

FMYS/FMDY December 5th, 2023

Start of meeting: 6:15

12 people in attendance:

Missy Bearden, Joey Burke, Tim Bearden, Shayla Riley, Brittani Webb, Chris Lucas, Anthony Lucas, Alex Carillo, Craig Winds, Richard Green, Austin Helms, Megan Zahara,

Megan Z discussed her vision for Fort Meade Youth Sports and what it means for Fort Meade Dixie Youth.

- Key take away:
 - One Umbrella for FMYS
 - Every sport would be under FMYS with a program director (Director of Baseball, Director of Softball, Director of Cheer, Director of Football) and each director would have their “department heads”--Player agent, concession stand manager, field manager....etc
 - One finance director working with every Director
 - A main finance account with multiple “Sub” account for each “Department”
 - Based on a solid foundation, utilizing Christlike principles to build youth in sports and their walk with Christ backed by Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Megan explained the results of a survey that was put out to gather information that can help us best suit our families in Fort Meade. The survey is attached to this document.

It was open to discussion on “where do we go from here?” for youth sports in Fort Meade.

The survey suggested that all sports be linked to one place. The attendees agreed that this was set in motion in 2018 when the website www.fortmeadeyouthsports.com was created. The room agreed to utilize the Fort Meade Dixie Youth entity in the meantime of creating a legal nonprofit named “Fort Meade Youth Sports”. Bylaws will need to be created, as well as the Articles of Incorporation and other documents needed.

Football was discussed at length about what we have in place and what we can do to help bring Fort Meade football and Miner pride back. We discussed the available leagues in the area and what could be a benefit of joining one of those leagues in the future. Craig Winds will be looking into Polk County Football League and Flag Football information

Ultimately we tabled all football discussions to get baseball and softball off the ground and running. Our timeline for baseball and softball is fastly closing and we need to open registration.

Flag football was approved as a stepping stone to tackle football as many local area football programs do the same. Many programs have a flag season prior to the start of football and summer conditioning programs.

We will have a future meeting to get more information on football and which program will be the best for Fort Meade.

Baseball/Softball affiliation was discussed as Dixie Youth Softball is no longer a viable option for our girls in town. Babe Ruth and Little League both offer both Baseball and Softball. It was discussed that other local leagues like Bartow, Mulberry, and Eagle Lake are affiliated with Babe Ruth. It was also discussed dropping an affiliation and rebuilding a city league before going to a competing level.

We set a price of \$75 for baseball and softball signups. These fees will cover the cost of uniforms, insurance, affiliation dues, county fees. This is the going rate for other leagues in the area.

We want to offer a dual signup of baseball/softball with flag football for \$100

Chris Lucas moved to vote FMYS director/interim Megan Zahara. This was seconded by Anthony Lucas

Chris Lucas moved to vote Austin Helms as the Baseball/Softball director, this was seconded by Megan Zahara

Brittani Webb offered her services as Softball Liaison

Shayla Riley offered to help with clerical work

Tim Bearden would like to work on developing a 15u Baseball team for students that do not make the JV Baseball team or for young JV baseball players that do not get playing time.

Craig Winds will be working on gathering information for football prior to the next meeting

Austin Helms will be working on affiliation and getting the baseball/softball teams established.

Megan Zahara will work on rebuilding the website to cover multiple sports and registration for Baseball/Softball/Flag Football

At the end of the meeting, Megan shared the support of the local FCA program that covers South Polk, Hardee, and Highlands County. The program is willing to support FMYS in all sports. It was discussed that FCA would help bring in camps and other programs for FMYS. The room did not oppose this move.

The group would like to get information about sign ups out at the parade on Saturday, while the entire city is downtown.

Football director is TBD as we would like to meet with other stakeholders who share the same passion to see football succeed. Many people in the room were there for both baseball/softball and football/cheer.

The next meeting will be posted on social media after the holidays to help discuss our next move as a group.

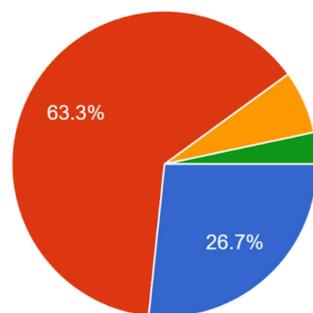
Meeting adjourned 7:38

Survey Results

The survey was open for a week with multiple text and instant facebook messages sent to players around Fort Meade. Only 31 people responded. Facebook is the only means of communication at this time, as there is no other way to reach the community.

Sports in Fort Meade....

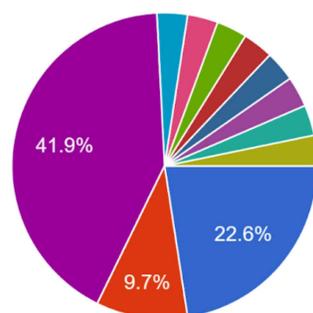
30 responses



- Keep Fort Meade Dixie Youth and Football/Cheer separate from each other
- I would like to have one website and app to use for all sports in Fort Meade
- I don't care, I just want my kid to play!
- I need more information before I decide

Check your involvement in youth sports?

