

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
May 2, 2018

Call to Order

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

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

Excused: Amy Harrington, Member

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

Chairman Shute called the meeting to order. He noted that the Commission has received Melissa Robertson's resignation.

Minutes - April 2018 Meeting

Motion: E. Robert moves the minutes as written

Second: N. Brown

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

Citizens Comments

Chairman Shute has received a letter from Derek Hopkins expressing concerns regarding Majors Baseball (see Citizens Comments - Appendix A). There was frustration that the four Majors players from Deerfield were unable to be placed on the same team and were split up between Northwood, Auburn and Raymond (2). N. Lawrence spoke that, in the past, Deerfield Majors has joined with Candia, but were unable to do so this year. He wanted to give the players the option to play and so the multiple Towns was the best available option through the Lamprey River League.

Mr. Hopkins letter asks about Registration fees being played to the Towns where the players are playing. N. Lawrence confirmed that Deerfield will send Registrations along to the Towns, there is some uncertainty regarding the Raymond Team, so he is waiting to see whether the money should be sent to Raymond or reimbursed to the families directly. E. Robert asked about the process when athletes play with other Towns, are there formal invoices received? What if the other Town has a higher Registration fee than Deerfield. D. Barnes suggested that it would be best for Deerfield to absorb the difference if the outside Town has a higher cost than Deerfield as an offset to the added travel, etc. Commission Members agreed.

Mr. Hopkins letter questions when Deerfield will supply bats for the Deerfield Majors players. The Commission agreed that it could not see supplying individual players with bats in this situation. E. Robert suggested that Deerfield could work with the Town accepting the player to see if there was a need to chip in, but it was agreed that a Town's Registration Fee should cover uniforms and access to proper equipment. N. Lawrence will put together a formal response in reply to Mr. Hopkins.

Recreation Commission Vacancies & Thank You

Chairman Shute again noted tha Melissa Robertson has submitted her resignation from the Commission. Her term was to expire in April 2019. Additionally, Member Julie DeCosta, whose term expired in April 2018, has indicated that she will be stepping down from the Commission. The Commission can fill the vacated term by appointment and vote to fill the new term, or can advertise and vote to fill two terms with two new Members. Katie Libby expressed her willingness to serve, additionally residents Brian Fisher and Jeff D'Agostino have voiced an interest. The Commission agreed to post the openings locally and to see what candidates emerge. Members agreed that cards and a Thank You gift should be presented to Melissa thanking her for her service.

E. Robert drafted a job description of a Commission Member. It was suggested that it be updated to include a general monthly time commitment. Chairman Shute will look into whether bylaws for the Commission exist and

will include the description with the information about the opening.

Travel Soccer

E. Robert spoke that he thinks a decision should be made to commit to actively discussing a Travel Soccer partnership with the CYAA and to iron out logistical details. Members agreed that registrations will be handled directly with each organization. The open question seems to be how many kids from Candia will come into the Deerfield Rec program. B. Giard spoke in favor of moving forward and establishing guidelines so that the financials are clean and clear. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have an informational breakdown of the costs associated with joining a Travel Program.

Motion: E. Robert moves to proceed with a Candia/Deerfield collaborative Soccer Program for both Travel and Recreational Programs.

Second: B. Giard

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

Snack Shack / Concessions

N. Lawrence spoke that, in the past, manning the concession stand has been a task coordinated by the Coaches. During the 2017 season there was feedback that this was an inappropriate burden to put on the Coaches and overall participation was extremely low. At many times Nick was covering the shack, a poor use of his time. He spoke that having concessions is a nice amenity, one that all other Towns provide during baseball/softball season, but that without volunteers it is a flop. Hartford Brook is not ready for concessions just yet.

After extensive discussion, the Commission agreed to keep the Concessions closed for this season and to re-launch with Fall Soccer or next Baseball Season with a clear and strong expectation communicated to parents that participation will be a requirement of their child's participation in the league. Chairman Shute asked Nick and Kevin to look into how other Towns motivate/mandate volunteer participation with their concessions. Members expressed concern about not having water available for the teams. It was agreed that a few cases of water would be stocked in the Snack Shack for Coaches to access as needed. Parks and Recreation will look into providing new recycle-specific receptacles at the Fields to discourage the plastic bottles landing in the general waste.

Adult Softball

N. Lawrence spoke that they are looking forward to a great season. He brainstormed changing the format from an individual registration where Parks & Rec creates the teams, to a team based registration. Additionally, he has been approached by a team from Northwood asking whether they could join the league. D. Barnes spoke that he has no problems with trying something different and was OK with accepting the team from Northwood. He asked whether Hartford Brook could be used for play this year and Nick confirmed yes, it can be. It was asked whether the Northwood team would need to secure its own sponsor, 2017 sponsorships brought in \$1,400. Members agreed that the team should look to have a sponsor for \$200, Deerfield will plan to still charge out of Town players at a higher per person rate than residents.

