

Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes March 4th, 2010

Attendance: Jeremy Griffus, Chairman
Sue Laroche
Rupert Cote
Mick Regan
Eric Horton
Dave Yates
Keith Bowen
Bob Iannaco
Carl Dubois

Absent: Selectman Roger Coutu due to illness

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm with Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Rupert Cote made a motion to accept the February minutes with no changes. Sue Laroche seconded the motion. Minutes were accepted 7-0.

Public Input

None.

Report of Officers

Nothing to report.

Report of Sub Committees

No active committees at this time.

Director's Report

5th and 6th grade dance will be held March 26th

Wacky Olympics will be held at Alvirne H.S. on March 20th at 7pm

Comedy Night scheduled for April 10th

Softball sign-up cut-off is April 10th

Dave Yates will act as the town liaison for the Benson Committee to facilitate project efforts.

Correspondence

None received.

Old Business

A) Benson Park - Benson Committee

The Benson Committee Chairman spoke to the Recreation Committee because he believes both committee's serve similar functions. The Chairman made the following points:

1. The Benson Park serves a larger stakeholder base. The park is intended for more than just town residents. The intent is to have participation from the Southern NH and Northern Mass area.

2. The sub-committee structure of the Benson Committee is structured in a way to accommodate participants from surrounding areas.
3. The task for the committee is huge. The park is significantly overgrown, natural and unnatural destruction has occurred, and buildings have deteriorated.
4. The park is intended for passive recreation.
5. The current deed is difficult to interpret due to its length and numerous contradictions; any questions regarding the deeds intent needs to be expressed to the DOT for clarification.
6. The goal is to create a unique park for the surrounding communities.

Rupert Cote asked for clarification regarding the deed and ownership. It was explained that the property is owned by the town. Rupert also clarified that any Recreation Committee efforts would be brought before the Benson Committee for approval.

Selectman Jasper indicated that there is limited ability to change contour in response to a question regarding field use by Carl Dubois. Unfortunately, the area best suited for a field is an unregistered landfill and is the responsibility of the state.

Selectman Jasper indicated that practice fields may be allowed as he is not aware of any specific prohibitions.

Jeremy Griffus asked about a proposed site for a Senior Center. Selectman Jasper indicated that an initial area has been identified however nothing firm has been established. The state has given the town 3 options: 1) survey an area and pay the state market value, 2) use the foundation for the red barn that previously burned, or 3) a hybrid of the two. Discussions with the Governors legal counsel are ongoing regarding the possible options.

Sue Laroche asked about the footprint for a Senior Center. Selectman Jasper indicated that the footprint of the old red barn would need to be maintained while keeping with barn-like exterior construction.

Selectman Jasper reassured Jeremy Griffus that any efforts to facilitate recreation facilities at Benson Park would not be subsequently displaced by other groups.

Dave Yates and the Benson Committee met to take over town staff liaison for Benson Park. Dave would facilitate quotes, expense requisitions, access, etc...

Rupert Cote asked what direction the water flowed through the park. After much discussion it was determined that the above ground water flow runs from Bush Hill Rd, through the swamp and out past Burger King area. Selectman Jasper indicated that the committee plans to reestablish the ponds that exist in the area that have been drained.

B) Schaeffer Circle Parcel

Dave Yates spoke with Kevin Burns regarding the parcel of land. Unfortunately the area is surrounded by wetlands and that the only dry area has no access.

Discussion ensued about Gowing Rd. Dave Yates questioned if a park in the middle of nowhere would be used.

Sue Laroche does not believe the appropriate space for a park in the south end of town is feasible. At this point she would consider abandoning the effort.

Keith Bowen asked whether impact fees could be used to purchase land for a park. Dave Yates indicated that there is a capital reserve fund that could be used, he will review the language to better understand the usage restrictions.

New Business

A) Girl's Basketball Director's Report

Report presented by Lori Bowen is provided as Attachment (1)

B) Boy's Basketball Director's Report

Report presented by Steven Porter is provided as Attachment (2)

Sue Laroche indicated that the basketball sub-committee will evaluate the surveys and will report back to the committee with possible changes to tweak the changes made to this year's rules.

