

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING/REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ZOOM  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2022

**Present:**

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

Others: Dean Locke, Ian Hutchings

**Absent:** James Whitehill

**Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.**

**1. Call to Order**

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:40.

**2. Draft Minutes of October 12, 2022 Meeting**

**Howard moved to approve the minutes of October 12, 2022 as presented, Greg seconded and the motion was passed.**

**3. Directors' Orders & Financial Update / 'Crete Project Update / Employee Reports**

**Greg moved to accept the written reports that had been sent out regarding Expenses and Agenda Items #4 ('Crete Project Update) and #6 (Employee Reports). George seconded and the motion was passed.**

**4. VCF Grant Proposal for 2023 Programs**

Casey said there is a \$5K VCF grant we can apply for. It supports unforeseen and unbudgeted opportunities as well as problems. What came to mind for her was using the grant funds for programming. She and Ian had an initial conversation and came up with some programming ideas.

Ian said what they discussed focusing on for spring programming was an introduction to skateboarding for elementary age kids that would emphasize fellowship, recreation and community building. They talked about possibly using the Johnson Elementary School basketball court. There would be a weekly meetup with no formal lessons. The idea is to include parents. The goal would be just to get kids rolling in one direction for a short distance. That is what will get them interested – music, fellowship and getting kids in motion.

Casey said another thing they discussed was coaching at the skatepark for a set number of weeks. The Rec Committee already runs organized programs. Casey spoke with Jenn Yuris, who agreed to explore how we could do this. Casey talked to the person who runs the afterschool and summer programs at JES. School grounds are only available for other program use after 5:00 p.m. all year long.

Greg asked if Ian would be the coach. Ian said he thinks so. Greg said he thinks starting kids at a beginner level on flat terrain is the place to start. The skatepark is scary to 75% of children in town. The school feels more approachable. Does JES have any slope? If not, just pushing on flat ground is also wonderful. He did a basic introduction like this at CES for about 10 years. At CES there is a place with a tiny downhill grade. With no downhill it can get a little boring. Ian said kids have more problems getting rolling at the park with the surface there. Greg said there are hazards for beginners there too. A kid might try using some of the features.

Casey said the basketball court looked a bit rounded to her. Dean said it has a bit of a crown. He thinks hooking kids young and keeping them hooked is great. Things to think about are whether

signup will be required and whether there will be a cost. Maybe kids could pay upfront and leave with a board at the end, to keep the interest going. Safety gear and insurance are other things to think about. Will helmets, wrist guards, elbow pads and knee pads be required? Will kids have to bring them? Greg said in the enrichment program at CES helmets were required and pads were recommended but using them was at the discretion of the parent.

Greg said he was under the impression this would be part of the afterschool program. Casey said that seemed like a possibility until she talked to the afterschool program and found it would not be possible. Greg said we want to start by making sure the program would be covered by insurance.

Ian said in his hometown in Massachusetts there was a weekly meetup of parents and kids. His initial idea was to do something similar and then he and Casey thought about including the rec department and making it more formal. Helmets should definitely be required. Casey said we would need access to an indoor space for rainy afternoons. Dean said we can have makeups scheduled for rainy days. Rick and George said they think this idea sounds good. Casey said maybe we could talk to Darkside about getting gear at a discount. The next step is a discussion at the Rec Committee meeting next Thursday.

**Greg moved to proceed with applying for a VCT grant to fund programming.** Dean suggested following up with the school to make sure they understand the scope of what we are considering and there will not be issues if a kid gets hurt. **Howard seconded.** Ian said he would love to get parental involvement and encourage the fellowship aspect. Dean said one way he has been able to get more parents involved is to say that any fee is waived if they are willing to stay and help out. Ian suggested we could also allow skates and scooters. Dean said he could see starting off with more formal teaching and also having informal meetups. **The motion was passed.**

**5. Laraway Report**

Rick said there was a community lunch today that had a pretty good turnout. There will be a community holiday meal on December 14. Today was picture day and at least 18 students had their pictures taken. George said Laraway just finished the second session of a 5-session school year. Students have been taking advantage of the great weather by going on hikes and canoeing. They have been doing some gleaning with Tony Lehouillier, coordinating that with science and math. They will use their bread oven tomorrow to cook squash.

**6. Site Work: Fall Wrap Up**

Casey said the site has been pretty well cleaned up. She and Ashton cleaned out the shed. All building materials are now in the locked shed. Ian suggested it might be a good idea to get some of the box features off the grass and onto pallets for the winter, possibly covered with tarps. Casey said next spring we probably should paint the bottoms of them for weatherproofing. Despite Howard's best efforts the yard hydrant is still not working. We have a rebuild kit to use in the spring. Casey is hoping Ken Harvey's plumbing company might give us plumbing help. At some point Greg will give us a more formal proposal for the work he described last time. In answer to Greg's question, Casey said she thinks there is at least \$1500 left from the bike terrain grant.

**7. Other Business**

No one had other business to bring up.

**8. Adjourn**

**Howard moved to adjourn at 6:10, Greg seconded and the motion was passed.**