



Plainfield Recreation Commission

Recreation Committee Meeting
Town Hall
Tuesday, August 1, 2006
7:00pm

Present: Dan Cantlin, Pam Lewis, Jason Huett, and Judy Houde Hardy

Recreation Website:

In an effort to improve communication and share information with the community, work has continued on the Rec website. Jason shared the mock webpage to be added to the Rec Comm page. www.plainfieldnh.org is the Town site, with recreation@plainfieldnh.org as the Rec site. Each Rec Comm member will have his/her personal email address linked to the address (Ruth Ann Wheeler's address will be linked as well) enabling everyone to see the questions and concerns being shared by the community. Dan will answer all queries.

The page will have subject based links: baseball, softball, Tball, tennis, facilities and directions, Recreation news and notes.

Minutes will be posted in PDF to ensure that they cannot be edited on line.

Registration forms can be printed and sent to the school and/or Town Office.

The mock page will be posted at the site for the Comm members to view it. Jason will await feed-back on the site. Until it's approved, he will put a place-marker on the site.

Notice of the website should go to PlainFacts and the School Newsletter.

General Discussion:

Judy had a few questions about the format of meetings and it was agreed that the start of each meeting can provide time for any comments from the public and the sharing of communications that members receive between meetings. Given the relative infrequency of meetings, thoughts conveyed to the Rec members by community members need time to be shared.

There was discussion about the greater organizational needs of the Rec Comm. Jason feels that the Rec Comm can be headed by the Chair and that "Directors" can run each separate activity, better parceling out the work of the group and allowing for expertise within each activity.



Judy asked if now is the time to move to having a Town employee directing the work and the growing demands of the Comm, while allowing the Comm members to be active volunteers augmenting the program.

Jason would like to explore the possible ways to standardize the coaching/participation experience for the greater program.

The organizational needs of the Rec Comm will be re-visited at a later meeting.

Reports:

Baseball: A late start to the season lead to insufficient game time and a light schedule, combined with a significant amount of rain, ending with an unsatisfactory season.

Softball: The overall experience for the girls within the softball program was much better than the baseball situation, although the rain presented problems for them, as well.

Scheduling is problematic for the spring programs creating significant issues throughout the season. The Rec Comm is committed to providing a better experience next year and will explore options to make the baseball program more successful. Dan will look at other communities' programs and would like to dedicate a full discussion to the issues facing the baseball program sometime in the fall.

Fishing Derby: Rainy! but great fun. Good participation with approx. 90 participants, plenty of fish, and terrific volunteer turnout.

Tennis: Low participation with approx. 20 students. The instructor needed to step down for personal reasons, leaving a hole in the program. Two young instructors helpfully filled in leading the program, but their youth was a concern that was shared with the Rec Comm. Their help was enormously appreciated but the liability issues remained a concern.

Swimming: The program start was delayed due to the closing of the pool by KUA at the start of the summer. As a result, the first group (older students) ran for a total of 13 days, and the younger students had 10 days of instruction. Minimal fee of the overall program did not warrant re-payment of tuition due to shortened courses.

Tball: The Tball program is not yet completed but concerns around the inequity of the teams prompted a discussion of how to better balance teams to provide for better playing experiences. Question: Can Tball happen during the regular baseball season? There has been some interest expressed in seeing Tball start earlier.

Touchline Soccer: Next year, Dan would like to see Touchline camp operate later in the summer in order not to conflict with tennis and swimming.



New Business:
Soccer Fall '06:

There are two main questions facing the soccer program for the fall:

1. Should single gender teams be formed?
2. Should teams travel to area rec programs to provide for different competitive experiences?

Dan will email each Rec Comm member to seek opinions and feedback. Jason would like for a petition to be sent to all parents of 3/4 graders and would also like to contact other rec departments for comparative data.

Soccer balls – Dan and George had talked about giving each child a ball as part of their registration fee (the fee may need to increase by \$5.00). Each player would be responsible for bringing the ball to practice. This would allow for more practice by each player and would eliminate the need for storage of all balls post-season.

The School Newsletter will include soccer registration forms and the forms will also be available on the website.

An informational meeting will be necessary before the creation of teams.

Other Thoughts:

There was discussion about closure activities following a season: HomeRun Derby, cookout.... As well as ideas regarding ways to thank the volunteer coaches and referees.

Jason moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Dan.

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**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Minutes prepared by:
Judy Houde Hardy