Closing Remarks

Rupert reminded the committee that the Cable Committee is having an open house the 11th of April (all day) at the Access Center.

Bob Iannaco thanked the cable committee for televising the boys championship basketball game.

Rupert Cote moved to adjourn the meeting, Eric Horton seconded, motion passed 7-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Horton

This meeting can be viewed at the following URL:

<http://www.hudsonctv.com/Cablecast/Public/Show.aspx?ChannelID=3&ShowID=1477>

Attachment 1

**Hudson New Hampshire Recreation Department
Girls Intramural Basketball Program
End of Season Report for Basketball Season 2009-2010**

Submitted to: Hudson Recreation Department
Cc: Dave Yates-Recreation Director
Cc: Basketball Sub-Committee

“The mission of the Hudson Recreation Department is to provide the citizens of Hudson with a broad range of fun, safe and affordable recreational opportunities and leisure activities to enhance the quality of life in the community.”

This report is being submitted to the Hudson Recreation Committee to provide information regarding the Intramural Girls program for the 2009-2010 season. It will explain how many girls participated in the program, the results of the parent survey, the observations of the Program Director as well as some goals and suggestions for the future.

The Intramural girls basketball program is open to all girls in grades 3 through 8. There were 165 girls that participated in the program this year which allowed us to create 18 teams altogether in three divisions. The season was a successful one overall. Of the 18 coaches volunteering in the program, 16 of them coached their own daughters. The volunteer coaches proved to be proficient in their duties as a coach and a role model to the girls as they placed a high priority on sportsmanship and the girls enjoyed their experiences while they improved their skills. However, requiring all coaches to participate in coachsmart training at the beginning of next season will better prepare them to navigate the season with a higher degree of confidence and knowledge that will only serve to improve the girl’s basketball experiences in an already high quality program.

The divisional breakdown was as follows:

- **Senior Girls Division** (7th & 8th grade girls) → 37 Players 4 Teams
- **Junior Girls Division** (5th & 6th grade girls) → 72 Players 8 Teams
- **Pee-Wee Girls Division** (3rd & 4th grade girls) → 56 Players 6 Teams

The draft conducted at the beginning of the season produced satisfactory results for all the divisions this year. In effort to maintain parity, the coaches were polled and asked to recognize the players that they thought had the most skill and those girls were placed on teams equally throughout their division. After these girls were divided up, the rest of the players were drafted according to their grade level. This process was administered in each division. There were a few player changes that needed to be made after the draft to ensure that each team was as balanced as possible. However in the senior division, one conflict occurred where the coaches

all had the same practice night and one team was only able to choose 2 of the 10 players on the team as a result. To rectify this situation, it is recommended that we make sure there are multiple practice nights available in each division so that parity can be maintained amongst the conflicts in the various schedules of the girls participating in the league.

The games for the Girls Basketball Program were played at three schools this season. The Pee-Wee Division held their games at Hills Garrison Elementary School; the Junior Division played at Nottingham West and the Senior Division played at Memorial Middle School. Each of the programs ran very smoothly in the buildings this year. The coaches did a nice job assisting in the game to game operations of the program which helped to maintain organization and stability of the program. However, it is recommended that no one be allowed in the Multi-purpose room at Memorial Middle School on game days. Throughout the season, there were numerous incidents of non-players in the room during the two hours that the program had use of the building. As a result, one non-league participant was injured while playing in the multi-purpose room with other non-league participants. This room has become a liability and the safety of those who choose to play basketball in this room can not be guaranteed without the ability to properly supervise it.

Gym monitors were an issue on several occasions this year. To effectively monitor the gymnasiums, we count on coaches to volunteer their time at a gym for the day twice during the season. On several occasions, volunteers could not be found to monitor the gyms amidst the many requests made via e-mails and phone calls. To rectify this problem, a suggestion was made at the end of season coaches meeting to have the home team coach stay for the following game. It was agreed upon by all the coaches in attendance at the meeting that this was a good suggestion and that they would all support that type of monitoring plan for the gyms.

