

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

Present:

Committee Members: Casey Romero, Howard Romero (via Zoom), George Swanson (via Zoom)

Others: Ian Hutchings

Absent: Greg Fatigate, James Whitehill, Rick Aupperlee

There was not a quorum but those present started an informal meeting at 5:33.

Casey said the grant application for the Let's Roll program is coming along. We do have \$1500 available from two older grants, so even if we don't get the \$5K grant we intend to do something in June. Casey thought of also using grant money to get more t-shirts printed. She knows we would have sold many more extra large adult shirts throughout the summer and at last Friday's event if we had had them. She is working on the budget for the grant with the idea of establishing equipment that would carry over into future years. One thing she thinks it would be sensible to get would be a rolling storage crate big enough to accommodate the skateboards we are going to get. Other things we will get will include skateboards and helmets and maybe "kid swag" like stickers.

Recent directors' orders totaled \$154 for emptying the dumpster and for Minutes.

Casey asked if having the Let's Roll program midweek around 5:30 pm still sounds like a good working plan. Ian said that seems good as a tentative plan.

Howard asked if we would just order extra large shirts. Casey said we would order a variety of sizes. Howard asked what we have left. Casey said there is a small selection in various adult sizes and a similar variety of kids' sizes.

Casey said we don't have enough money on hand to build the concrete feature next spring and summer. The gap between what we have and the last cost estimate is a little over \$17K. We realistically are not going to cover that between now and spring. At a presentation to the selectboard she offered the idea of using ARPA funds. They said we can't count on ARPA funds and can't include a proposal to use ARPA funds in our budget. We could propose an article for town meeting. She doesn't know if the selectboard would agree to include it or would require us to submit a petition. She feels that is probably not a good idea. She spoke with Rick Aupperlee who also felt there could be downsides to asking the voters for money. A voter who didn't care about the skatepark and who knew a skatepark project could potentially qualify for ARPA funds would probably not vote for an article proposing to use taxpayer money to fund the project. Howard said he agrees that politically it would be a bad move. George said \$17K is a big bite and we might be going into a minor recession. It might not be a fiscally sound move at this time.

Casey said another thing she thought of was asking Pierre if labor from our paid employees could lower the cost estimate. Moog's offered to do a fundraising dinner for us this winter and we can do an event in the spring, but it won't raise \$17K. One thing she plans to explore is EpicPromise community grants. George said he believes they have changed a lot of their grant criteria. He will look into it. He thinks he has some contacts there. Casey said we can go for a Concept2 grant but it won't be huge.

Ian asked if it would help if we sought out volunteer labor from the community. Casey said Pierre has said that in his town he does have a crew of volunteers he can count on. She asked if Ian has an opinion

about who could and would provide volunteer labor that fits a workday schedule of construction. Ian said he thinks it would be worth trying to explore. He couldn't say off the top of his head, but he thinks if the option was suggested to riders we might drum up some donated labor that is reliable. Howard said it is hard work and some of it is dangerous and could not be done by volunteers but they may be able to help with some things. (*Ian left at 5:55.*)

Casey said she is trying to comply with what the Selectboard wants with regard to the proposed budget. For instance, they wanted her to take out the anticipated grant for Let's Roll because we don't have it yet. That is contrary to how we have always done the budget. She put in \$2850 for existing restricted funds because that is what she knows we have on hand for bike terrain. But as she understands it they don't want to see a revenue number in there if we don't think we are going to spend it. They want revenue and the cost of proposed work to be the same amount. The proposed budget of \$11,725 reflects her best understanding at this point of how the Selectboard wants to see the budget done. She will meet with the Selectboard again on Monday.

George asked if the budget has to be nailed down in January. Casey said yes. George asked if we will want to have another committee meeting when more members can be here. Casey said yes; she thinks we can have a special meeting in early January.

George said Rick has been doing a lot with community meals. Laraway has been collecting donations throughout the town for kids' gifts at Laraway. Rick has been spearheading that effort. Illnesses have been going through schools and it is a challenge to make sure there are enough staff. He has been talking with Tony Lehouillier about having Laraway kids more integrated with his organic growing business.

The meeting ended at 6:05.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths