

**Somers Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**September 14, 2009**  
Kibbe Fuller Community Center

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**Present: JJ Wassmuth, Karen McGuane, Alicia Albert, Michelle Tingley, Anna Gagnon, Troy Lamontagne**

**Members Absent: Karen Murdoch**

**Non Members Present: Mike Provencher, Jennifer Charette, Bruce Urban**

**Audience: Bill McCloskey, Vinney Hollister, Dave Remenick, John Taylor**

- **I. Call To Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM
  
- **II. Minutes of Last Meeting** The Minutes of August 3, 2009 were read and accepted with no changes.
  
- III Coordinators Report**  
Camp went well, Slide was successful, no one caught on Day Camp theft. Reported on Programs... Tot soccer @ 40. New flyer went out.

**IV Parks Report**  
Field Paint – Paint is brighter and lasts longer. Was mixing 3 Gal H2O to 5 Gal Paint but now 2-5 Gal of H2O to . Vandalism at the park the day before school started. There was Graffiti all over the park and Bruce spent a day and a half cleaning and repainting. JJ will look into security cameras. Also discussed having an additional Town Employee come in to lock up park at night. Mike updated commission on trash at park. Things are better; teams are picking up. SSA purchased additional trash cans. This is making it more time consuming for Mike and Bruce based on location. Bruce and Hiway crew did clean up and did weeding around the park.

**V Audience:**  
Bill McCloskey wants field time for new U13 Baseball team not affiliated with Little League. They are under the CT Baseball Academy umbrella. The games would be on Saturdays. Team has tryouts. Players can also play on Little League juniors. Want players to commit to juniors to minimize conflict with Little League. There is a 35 Game season. Dbl Headers on Saturdays. Practice or scrimmage during the week. They would work around the Juniors schedule so all kids can play both. There are 11 time slots/wk. 4 on Saturday 4 on Sunday and 1 each weeknight. Bill would like

this to be a cooperative program so that everyone can play both, not a replacement program. Bill McCloskey says that the individual who runs the Juniors and Seniors is open to this proposal. All their games will not be at home. Some will be away as well. 80% of the players are Somers Boys.

John Taylor says that Little League could have a similar Travel Team but costs are high. Bill's group wants team because it is more competitive.

The new team requests utilization of fields and has liability insurance.

John Taylor feels this is premature. He feels it can wait until November or early Spring. John wants to wait until after Little League Board Elections to revisit this subject at a LL meeting. There was much disagreement between the parties on schedules. Both sides were defensive and argumentative. JJ Wassmuth asks John Taylor if the actual reason is that they are upset about the diminishing numbers in LL in the long run. JJ indicated that it is the commission's duty to judge whether or not there are overuse issues, etc. LL/Rock Cats need to take care of their internal issues themselves. Bill M needs a commitment on a field by Oct/Nov for the CT Academy of Baseball program. Audience left.

**VI New Business:** Commission discussion on the LL Rock cats. Karen recommends that any private team pays a fee to use fields. Rec commission discussed and will discuss further at a later date.

JJ Wassmuth put forth a Motion to allow the Rock Cats team to play on Junior field as requested pending permit submission and required documentation per recreation director.

Anna Gagnon Seconded

5 in favor 1 abstaining. Motion carried

Discussion began on the Positive Coaching Alliance.

Commission did go over the handout provided to Jen from Mark Murdoch and was very positive in regards to it. Alicia Albert went to this last year and said the turnout was very positive and that it was a great experience. Marks email did state that it was attended by majority of Lacrosse people and if it was put on by Rec Commission and put out to the associations with monetary support of Lacrosse perhaps we would get more participation from other associations. JJ felt this would be very beneficial and suggested we do find out more information regarding when it would begin and cost? Troy asked what the cost would be. We will get some more information from Mark as this does seem like something the commission is in favor of moving forward with.

There was discussion on what to do when Mike is shorthanded and down a machine etc. He stated that it is difficult to keep up even when not shorthanded. There was more talk on Trash and days it is done and potential of switching days, how it would affect the

weeks work or help it depending on season etc. Different ideas being discussed to help brainstorm ways to alleviate some pressure on Mike and Bruce.

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| <b>VII</b>  | <b>Old Business</b>   | None   |
| <b>VIII</b> | <b>Correspondence</b> | None   |
| <b>IX</b>   | <b>Adjournment</b>    | Alicia Motion to adjourn. Michele Tingley Second |
- Meeting adjourned 10:02 PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

JJ Wassmuth  
Chairwoman Somers Recreation Commission