commissioners he looks at himself as a coach and mentor, and along with basketball he teaches his players life skills and accountability. Michael had asked the players older brother to help out thinking it would help the players attendance since the brother would be driving him. Michael commented that commitment and dedication go two ways and he felt that this player quit on the team. Michael went on to say that they were a young team, and that he has taught them to ‘play for possession’. Heather responded that she had talked to the players mom who supported Michael. She then said there may be a player with a chronic condition who goes to school but skips practice due to the condition – she gave an example and Eric asked her if she notified the coach if practice was going to be missed and she replied yes. She then told Michael he should’ve let the child play. Michael responded that he doesn’t decide playing time based on (skill) level of play but based on commitment to team. Derrick Biermann recalled a personal experience where a player attended every practice, every game but only played 30 seconds in the championship game and only because another player was injured. Michael had planned on staying with the program and taking on other teams after the current players move on to high school. Terry recalled when a player missed practices and games and still played in the championship game because the parent notified the coach of absences ahead of time.

General discussion of playing time and dedication. Heather referenced the coach and player code of conduct. Dave Paradis asked if there are rules. Michael suggested changing sign up sheet. He stated that there are high expectations for the coach but loosey goosey expectations for players and parents. Heath added at that level regardless of the sport that players need to have the concept of what it is to work as a team, about helping the team out. Derrick Biermann questioned – what are we teaching these kids about life if a kid who hasn’t participated or attended is allowed to play for five minutes while kids who have attended and participated sit and watch. Michael replied he is teaching them about team, community and accountability. Terry stated coach allowed to limit playing time for disciplinary reasons, Heath added no show, no play. Heather interjected that she doesn’t approve of benching a kid. Michael responded that kids need a value

stream. Heath – these are life lessons, we are not here to coddle – Eric asked if it were a mid-season game would it matter? In closing Michael asked Heather for an email communication so that he could ‘close the loop’

Dave – we should review and modify all sports at the start of the season.

Michael - that expectations should be clear.

Heath – at coach’s discretion, based on attendance.

Michael – Level of play doesn’t matter, being accountable does.

AD will review and update codes of conduct, draft letter for review on playing time.

Michael again asked Heather to send an email to him to close the loop.

Heather asked to be included on next agenda for basketball wrap up. (04/09 @ 6pm)

Baseball: Derrick has purchased four bats and ordered baseballs. He found 58 RIF-3 baseballs for Pinto. Our helmets have two years left, he had purchased 27 for an average of five per team. There are 17 players registered in Wilbraham, some of these may come to play in out town. The scheduling has changed, there will be three games per week for the 7th/8th grade age group so the season can end before July 4th. Dave pointed out that each team should carry at least three pitchers. Derrick mentioned that Dan still had his equipment from last year and that this equipment needed to go to Brett’s team. Eric directed AD to email Dan and cc the board to return gear. (*Derrick did this before AD could the next morning*) Uniforms for 7/8 Derrick has chosen digi-camo two button Henley’s for this group and digi camo dry wick jerseys for all other age groups. He informed the commissioners that umpire fees have gone up again this year. He also explained how Wilbraham Parks department has request \$2500 from each program to use toward field maintenance. Derrick reviewed the team numbers and informed the commissioners that he has coaches and assistants. TBall and 1/2 teams have been invited to attend opening day at Spec Pond. Softball will be using Veterans field Mondays and Fridays. He plans on putting the batting cage nets up in two weekends time. Phil asked if there was anything his team could help with, he would like his players to help out around park. AD to gather no play dates as this information needs to be to Suburban for scheduling purposes by April 2nd.

Minutes Review

Dave made a motion to accept the March 13, 2018 minutes as amended, Heath seconded, 5-0 in favor

Dave had a prior commitment and left the meeting at 7:11pm

Software: Go live contract date was 11/17/17, still not live, site still not fully built.

Heath made a motion to ask vendor for full refund, Eric seconded, all in favor 4-0

April Vacation Program: Only two registrations have been received, AD to send out again with a registration deadline of April 10th and a decision will be made that day, based on enrollment, whether to move forward with program. Carrie would like to access GM to set up on the 16th if program is moving forward.

Soccer: AD instructed to email Dan to have parents register rest of kids. Review of teams. Eric may take the 3-4-5 team if necessary since parents haven’t volunteered to coach.

IT: Eric asked why this was coming up now, AD explained there were multiple vendors in building supplying IT services. He asked who we had used prior and AD explained she had supplied what department needed and only called on Alan, (FAR) when necessary.

Heath made a motion to continue to use FAR for IT services, Phil seconded, all in favor 4-0

Wiffleball: All day event. Phil suggested fire rings at night. Heath suggested an August date, end of summer wiffleball tournament/cook out. Look into portable fire pit/burn barrels. Could end with a movie night. VFW will donate hamburgers/hot dogs, could the PD donate the ice cream and could Gary donate the IGA sodas? Start planning now - commissioners agreed on the date of August 18.

YardGoats: This may be a trip/fundraising opportunity that we could offer to baseball players and their families and to the general public of Hampden. Heath suggested looking into Holyoke Blue Sox since they are closer.

RAH: AD will email RAH treasurer and ask if she would like a notification sent out to our email list regarding volunteering for RAH.

New Business:

CPC: Request for funds for sprinklers will be submitted for consideration. Commissioners discussed other projects; AD to inquire about eligibility for those projects.

Commissioner's Vacations:

Heath: 07/06-07/23

Eric 07/25-08/04

Phil 07/12-07/15

Terry 07/27-08/14

Time sheets reviewed and signed.

With no further business, Eric motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm Phil seconded, all in favor 4-0

Next meeting scheduled for April 9th at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindi Connors,
Assistant Director