

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2022

Present:

Committee Members: Casey Romero, James Whitehill (via Zoom), Rick Aupperlee (via Zoom)

Others: David Ellerbee

Absent: George Swanson, Greg Fatigate, Howard Romero

There was not a quorum but those present started an informal meeting at 5:52.

Casey said expenses for the last month were \$2,932. Some of that expense will be offset by revenue from the Sk8 the Arts camp.

An application has been submitted for a Green Mountain Fund grant and Casey has started work on an application for a larger State Recreation Facilities Grant, which will be submitted in early September.

James and Greg met with Pierre Hall at the skatepark to talk about long term planning. James said they talked about some features it would be nice to build, including a concrete pathway going toward the far end of the park. They discussed the concept of expanding the park out to the sides of the current asphalt. There is a lot of space to do that. They talked about continuing the linear flow of the park but also having areas where people can pop out of the park. Because the park is in a floodplain we have to build on top of the ground. Maybe we could use the built-up area as a drop-in to the bike area. The goal is to have people be able to skate or ride to all parts of the park without havng to get off their board, bike or scooter.

David Ellerbee, the new town recreation coordinator, introduced himself. He said he loves working with kids and developing programs for them. He looks forward to working with this committee. Casey said David stopped by the Sk8 the Arts camp during the spray paint art project. He has an idea of bringing in some NVU students who are art oriented and might want to do a project or competition. David said his idea is an open competition that will allow artists to develop a painting or portrait to put on display at the skatepark. We could invite the public and give the artists a chance to talk about their art. It would be another way to create a positive atmosphere. James said he loves the idea. If we get more sanctioned and well-respected art we will probably start to see less “garbage” graffiti. David suggested that we also try to think of ways to allow adults to express themselves.

Rick said yesterday Laraway wrapped up its summer session. They had a carnival on Monday. They will be on break until August 22, then staff will have in-service days, then August 29 will be the first day of school. In September Laraway will be putting on a 50th anniversary open house. Rick described Laraway’s programs and services to David. Casey also described Rick and George’s work at Laraway.

Casey said one of Laraway’s Foote Brook resident clients participated in the Sk8 the Arts camp and also did some volunteer work for the skatepark earlier in the summer. He is interested in doing a spraypaint art project at the park and Casey told the counselor that would be okay as long as it was only on the skateboard features and that Laraway staff approved the content.

Casey had previously sent out pictures of the new rules sign. She asked for reactions and comments. Rick said he thinks it looks great. James agreed. Casey said she wondered if we should make the text about respecting your park and your neighbors more noticeable. James agreed that would be a good idea. Casey said she will follow up on that and get another draft, which will be shown to committee members.

Casey said the current sign is printed on coated metal. This one is going to be printed on a membrane and mounted on a rigid surface. She asked about removing stickers and graffiti and Great Big Graphics said it can be done. There are chemicals that can be used. James asked about putting plexiglass over it. Casey said that would be expensive but we can always add it later. That is something that was previously discussed. Let's put it back in the conversation.

David asked if anyone would be interested in the Sk8 the Arts camp being extended into June and July. Casey said that particular camp is entirely funded by River Arts. They wouldn't have the capacity to do an extension, but we want to do camps and programs of our own.

James asked about the status of the Go Fund Me. Casey said she got access to the account. Next she has to get Rosemary to set it up so funds can be sent from GoFundMe to us. She will try to get to it this week.

The meeting ended at 6:18.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED