

Youth Athletics Advisory Board
March 6, 2013

Board Members Present:

Glen Waldman, Jackie Kellogg, Florencia Manero, and Victor Balestra joined the meeting in progress.

The meeting was called to order by Glen Waldman at 7:06 PM.

The Board moved to discuss the basketball program as the first item on the agenda. Bill Stevens addressed the Board. He stated he had three items to present. His son participated for five years and he coached for three. Bill reviewed the SAAP issues regarding player audit due to past violations. Bill reviewed the unregistered players who participated in the past and the unbalanced teams it created. Bill stated that this year three auditors reviewed the basketball program this year using the rosters provided. If the players present are equal to or less than the roster, there is no further action taken at that time. If there is a discrepancy, the investigator looks into the score book to identify the unregistered player and then files a report the Disciplinary Committee.

The Board and Bill discussed this process and how it applies for other sports. The audit did find an unregistered player in the 12-14 year basketball league and a report is being filed with the Disciplinary Committee by the end of the week. Bill stated that volunteers are needed for the future.

Bill spoke to the Board regarding the online and hand-out survey reports provided for the meeting. Bill discussed the two processes between the two surveys and felt there were some discrepancies. Bill presented the different results from the two surveys. The Board discussed the surveys. The Board had recommended a hand-out survey be provided for the basketball program to increase feedback from participants. Staff described the process that resulted in the two survey results being provided to the Board. The online and hand-out survey results were totaled separately and those results were provided to the Board. Bill recommended abolishing the hand-out survey and proceeding with only the online survey. The Board discussed that any feedback is good and that the hand-out survey provided twice as many respondents than online survey.

Bill proceeded to provide the Board with a program overview for the basketball season. Bill stated that the program manager, CBF, provided four coaches that coached who coached eleven of the sixteen teams. Two volunteer coaches that coached three teams, and one paid citizen coach that coached three teams. Bill reviewed the CBF contract and stated that there were four areas where he felt they did not meet their obligations. The program manager did not send weekly emails, provide a pre-season clinic, conduct a player draft according to the approved procedures, and provide

information regarding any issues to the Village Staff. Bill described an incident where the program manager did not address and issues. The parent had to contact the Village's athletic department who subsequently addressed the issue. In addition, the contractor did not write articles and provided them to the Islanders News as described in the contract. Bill discussed that one of the coaches was a convicted felon. Bill discussed that the contractor sent emails about outside program despite the fact that he had never participated in there off the Key programs; therefore, they were using the email list to promote their off island programs.

Bill recommended that a citizen program manager be hired and that the contractors be better managed by the Village staff.

Maida Bignon addressed the Board regarding the basketball program. He son has participated for six or seven years and never had a complaint until this year. She felt the coached were unmotivated and there was no communication regarding games and practice. She discussed that games on Friday night created difficulty. She felt that her coach was apathetic and the program manager. She stated that she did attempt to discuss this with the on-site program manager. She stated that the contact information was not provided. She stated that hiring someone local may make a huge difference. She stated that the coach who was a convicted felon who was arrested and this was shocking. She stated that another coach was fired due to an inappropriate text.

Staff stated that a background check was completed on the coach. Staff has been in contact with the police department at the City of South Miami to determine why this individual's criminal history did not show up on the background check. To date no response has been provided.

The Board discussed the difficulties sometimes finding local people with the time available to be involved with the athletic programs.

Jen Pema addressed the Board. She has participated in the program for five years and started with the developmental league. She feels the developmental league is much better now than it was years ago. She helped work with the developmental league kids to improve their skills. Jen relayed her experience with the draft not being a true blind draft this year. She stated that there is not enough time for the program with such a short season. Jen stated that her motivation is to help the kids improve skills and sportsmanship and not just winning, which is the case for some of the coaches. Jen stated that the draft started out as a blind draft then changed as it proceeded. Jen was against ten kids on a team due to the difficulty in playing all ten in a game. She also felt that a draft factor should have been height due to the nature of basketball. Jen also felt the age should be a draft factor since it affects the outcome. She felt that surveys should evaluate the coaches as well. Jen felt that this program should be parent run and this would provide more clinics, and eventually a travel program. She mentioned making the season longer by adding lights at the KBCS.

The Board discussed the volunteer coaches. There were two volunteer coaches out of 140 families participating. Jen felt that there may be a need for paid coaches, but they key people could be local. She did not receive communication from the program manager and felt the Eddie on staff did most of the work. All the emails she received were from Eddie. She felt that four paid coaches would cover the program. Bill stated that a strong program manager makes or break the season successful. Jackie discussed her experience in the program with her team not being adequately drafted. Bill stated that a draft is extremely important aspect. Jackie stated that people left or became injured and her team was left with five players. Victor discussed the mix of a 4th and 6th graders makes it difficult. The U10-U12 division was the issue discussed by the board. The Board discussed this age gap. Jen stated that the rules should dictate how long each child plays. Victor stated that this could be done by periods as is this case with volleyball.

Staff described the Letter of Interested Parties process done in the past that would be put into place open this process to see who may be interested in the basketball program management duties. Staff stated that this process could be followed again, with the proposals being reviewed by the YAAB for a recommendation.

Glen Waldman made a motion that the contract with the current manager not be renewed and that it be opened up to both outside operations and those within the Village and promoted so responses may be evaluated. The motion was seconded by Victor Balestra, and passed unanimously.

Staff discussed the length of schedule issue. Staff reported that this is felt by other sports as well. The volleyball program ends one day and then the basketball program begins the right after. There is no time between the programs for additional time. The Board discussed the logistics with courts not being available and the costs impacts with trying to extend the program.

The Board discussed the post season evaluation process. The Board discussed the number of children on a team issue. The Board discussed a Disciplinary Committee needing another appointment. It was agreed that Board members would forward recommendations to staff, which would then be provided to Glen for discussion at an upcoming meeting.

The Board discussed the next proposed meeting for the soccer program review and open house. The board discussed the contract renewal process for soccer and the logo.

Staff reported on the bids being opened for the MAST academy field.

The Board discussed the start of the baseball season and the fact that there will be a softball team this year.

The meeting was adjourned.