

Johnson Sk8Park & Bike Track Committee Meeting Draft Minutes for Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Present were: Cornelius Murphy, Casey Romero, Howard Romero and Richie Bowen (via phone). Also present: Jon Girard. All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Committee reorganization prior to the meeting, to elect a Chair for 2015. Cornelius nominated Casey as Chair; seconded by Richie. No other nominations; and Casey was elected as Chair.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:05.

2. Minutes of December 10, 2014: Howard moved to accept the minutes as written. Approved by consensus.

3. Current Expenses & Cash Balance Report: Casey reported year-end balance of \$10,402. We got \$500 from Concept 2 and could earn another \$5-600 for facility rental from the Round Hearth inline skater camp. There are no current expenses.

4. Laraway Report (including Summer Program dates): Cornelius reported the new Americorp employee, Hannah Bober, started about 2 weeks ago; paperwork is massive. Laraway will install a new parking lot and do a building renovation in August, and will make some small improvements to the playground. Their summer program will run from July 3 – Aug. 5, so they can shelter our Camp kids (week of Aug. 10) in case of severe weather. They can also provide the tent again. Potential work crews: 3 from Backpack Program, 6 from the School. Each crew has about 10-15 members (adults + kids). They will choose work assignments in the summer; some crews could work in the Park if kids choose our site.

5. Project: Completion, Concrete Work & Records Richie reported that Jeff & Pierre are available to work full-time the last 2 weeks in June. He figures to finish feature & install railings will take about 2 weeks. There is enough metal on hand to do railings, he'd need up to \$200 for additional material. After discussion, consensus was that we needed to complete the feature ASAP. Skaters will be all over the concrete, and there are safety concerns. (Here, Casey reported Greg's strong opinion that finishing it was a top priority.). Estimate for completing work was \$4500, plus the \$200 for railings. Howard moved that we use funds on hand to do the work as soon as possible. Seconded and passed. Richie will contact Jeff & Pierre and relay info right away re: their availability. He has not started on work diary but has photos and will be getting more from Jeff & Pierre. Photos plus cost info and work notes will tell the story.

Budget: Outstanding & Projected Expenses Discussed previously.

Fundraising If we are not doing the Kickstarter to finish the feature, it will be re-designed for another purpose. Additional concrete features seem like a natural goal. We will discuss in May.

Site: Security & Season Opening: Re: security, Howard & Casey need to work more with the trail camera. Re: opening, we need to see how much clean-up needs to be done. Richie will not be in Johnson this summer, except to finish the feature. Cornelius noted that Ben Waterman will work w/tractor on the Community garden, and Laraway may be involved. That will result in an improved garden site, and possibly more adults in the Park.

Committee Member Resignation: Mike McLaughlin has resigned due to work conflicts. We need to find another biker. Committee members will help get the word out. Casey will put notice on Front Porch Forum.

Summer Intern position: Casey looked at the VT Youth Development requirements, also Internships at Johnson State, and feels those programs have more requirements and other goals to be a fit with our summer job. We discuss publicizing the job at JSC and Front Porch Forum, and possibly the high school. Cornelius thought some Laraway staffers might be interested, depending on hours & schedule. Key hours we need coverage are in the afternoon, maybe 3-6 p.m., and about 15 hours/week. Casey will write a job description and circulate for edits/changes.

Other Business: Cornelius described a long-range goal he is exploring: developing a winter recreation trail along the river at Laraway and adjoining properties (including the Park). He'd like Laraway to invest in maintenance equipment, which would serve current needs as well. He spoke with Marc Gilbertson at LUHS who encouraged the idea; he felt the trail could sell monthly membership passes. There are many advantages to having people using the Park in the winter. From Johnson's point of view, this land use fits with Town's Recreation Plan. Consensus was, great idea.

Adjourn: Cornelius moved to adjourn at 5:55. Seconded & passed.