

Town of Winterville

Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, January 27th at 6:30PM

Meeting called to order: 6:30 p.m.

Introduction: Jordan Shirley, Recreation Program Supervisor briefly reintroduced himself. He led the meeting due to the director attending the Town Vision's Meeting

Members Present: CJ Wanczyk Anthony Yocum, Randy Bowers, and Bill Richbourg

Members Absent: John Powell, Johnny Fleming, Rashana Carmon, Katrina Jones.
and Lindsay Price

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Anthony, 2nd by CJ, all in favor. Minutes passed.

Citizen Input: None

- Recap of All-Star Discussion:

The department is seeking guidance regarding the All-Stars process. Parents and coaches have inquired about the possibility of younger players playing up for All-Stars. As it stands, teams are based on the birth chart (9-year-olds play on the 9-year-old team, 10-year-olds play on the 10-year-old team). Some are asking if an 11-year-old could play on the 12-year-old All Star team. Jordan asked for feedback, and Anthony reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. He recalled some players opting out of All-Stars because they were not allowed to play up as they had hoped.

A suggestion was made to have two separate 9-10 teams (an A and B squad), without officially designating them as such or holding evaluations. Coaches would decide on team placements. The first-place coach would have the first pick. Anthony raised concerns that if a strong player wanted to play up, they might take the spot of a 10-year-old.

- All-Star Team Selection:

Mr. Bill inquired about how All-Star teams are selected. Randy clarified that players are chosen from the Cal Ripken league, breaking down the age groups for Mr. Bill. Anthony further explained the All-Star process, which occurs after the regular season. There was concern about one 11-year-old player possibly bumping a 12-year-old.

CJ asked if players trying out for the older team could still play on the team they are age-eligible for if they don't make the older team. Anthony and Randy provided a detailed explanation of the process to clarify how it works.

- Dual Chartering and League Structure:

A question arose about dual chartering and having two teams in both the Cal Ripken and Tar Heel leagues. The department can't field two teams per age group for Cal Ripken, but Tar Heel organizes teams for 9-10 and 11-12-year-olds. There was discussion about combining teams with both age groups and whether they should be sent to different leagues (Cal Ripken and Tar Heel). Anthony questioned whether the leagues are different or just conducted differently. Randy explained that Cal Ripken is the primary league, while Tar Heel offers more local games.

A suggestion was made to restrict players from playing up, ensuring they play within their age group. If a player does play up, they would be classified as that age group and could only make the All-Star team for that age. For example, if an 8-year-old plays in the 9-10 league, they could qualify for the 9-year-old All-Star team but would then have to play as a 10-year-old the next year. The eligibility would reset each year, and players would not be allowed to play down if they do not make the All-Star team in a given year. This change is pending approval, but the general idea is that players should stay in their age group once they are classified.

II. New Business

- New Interns for Spring:

We have two new interns, Alex Smith and Kaleb Peoples, who will begin next week. It will be a busy week with the Daddy-Daughter Dance and baseball evaluations.

- Daddy-Daughter Dance

A question was raised about why the Daddy-Daughter Dance is held on both Thursday and Friday and not Friday and Saturday. It was explained that after COVID, the event was split into two nights, and Thursday and Friday. Both nights sell out quickly, and there has been no notable difference in attendance between the two nights.

- Updates on Accessibility:

Jordan provided an overview of the department's working with River & Associates on the updating the dugouts at Ruritan and McLawhorn fields to be ADA. And the viewing shelter that will be placed where the now mulch area is.

- MP Planning Update:

Staff met with McGill and Mosely to discuss exterior and interior of the future MP Center and the next steps for the MP project, which will be located on Chapman Street.

III. Recreation Programs & Maintenance Updates

- Recreation Programs:

- Golden Age Seniors: December we played with having the prizes in gift bags. The seniors seemed to like the mystery of what they would be picking as their prize. This approach has been well-received. Mr. Bill inquired if bingo is the main activity for them and Jordan confirmed it is a monthly activity unless a trip is scheduled. But normally meet twice a month with one of the activities being Bingo.

- Senior Fitness Activities: Mr. Bill suggested offering fitness activities like walks or hikes for seniors. Jordan noted that the department tries to take seniors to local parks when the weather warms up and is open to further suggestions. Additionally, there are walking trails available.
- Upcoming Events: January and February activities for seniors include Valentine's Day arts and crafts, along with bingo. Winterville PD has participated in many of these events to interact with and get to know the seniors.
- Maintenance Updates:
The maintenance staff has been checking the parks and addressing any needed repairs. During the winter season, water fountains have been winterized.

IV. Upcoming Programs & Registration

- T-ball/Pee Wee Registration:
Registration opens on February 9th. Pee Wee will transition to coach-pitch instead of using a pitching machine this season. Jordan explained that T-ball is for ages 4-5, and Pee Wee is for ages 5-6, both being co-ed.
- Girls Flag Football Clinic:
A clinic will be held to gauge interest from girls in flag football, with potential for a partnership to explore the program further in the future.
- Basic Skills Baseball Clinic:
The clinic will be held on February 8th and will be run by Next Level Training staff.
- PCC Softball Update:
PCC Softball has practiced and played at our complex but has decided to relocate to Sarah Law due to scheduling difficulties as our programs grow.

IV. Future Agenda Items

Official All-Star vote

V. Announcements

Basic Skills Baseball Clinic-February 8th

Baseball Opening Day Ceremony-March 7th

Girls Flag Football Clinic March 21st & March 22nd

Easter Eggstravaganza- March 21st

ADJOURN- 7:52

NEXT RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 24TH AT 6:30 PM