

**Huxley Parks and Recreation Board Meeting
October 10, 2007**

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m. with Chairperson John Ronca calling roll.

Roll Call

John Ronca

Stacey Noe

Veronica McGee

Bill Whisler

Russ Jones

Mike Coles

City Staff: Josh Larsen

Rhiannon Hermann

Cory Shearer

Regrets: Traci Carney

Public: Karen Hadaway, Rod DeRues

John Ronca asked for approval of the minutes from last meeting. Coles motioned and McGee seconded. MCU

Rod DeRues gave a brief introduction about himself and his history with the City of Milton, WI and their full pad football program. The program in Milton has been in existence for about 14 years and has roughly 450 participants each year. Their program starts with 1st graders up to 8th grade. Milton schools do not have Jr. High sports programs run like the Ballard School District. Rod is hoping to start a full padded program for children in grades 5th-6th. Rod had the local support of Al Christian and Rob Drew and gave letters of support to Rhiannon who made copies for each board member to review. Rod strongly emphasized the importance of safety first and said that equipment would be replaced roughly every 2 years. He also made mention that the coaches will instruct the kids on how to properly block, run etc... The coaches would be volunteers who would be mentored by Coach Christian and his staff. Coaches, players and parents would be held accountable for their actions by the BYF board. All parties involved would need to sign a code of conduct and be held to this during the season. The coaches would also have background checks performed on them prior to coaching the participants. Registration fees would be kept as low as possible to give all those interested in the program a chance to play. The program is a non-profit organization, therefore would carry a minimum balance year to year and any extra money would be put back into the community. Rod has received permission from the Milton board to use their by laws and also any forms necessary for the Ballard program. Rod made note that he was not asking the Parks and Rec board for volunteers but for their support in the program. He also made mention that he would like to help promote the Parks and Rec flag football program for those who do not wish to participate in the full pad program. Russ Jones asked if the 5th and 6th graders would compete together or separate and the response was it would depend on what league we joined and how they played. There are restrictions as far as weight and ball handling which could also determine who plays with whom. John Ronca asked what the price of new pads/equipment would be. Rod did not know at this time but was guessing that the price per child would be roughly \$45.00. Russ Jones also asked if any parents to date had approached him and 1 had approached him. He has done no solicitation and is planning on making an announcement of the program at the home football on October 19. Russ Jones

also made mention of watching the Nevada Jr. High students play against Ballard this season and saw a difference in the “talent”. The Jr. High students from Nevada are the first set of kids to come up from their padded football program. Stacey Noe asked about the cost of insurance and Rod said that insurance could be purchased at a minimal price from a national insurance agency. Josh Larsen wondered if flag football and a padded football program could co-exist. Rod replied that it is too early to tell. Rod left the meeting with the support of the board.

Josh Larsen presented the board with the fitness instructors new contracts that would take effect November 1, 2007. He also made mention the option of allowing citizens to try a fitness class one time for \$5.00. Jones, seconded by Coles, made motion. Motion passed with the note that the \$5.00 will be applied to the total cost of the class should the citizen decide to join after trying it out. MCU.

Josh also brought to the boards’ attention that the Recreation department would like to shut off the vending room to students during the lunch hours and help promote more healthy choices in eating. He also said the department is trying to put more healthy snack choices in the both the “candy” and beverage machines.

Josh made mention of the different options of memberships the Recreation department has available to current or potential members and would like to see a few more options available. These options included a monthly membership, walking track pass longer than 3 months and also a senior citizen daily pass fee.

Josh told the board that he will be having a meeting on Friday, October 12, 2007 to discuss the option of the Parks and Recreation Department starting a recycling program at the center and the possibility of teaming up with the school as well. John Ronca told him to get in touch with him on possible service projects through the school.

Rhiannon updated the board on the progress for Lil’ Cubs Corner. She told them it had been proposed to council on Tuesday, October 9 and that Council had requested more research to be done to ensure that all basis are covered that are recommended by not only the insurance company but also the Iowa Code and DHS handbook.

Josh talked with the board about the option of Jeff Schott from the University of Iowa working with the board in setting up a strategic plan for the city parks. Josh explained the 2 options available and after discussion it was decided to get together as a board and come up with a plan together without assistance from outside groups.

Due to parent teacher conferences the next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 6:00 pm with a work session to follow regular meeting.

The board elected John Ronca as chair and Veronica McGee as secretary.

Motion to adjourn by Ronca, seconded by Jones. MCU.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Rhiannon Hermann.