

Southampton Township Recreation Association
General Meeting Minutes: January 8, 2008

Officers Present: Frank Maggipinto (President); Jim Corsey (1st VP); Jim Papagno (2nd VP); Lynette Blair (Secretary).

Public Members Present: Ryan Huston, Rick Bowman, Raj Makara, Joe Collis, Dave Kline, Kathy Adams, Joe Catalano, Mike McClusky, Carl Desantis, Stacy Malcolm, Dan Brownell.

Review of Minutes:

President Frank Maggipinto called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. with a reading of the minutes from the meeting of December 11, 2007.

Rick Bowman requested clarification about the concession stand not being able to continue to operate using the current system (Other Issues). It was noted that volunteer effort is down, and that people have not been signing the volunteer sheet indicating when they have worked. This is too much for Brenda Bryan and Sue Moschini. In addition, a lot of revenue is lost with the concession stand. Frank Maggipinto noted that the new website would help with concession stand scheduling. More discussion is to follow.

Rick Bowman asked if others would have input on the website. Jim Corsey replied that commissioners would have access to their own areas.

Jim Corsey made a motion to accept the minutes as edited and Jim Papagno seconded.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was waived until the next meeting.

Basketball:

1. STRA received a call from the Board of Education indicating a conflict on 2/13/08 in gym 3. Ryan Huston is working with Indian Mills to reschedule the game.

2. J. Coughlin requested a refund due to an injury. Frank Maggipinto made the motion to refund and Jim Corsey seconded. Two other players have also reported injuries. Amber Henry has a fractured growth plate and her family is requesting reimbursement of their copays. Selale Anapa was also injured but Ryan Huston does not have details of her injury. Ryan needs copies of Incident Report forms. Frank Maggipinto will provide these to Ryan in PDF format and Jim Corsey will make copies of the form and leave them at the school.

3. Jim Corsey noted that the power supplies must be removed from the power packs prior to storage.

4. School Security: Ryan has plenty of parent volunteers to patrol the halls and there have been no incidents. If there is a problem, the school janitors and parents know to report to Ryan via the walkie-talkie and to go to the parents of the child involved. There is some resistance to wearing the vest and carrying the radio. Ryan had spoken to Southampton Schools superintendent, Mike Harris, about the matter and Mr. Harris seemed fine with minimizing their use, however tonight (1/8/08), Mr. Harris wanted the parent supervisor to wear the vest and carry the radio. Frank Maggipinto asked Ryan if he has a volunteer schedule. Ryan does not have a schedule, but claims to have at least 3 parents available per game in addition to coaches and janitors. He does not anticipate a problem.

5. A complaint was received from the school stating that the gym had not been appropriately cleaned following the weekend's basketball games. Ryan Huston said that he had addressed the litter issue with the parents to minimize the janitor's responsibility.

6. Requests were placed on 1/4/08 for the use of the facilities at Seneca. Jim Corsey noted that the basketball commissioner needs to provide an agenda to the board so that scheduling can be done.

7. All of the team uniforms have been delivered. 6 more uniforms needed to be ordered for the instructional league.

Ryan would still like to include player's names on the back of the All-Star jerseys. Jim Corsey pointed out that adding the names should have been included in the original basketball uniform budget. Ryan would like to consider a different vendor (Radomicki), but Jim Papagno advised against using them. Ryan claims that would only cost \$1 to \$1.50 extra/shirt to include players names; the rate per shirt would be \$10.50 customized with the player's last name and number. Jim Papagno asked how many All-Star games were to be played and Ryan guaranteed 3 games, with the possibility of 4 or 5 games if the team won. Frank Maggipinto was willing to consider the change, but noted that Charles Roseboro should handle the ordering. Jim Corsey pointed out that if the change is made now, it will need to be continued through the years and be included in future budgets. This was accepted by Jim Papagno, Jim Corsey, and Lynette Blair.

8. There are no issues with the referees.

9. Pictures have been scheduled for January 19, 2008.

10. The coaches' certification class has been switched to the Media room at the school. STRA has approval from the Board of Education for this class. Jim Corsey noted that anyone who can not attend this class could attend another session in another town.

11. Jim Corsey noted that there is only one orange clock in the equipment box, four have been provided. He is to look for the other clocks. Ryan Huston noted that the coaches try not to use the orange clocks, preferring the electronic clocks.

Field Hockey:

Kathy Adams gave the commissioner's reports. She stated that all of the equipment was back in the trailer. She had vouchers for the referees who were paid cash, and returned \$26.50 in cash. Jim Corsey will get the money to Brenda Bryan.

Kathy has concerns about player numbers for the next season. She feels that she will have enough juniors but perhaps not seniors. It was noted that hockey signups are in May, practice starts in August, and the girls play through the first week of November.

In general, the season went well. A low spot was seeded and took well. The high field could use some grass seed. It got sandy toward the end of the season, but they managed.

Kathy said she will need new, larger sticks in the next season. Additionally, she is looking for a bracket to secure the nets. The current ones are rusting and need to be replaced. The net could also be cinched. She may also need to replace or pick up new goalie equipment. These items will be placed in the next season's budget.

It was noted that a parent had a RV, and the hockey parents set up a concession stand. With the proceeds from this they were able to purchase sweatshirts for the girls, purchase trophies, and to have a party. She obtained permission from the township to sell prepackaged foods and their concession stand was present at every home game. Frank Maggipinto gave accolades for a job well done.

Frank asked Kathy if she would be interested in being the hockey commissioner next season and she indicated that she would. Frank Maggipinto officially appointed Kathy Adams as the 2008 Field Hockey Commissioner.

It was requested that she submit a month by month time-line so that the committee will know what to expect. Eventually schedules and timelines for all sports will go up on the website. Frank thanked Kathy for her effort and for the fund raising activity.

