

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

Present:

Committee Members: Casey Romero, Howard Romero, Rick Aupperlee (via Zoom), George Swanson (via Zoom), James Whitehill (via Zoom), Greg Fatigate (via Zoom)

Others: Lisa Crews, Tom Breese, Randall Ingalls

1. Call to Order

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Draft Minutes of February 9, 2022 Meeting

Howard moved and James seconded to approve the minutes of February 9, 2022. The minutes were approved by consensus.

3. Financial Update

Casey said she paid Donna for taking minutes and bought some cardstock paper for signs.

4. Recreation Coordinator's Report

Lisa said baseball has started. She is trying to get on the village trustee agenda for Monday to pursue Act 250 permitting for multi-use trails off Lendway Lane. Planning for trails is in the very early stages. The Rec Committee is doing summer planning. Anyone with ideas for the parks for summer should email her.

James said Joey Handy is interested in helping to host a skate competition or jam session at the skatepark. He has some sponsors willing to pitch in. Casey said she and Lisa talked yesterday about potential events for the skatepark.

Tom Breese asked if it is true that the skatepark has a clinic in summer for kids. Lisa said we have tried to get kids to come down and have mentorship from older people using the park, who could give them tips and tricks and encouragement. Casey said we did successful bike clinics prior to COVID. We hope to be able to do that this summer. There will be another Sk8 the Arts camp this summer. It is a program that offers a combination of skateboarding and art. She will send information to Tom.

Casey said we were thinking of some kind of spring cleanup party. James said spring cleanup should include using shovels to touch up the bike trails. Casey said we may be able to get some of the people who are going to be working at the Sk8 the Arts camp for a fun event and possibly for spring cleanup.

There was a question about whether there would be live music for the event James described. James said that was what Joey had in mind. It would be like a street jam, with people skating and judges. Joey said he would be willing to MC for us. There could be a skateboard game, maybe a high ollie competition. It might be around a two-hour event. Casey said with the electric hookup and the covering outside the shed we have had music before. That should work fine.

Randy Ingalls said he has heard other skaters talk about being interested in a pump track for skateboarders in an area of the pump track that was flooded, closer to the river. Casey asked if it would be paved. Randy said yes; it would be like the bike pump track, but for skateboarding. Greg said we could possibly pave the existing track. People could also ride bikes on a paved pump track. He would love a paved pump track. James agreed. He added that there has been a recent explosion of paved pump tracks around the world created by a company called Velosolutions. They build a lot of tracks on a grant basis. They make high-end tracks that last a long time. He will send a link and we can continue this discussion.

5. Laraway Report

George said hopefully if things go the way the government is planning Laraway will have a full summer program, and students may be available to help with skatepark work. They are starting to sugar now. Their greenhouse is being used. They have plant starts going. Rick said he sent an email today to Dennis and Dave about storm sheltering at Laraway for Sk8 the Arts kids. He thinks the yurt is a good option. It is just a question of timing. Casey asked if she could get the dimensions of the yurt. She thinks she has been told that those yurts are lightning-proof but she would need to know for sure. George said the inside is approximately 400 sq. ft. Rick said Laraway is going to have its first high school graduate of 2022 next week.

6. Planning, Priorities in Context of FY22 and Approved FY23 Budgets

Casey said she thinks we can cover reasonable expenses for events before June 30, as well as stipends for coaches and others. The mini ramp is in bad shape. We will have to assess its condition soon. We have a preliminary design and cost estimate for extending our concrete feature to the west, which would eliminate the need for the mini ramp. We don't have the money to pull that off but we are getting closer to having enough as matching funds to apply for a state grant sometime in the next calendar year.

Lisa asked where we ended up with paving. Casey said if the town can do it, it will be done at no cost to us. If they are able to repave our whole asphalt surface some items would need to be moved first. It is highly possible that we could get the skatepark repaved this coming season. Greg asked if we would need to move the features on the sides off to the side. Casey said she doesn't know yet. Greg said if they are going to be adding a skim coat of asphalt over the existing asphalt, that could lead to a transitional problem where the concrete meets the pavement and where the pavement meets all the quarter pipes. Casey said she and the highway department foreman, and ideally Greg, will need to meet and discuss this.

7. Seasonal Employee(s) and/or Contracted Work for 2022

Casey said what she and Lisa have talked about so far is having some combination of a part-time contracted employee for specific tasks, depending on the capabilities and talents of whoever we hire and also contracting with people for coaching and other types of work. Lisa said we need a park custodian and skate and bike mentors and coaches. Casey said she had a conversation with Andrew Lafrenz at NVU. He will reach out to students and graduates he knows and when we are ready to put an ad out for employment he will circulate that to students. The people who are doing the Sk8 the Arts camp said they can help us get the word out. She thinks we will be ready to advertise in about a month.

8. Public Input

Tom said he is happy to help out with some things like maintenance, building or clearing overgrowth from the bike tracks. He built a lot of ramps in the past. He has a weed whacker and tools.

9. Other Business

Casey asked about meeting in person vs. meeting by Zoom. James said meeting by Zoom would be great for him. George said Zoom is working well for him but he could show up in person if using Zoom is inconvenient. Lisa proposed meeting at the skatepark in summer. Rick said he would be able to meet in person in the summer.

10. Adjourn

Howard moved to adjourn at 6:13 p.m., George seconded and the motion was passed.