



Athletic Committee
Monday, October 16, 2017
6:00 PM
Conference Room 11130
316 N. Academy Street, Cary Town Hall, Cary, NC
27513

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Adoption of Agenda**
- 3. Adoption of Minutes**
 - 3.1 Athletic Committee - Committee Meeting - Sep 18, 2017 6:00 PM**
- 4. Public Speaks Out**
- 5. Reports**
 - 5.1 PRCR Advisory Board Update**
 - 5.2 Teen Council Report**
 - 5.3 Staff Report**
- 6. New Business**
 - 6.1 Committee Focus for 2018**
 - 6.2 Staff Topics**
 - 6.3 Committee Topics**
 - 6.4 Priorities**
 - 6.5 2018 Committee Meeting Schedule**
- 7. Updates and Discussions**
 - 7.1 Spring and Summer sports recap**
 - 7.2 Fall sports update**
- 8. Upcoming Events**
 - 8.1 Winter Basketball Special Request Meeting**
 - 8.2 Winter Basketball Team Placements**
- 9. Adjourn**

Please contact Tracey Hedgepeth with any questions about this agenda. The e-mail address is <mailto:tracey.hedgpeth@townofcary.org> and the phone number is (919) 460-4062

The Town of Cary is committed to providing all citizens with the opportunity to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person with a disability who needs an auxiliary aid or service in order to participate in any meeting may contact the Town Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The email address is virginia.johnson@townofcary.org; the phone number is (919) 469-4011; the TDD number is (919) 469-4012.



Athletic Committee

Cary Town Hall, Conference Room 11130

Cary, NC 27513

www.townofcary.org

Committee Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Ted Jeffcoate

Monday, September 18, 2017

6:00 PM

Conference Room 11130

1. Call to Order - Dan Evarrs, Chair

A. Roll Call

Staff Present –Ted Jeffcoate, Dwayne Jones, Doug McRaney, Aubrey Clayton

Doug McRaney, Director of the Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources department was introduced to the committee. Doug gave a brief overview of the department's gold medal award for excellence, thanked the committee for their contributions and gave each member a gold medal.

Dan Evarrs: Present, John Ackiss: Absent, Rick Jones: Absent, James Mickle: Present, Marie Swepson: Present, John Mosser: Absent, Reid Stines: Present, Walker Reagan: Present, John Stauffer: Absent, Jody Zeugner: Present, Revanth Bobba: Present.

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Adoption of Minutes - May 15, 2017

1. Monday, May 15, 2017

4. Public Speaks Out

Marshall Merims, Town of Cary volunteer baseball coach attended the meeting as an observer.

5. Reports

A. PRCR Advisory Board Update

Dan commended staff for changes implemented to the 2017 fall adult softball league. In response to declining participation numbers in adult softball staff sought feedback from participants. Based on that feedback the department offered leagues that played at Thomas Brooks Park only. Dan cited a 22% increase in participation due to this change.

B. Teen Council Update / Report

Revanth Bobba reported that Teen Council recently had their monthly meeting and saw a presentation on Teen Council. There are currently 980 members. Dwayne Jones reported on several changes to the Teen Council including the need to expand their volunteer opportunities beyond Town of Cary events to county wide and occasionally out of county events to get the members enough hours. New members to the council must be Cary residents, non residents who are already members will continue to serve.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Sep 18, 2017 6:00 PM (Adoption of Minutes)

C. Staff - Ted Jeffcoate

No report

6. New Business**A. Update committee members on the full range of efforts the PRCR Department takes to provide the best Sports program to Town of Cary citizens that we can.**

Ted Jeffcoate gave a Powerpoint presentation to update committee members on the full range of efforts the PRCR Department takes to provide the best Sports program to Town of Cary citizens. Prior to the presentation, Dwayne Jones gave a brief history of the origin and vetting of the four pillars of the Sports program, Sportsmanship, Participation, Skill Development and Fun.

Sportsmanship

All Town of Cary youth sports coaches must complete a two part NAYS certification process that includes sportsmanship components.

There is a pre-season coaches meeting for each sports league season at which staff reviews sportsmanship and league information with the coaches and answers any questions they may have. Staff also sends out reminder emails to coaches as issues arise during the season.

Comments: Could there be more meetings throughout the season?

Sportsmanship Awards – Each season, a player from each team (ages 11 & up) receives a sportsmanship award. These awards are voted on by the players on the team and awarded to players that exhibited good sportsmanship throughout the season. A coach from each league is also presented with a sportsmanship award which is voted on by coaches in that league. This process gives coaches another opportunity to discuss sportsmanship with their players and provides recognition for players who practice good sportsmanship on a consistent basis.

Comments: Why limit these award to age 11 & up, could younger leagues be included?

Coaches Handbook/Policies and procedures, etc. Ted gave a brief overview of the coach's handbook and information that is provided related to sportsmanship and the expectations of the department. (Coaches Code of Conduct, Coaches Code of Ethics, Athletic Program Discipline Policy, Youth Athletic Program Disciplinary Guidelines).

Comments: Walker Reagan stated that he has all his parents complete the parent's pledge form in the handbook prior to the season. This gives the team and the parents a clear understanding of the expectations for behavior during the season.

Should staff/coaches seek to further educate parents about sportsmanship through a parents meeting or parents handbook?

Walker Reagan left the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Participation

All Town of Cary youth sports leagues have mandatory playing time rules. These rules ensure that all players get to participate approximately half of each game, in some cases more depending on the number of players present.