The end of the season coaches meeting proved to be a fruitful process for the league where the coaches made several suggestions on how we could improve the recreational atmosphere of the league. One of the suggestions that was made was to create a committee of coaches at the end of each season to rate the players in the league. This committee would enact a numbering system that would be fair and respectful to the players that would help the coaches more accurately identify the skill levels of the players for use at the next season's draft. For instance, a coach would be asked to rate (based on a defined numbering system) each player and that rating would then be used at the draft for the following year to help us pull the top players out of the group and create better more defined system of parity throughout the league. This will also prevent the guessing game that occurs for the small amount of people that are unable to report to the tryout night. There was a tremendous amount of enthusiastic support from the coaches in attendance at the meeting for this proposed method.

Also at the end of season coaches meeting, there was a suggestion made to change the timing in the games to 20 minute halves. Through the discussion that ensued related to this topic, it was recommended that in the Pee-Wee Division the clock be paused every 4 minutes to substitute players and match them up. This will eliminate the concerns about the playing time of the kids participating in the league and ensure equity.

Along those same lines, a lot of discussion was had at the coaches meeting about creating a straight forward approach to the defense. It was suggested that it be made mandatory for the first half of game to be man to man defense and the second half of the game to be played as a zone defense. This would create a definitive defensive plan for all the divisions and it will give

the coaches a chance to teach offenses that will create better all around basketball players. The suggested changes was seen as a great way to completely change the “feel” of the recreation basketball program and create a more structured, controlled, instructional game.

After carefully observing the league this year and reading the parent surveys, it is recommended that we create a hand book of week-by-week suggestions for the coaches utilize in their practice planning. This hand book would be structured so that it would give the coaches a basic practice schedule including developmentally appropriate drills, skills and plays to teach to the girls. This will help with the structure of the program and allow it to maintain its integrity as an instructional program. There were several comments from the parents in the surveys that suggested that this method would help coaches structure their practices in a manner that will allow the girls to learn more about the game of basketball. The handbook would help keep the recreation department’s mission and vision for youth sports infused in the practice plans of our coaches, and it would provide for higher level of support to the volunteers that make our programs so successful. The ultimate goal would be to create 3 different hand books in conjunction with the basketball committee, one for each division due to the developmental differences and needs of each age group.

In response to some of the scenarios that played out this year, a player contract will be proposed to the basketball committee and recreation committee. This contract would summarize what the player hand book expresses in it, and it would hold each player accountable for the content. The following criteria could be examples of what would be on the form: a clause about sportsmanship being the highest priority of recreation basketball; a clause stating that they will respect themselves and the other players in the league and that bullying will not be tolerated in any form; the players are to conduct themselves with the utmost respect for the coaches, referees and people of importance, ie: score keeper, clock keeper; they will respect the buildings and if they are in the building for a game they are to remain in the gym. The contract will help solidify the importance of sportsmanship and serve as a reminder for the coaches to utilize if the need should arise. This form would be signed at tryouts or at signups but would be mandatory for each player each year.

Overall this season, the parents were pleased with the program as evidenced in the parent surveys that were turned in. Overall, they were complimentary of their child’s team, coaches and the season. There was one parent who expressed her displeasure with the program verbally with the program director as well as the Recreation Director. The opinions expressed were taken into account and the resolution to many of the issues can be found in the suggestions and recommendations previously stated. Aside from that issue, a common concern that was shared from the parents was with the referee calls that were made throughout the season. The program is confident in the referees and there was nothing that was observed at anytime that was anything more than a normal conflict of opinion; and nothing was observed throughout the season that would have put a child in danger of hurting themselves or another player.

As we move forward and plan for next year, a goal for the girl’s program will be to increase participation in the girls program by targeting each age group with specific letters sent home through the schools to increase female interest and enthusiasm in the program. The Hudson Recreation Girl’s Basketball Program is an incredible opportunity for the female youth in this town to learn the game of basketball. It teaches them about what it means to be a part of a team and emphasizes to these girls the importance of working together toward a common goal, whether it be to have fun, play hard or win/lose with the utmost of dignity and respect for their

opponent. Everyone enjoys winning, but with an emphasis on being a better sportswoman, the life skills learned and special memories created will stay with them forever.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful program.

