

HAMPDEN PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Meeting minutes August 9, 2005

Meeting called to order 7:43pm.

Attendance: Board members in attendance were Chris McDonald, Huck House and Tina Albano. Mike D'Agostino arrived at 8:45pm. Also present were Doug Farmer, Walter McLaughlin and Jeremy Donnelley.

Minutes from July 26, 2005 meeting read and accepted.

Coaches McLaughlin and Donnelley were informed that there were concerns raised at a prior meeting by several parents over playing time, coaching style and practice techniques. The two coaches explained to the board that they ran disciplined practices. They both stated that they stressed safety and sportsmanship. During games the team was required to stay on the bench unless they were either batting or on deck. This was done for safety reasons. They also added that there were only two coaches on this team so it was difficult to manage the game and baby-sit the bench. Coach Donnelley stated that he was given the wrong rules at the beginning of the season in regard to playing time. Both coaches added that the kids who showed up for practices played. Both coaches added that some of the parents would mock them from the bleachers. They stated that when dealing with parents they were direct but polite.

In regards to the pitcher selection, both coaches stated that anyone who wanted to pitch was given a tryout. In regard to a drill where the team was lined up against a fence, Coach McLaughlin stated that it was designed to stop the team from backing up on the ball. He added that the ball was thrown on the bounce to the players. The coaches stated that they felt that the entire team improved over the season. They both enjoyed coaching and were looking forward to coaching next season. They did add that some parents would yell inappropriate remarks from the bleachers. They attempted to meet with parents after one game but no one stayed. At one point the Baseball coordinator attempted to meet with the parents and coaches. Coach McLaughlin stated that at this meeting he was direct but polite.

Memorial Park – The fire department has pumped out the pool three times and should be finished Saturday, August 12.

An Environmental Engineer is scheduled to evaluate the pool in preparation for a spray park. The basketball hoops have been repaired.

Old Business – Tina informed the board that Wilbraham is planning on holding baseball tryouts in the fall this year. She stated that she would check with the Wilbraham Rec. Dept. in regard to this. The RAH meeting with the Wilshire Baseball Club will be at the end of August.

New Business – Tina stated that she is working on the budget and is in the process of transferring funds to the administrative account.

Huck stated that he would coordinate getting an estimate on an alarm system for the park. Mike D'Agostino suggested that a coach evaluation form should be mailed to the entire team to get more feedback regarding the situation involving the coaches. The board agreed to this.

Next meeting September 23, 2005 at 7:30 P.M.