

# **Recreation Association Steering Committee (RASC)**

Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2015

## **Opening**

The fifth meeting of the Recreation Association Steering Committee (RASC) was called to order at 6:40pm on Thursday, August 20, 2015 in the Landscape Management Building by Eddy Hendricks.

## **Present**

Terry Lambert for Don Marcari (GN), Amber Wood-Bailey (KG), Lou Rossero for Mike Kirby (WKYA), Eddy Hendricks (SM/CWA), Sherry Hawkins (SM/CWA), Bob Trahan (ODO)

## **Introductions**

While not a typical practice, introductions took place for the benefit of alternate members present.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes from July 16, 2015 were approved.

## **Old Business**

*Note: This was mostly clarification for alternate members present.*

## Play-Up Eligibility

Discussion: Child can play-up no more than one age level (prerequisite: 5 & 6 year olds can move up to 8U after completing one session/one year of 6U instruction)

## Financials/Operating Budgets

Discussion: Eddy briefly explained the tiered service direct cost spreadsheet for current core sports along with the chart that reflected per participant and per team registration fees to meet 125% cost recover which was distributed at the July meeting.

## **New Business**

*Note: Since a quorum was not present, New Business was discussed, but no action was taken.*

### Survey Status

Discussion: Sherry suggested that while a draft has been completed, it may be necessary to table any decision at this time. City-Wide Athletics recently received administrative direction (mainly driven by budget) to proceed with the necessary steps to facilitate a change in the way we do business. Justifications for this move were explained (child development, greater available resources, improved consistency, standard fees, tax subsidies may not continue, etc). RASC was developed to gain feedback from Recreation Associations relative to methodologies and best practices in order to design programs. Recreation Associations will remain essential, but roles may change. Following the NAYS model, programs offered at a reduced expense that focus on skill development will yield more children participating at higher skill levels.

### Budget Realities

Discussion: City-Wide Athletics must cut costs in order to remain solvent, and needs the support of the Recreation Associations to do so. In order to correct issues now (change structure/decrease expenses), we're considering all options: fewer officials (certain sports and ages), PT staff serving as officials, decreasing number of league games, increasing weeknight games effectively decreasing Saturday games (custodial overtime), etc. Other cost cutting ideas should be brought to the table. Future funding/resource allocation may only exist at certain levels of service. For example, out-of-season sports may be required to pay for lights.

### Partnership Agreement

Discussion: Eddy explained that one option we are considering is requiring Associations to offer all 4 core sports (football, volleyball, basketball, softball) or partner with another Association that does. Once teams have filled, Associations would send interested individuals to neighboring areas.

Recommendation: Bob posed the question, how do we package this to those Associations (not on the RASC)? While RASC members share discussion topics with their own Associations, we may need to bring everyone together to explain current realities and future action plans. Cuts will occur that will require a shift in resources. Sherry explained original target cuts came in at 2-6%, but were adjusted to 6-10%...which will have a significant impact on our programs/services.

### Coaches training and numbers

Discussion: Attendance at NYSCA coaches' trainings is dismal. 2015 Football (23 City teams, only 2 coaches attended); 2015 Softball (20 City teams, 0 coaches attended). We need to identify effective ways to invest in our coaches. Amber feels keeping parents/children involved starts with us (as Coordinators), and shared information about 10 and under/11 and up volleyball clinics she is offering. Successes can be found in Associations with involved/dedicated coordinators, but it's not universal. U6 program structure fosters skill development in a fun environment, with parents actively involved in learning skills/teaching methods...this may help develop more knowledgeable coaches.

### **Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Recap August 20 meeting (including administrative direction to proceed with changing the way we do business)
- Discuss any new ideas brought forth to change structure/decrease expenses
- Discuss how the committee will present the proposed changes to the "all-association" membership

### **Homework**

Continue to discuss ideas, identify the best way to bring everyone together (general population). Restructure and market in the current budget climate.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm by Eddy. The next general meeting will be at 6:30pm on Thursday, September 17, in the large conference room at Landscape Management.