

Approved 2/27/06
HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 13, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.

Attendance: Chris McDonald, Huck House, Bob White and Mark Goossens. Also in attendance were Michael Cronin, Rick Kapinos, Brian Fitzgerald, Bob Gomez, Bruce Stewart, Mike D'Agostino, Rick Willis, Roger Gouin and Dan Donovan. Larry Forrest arrived at 7:11pm.

Minutes: The minutes from January 23, 2007 and February 7, 2007 were read. Huck made a motion to accept the minutes from January 23, 2007 as read. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0. Huck made a motion to accept the minutes from February 7, 2007 as read. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Basketball: Rick gave an update regarding the incident that occurred at a game between Hampden's CYO team and St. Rose. CYO identified and suspended the player in question from St. Rose. CYO will start playoffs after the weekend of February 24 and 25. All scheduled games after that weekend will be cancelled.

Rick gave an overview of the season. Some of the CYO teams were put in a division higher than they should have been. Next year the CYO evaluations will be different. More responsibility will be put on the coordinator in the future. The boys' rec 7&8th team is doing very well for being pieced together. The boys rec 3&4th team is a little below the competition. The instructional group will finish on Saturday. There has been a low turnout for the 8am instructional group. The 1&2nd graders will finish on Saturday also. They will have a jamboree on March 3 and receive medals. Next year all of the 3&4th boys and girls will play in the CYO league and shoot at a 10' hoop instead of the Hampden-Wilbraham league where they shoot at an 8' hoop.

The current condition of the TWB gym floor is a big improvement over the condition it was in at the beginning of the season.

Rick has said that our kids that work at the games scorekeeping and running the clocks are some of the best compared to the other leagues.

RAH Fundraiser: Michael Cronin gave some information about the March 17 fundraiser. RAH is looking for ways to use the profits. Some ideas and suggestions are putting in dugouts on the TWB ball field, benches for the soccer field at TWB, re-chain the backstop at TWB and change the fence at the ball field at TWB from 4' to 6'. Two \$250 scholarships will be given to seniors (one boy and one girl).

Baseball Clinic: Dan Donovan would like to hold a baseball clinic for Hampden kids ages 7-12. He would charge \$100 per child with the town receiving 20%. He would like to hold a clinic in June and in March. The March sessions would start March 1st and be held on every Thursday after for six weeks. (The possibility of doing Tuesday and Thursday for three weeks was mentioned). Each meeting would be two hours. They would have throwing drills, some pitching, ground ball work, fly ball work and swinging the bat. High school ball players would also help out. This would be open to other towns. The June session would be June 19-22. Dan would prefer to do the June session if he

cannot do both. The question of insurance came up. Dan does not have his own insurance for this. We will check on our town coverage. Dan will get back to us on the March scheduling. Dan can put together a flyer. Bruce Stewart has offered to look into the insurance situation also.

Baseball 3rd & 4th: Rick Willis wanted to give his point of view on the JLS league for the 3rd and 4th graders. He feels that our 3rd and 4th grade teams have, in the past, been buried by playing in the select leagues. The kids learn more by playing with their friends with higher skill levels. Rick feels that the kids should stay in town, play in town and that the town does not have to sponsor this. Rick thinks that more information about the JLS League should have been put on the registration form. It should have been spelled out better that our JLS team will be playing Springfield and traveling. He said he has not heard good things about this league and feels we should not fund it. If some kids want to go to other towns or leagues to play they may go on their own.

In the past we have had equal 3rd & 4th rec teams play against the Wilbraham teams. Last season Tri-Town offered a 3rd & 4th league. It was an A league and our team could not compete.

Bruce offered that the JLS team would be a division three team. He does not know if we will be competitive since it will be our first season. Brian is familiar with the JLS League from last season. His son was with a team that had players from several different towns on it.

The season should consist of 20 games with half of them played at home (TWB) and half at away fields. Rick Kapinos' concern is that the kids have a chance to be successful. Bob Gomes commented that if JLS works out this season then great and if it doesn't then we do not continue with it.

Spring '07 Soccer: Bob and Mike are all set to register the teams with Pioneer Valley. The field permits need to be signed for the modified and large field at TWB. CPR and first aid classes will be set up for the coaches. Mike suggested that next season we move the second grade girls up to play with the U9 Pioneer Valley team instead of staying in the East Longmeadow league. He has found that a lot of other towns do this.

Bike Helmet Offer: We received an offer to get free bike helmets from the state. A grant has to be filled out and sent back to receive 50 helmets. Possibilities for distribution of the helmets are holding a bicycle safety day with the Police Department or doing something with the DARE Program. Chris will fill out the paperwork.

Financials: Tabled to the next meeting.

RAH Roof Bids: Three bids are needed to have the RAH building roof replaced. We currently have one written quote from Rivet and Morris will match it. The FY08 budget request for capital improvement will be adjusted to \$2600. Bob made a motion for Chris to go to the Selectmen and offer our \$2500 which we currently have in capital improvements to fund the roof replacement using the Rivet quote and to go to the Advisory Board and adjust the FY08 budget by reducing it from \$5000 to \$2600. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Pioneer Valley: Chris will invite Doug Farmer to our next meeting. There will be a discussion about the soccer coordinator/Pioneer Valley continuance situation.

Old Business: Softball signups will be March 6, 8 and 10. The forms will go out to the schools on February 27 & 28. The fees for rec 1 & 2 will be \$60, rec 3 & 4 will be \$80, rec 5 & 6 will be \$90 and NEYSA will be \$90.

Spray Park Rules – Mark typed up a set of rules/policies to be used for the Spray Park.

New Business: Insurance – Chris will draft a letter to the Selectmen asking about our insurance coverage. We need an explanation on what, who, how much is covered. Also, an explanation on free clinics vs. paid clinics.

Mark made a motion to adjourn at 9:55pm. Larry seconded. All in favor and so voted 5-0.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2007 at 7pm.

Beginning March 13, 2007 the meeting time will be 7:30pm until November when it will change back to 7pm.