Hartford Brook Update

Work is ramping up on the softball field side at Hartford Brook. The next pieces of that project will be to lay the dugout pads, construct the dugouts and harley rake, to be followed by irrigation and hydroseed for anticipated full use in 2019. There is a need to get electricity and a shelter to that end of the field while Jack Hutchinson is working on the dugouts. D. Barnes confirmed that Page Street Storage in Candia has donated use of a container for 3-4 weeks whenever Jack is ready for it. N. Brown volunteered use of his generator.

E. Robert noted that he and Jack have committed to some pre-work at the field on Saturday at 8a. Anyone interested in helping is asked to bring rakes, shovels, wheelbarrow, brush trimmer, etc. and it is estimated it will be approximately three hours of work. Chairman Shute spoke that they will evaluate this week how best to get the trucks in/out of the location without damaging the baseball field.

Old Home Day

N. Lawrence spoke that as soon as Baseball is underway they will start focusing on Old Home Day and laying out the calendar of events. Promotion will start at the end of June/early July. He has received a proposal for a

Fireworks Display, working with an estimated \$4,000 budget. He will reach out to the Fair Association to inquire about continued sponsorship. E. Robert noted that, in years past, the event has relied on Mark Tibbetts to handle the parade and that Nick and Kevin may want to start a discussion soon with Fire and Police if permitting is needed.

Joe Stone Scholarship Update

D. Barnes noted that there is currently just over \$2,000 in the Scholarship fund. J. DeCosta spoke that generally the Commission likes to have a decision made by May 15th so that, if the recipient is a CHS Senior they can be announced during their Award Night.

Motion: J. DeCosta moves to award three (3) \$500 scholarships to Joe Stone 2018 Scholarship candidates

Second: N. Brown

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

Other Items

D. Barnes asked whether Members had any questions regarding the Program financials that were distributed previously. There were none.

D. Barnes provided a recap of the Hoops Classic. The event had a year over year revenue increase of \$900. Year over year expenses were up \$2,000 with major increased costs in the payroll, plaques and referee lines. Shirt expenses were down \$1,300 year over year. Overall the event brought in approximately \$3,500, an \$1,100 decrease from 2017.

Adjournment

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

Second: B. Giard

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

Next Meeting Wednesday, June 6th @ 6:00pm

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

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission

CITIZENS COMMENTS - APPENDIX A

Jeff,

I am helping coach Northwood tonight so I can't make the meeting. I was hoping you could add this letter to the citizens comments and have the board consider my requests tonight. Please let me know you did get this as well, thanks.

The placement of the four registered Deerfield majors players did not pan out very well. I'm not even sure all four are still committed for the year. There are obviously a lot of politics and each town has their own agenda, but in the end the only option presented was one opening in Northwood, one opening in Auburn, and two of the three Raymond teams could take two each. I'm not sure why all Deerfield players could not have at least been put on to one Raymond team, that seems like something that could have been negotiated from our P&R. Nick mentioned they would all decide what was best for the league, I would suggest our P&R Department keep an eye on what is best for it's kids and families first.

The P&R Board said we would not have to pay for bats, even though I provided the bat information and offered to supplement better bats that majors players should be using. I asked Nick if he was going to still provide this and he said they already bought bats for the other teams, would not buy for the majors, and Northwood would supply the bats. I guess that promise from the Board is no longer being honored? In the case that it still is, I have included the link to the 31" 21 oz bat, but I'm not feeling the same loving feeling to supplement
<https://www.justbats.com/product/2018-louisville-sluggger-select-718--10-usa-baseball-bat--wtlubs718b10/29580/>

Last year our four kids joined with Candia. I asked Candia in the beginning if Joe Manzi had sent over the money to Candia as they supplied uniforms and we were working under their league, they said no, I mentioned this to Joe expecting it to be taken care of, I mentioned it again after the season to the Director of CYAA and he said he did not get payment and was not happy about that.

I asked Northwood last night if they had received funds from Deerfield for my son playing and they said no. Is it Deerfields intention to not pay each of these teams for providing the uniforms and running under their programs ? It seems to me to be the right thing to do rather than collecting money and not supplementing the other towns and should these town have to chase the money?

It's going to take a village to make a great P&R sports program, The village was not communicated with or allowed in the door under Joe Manzi. Are we really letting this happen again? You can survey the village all you want, but it's not rocket science, parents want and need to be put in charge of programs. Change does not need take forever, but without the proper leadership it won't ever happen, even with the constructive feedback from the village. Best of luck, from one of the parents who has donated a lot of time over the years and tried to work with P&R. sports.

Regards,
Derek Hopkins