

Johnson Recreation Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2018

Members Present: Kerri O'Halloran, Hillary Hoag, Agata Bal, Laura Whitehill, Michelle Boyden, Nat Kinney, Heather Rodriguez

Non-Members Present: Tim Sullivan, Lois Fry, Casey Romero, Jessica Bickford

Minutes of April 4 meeting were approved.

Smoke Free Parks:

Jessica Bickford introduced a number of studies in favor of smoke free parks and some ordinances and policies that other Vermont towns have adopted. Healthy Lamoille County is offering to purchase non-smoking signs for our parks.

Casey Romero stated that she is not in favor of the Skate Park being smoke free. Some parents are smokers and they want to be present to supervise their kids while they use the Skate Park. Casey doesn't think it's reasonable to ban an otherwise legal product.

Jessica noted that the town's facility use form states that users may not smoke in town parks.

Heather said that she does not want the responsibility of enforcing the policy. She's concerned that she will get phone calls from people upset about other park users breaking the smoking rules.

Michelle suggested a designated smoking area within a park

Lois noted that Tuesday Night Live requests that people not smoke at the event but there is no policy or ordinance to back it up.

Meredith listened into the conversation via phone and stated at the end that she would relay the conversation to the Village Trustees for discussion on smoking policies in Village owned properties.

After this conversation, Jessica, Casey and Lois left. And Meredith hung up the phone.

Field Use:

Kerri stated that she's gotten a lot of Facility Use Requests for Mill Park and she's feeling overwhelmed by the amount of work it takes to schedule and mediate scheduling conflicts between different users. Heather and Hilary agree that the workload has been more than the committee can sustain.

Nat said that we need to re-evaluate the roles and responsibilities of the Rec Committee, the Town Administrator and the Selectboard. He asked the group what, specifically, they want their role to be.

Tim introduced a number of additional considerations regarding park use. He said that not all user groups are equal. First priority should be given to Johnson Recreation activities. Second priority to local residents. Also, the scheduling happens at different times for spring soccer and baseball, making it difficult to plan activities in tandem.

Kerri asked if certain user groups should be charged a fee for using the fields. It was suggested that a fee is charged for filing a Facilities Use request.

Agata asked if the Recreation Co-coordinator could do this work. We agreed to check with Brian regarding the status of filling this position.

The committee agreed that we could give Brian Story a schedule of what fields we will need and when and we can enter that information on a Google calendar. We can make our scheduling commitments 6 months in advance. And Brian can be responsible for taking care of all facility use requests. Nat will propose this to Brian.

We agreed to meet on May 17th at 5pm to review current budget status and to review how the budget works.

Heather said that the current plug-in for our event scheduler no longer works. She asked if we could spend \$250 for to replace the scheduler with a new one that works. The committee agreed.

Heather introduced us to "Sports Engine" – which is a robust tool for processing event registrations for recreation programs. We processed 596 different registrations in the 2017-2018 budget year. Great Big Graphics no longer does web support. If something were to happen to our current site, we do not have any support. The cost of Sports Engine is \$650 per year. She said it's a very good tool and would save us a significant amount of time. It would take time to migrate to this new system. We agreed to look into this for the future.

We agreed to hold the Memorial Day fun run. Nat will coordinate with committee members to divide up the tasks.

Field Repair: Jason should be finished working on the minor league field this week. Laura asked if we could spend \$160 on a 'drag mat' which would help to maintain the baseball fields. We agreed unanimously.

There are a number of field maintenance needs that Nat agreed to discuss with Brian Story.

We agreed that we could benefit from having a uniform deposit. We need to work with Rosemary to see how this could work.

Next meeting: May 17th at 5:00PM.