Minutes for Guilford Basketball League Meeting, 4/30/15, Leete Room, Guilford Community Center, 8:00pm-9:00pm

Board Members Present: Bruce Freeman, Phil Goldberg, Heather Grattan, Damien Lynch, Bernadette LaFRance, Enrique Rivera, Christian Appleman

**Agenda Minutes**

President Bruce Freeman opened the meeting and outlined the basic league objectives and discussion points for the summer – a working copy handout was distributed with preliminary dates for the upcoming 2015-2016 GBL season. Some dates have question marks next to them, but by next meeting most of the tentative dates should be finalized.

Rec League Commissioner Heather Grattan had no Rec League news items. Heather is transitioning out of her position, Scott Markovich and Alex Weekes will be taking over her responsibilities. Communication and “hands-on” here is key, keeping a pulse on all aspects of the Rec season and addressing issues promptly also key. Discussion regarding chain of command should be discussed and advanced since a majority of Rec League problems, no matter how big or small, go right to the president. “No-show for Rec Games Saturday and then expect to play Travel Games Sunday” will be discussed throughout the summer, need to start thinking about how to address this particular issue.

Phil Goldberg discussed the 3-on-3 program – Do dates need to be altered/changed? Is the program too long? 3-on-3 program runs approximately ten weeks: started after Thanksgiving, a couple of play dates in December, then all of January and February. Phil felt the league should run to the end of February. In his opinion, the idea of mixing two grades was fine, expanding to older grade levels may require another block of time(s). Two grades together is fine, more than that would be a problem.

Damien Lynch discussed the registration process and the GBL website. Some discussion ensued about how to deal with folks who do not pay their league fees during the registration process. This year, registrants who do not pay up front will be immediately wait-listed but they will not be deleted from the system. Damien felt putting a code of conduct document that could be accessed during registration would be easy to do. He will work on it soon but foresees lots of flexibility and should be customer-friendly. The question of “if you didn’t pay last year’s fee can you still register this year?” was discussed. Question and options to be considered for later. Maybe have the option for the non-paying applicant to call one of three GBL board members so applicant can feel comfortable speaking to a board member that they know. It was agreed the board member should be easy to reach. Need to talk with Finance Manager Jeff Ulrich about how to proceed with folks who don’t pay and ultimately the board needs to come up with a comfortable plan for next season that is fair but a little tougher, as registrants should not be punished for inability to pay.

Coach Education Manager Christian Appleman (along with Marty Kellaher) discussed the plans for clinics with new Rec Coaches and Travel Coaches. Possible use of four nights of gym time before the GBL season begins. Bruce stated there needs to be an action plan for more clarity about Sept/Oct/Nov time frame for coaches orientation and also about content – should be ironed out over the next few months. Reserving gym time for this is key early. Marty brought up involving as many people as possible (high school coaches, etc.) to be a part of these clinics for both the Rec Coaches and Travel Coaches clinics. Perhaps another session for travel coaches with travel referees as well. Clinics should not just cover the basketball intent of our rules, but need to emphasize points regarding decorum on bench, etc. Tactics also from GHS Girls Basketball Coach Bob Welch or someone like that to show out-of-bounds plays, philosophical points, etc. Marty also suggested a “rule of the week” via email blast for all coaches. Christian and Marty will come up with exact format and logistics, where and when they can happen (gym size?). Maybe travel coaches first. Rec Coaches meetings should take place after Rec evaluations.

Bernadette LaFrance – introduced by Bruce as the new GBL Equipment/Facilities Manager, replacing Doug Danaher. She is the “uniform person” now. She stated she will be getting a “walk-through” about the job responsibilities throughout the summer, which Doug has already started to do. Everyone welcomed Bernadette aboard and offered assistance where needed.

Travel Program Coordinator Enrique Rivera provided a GSBL update as well as the travel coach selection planning points. The GSBL is set up as a Shoreline League. Our league is sandwiched between two or three other geographically large leagues which creates fewer towns from which to draw opponents. Therefore coaches should strictly adhere to the GSBL schedule and add other non-conference games as necessary so that kids have ample opportunity to play against quality competition. Travel coaches are highly encouraged to play more games outside of mandatory league schedule. Regarding travel coach selection, the GBL will assign two/three/four members to interview new travel coaches looking to get involved. These interviews must be documented, the search committee must vet coaches and ask tough questions before problems arise. Ideas were pitched for Enrique to compile a database for travel coaches to contact for games.

Damien Lynch discussed the 2015 summer events, including the Skillz and Drillz camps. Damien stated the advertisement for camp just went out, and the registration button was not on camp website yet; maybe a cache memory problem but can be resolved.

There was a procedural motion to confirm GBL board members to their new offices, which were affirmed without objection: Damien Lynch is the new Vice President; Enrique Rivera confirmed as Travel Coordinator, Christian Appleman is the new Secretary, Bernadette LaFrance confirmed as Equipment Manager. Damien and Bruce will continue to coordinate the registration process, but assistance will be required here in the near future, perhaps by a new person looking to get involved in GBL. Damien will contact some folks who have expressed interest but have not yet committed.