Respectfully Submitted

Lori A. Bowen
Program Director for Girls Basketball 2009-2010 Season

Attachment 2

HUDSON RECREATION BOY'S BASKETBALL END OF SEASON REPORT

To: Hudson Recreation Committee

From: Steven R. Porter, Hudson Recreation Boys Basketball Director

CC: Dave Yates, Hudson Recreation Director

Date: March 4, 2010

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to keep the Hudson Recreation Committee and the Hudson Recreation Director apprised of the state of the Hudson Recreation Boys Basketball Program (Grades 3-8), during the 2009-10 season. My observations are based upon my interactions with coaches and parents in the several weeks leading up to the season and over the three-month season. Additionally, during the season I was at the various gyms each Saturday (and some Sundays) from 7am to approximately 4 pm, observing as many games as possible.

Conclusions:

- A positive youth sports experience was exhibited in all divisions.
- A parent survey was conducted regarding aspects of the basketball program. Those that responded were overwhelmingly positive.
- Overall the quality of coaching is adequate.

Summary

A positive youth sports experience was exhibited in all divisions.

The overall youth sports experience for players, coaches, and parents, appeared to be very positive. With a few exceptions, most teams and games exhibited Sportsmanship among teammates and opponents during the games that were observed. Parents and coaches spoke highly of the league throughout the season. This was validated in a parent survey where 149 parents responded. One of the questions asked concerned whether or not “the players overall experience this season was positive”. 117 or 78.5% of the respondents strongly agreed with that statement, 19 or 12.8% agreed, and 9 or 6% somewhat agreed. Only 2 gave a somewhat disagreed response and 2 gave a disagreed response. No one strongly disagreed.

Administrative Recommendation

- One administrative item that may help coaches and parents would be to upload all relevant information regarding the league on the website (i.e.: game and practice schedules).

The survey question regarding the change to the Hudson Recreation Basketball program (segregating the school and travel players from the recreation league) resulted in 90 responses. 63 or 70% felt that the change was positive, 17 or 18.9% felt that there was no impact, and 10 or 11.1% felt the change was negative.

Although there were a few exceptions (including during the playoffs) most teams did appear to pass the ball more frequently at the offensive end of the basketball court. This was even more so apparent in the 5th/6th grade division, where the lack of better developed ball handling skills forced the kids to pass the ball more frequently. As a result, more kids did indeed get an opportunity to touch the ball more frequently.

There were a lot more violations called early on in the season as the level of play was down some without the travel players in the 5th/6th grade division and the 7th/8th grade division, but it did decrease some as the season went along.

Recommendation:

Have a pre-season skills clinic for kids that want to improve their skills a few weeks before the season starts. One or two nights a week have someone conduct a clinic that provides a variety of skills drills. Perhaps this could even be conducted one night or one weekend day a week during the regular season.

Overall coaching at all levels was adequate.

Coaching in the basketball divisions overall was adequate. Overall coaches have a good knowledge of the game, ensure that players are getting sufficient playing time, and are cognizant of the importance of sportsmanship. Parent survey responses for various questions regarding coaching in the league were positive. There were seven questions concerning coaching and the “strongly agree” responses ranged from 105 (70.5%) to 133 (89.3%) for these seven questions.

Recommendation:

While the overall quality of coaching is adequate, it would not hurt to have a coaching clinic, prior to the start of the season. This would only build on what currently exists and perhaps will encourage more to participate (either as a head coach or an assistant). Stressing the value of team play, along with example of drills that can be used, would be some of the topics that would be covered.

Thank you for the opportunity to help serve the community and the town of Hudson Recreation Basketball Program. I consider this opportunity to be a privilege. I feel strongly that sports programs are very important to the community and I am happy to be able to contribute to this program.

Sincerely,
Steven R. Porter