Baseball:

1. Rick Bowman needs to know how many boys he has so he will know how many umpires to hire and how much equipment to buy, then he can put together a budget. He plans to have the budget and equipment needs ready by the next meeting.

2. All registration will be done via the website. Questions can be submitted via email or voicemail. The "sit-down" times at the school will be to show people how to register on-line, not to

actually take registrations. The time to register with no late fee has been extended until the end of January. Paper registrations will be accepted from persons who do not have computers. Payment is to be by MasterCard or Visa through the web site, or a check can be mailed to the STRA post office box. Late registrations will be collected until February 22, 2008.

3. Baseball evaluations are scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2008. Rick Bowman has a conflict for this date and requested they be moved to February 9. Jim Papagno said that this date would be too early, so evaluations were left at the originally scheduled date.

4. It was noted that the Memorial Field keys and locks would need to be changed out.

5. Jim Corsey asked Rick Bowman if he had received all the equipment bags and keys from the coaches. Rick has the equipment bags, but has not received many keys. Jim Corsey noted that the website will enable STRA to track who has equipment and keys. At this point Rick believes four people still have keys.

Softball:

1. Frank Maggipinto asked how often the softball teams used the Municipal fields. The Municipal fields are used primarily for practices and make-up games mostly due to the lack of concessions and adequate restrooms.

2. Dan Brownell stated that the softball budget would be similar to the previous year's budget and that it will be prepared for the February meeting.

Soccer: There were no issues to report.

Other Issues:

Rick Bowman has called Dave Thomas about umpires. The fees will be the same as last year. He would like half of the payment for the first notice up front. The first notice is an estimate of the fees for the season. Frank Maggipinto asked if STRA was being treated differently than other townships. Jim Papagno noted that STRA has always been billed 100% up front, the excess is refunded at the end of the season.

Rick mentioned that Tabernacle has a shed with excess lights and that STRA could have them at cost (approximately \$300). Rick would like to be able to light the Major's field. Frank tasked Rick with contacting Tabernacle, getting the specifications, and arranging to have some committee members to inspect the lights in addition to creating an installation plan. Rick also noted that Mount Laurel has a drag tractor for sale for \$600. Rick would like STRA to consider the purchase of these items.

Rick also commented upon the condition of the fields, expressing his belief that our field dirt has a high percentage of clay. Something with more sand would be preferred. Sprinklers should be used, but were not last season due to the power problem. Jim Papagno noted that the sprinklers are now all functional, but an additional head needs to be added to the Major's field now that the fields are bigger.

Rick also asked about the gate and why a walk through was not installed. The township has been resistant, citing insurance issues. Ryan Huston asked if insurance is an issue, why is the municipal field not fenced? The township has stated that they will open the field in the morning as long as STRA will be responsible for locking it at night. Frank Maggipinto noted that we need to keep working with the township to try to enact change and Jim Papagno stated that people need to attend the general township meetings.

Jim Corsey asked what had happened to STRA's pitching machine. It has disappeared and no one knows what has happened. STRA was unable to fill out a police report because the time of the theft is unknown as the machine disappeared sometime between June and November.

Raj Makara announced that the 10-year-old coaches would like to enter the Mount Laurel Friendship League. This is a competitive travel league that would play on Sundays. It would start on

March 30th and play for 8 weeks. Raj expressed this as an opportunity to get more playing opportunities for the boys. Jim Corsey noted that there are not supposed to be games played on Sundays as it is supposed to be a family/church day. Jim Papagno asked if this Friendship league would be open to all STRA participants and Raj indicated that there would be try-outs for this league, making it similar to the All-Stars league. Jim Corsey said that STRA would need to get back to the coaches after contacting the insurance company about obtaining a rider, incorporating travel into the equation. Jim Corsey also said that Rick needs to get notice of all clinics to the board so that the information may be distributed to all STRA families. Frank will investigate insurance options and get back to Rick and the coaches.

Stacy Malcolm requested returning to the old-style balls that had been used in Rookie ball. Currently both Level 10 and RIF-10 balls are used and these are of differing degrees of hardness. RIF-10 balls are preferred but Jim Papagno noted that they are difficult to obtain and must be ordered early. Stacy would also like to have the basepads at the Rookie field moved out to 50 feet. Jim Corsey asked about the rules for Rookie ball and was told that there are no specific rules.

Mike McClusky stated that the Southampton Township Middle School (grades 6, 7, &8) would like to have a school team which would share Memorial Field with STRA. Since they would play in the afternoon and STRA practices do not usually start until 5:30 p.m., there should be no conflict with field usage.

It was also noted that the T-ball field needs renovation, or better yet, relocation, as it dangerous in the current location. Jim Papagno expressed the belief that T-ball should be for 4 and 5 year old children, 6 year olds should be moved up to Rookie ball. Rick Bowman feels that children should not stagnate in T-ball. If they demonstrate the necessary skills, they should be moved up. He noted that children can pick up bad habits by hitting from a tee, and that perhaps a move to having half of the season be coach-pitched would be beneficial.

Jim Papagno expressed concern about blindly giving web site access and passwords to people. He is particularly concerned about bad information being placed and haphazard changes being made. He believes that STRA must set policy regarding website usage. Jim Corsey noted that website administration will have to be incorporated into the by-laws under a section entitled Internet Access Policies.

Jim Papagno also stated that STRA needs to get going regarding Casino night. We need to commit to a date, a budget must be set up, and we need to commit to a venue. Lisa Graham heads the Casino night committee and she needs to be prepared to do more work on her own with less input from the executive committee. Jim Papagno made a motion to have Casino night on May 17, 2008 with a budget of \$1500.00 for obtaining licenses and deposits. Lynette Blair seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.