

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING/REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

Present:

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

Absent: Greg Fatigate

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order*

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:38.

2. *Draft Minutes of November 9, 2022 and Notes from December 10, 2022 Meeting*

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

Rick moved and Howard seconded to approve the notes of December 10, 2022. The notes were approved by consensus.

3. *Proposed FY24 Budget*

Casey said we still need to learn what was actually paid for by grant funds and what was paid for out of the operating budget. There may be some corrections on the current year's expenditures before the end of the year. We need to know what our grant fund balances are.

The committee reviewed the proposed budget, starting with revenues. Casey said this year the selectboard only wanted to see revenue for things we are going to spend it on. They don't want to see the total amount available, just what we are really going to use. What she shows for existing restricted funds is the amount we propose to spend. She believes we have more than this on the books. She is proposing increasing the facility rental fee for the Sk8 the Arts Camp from \$65 to \$75. She budgeted for \$800 in local grants. She hopes we can get that. She thinks the number is pretty conservative. The grant we hope to get for the Let's Roll! program will come in this fiscal year, hopefully in a couple of weeks, so that is not included in the FY24 budget.

Total revenue is \$5600. The total amount of expenses is much larger, so this budget would need taxpayer support of \$6225. She budgeted \$350 for administrative expenses, \$800 for town personnel payroll, \$875 for events and programs (skate camp), \$200 for fundraising, \$2800 for site maintenance and repair, \$600 for site supplies, \$6000 for construction on the half pipe project, and \$200 for public relations and outreach. That may include paying someone a stipend for online social media work. The total of expenses is \$11,825.

James asked, we are using the \$27K in grants plus the \$6K for the half pipe project? Casey said yes, but that still leaves a considerable gap she doesn't know that we can close.

Howard moved to approve an FY24 budget of \$11,825 with the understanding that the selectboard may adjust that amount, George seconded and the motion was passed.

4. *Draft of Directors' Report for Town Meeting Report*

Casey had previously sent out a draft report. She indicated in red some places where she might make edits based on new information – for instance, if we hear about the Let's Roll! grant she will put that

in. **Howard moved to accept the draft directors' report for the town report as written, including proposed possible edits, James seconded and the motion was passed.**

5. ***Updates: 'Crete Project and Let's Roll! Program***

Casey said she talked to Pierre and told him that we definitely have \$27K and are going to propose \$6K in our budget. We won't know the \$6K is definitely available until after town meeting. He suggested we could look at whether it might be possible to find savings somewhere. Casey still plans to contact Tom Moog, who offered to have a dinner sometime this winter with part of the proceeds going to this project. She hasn't contacted Stowe/Vail yet. George let her know that their program has changed a lot and we should not hold out too much hope. We should find out about our request for \$1000 from Vermont Electric Coop within a couple of weeks.

Casey said she asked Pierre about using volunteers and about using Ashton as a laborer on our payroll. Pierre said we don't have a crew that has already been working on a project and that he knows he can rely on. His thought was to use volunteers for things like one big day of cleanup or one specific task. Beyond that he doesn't think we can realistically count on using volunteers in a way that would be able to affect the cost of the project. That makes sense to her.

Casey doesn't know Ashton's summer schedule. She knows he wants to work on anything related to our park, but he is an unknown quantity to Pierre so Pierre can't say at this point that using Ashton will work and will allow us to shave costs. That is a future possibility but not something we can know now.

We have enough money to do one Let's Roll! Session. We can pay a coach and get 3-4 skateboards so there is no equipment gap for kids. Once we hear about the \$5K grant we will know we are ready for the next stage in planning.

6. ***Rec Coordinator Report***

The rec coordinator was not present to give a report.

7. ***Laraway Report***

George said today Laraway celebrated Recognition Day with students. Attendance has been great this year. The third session of the school year starts this Friday. They are already talking about the summer program. They are hopefully anticipating a good sugaring season. George will be submitting a request to Brian Story to tap maple trees on town property adjoining Laraway. Rick said almost 60% of the Laraway school year is completed. They have 2 new hires and also a list of referrals. Their employment number is going up and their enrollment number will go up.

Casey asked them to let her know as soon as Laraway knows the dates for its summer program. There is a new person at River Arts, so planning for the Sk8 the Arts Camp should start as soon as possible.

George and Rick said Laraway will celebrate its 50th anniversary on June 6.

8. ***Other Business***

Casey said in spring Greg will do bike track site work and Howard will resume work on the yard hydrant. We have to get the public works department help us get a better path for the portolet truck. ‘

9. ***Adjourn***

George moved to adjourn at 6:10, James seconded and the motion was passed.