**Lafayette Recreation Committee**

**November 2, 2016 – Meeting Minutes**

Attending: Launa Glover, Haley Ireland, Gordie Johnk, Meghan McPhaul, John Hines, Kim Cowles, Kris Kappler (and Adam Boyer around 6:45)

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

Members voted to approve **October 6, 2016 meeting minutes** as written.

Discussion about multiple parent complaints related to children playing only a few minutes during the boys’ 5th/6th grade Halloween Cup games. Coach Bruce McLaren has received emails on this issue from at least one family and has discussed these with Gordie (committee members have not yet seen emails), sibling from same family approached Bruce and voiced her displeasure after the final Halloween Cup game, Meghan fielded a call from another upset parent (who followed the proper outlined sequence by speaking with the coach first – outside of the game day – then approaching a committee member), and Gordie heard one child who loves soccer announce he doesn’t want to play after sitting on the bench for the tournament. Bruce has told committee members he gave kids the option, and they all decided they wanted to go for the Cup win.

Committee referred to the Lafayette Recreation coaches manual, which includes this: “All coaches are encouraged to practice the philosophy by providing each child the full right to play.  There is a quote, I'd rather play and lose than sit on the bench and win. Participants have clearly demonstrated that playing is more important than winning. Sitting on the bench does not meet our objectives. Studies conducted by the National Association for Youth Sports report that when children were asked whether they would prefer to be on a winning team and sit on the bench or be on a losing team and play regularly, nearly 90% of the children chose to play and lose.”

… And to the coaches Code of Ethics, which includes:

“Equal opportunity does not translate into equal playing time as many factors are considered:

* Dedication and hard work get rewarded more than skill level.
* A successful team is one in which every member improves as a player and a person.
* Winning is important, however, it is not the most important part of success; it is only part of the

journey.”

Committee will draft a letter to Bruce thanking him for his dedication to coaching and asking him to follow the guidelines in the future. Meghan will follow up with parent who approached her to let him know committee has discussed the issue.

Brief discussion about **staff evals** and revising the format of these. Launa and John will begin working on this.

**Halloween Cup** was a success. Having two tents was hugely helpful considering the weather, great participation/commitment from committee members and community, kudos to Kim and Kris for orchestrating it all. Net profit for the event was $7,056.37, which will be added to the fundraising fund.

Discussion on **purchasing the Blood Seafood tent** we borrowed for the Halloween Cup. Cost is $2,000, plus undetermined amount for purchasing additional poles and stakes. Kim said it takes 5 people 3-4 hours to set up, so if we use the tent, it would likely stay up all summer, resulting in related wear and tear. Alternate option could be to build a pavilion, with electricity included. Could cost $30,000-$50,000. Kim will recruit Andrea Price (who has expressed interest in this project) and will talk with Thad Presby and Shad Lawton about cost to pour the slab and build a pavilion. There is money in the fundraising fund to cover much of the expense. (Not sure of exact number at this point.)

Preliminary look at current year’s **budget**. Kim will send updated numbers as soon as she has them from Sally and will send a proposed 2017 budget for review prior to the December meeting. Committee asked Kim to look into pricing for a baseball outfield fence at the school field.

Kris reported on **basketball**. All teams have coaches (one with a background check in progress, all others good to go) and practice schedules set. Kris will meet with coaches and has meeting next week with other north country programs to work on scheduling of games and tourneys.

**Tri-town agreement** has been approved by lawyer and is with three boards of selectmen awaiting approval.

**Next meeting**: Dec. 1, 2016

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Meghan McPhaul