

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
JENNA'S COFFEE HOUSE, 38 MAIN ST., JOHNSON/REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

Present:

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

Others: Alexis Daniels

Absent: Greg Fatigate, Rick Aupperlee

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. Call to Order

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:39.

2. Report: Notes of December 13, 2023

No one had questions or comments on the meeting notes from December 13.

3. Reports: Dec. Expenses & Committee Appointment Update

Casey said the only December expenses were Ashton's paycheck for the fall (minor, because he volunteered most of his time) and pay for note taking.

The committee appointment is on the selectboard agenda for Monday.

4. Sticker Fundraiser

Casey said we made about \$248 from the sticker fundraiser, plus a little more from sales at the Jubilee. Rosemary's accounting shows \$260, which includes some donations. The stickers cost \$197. That is paid for already. Anything we sell now is profit. We have 24 sheets left, which would bring in about \$288 if we sell them all.

5. Proposed FY25 Budget

Casey said the budget is not finalized yet. The whole process got delayed about a month. The committee will need to approve a draft. There have been discrepancies between what Casey knew we had in ongoing grants and what Rosemary had in her records. Rosemary explained the reasons for that to Casey and some got added back in. The biggest grant is \$10K for the half-pipe. We don't get the money first for that one. We submit invoices and get reimbursed, so Rosemary can't show that as revenue on hand. We had funds left over from the bike terrain grants. Rosemary suggested using the old bike terrain grant funds (a little over \$4400) for the half-pipe. She said that would be all right. We need money to repair the bike terrain but this budget doesn't reflect anything that will come from FEMA. We want to build the half-pipe in May or June and be all done with the accounting for it by June 30. The town would like to have it all contained within one fiscal year. We received \$5K this year for the Let's Roll program, which we didn't spend. That becomes an existing restricted grant for FY25. If the Sk8 the Arts camp comes back we will make a little money on facility rental. We won't do much active fundraising. We may sell some stickers. Casey budgeted \$100 for fundraising. Rosemary went back a couple of years and identified all the fundraising that had been specific to the half-pipe. It is all in FY24 now. The \$16K in grants for the half-pipe came in FY23 but we didn't spend the money so it is in new grants along with the \$5K of Let's Roll funds. We plan to spend all the half-pipe grant money in FY25. Under events and programs revenue, Casey guessed we would get \$875 from River Arts to pay for coaches and \$300 in fees for the Let's Roll program.

Casey reviewed the expenses in the draft budget. For site capital improvements we are budgeting the full amount of the bid for half-pipe construction, \$38,500. That doesn't allow anything for contingency. Typically a project gets around 10% of the bid added for unexpected expenses, but we

don't have that right now. Estimated total expenses for FY24 are \$44,365. The amount proposed for FY25 is much less – \$13,083.

Casey said there is more discussion needed with Rosemary and Tom before the budget can be finalized. The selectboard is doing a final review on Monday and could change it. She proposes approving the draft with the understanding that amounts may be changed in the selectboard's final version.

George moved to approve the rough draft budget of January 10, contingent on selectboard changes, Howard seconded and the motion was passed.

6. *Draft of 2023 Committee Report for Town Meeting*

The board reviewed the draft committee report Casey had written and agreed it looked good. Casey said she wanted to add thanks to Jenna's Promise for letting the committee use the coffee house for meetings. **Howard moved to approve the 2023 committee report for town meeting with the understanding that minor edits could be made, James seconded and the motion was passed.**

7. *Laraway Report*

George said there was no school today. He thinks this is the fifth day missed this school year due to weather. The school is gearing up for maple sugaring. They will tie math and science into that. Things have been going well. They have a great group of students who are into the outdoors. In science they will incubate eggs for chickens.

8. *Town & FEMA Info Re: Flood Recovery & Other*

Casey said there is no news. The insurance company double checked something about the shed contents with her.

9. *Citizen Input*

Casey said Joey Handy emailed to ask if we are thinking of doing a spring fundraiser for the 'crete project. She doesn't know that we need to. We will want to have a grand opening and she is hesitant about a fundraiser because it is tough to have two events in the same timeframe. Alexis said there is also not much in the park right now.

Howard asked if the park will get shut down for construction. Casey said that is a good question. They thought it would be about a 3 week project. She would imagine they can just put fencing around where they are working.

James asked if Tom Moog is still willing to have a dinner fundraiser at his restaurant. Casey said she doesn't know. She has the impression that we have enough money and don't need another fundraiser. James said while we might not need one, he thinks it would be good to have an event of some sort to keep up interest and excitement for the project. And it is not really feasible to have an event at the park in its current state, at least not a big skating event. He is thinking of having an event before the new half-pipe is built. Casey said Tom Moog was thinking of a summer event with outdoor activities. James said he thinks it would be good to have some sort of other event. Maybe it doesn't have to be before the half-pipe goes in. Maybe we could have the grand opening and something else afterwards. Casey said we typically do something for Green Up day. Maybe we could make that event bigger.

Casey asked if we should get some concrete barriers to make an end turnaround point in the park. James said he agrees something at the end of the park would be good. He is not sure what. Casey suggested that the committee plan to meet in February and be prepared to talk about that more. We can also get more riders involved in that discussion.

10. Other Business

Casey asked if George knows whether Rick is going to be able to come back to the committee. George said he will ask Rick.

11. Adjourn

James moved to adjourn, Howard seconded, the motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:21.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

UNAPPROVED