Relief for Recreation Fund – This is the scholarship fund for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources programs. Funds are raised through events several times a year and allow children who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in Town of Cary programs and leagues. Comments: Dan Evarrs reported that staff and the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department are seeking was to expand the program, including a re-branding of the program name to raise awareness as demand has exceeded funds available.

Zone Registration and Scheduling

The winter youth basketball program went to a zone based registration system for the 2015-16 season and is now entering its third season with the new process. It has been overwhelmingly popular with participants as it allows them to practice and play at facilities closer to where they live. This also increases participation as players are more likely to attend practices and games that are close by. The zone registration process was introduced to spring baseball & softball in 2017 for the younger age groups (age 5-10), however participants in those age groups were already being assigned to teams somewhat geographically. The zone process may be expanded to other leagues, but there could be challenges with the smaller leagues.

New Sports and Programs

Staff often receives informal feedback/requests for new sports programs from citizens and are open to new programming. Examples are Cricket, Lacrosse, Pickleball, etc. Programming for Pickleball has increased with all three Cary community centers offering open gym Pickleball and Bond Park offering clinics and tournaments. There are also two existing sets of outdoor Pickleball courts and two new parks in the design phase that may include more. Comments:

There needs to be a more formalized process for gathering feedback from citizens on the type of sports programs they would like to see. This would provide data to justify adding new programs.

Skill Development

League rules are modified by age group. A pitch count rule has been put into place for the fall baseball league which limits the number of pitches a player may throw in a game/time frame. This replaces the former rule which limited the number of innings a player could pitch.

Comments: Dan Evarrs felt that players should only be allowed to pitch two innings, giving more players the opportunity to pitch.

Coach Clinic

A pre-season coach clinic is scheduled for each league/sport. The clinic provides information to the coaches on how to run a practice, age appropriate drills and skills that should be taught. Staff reported that the participation rate is not high for these clinics. That could be attributed to coach availability as the clinic is only offered once.

Comments: Jody Zeugner has attended both the basketball and baseball coach clinics and found

them very helpful.
More promotion of NAYS site as resource to coaches.

How can we draw more coaches to these clinics? Offer incentives, more dates, on-line options/resources
Can we leverage experienced former and currently coaches to provide their knowledge to new/less experienced coaches?

Player Clinics

A free players clinic is usually offered for baseball, softball and basketball. Teams attend the clinics together with their coach to learn skills.

Practice Time

Teams typically have two practices per week in pre-season and one practice per week after games begin with some opportunities for additional practices. This volume exceeds the other recreational sports programs in the area.

Web Resources

NAYS and Assist Basketball websites are given to coaches

Alphabasketball is an on-line resource that has recently been made available to the coaches in Fall youth basketball. Coaches receive weekly emails with practice plans, age appropriate skills that should be taught and drills to teach those skills. The program may be expanded to other leagues, however it targets players 12 and younger.

Fun

Leagues for ages 5-10 are considered instructional, standings and scores are not kept and there is no post season tournament. They are intended to provide a fun, low stress environment for kids to learn how to play the game. Leagues for ages 11 and up are considered recreational, standings and scores are kept and there is a post season tournament.

Comments/Points for discussion:

Participation numbers in youth baseball are down. Are we losing players to competitive leagues/travel teams? Can a recreational league be competitive? Can there be exceptions to instructional and recreational and what are the logistical challenges?

Dwayne Jones pointed out that we are filling a need for recreational baseball that would not otherwise be filled, while there are existing alternatives for players looking for a higher level of competition. Could the Town partner with some the competitive leagues/programs?

The team placement and draft processes are in place in the older leagues to help distribute players evenly and try to create balanced teams which makes the league more fun.

Conversations with high schools on how recreational leagues can support high school sports?

Is there a desire for sports leagues slightly below the commitment of travel team baseball that the Town can provide?

NAYS Assessment – Staff will provide more information to the committee on the NAYS standards and how our programs line up with those standards.

Need to get feedback from the community on what they want to see for the baseball program.

Possible future affiliation with a baseball organization such as Little League, Cal Ripken, Pony, etc. This could create excitement around post season play. There could be challenges with how the organization rules compare to the Town's.

B. Discuss how the Athletic Committee can provide more substantive contributions and "community guidance" on issues and questions faced by PRCR Athletics.

Participation Numbers

Participation numbers in youth baseball are down, youth softball and fall basketball are fairly steady while girls volleyball and winter youth basketball continue to grow. Girls volleyball is an example of a grassroots effort to create a new sports program and it has been successful. Participation numbers in winter basketball have grown due to the zone registration process. There is still room for growth in the Central and South zones, however the West has maxed out the available facilities. This zone cannot grow without new facilities.

Comments:

We need solid data to justify more facilities in the West and this needs to be brought to the attention of the Town Manager and Town Council.

We need more and better ways to make citizens aware of the programs that we offer.

Work with PE teachers at local schools to get the word out.

C. 2018 Athletic Committee schedule

Staff asked the committee feel they should meet more than three times per year. The committee felt that if there are topics and issues that staff needs feedback on they should meet. A meeting will be scheduled for October where there will be further discussion on the frequency of meetings for 2018 as well as potential agenda topics for those meetings.

7. Updates and Discussions

A. Spring and Summer Sports Recap

No report

B. Fall Sports Update

No report

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Identify opportunities for improvement for future focus and discussion

Challenges for Town Sports staff

Prioritizing topics

October 26

West Zone November 1 & 2 – Bond Park Community Center
Central Zone November 6 & 7 – Bond Park Community Center
South Zone November 6 & & - Middle Creek Community Center