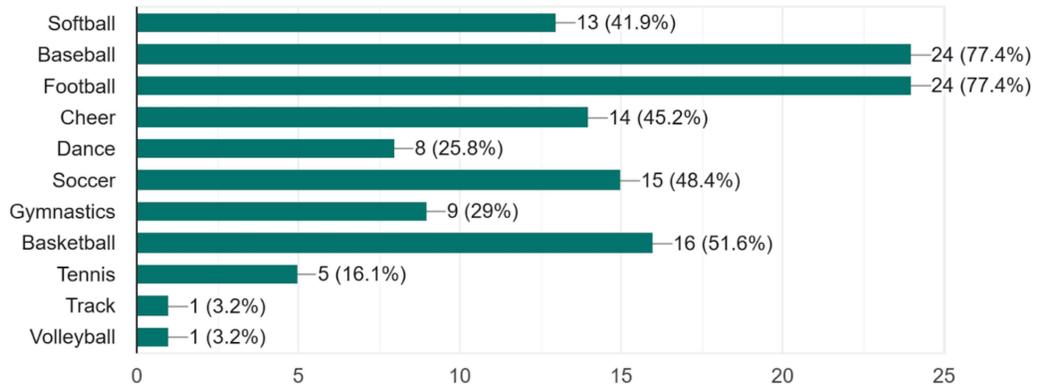
31 responses



- My kid plays out of town
- We play one sport
- We don't have time
- We don't have the money to play
- We are committed to any sport available
- Travel ball
- We do dance, gymnastics, tumbling o...
- Play baseball in town but had to go ou...

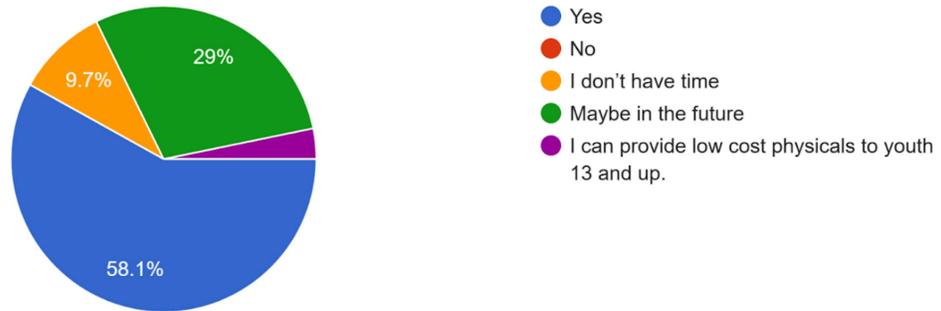
We are interested in...(check all that apply)

31 responses



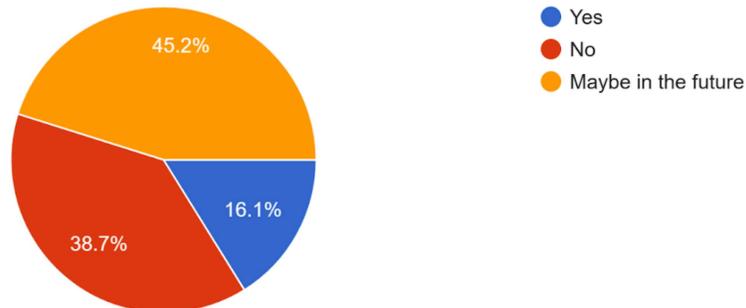
I am interested in helping this program grow!

31 responses



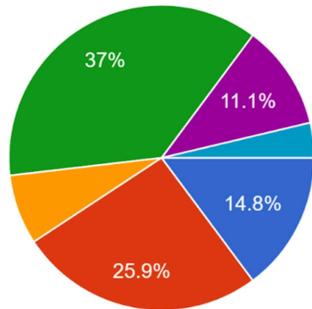
I would be willing to be a coach!

31 responses



Regarding football...

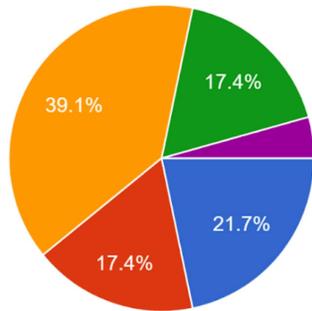
27 responses



- I want to be part of a competitive league
- I want to be part of a small league that plays local teams
- I want to play flag and just learn the game
- I would participate in all three
- I want to bring pop warner back like we had in the 90's

How old is your child?

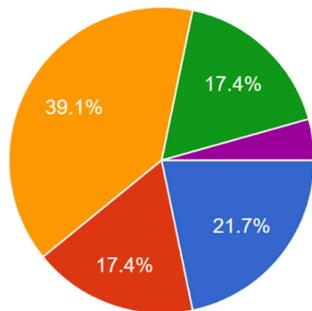
23 responses



- 3-5
- 5-7
- 8-10
- 11-13
- 14 and older

How old is your child?

