

## Park and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2007

Town of Somerset  
P.O. Box 248  
Somerset, WI 54025-0248 USA

## Park and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

### Special Meeting with Representatives from Youth Athletic Programs:

The meeting was called to order May 14, 2007 at approx. 7:00 pm.

**Present:** Denise Gunderson, Paul Boerger, Virginia Gaynor, Bill Lawson, Lenny Germain, John Gunther

**Absent:** Michael Helgeson, Kevin Anez

**Public:** Peter Johnson, Jenny LaVentuc, Bob Campbell, Brad Nenee, Kym Dunleap, Dan Vanasse, Kristi Scott, Tim Waalen, Ron Roser (signed roster, others may have been present)

### Discussion Areas, Activities and Actions:

1. **Soccer (Peter Johnson, Kim Dunleap, Tim Waalen, Kristi Scott)**
  - a. Representatives spoke of the importance of organized sports for children's development and for the community.
  - b. Representatives urged the village and town to collaborate on parks and recreation.
  - c. Program is growing strongly.
    - i. 2005 – 307 players
    - ii. 2006 – 327 players
    - iii. 2007 – 350 players
    - iv. About 30% kids are from village, 70% from town, and a few are from nearby communities
  - d. Program serves JK-8<sup>th</sup> grade, 4-14 year-old children. Boys and girls play together through middle school. In other communities, soccer is co-ed until 10 or 12 years old.
  - e. Youth soccer is held at St. Annes, on 5 fields. All games are on Saturday morning.
  - f. Spring season is 6 weeks long and is done before softball starts. Fall season is 6 weeks long.
  - g. Fees are \$25 for 6 weeks. In addition participants purchase shin guards, black shorts, t-shirts. (New Richmond charges \$150.)
  - h. There are several volunteer coaches:
    - i. 2005 – 32
    - ii. 2006 – 40
    - iii. 2007 – 45
  - i. There is a youth referee program for kids 12-15. Kids pay \$100 for training clinic and are paid per game as youth referees.

- j. Size of fields:
  - i. JK: 25 x 25 yards
  - ii. 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>: 30 x 45 yards
  - iii. 3-4: 35 x 60 yards
  - iv. 5-6: 45 x 80 yards (our biggest)
  - v. 50 x 100 yards is regulation
  - vi. Highschool has 65 x 110 yard field
  - vii. Soccer association would like at least one field that is 55 x 100 yards
- k. Soccer programs in nearby communities:
  - i. Hudson, 2006, through 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 550 kids
  - ii. New Richmond, 2006, through 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 500 kids
  - iii. Amery, Clear Lake, Clayton, 2006, through 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 500 kids
- l. High school has girls soccer, they play on football field in spring, no field available for them in fall
- m. High school does not have boys soccer but may start a program
- 2. **Baseball-Somerset Area Youth Baseball (Jenny LaVentuc)**
  - a. This is a non-profit organization.
  - b. 2007 – 300 kids, had to turn down 8 kids
  - c. 16 in-house teams
  - d. 9 traveling teams
  - e. 4-14 years old
  - f. Mid-March through August 1, May and June for youngest kids
  - g. Fees:
    - i. T-ball: \$30
    - ii. In-house: \$30 + \$10
    - iii. Travel: \$65 + 10
  - h. All the teams have business sponsors
  - i. Fields available:
    - i. 2 at village park
    - ii. 4 at St. Annes
    - iii. 1 at Christ Luthern
    - iv. 1 at middle school
    - v. 3 at Larry Forrest
- 3. **Baseball-Somerset Youth Sports (Bob Campbell)**
  - a. 2007: 28 kids
  - b. April through July
  - c. \$65 fee
  - d. Each year spend around \$3600 on equipment and \$3600 on umpires
- 4. **Baseball-Traveling (Dan Vanasse)**
  - a. 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - b. 2 games per week
  - c. In 2006 had 4 home games, 8 or 9 away games. Would have more home games if had more fields.
  - d. Field sizes:
    - i. 30' (minimum), 40', 60', 90' (highschool)
    - ii. Fence: 180-200' for 12 year-olds, 270-280', up to 320'+
- 5. **Somerset Mad Dogs** (youth from Somerset, New Richmond, Hudson)

- a. These are 14-15 year-olds playing on a private field
- 6. Softball (Ron Roser)**
  - a. Program serves 100 girls, 3-8<sup>th</sup> grade, on 6 teams
  - b. 2 fields at Larry Forrest Park are used
  - c. Games are Monday through Thursday, 1 or 2 fields each night
  - d. ½ the games are here, ½ the games are away,
  - e. Program runs May, June, July
  - f. Fees are \$45, plus additional if get uniform
  - g. Group does fundraisers (meat raffle) and buys own equipment
  - h. Softball fields could be shared with little kids baseball fields
- 7. Basketball**
  - a. No basketball leagues use the parks.
- 8. Summary discussion.**
  - a. Shortage of fields is a huge issue for youth athletics in Somerset.
  - b. Estimate from representatives on needs for fields:
    - i. Soccer: 10 fields, 15-20 acres
    - ii. Baseball: 4 fields, 8-12 acres, 300' fence for largest
    - iii. 3-5 acres for parking, concessions, restrooms
  - c. Soccer association would probably be willing to fundraise to help towards cost of fields.
  - d. Baseball association is a non-profit group. If the town had land, they may be interested in leasing land for \$1/year and putting the fields in and maintaining them.
  - e. Groups may be interesting in creating a Youth Sports Council, especially if the town has a park with fields for each group.
  - f. Groups are interested in working with Parks Committee to make sure playing fields become a reality in the town.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m

Submitted by:  
Virginia Gaynor, Somerset Parks Committee