



Plainfield Recreation Commission

Recreation Committee Meeting
Town Hall
Friday, August 18, 2006
6:30pm

Unofficial Minutes

Present: Dan Cantlin, Pam Lewis, Jason Huett, Dave Dupree, Marty Morgan, and Judy Houde Hardy

Minutes:

The minutes from the August 1st meeting were accepted.

Recreation Website:

Jason will have the link to the website as of Monday 8/21/06.

Discussion:

Should the third/fourth grade soccer program be co-ed?

Will the third/fourth grade teams travel to other communities to compete?

It was agreed that the kindergarten program would continue to function as it had last year as a program of basic skills.

The first/second grade program will remain a co-ed, in-house league with no travel. There will be four teams. Dan has received a request to compete with Grantham at this level. Plainfield can host Grantham as a trial, perhaps hosting an end of season round robin mini-tournament. The schedule as it stands will have the season beginning on September 9th, with the first game on September 16th and the final game on October 21st.

The third/fourth grade program will follow the same schedule as the first/second program. There is a group of parents who would like to see the teams split by gender at this level to better meet the developmental needs of the girls, and have asked the Rec Commission to move in this direction this year. Cindy Huett (parent of a 4th grade girl) conducted an informal phone survey of all parents of girls and boys in this program. The possible numbers of children enrolling in this program is approximately 37 boys and 28 girls.

According to this informal phone survey, 12 girls strongly prefer an all girls team, 6 voiced no strong preference, 3 were undecided, 1 would like to have the program remain as it has been, and 6 are not planning to play (this does not include home-schoolers).

If the teams are split by gender, this necessarily impacts the boys in many ways. Of the 37 boys who would possibly be involved, 24 voiced no strong preference regarding the composition of teams, 11 did not respond or were unable to be contacted, and 2 are not planning to play (this does not include home-schoolers).

If the teams are split by gender, the teams will need to travel to other communities for games. There seemed to be a general consensus that families are willing to travel within the area with other local teams *as long as it is not every week and as long as it is local.*

Neighboring communities split their teams in a variety of ways:

- Lebanon – single gender teams in ¾ grade



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- Hanover – single gender teams in $\frac{3}{4}$
- Norwich – single gender teams in $\frac{3}{4}$
- Grantham – co-ed teams in $\frac{3}{4}$
- Hartland – teams split depending on numbers enrolled
- Hartford – single gender teams in $\frac{3}{4}$
- Claremont Recreation – co-ed through middle school
- Cornish – co-ed or matriculated in Windsor

After considerable discussion about the possible pros and cons, and the ramifications of changing the Plainfield program for the Fall 2006 season, the Commission members voted to decide:

Will the Rec Comm create single gender teams for the third/fourth program for this upcoming season, recognizing this requires a travel schedule for these teams?

Result: 3-2 (with one abstention) in favor of creating single gender teams.

Two members were unconvinced that this change is advantageous to the whole program, therefore, would like to survey parents throughout the course of the upcoming season to gather more information before moving in this direction.

Three members support the split to better meet the needs of the girls participating and feel that the advantages outweigh the concerns.

There will be three boys teams and two girls teams for this season. The Commission will seek input through the year regarding the experience and will make a decision for next year based on this information.

A coaches' meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7th. The agenda for that meeting will include the formation of teams, the expectations for the coaches and athletes, rules for the different age levels, and a discussion of skill development.

Identified coaches for the upcoming season include Corey McKim, Mherdad Didehbani, Brian Morse, Brian Garfield, and Dave Quimby. A coach for one of the two girls teams is still being sought.

Dan will try to schedule all games for Saturdays, but there may be a need to schedule weekday games to meet the needs of the newly formed gender specific teams.

PARKING LOT:

- **Baseball program**
- **Organizational need of the Rec Comm**
- **Tball: forming better balanced teams**
- **Standards for coaching and team formation**
- **New Year's Eve skating party for families**
- **Adult learn to skate program**
- **Budget**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7th, with the coaches of the fall teams.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Minutes prepared by:
Judy Houde Hardy