23 responses



- 3-5
- 5-7
- 8-10
- 11-13
- 14 and older

List the ages of your children if you have multiple children! 23 responses

6 year old and 8 year old

4 9 10 12

6 and 11

5 13 15

14

2,7,10

no kids

3,7,9

17, 12

5, 8

6 and 8

6 and 9

13,10,8,5

6, 11

14 and 15

7&8

13 years old / 7 year old

7 and 8

3, 7, 9

2 1/2

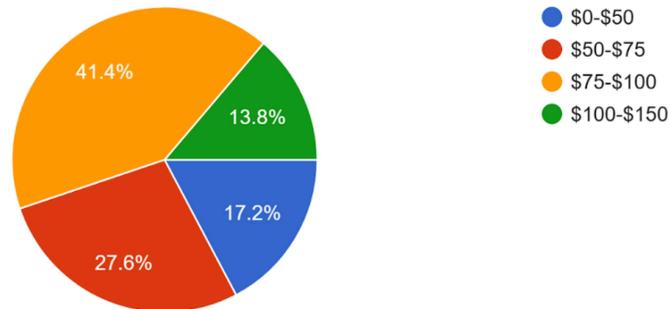
8,10,13

None

16, 8 & 6

How much would you pay to play in a season?

29 responses



Do you have any suggestions on how we can help rebuild the love for our Miners and youth sports in our town? 12 responses

Make cost affordable

Get the county more involved at the County's baseball complex... Bring back pop warner. football starts during baseball allstars.... it needs to start in August/September like regular football season

Better accommodations/facilities

Treat FM kids like priority. Give kids chances and not just coaches kids and family. Invest in the fields and cages. I'm an artist and I'll paint our logo on them.

Getting information out to the town sooner. A lot of kids play outside of town because they have sign ups earlier in other towns.

There is so much I could say to answer that question, but I am going to keep it simple and say the answer is in the question...Love! In order to truly teach these kids how to have love for our Miner Pride is to teach them to love the game ,to love your team ,love our community, and to just love people in general! God is Love! Love God and love your neighbor, that is the commandment Jesus gave us! That is the foundation on which we build!!

Don't play favorites let all players play regardless of skill.

Parents get more involved

Help sponsor kids

Get sponsorships to provide scholarships to kids that can't afford to play.

Consistency, effort into a program, rules for all to follow, an actual board with more than just 3-5 people so the 3-5 aren't overwhelmed or looked upon as showing favoritism, people being actually involved

You have to have the youth! You have to have coaches that are dedicated! You have to have a board that backs the coaches and the Mission of the Fort Meade Program as a whole!

What is keeping you from being more involved?^{16 responses}

Time

Lack of transportation

Busy schedule

Busy

work

Both parents work late afternoons and father has a health issue that tires him out quickly. Me, the Mom works for the Post Office and I never know when I get off work. Father did coach our oldest son from 4 to 12 in Football and Baseball years ago but can no longer do that. Our daughter is a HS cheerleader and she volunteers in the concession stand.

Nothing. I have helped coach tball for a couple of years now

Just moved back to Fort Meade last year, the love for my hometown brought me back! looking to get involved with the community and help be the change that I want to see in our beautiful hometown and bring back the Miner Pride that has been missing for some time!

Work 2 jobs and have gymnastics.

nothing

We don't have the support

Involved in high school cheer and softball plus work

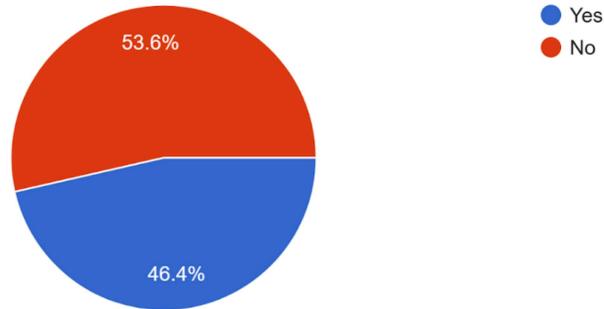
Drama

Years past drama and some scheduling

My health at this time

Will you be able to attend the meeting on December 5th?

28 responses



End Results:

29 responses



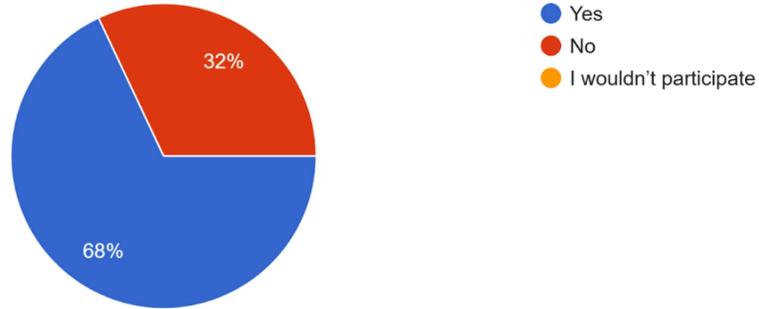
Would you be willing to travel out of town to compete on occasions?

28 responses



Would being part of a program such as a Fellowship of Christian Athletes increase your willingness to participate?

25 responses



If your child is active in sports.... Do you like playing games during the week or the weekend?

31 responses

