

HOLLIS BROOKLINE YOUTH BASKETBALL MEETING

May 24, 2016

Attending:

Board Ryan Kelley, David Leclerc, Janet Lussier, Jennifer Razzaboni, Tim Stack, Kristy Trombley

Community Scott Cheyne, Carrie Colbert, Alicia Costa, Jen Coutu, Cormac Cullen, Brian Follensbee, Joe Kifer, Carolyn Reichard, Daragh Taylor

Unavailable: Tori Thomas, Instructional Director

Location: Hollis Social Library Meeting Room

There were many items on the agenda but the group agreed that determining the structure for the basketball program should take priority.

I. Basketball Club Structure

The Board needs to determine if the merged basketball program will run independently or exist under the Hollis Recreation umbrella. There was lengthy conversation for the advantages and disadvantages to both options. Dave summarized his meeting with the Hollis Recreation Committee on May 11th.

Advantages to being under the Hollis Recreation umbrella, as described at the Rec. meeting, include the following:

- Hollis Recreation fully supports a parent-run Board that manages the basketball program.
- The Board would be responsible for all communication with parents, referees, MSBL, etc.
- The Board would maintain control over referees assigned, selection of equipment providers, etc.
- The merged basketball program would have its own bank account separate from the current Brookline and Hollis basketball accounts.
- The Board would determine registration fees based on expenses.
- The Board would have the authority to spend funds available in the account as deemed appropriate.
- All parent feedback and/or questions would be answered directly by the Board. Should a potential reputational or legal matter arise, Hollis Rec. would need to get involved.
- Board Gym Coordinator would provide the weekly gym schedule to Hollis Rec., who would flow to the schools as a prioritized Hollis Rec. requirement. Hollis Rec. would provide the season start/end dates and day-to-day time availability to the Gym Coordinator and the Gym Coordinator would complete the schedule.
- The basketball program would be covered under the Hollis Rec. insurance policy.
- We could utilize the current Hollis Rec. website for registration.
- Hollis Recreation would be a "safety net" for children interested in playing basketball should the parent run Board disband.

Concerns for the basketball program being part of the Hollis Recreation umbrella are as follows:

- The possibility of losing gym time as an independent program is of the utmost concern. Hollis Rec. currently has first priority for gym time in Hollis. They could not promise that an independent, parent-run basketball program would have the priority for gym time even though the program is entirely made up of our community children. Hollis Rec. cannot hand over gym priority to the basketball program. We

would have to get in line behind Hollis Rec. and there is a possibility that the basketball program would lose the current status quo gym slots in Hollis.

- Communication and response time through Hollis Recreation has sometimes taken longer than expected. The Board feels strongly that prompt communication and feedback are extremely important.
- The Board would like to have signature authority on the basketball checking account to help facilitate a quick turnaround for all expenses. Hollis Rec., the Board President and the Board Treasurer should all have complete access to the account. Currently, Hollis Rec. would like to be responsible for cutting all checks. As a third party to the process, it could create a slower turnaround and a potential bottleneck for getting things done.
- Will the Hollis Rec. insurance policy cover Brookline gyms, as well as the current men's basketball program that pays insurance fees to Brookline basketball, to use the Brookline gyms?
- When the Brookline basketball program met with its constituents, they agreed to only merge with Hollis basketball if the program was to form as an independent club. However, not all information was available when that decision was made at the Brookline basketball meeting. It is likely that once all information is communicated, constituents would understand any final decision. In addition, the communities are receiving regular communication from the parent Board with complete transparency and are invited to ask questions and raise any concerns.

Further points include the Brookline checking account, with a balance of \$7,770, and the Hollis Recreation basketball account, with a balance of \$3,200, will not be comingled with the new, merged account. Said funds would be available to the merged basketball program if/when additional expenses are required that are not covered by the current year registration funds.

Ryan also reminded the group that if the decision is to exist under the umbrella of Hollis Recreation and, for whatever reason it does not work out, the program has the opportunity to change the structure next year. However, if we decide to be independent, and for whatever reason we lose allocated gym time, it would be a significant challenge to the program and our goal of creating an improved basketball experience for all.

The group agreed that more information obtained through the Board should be gathered to make a final decision. The following action items will be addressed before our next meeting:

1. Janet will meet with HUES to determine the process for allocating gym time. Would our merged program serving over 300 youth basketball players in our community, get priority so that we maintain our current gym allocation?
2. Janet / Ryan: if the program runs as independent, will we have to pay for gym time in Hollis?
3. Tim will follow up with the Hollis Rec. regarding our request to have a separate checking account that is not comingled with other recreation programs. Additionally, we would like to have signing authority over the checking account. We would like to request access be granted to Hollis Rec., the Board President, and the Board Treasurer to maintain a good checks and balances system. Additionally, we would like to request that the Treasurer be responsible for paying all expenses through the basketball checking account and not be required to have Hollis Rec. review/approve payments. Full access to the account should ensure complete transparency.
4. Tim will also inquire about the Hollis Rec. insurance coverage. Will it include Brookline gyms, as well as the Brookline men's basketball league? If we decide to be under the Hollis Rec. umbrella will we need to contribute any money towards insurance coverage/premiums for the merged program? In the past, insurance expenses have not been part of the Hollis registration fees. Will the merged program need to include any insurance expenses when we set registration fees?
5. We need to confirm that we are able to use whoever we want for refs, buying equipment, etc.
6. We also need to confirm all feedback and questions will go directly through the Board without first going into the Hollis Rec. queue.

II. Marketing

Joe Kifer distributed a draft of a mailer to be distributed to Brookline and Hollis schools in June.

III. Offline Activity

On May 28th, the Board emailed a listing of “Local Summer Basketball Camp/Clinic Opportunities” to the combined distribution list of Hollis and Brookline registrants from the 2015 – 2016 basketball season. This listing will be combined with the final mailer being developed by Joe Kifer, which will be distributed in our schools to reach potential new basketball families.

Additionally, a collection of coaches from last year’s Hollis and Brookline Travel basketball programs have stepped up to form summer league teams within Nashua Sports Academy’s Youth Summer Basketball League, (YSBL). Between six and seven teams are forming with room possibly still available for 7th/8th grade girls. The number of teams has been mainly limited by coaching availability. As a result, not all levels are able to field teams for our first summer as a combined program. With that said, there were only four teams that participated last year so we are very encouraged by the progress.

These two activities closed an action from the April 12th Board meeting.

IV. Next Meeting Agenda

The next Board meeting will be Friday, June 10th, at 7:00pm at the Hollis Town Hall Community Room (2nd floor, top of the stairs). The agenda will include the following:

1. Vote whether to be an independent program or exist under the Hollis Rec. umbrella.
2. Name the newly-merged basketball program.
3. Identify administrative action required, (i.e., website renewals, insurance policy, EIN, bank account, registering with the State).
4. Identify timelines and action required leading up to the next season as they relate to the merger of the programs. Jenn has provided an initial draft that was distributed at the meeting.
5. Year-end marketing materials to be solidified for school distribution before June 16th.