

Sunapee Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2015

Present:

Erica Belisle, Mike Pollari, Charleen Osborne, Tanner Royce, Joe Furlong, Rhonda Gurney, Maria Fair, Tracy Nangeroni, Scott Blewitt, Guests: Sean Moynihan

Next meeting:

November 10, 2015 6:30 PM, Town Office

I. Agenda Items

A. :Baseball:

- i. Unable to make prior coaches meetings, Sean from his perspective, thought that moving kids up to grade level play worked out well for the 5/6 teams.
- ii. Myles Cooney & Scott Flint discussed numbers and it worked this year...maybe not next year for numbers.
- iii. Majors ended up with 22 kids and 2 teams. Larger field – good for some and not for others. 70' was good for 12 yr olds, 11 yr olds struggled. 70' is probably better than 60'. Overall probably appropriate bridge for rec & middle school.
- iv. League issues & feedback
 1. Any Clifford is the new rep
 2. Maybe we can have some guidelines or extra person to line the fields
 3. Not having a second umpire was a strain – request to have 2 umpires.

B. Mission Statement: Read and Affirm for Committee Members

- a. .The mission of the Sunapee Recreation Department, under the administrative direction of the Town of Sunapee and the guidance of the Recreation Committee, is to provide diverse recreational programs, activities and leisure opportunities to as many residents and age groups as possible, promoting personal growth, social development and a healthy lifestyle. The department will promote community involvement in developing and providing our services, while ensuring customer service excellence, affordability and equal opportunity for all citizens. _ affirmed 12/10/2002

C. Public Comment:

- a. Reviewed request that made at the September meeting about use of 4th grade boys on 5/6 soccer teams.
- b. Chair asked if communication & the process was followed per our recommendation.
 - i. As one of the coaches, Charleen replied that she was not contacted or informed which players from her team were asked or were playing for the 5/6 team. Josh told her he got an e-mail near the end of the season.
 - ii. Coach Salvitti only utilized the 5/6 girls to help with low numbers.
 - iii. Coach Flint used 3rd & 4th grade boys, contacted out of town resources, ie: Newport & Mount Royal, etc.
 - iv. 3 kids were picked up after the deadline 1 to Coach Salvitti, 2 to Coach Flint
- c. Parent complaints/comments:
 - i. Parent believes that their 3rd grader is a stellar player and believes that his son was not treated properly and he should be able to play for the 5/6 level. He believes that his son was playing on sub-standard fields on a sub-standard team and playing against other sub-standard teams.
 - ii. Another parent would like to see more kids singled out and moved forward or to higher level teams so that their skills can be encouraged and nurtured.
 - iii. Committee members wanted to remind parents that several excellent players have come through recreation with positive experiences. Rec guidelines are for equal play for all. If you feel that your child should play more or at a higher level, then you should take your children beyond Recreation Sports. There are out of town opportunities for harder leagues or travel teams that you could enroll your child in.

- iv. Parent wants to know if we can split teams by talent into A & B levels.
 1. Scott reminded all present that **ALL** the leagues for **ALL** sports that Sunapee participates in require fair and equal teams so the answer to that question is no.
- d. Conflict of Interest:
 - i. Parent said he felt uncomfortable bringing his coach complaints to the committee because his child's coach was a member of the committee. He feels that this is a conflict of interest.
 - ii. It was asked how many current committee members have coached a Rec team while serving on the board. Currently at the table 6 out of 9 members present said they had. This was a concern for some who felt it was a conflict of interest.
 - iii. Scott discussed how in the past the majority of board members have been coaches and this has not seemed to have caused conflict.
 - iv. A concern was raised that we are not elected by the townspeople and that they feel that we elect ourselves.
 - v. It was pointed out that this is the first time in more than 3 years that the committee has had a full board, also that the committee is responsible for more Recreation decisions and activities besides sport teams. We are always looking for active participants and Scott asks many people when a vacancy becomes available if they would consider joining the board.
- e. Coach Complaints:
 - i. How are they dealt with? What is the process?
 1. Scott tries to have the person with the complaint take up the issue first with the coach as most small issues can be handled easily and quickly without intervention.
 2. If complaints continue, Scott will observe a game, practice, etc. And see if he can identify the same problem or issues as the complaints. If he does he will discuss those issues with the coach and or the committee.
 3. Last meeting the committee discussed and decided to start doing coach evaluation surveys at the end of the season to assist in more feedback.
 4. The chair said everyone is always welcome to volunteer to coach or assist, there were no responses.
 - a. Multiple people agreed that a survey was a good idea, Scott asked for people to send sample questions of the things they would like to see asked.
 - b. Rhonda said she would like suggestions for survey questions other than sports, to please send them along and volunteer for other Recreation events.
 - f. Harbor Magic is coming up and we are in need of volunteers and a new Santa and silent auction items, would anyone in the room like to discuss this further? There was no response. All of the public left at that point and we took a brief 5 minute recess before continuing onto our Agenda Items.

D. Boot Camp: (was quickly discussed during public comment section as Mindy needed to leave)

- a. Scott has discussed with Dave Cahill about an early morning boot camp to take place in the Sherburne gym.
- b. Mindy Flater will return to Scott a list of required equipment with a dollar amount for each item.
- c. If the instructor position is to be a paid position, it will need to be a new budget item and the position needs to be approved by the Town. Budget is locked until after Dec 31.
- d. Looking to start in December Tues & Thurs mornings around 5:00-5:30 and a fee needs to be decided.

E. Christmas in the Harbor:

1. Rhonda is still looking for volunteers. Set up is Dec 5th from 11:00-1:00. Event is Dec 5th 1:00-4:00. Cleanup usually takes 1 hour at the end of the event.
2. Silent Auction Items Needed.
3. Santa comes 2:30 ish and is still needed.
4. Bonfire needs to be discussed with Sunapee Fire.

F. Facebook:

- a. Last week Scott was forwarded an article and posted it to the Rec Facebook page. He had many good comments. He heard second hand that someone was offended, he called them and had a discussion. Scott decided to take the article down.

G. Turkey Trot:

- a. Mike is getting mats for the Turkey Trot (LSPA floors during registration)
- b. Registration is open
- c. Christina O'Halloran is coordinating volunteers and we are still in need of them
- d. SPTO will hold pie sale again during event.

H. Basketball:

- a. Deadline for sign ups is October 31
- b. Open gym will start the first week of December

I. Veteran's Field Survey/Master Plan:

- a. Due to the length of the meeting the discussion is postponed until the November meeting

Joe: Motion to adjourn, Rhonda: Seconded, **All in Favor**
MEETING ADJOURNED 9:35 PM

Next Meeting Agenda – Veteran's Field Survey/Master Plan, Turkey Trot, Christmas in Harbor