

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
April 11, 2018

Call to Order

6:05 pm: Chairman Shute called the meeting to order

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Nate Brown, Julie DeCosta, Bryan Giard, Amy Harrington and Ernie Robert, Members

Excused: Dwight Barnes and Melissa Robertson, Members

Also Present: Nick Lawrence, Director, Kevin Hill, Assistant Director

Deerfield Soccer Programs

Chairman Shute explained that the Commission is seeking input around the Recreation and Travel Soccer options in Deerfield. Jeff D'Agostino presented an overview of soccer programs available to athletes, describing that Travel soccer can often provide an alternative to the most competitive Club soccer. There are three levels within the Travel league (Divisions 1 - 3) and partnering with the Candia CYAA would allow Deerfield to plug into a Travel program by Fall 2018. Mr. D'Agostino feels there are good synergies between Deerfield and Candia, but noted that partnering with Candia may eliminate an athlete's ability to play with other Teams, i.e. Exeter.

Rob Jones, CYAA President and Rob Boucher, CYAA Soccer Director spoke about the Candia programming and facilities. Mr. Jones described that CYAA offers the highest skilled coaching staff and the ability for athletes to play with their friends. Mr. Boucher spoke that the program has 153 kids currently with 10 teams. CYAA believes in the benefits of being exposed to new athletes and its coaches promote the team first culture of inclusiveness. There are currently eight Towns playing within the Program. The CYAA plays within the NH Soccer League guidelines and prides itself on strong athlete retention. It was asked whether Deerfield athletes would be treated the same as Candia athletes and Mr. Boucher confirmed yes, that the goal is to always make team rosters work. Where cuts are absolutely necessary, decisions would be based on athlete skills. Playing time is left to the coaches discretion and is based on a player's abilities and work ethic.

Ingrid Desrosiers, a Deerfield parent whose son played three seasons with the CYAA, provided a parent's perspective. She spoke that she saw her son's soccer skills improve off the Deerfield Recreation foundation that had been built. She confirmed that the Coaches treated all players equally and spoke highly of the families of the players. The travel radius was limited with all games on the weekends. The schedule allowed her son to transition smoothly into the DCS team. Mr. Boucher spoke that the League breaks out divisions and tries to limit travel to less than an hour. Some of the further locations they travel to included Wolfeboro, Gilford and Keene.

The CYAA offers Spring and Fall Leagues. Fall programs run Labor Day through November Playoffs. Spring programs being in late April and run through Father's Day weekend. Practices are held at least once a week with weekend games. The League requires coaches be certified. Generally the certification is a 4 hour commitment at the 7v7 and 9v9 levels, a coach would begin with 7v7 and each subsequent certification builds off the prior.

Mr. Boucher described that Candia has approximately 35 recreation level players in grades K-3. This is currently a skills and drills program where CYAA utilizes the Soccer Sphere program offered through SNHU.

J. D'Agostino noted that he is working on lining up the Referee Training for parents for a Friday and Saturday in either July or August.

The Commission thanked the CYAA representatives for taking the time to discuss their Program.

Joe Stone Scholarship Update

J. DeCosta updated that the April 27th deadline for scholarship applications is fast approaching. They are looking to have a decision made prior to the Concord High Awards night.

Hartford Brook Update

N. Lawrence met with Jack Hutchinson to prepare for the April 21st and 28th clean up projects. The next work on deck includes installing the dugout pads and harley raking the fields. Chairman Shute asked that Nick pull together a report of the monies spent on the field project to date.

Other Items

J. DeCosta shared that she received positive feedback from a Newmarket parent on the Hoops Classic, they felt it was a great tournament and a wonderful experience. Chairman Shute voiced his frustration that there is a serious problem with a lack of parent willingness/commitment to volunteering.

Adjournment

Motion: E. Robert moves to adjourn the April 2018 meeting

Second: B. Giard

Vote: Yea 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 2nd @ 6:00pm

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission