June 27, 2011

To: Lovell Recreation Committee
Re: Lovell Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2011
Attendance: Michael Mendonca, Dave Powers, Cliff Brown, Linda Dunlea, Meg Dyer, Bob Drew, Tom Rose, Sarah Rose, Allison Wolfe and Jackie Lounsbury
Guests: Lori Bennett and Chris Calvert

Before this evening's meeting agenda was discussed the LRC had a lengthy discussion with two guests: Lori Bennett and Chris Calvert.

Both guests were concerned about Michael's management of LR. They both said they have heard a lot of complaints from a lot of parents about Michael and LR. One specific issue of concern that was discussed was the lack of a Rookie baseball team this season.

Lori pointed out that her children are too old to play on LR teams and that her concern was not personal, but for the overall youth in Lovell and Lovell Recreation. Basically, Lori said she was concerned that Lovell children are not getting the same opportunities as children from other towns, like Fryeburg. She said that if the children do not have teams to play on and build their athletic skills when they are young, they will not be able to compete when they are older.

Michael explained that only six children signed up this spring and that he had no coach. Then one of the six ended up playing T-ball. Chris said Michael should have "stepped up" and coached the team himself. Michael said he was a "director first and coach second" and that he could not coach Rookies himself as he already coaches track and has many other duties as RD.
Lori asked that Michael make more of a commitment to finding a coach in the future and suggested he put it in the NSS newsletter, for starters.

Tom Rose said that he would have coached Rookies if the numbers were there, but that baseball numbers were down across the board due to the addition of girls' softball and the lacrosse program. Though T-ball numbers were high this season (approx. 20), due to safety concerns and lack of skill he did not want to move players up to Rookies prematurely just to form a team. Linda said she thought there would be enough numbers next year for a Rookies team. Lori suggested parents whose children that played in the past get called up and encouraged to sign their kids up.

Lori also asked why the girls' softball team did not play in the tournament this year in Conway. Coach Stacey Snyder did not bring her team to the tournament due to safety-experience concerns.

Lori said that she feels Michael's strengths are track, running and personal fitness, but that Lovell kids are getting "shafted" when it comes to baseball because Michael does not know the sport well.

Michael responded that Lori was on the LRC when he was hired and that during the interview process he let the committee know what his strengths and weaknesses were and he was still hired. He also said he has been forthright about not knowing baseball and basketball well and has relied heavily on appointed "sports coordinators", such as Lori Bennett, Tom Rose and James Day, to assist him.

Linda said that some of LR numbers were down because some children want to play with their friends in Fryeburg. Tom added that Brownfield and Denmark are also playing for Fryeburg. Chris said LR's numbers are down because of Michael and that he should step down from coaching in the middle school and put more time into being a rec. director.

The issue of cancelling games was also discussed. Michael said that if LR is hosting an event, he makes an executive decision the day of the event by 1pm. Other rec. departments do not follow this policy and wait to cancel games later in the day and it led to confusion this past season. Lori said that the rec. directors need to communicate and all have the same policy.

Chris also asked why parents had to pay for LR programs and the reasons why LR charges fees were discussed.

At 7:30 pm Linda thanked and dismissed the guests with the assurance that the LRC would discuss and do what it could to address the issues they brought to the board. She also stressed the importance of having parents communicate with the committee and Michael if they are upset or have issues they need addressed.

I. Old Business
   A. Review and Approval of June 9, 2011 meeting minutes: approved as written.
   B. Treasurer's Report: Linda reported all the transactions since last month's meeting with an end balance of $16,870.86.
   C. Outcome and Announcements:
      1. Spring Program Wrap-up: Michael reported that this has been the smoothest spring season yet. Out of 6 seasons the fields were used more than ever. Baseball went

well. Girls Softball had power at its field. Hershey had a big team- approx. 30 participants.

2. Summer Signups: at the Charlotte Hobbs Library on Sat., June 18th, 9-12pm.
3. Spring Sports Gala: Tuesday, June 14th at the VFW, 6-7:30pm. Pizza for kids and Potluck for adults.
4. Hershey Local Meet 1st hosted by LR: Weds., June 15th, 4pm at KHS, our track unavailable. The following Sat. the team is carpooling to Portland for a district meet to determine state competitors.

D. Play Set Search: the Friday following last month's meeting Michael went to the fairgrounds to inquire about the model playset. Michael gave the man selling the playset his business card and email, but he has not heard back from him and the salesman did not have any of his own cards available to give Michael. Presently, Michael expressed his concerns about liability issues regarding a playset and suggested the town's lawyers be consulted. Bob Drew said he would bring it up with the selectmen.

E. Other:

1. Wrestling: Alan Eastman is stepping down as coach. Ron Pelkie is interested in coaching.
2. LR is losing Dan's Flooring as a sponsor. Michael just made a 4 year agreement with the Wicked Good Store to sponsor the "Wicked Good Warriors" girls' softball team. He also made a "handshake agreement" with the Stow Store to sponsor a team- details need to be ironed out.
3. New Baseball Benches: Dave reported that Roger at the Middle School, rather than FA students, would be the best person to contact about this project.
4. Poland Spring to Help VFW Purchase A.E.D.: Dave approached Poland Spring people regarding this project and meeting with the VFW. He said he would go to this meeting when it happens…no date set…

II. Old Business

A. Nominations for LRC seat: Voting tabled for next month's meeting though the following names were discussed: Crystal Drew, Gary Heroux and Diane Caracchiolo.

B. Other:

1. LR Membership: the committee had a discussion about increasing the number of members allowed on the board according to the by-laws. A motion was to change the by-laws to increase the membership up to 20 members

(using the procedure outlined in the by-laws to do so) while still maintaining 1 member from outside towns: Chatham, Stow, Stoneham and Sweden. Vote results: 8 in favor, 1 oppose.

2. Issues Brought to Committee by Tonight's Guests: the committee had a lengthy discussion about the issues brought to them by Lori and Chris. The committee discussed what should be LR's policy regarding tournament play in the future? This issue was tabled for next month's meeting. Also discussed was the idea of including in the list of expectations for LR coaches the specific number of games and tournaments the team is expected to play over the course of a season. Also, the LRC talked about the issue that parents may not feel as though their concerns are being addressed by LR. Michael said that every participant is given a "coach evaluation form" at the end of the season to fill out. But, this does not seem to be enough…
3. Cow Chip Bingo: Lori Bennett graciously offered this LOHD fundraiser to LR because her organization, the snowmobile club, no longer wants to do it. After some discussion about the logistics of this activity, the committee decided it would like to take over this fundraiser but cannot do so until next year due to time constraints. Linda volunteered to call Lori and relay this decision to her as Lori asked that LR let her know ASAP so that she could offer it to another organization if LR did not want it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.
Notes taken by Jackie Lounsbury