

JOHNSON SKATEPARK & BIKE TRACK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MASONIC TEMPLE, PEARL ST., JOHNSON/REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY ZOOM  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024

**Present:**

Committee Members: Casey Romero, Howard Romero, Alexis Daniels, Greg Fatigate, James Whitehill (remote)

Others: Guests Joey and Kayla Handy arrived at 5:45.

**Absent:** Rick Aupperlee, George Swanson

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

**1. Call to Order**

Casey called the meeting to order at 5:32.

**2. Draft Minutes of July 3, 2024**

**Howard moved to approve the minutes of July 3, 2024, Alexis seconded and the motion was passed.**

**3. Directors' Orders**

Casey said directors' orders totaled a little over \$4800. That included paying Rabbit Tracks for mowing and demolition of some unsafe materials, a bill from Myers, and final payment to Mansfield Fence. They finished the fencing job. They did a great job. The new fence is a stronger material. It cost about \$5600 total. Payment to Ashton was also part of the directors' orders. Casey has collected all the bills to date for FEMA reimbursement and is getting them into the town system for repayment.

**4. Site: DIY Ramps & Sk8 Camp, Other**

Casey said camp preparation work is happening. There is a lot of dirt on the site. Greg said it's not too bad. Casey will put a notice on Front Porch Forum and also put up a paper notice that the park is closed to everyone but the campers during the hours of the camp. She asked anyone with access to social media to put a notice there too. She said supposedly the town will put snow fencing around the dug holes by the track. Her concern is that the site is muddy throughout. Greg asked if the contractor is going to seed and mulch. Casey said according to Tom the town will do some work there, but that may not have been communicated to the public works crew. According to Tom, the town may eventually put material from somewhere else into the holes, at least those right by the asphalt. The town was going to hydroseed the berm but more areas will need hydroseeding. Greg said the exposed area is largely gravel so it should drain well. Casey said she doesn't know when the town will hydroseed. Because Friday will be rainy she plans to get the tent put up tomorrow with the help of Howard and people from River Arts. We are loaning the 5 skateboards we bought for the Let's Roll program to campers who don't have skateboards. They will stay on site at night.

Casey said there are still one or two DIY pieces that were too heavy for one person to move and still need to be moved. Greg said the influx of DIY features has slowed down. Alexis agreed.

**5. Public Input**

Kayla and Joey Handy's input is in Items #6, #8 and #9..

**6. Continued Item: Committee Structure, Rec Coordinator Vacancy, Other**

Casey said as far as she knows the town advertised for the rec coordinator position but she hasn't heard anything about candidates or interviews. She and Howard are going to be grandparents in December. Stepping back from the chair position will make it easier for her to spend time with family. (Joey and Kayla Handy arrived at 5:45. James joined via Zoom at 5:46.)

**7. FEMA Updates: Repairs, Mitigation, Rider Input**

Casey said there is a FEMA meeting next week. She will be going. The treasurer, two FEMA representatives, Tom and Ron will be there. Hopefully she will get more information about money. FEMA agreed that the skatepark property overall should be one project, including bike track. The mini pads and broken concrete ledge that had not previously been recognized can be part of the skate ramp area, which is being looked at for mitigation. They are not sure if they can consider the bike track for mitigation. Casey thinks that will take more talk with the town and maybe the Agency of Natural Resources about why the change we are making is significant. FEMA wants to know if ANR and Scott Meyer approve of the new work in the floodplain area and if the new work will have any floodplain permit conditions that preclude our plans. We don't know the answer yet. A preliminary indication from ANR that this project may be approved will help FEMA review the possibility of mitigation. If we want to do something other than exact replacement of what was lost we have to persuade FEMA it will be more flood resilient. If they approve mitigation we can get double the amount.

**8. Halfpipe Construction Project**

Casey said there might be extra cost for the project because the contractor had to harvest dirt to use. Work seems to be progressing well. Hopefully the halfpipe will be poured and skateable by this weekend. She doesn't know when hydroseed will be put on.

Kayla and Joey said they can organize an event for after the halfpipe is done. They suggest making it very similar to the previous event, with some games and competitions, entry fees and hopefully some raffles. There was discussion about possible sponsors and contest judges. Joey suggested September 28 as the date, with a rain date the following weekend. Greg offered to lead a beginner skate clinic for kids in the morning. Alexis said she could help. It was suggested that the clinic could start around 10:30 and the main event could start around noon and would probably end by 5:00.

**9. Laraway Report**

Casey said George emailed that all is going well at Laraway. Last week at the summer program students worked on trail maintenance and participated in bike riding and swimming. The school garden is producing a lot of vegetables.

**10. Halfpipe Construction Project (continued)**

Kayla said she can create a sample poster by next week. Probably the final poster can be done in two weeks. Joey said they will send it out to the committee before they put it out. Casey said we didn't have any dedicated easy-access handicapped parking for the last event. This time we will.

**11. Other Business**

Casey said the municipal building is open again for meetings. Is the committee interested in moving back? Donna said she will continue to have a conflict on first Wednesdays. It was agreed to move back to the municipal building so meetings can be on second Wednesdays.

Joey asked if there is a plan for replacing other features. Will they be exactly like the old ones or will there be new features? Casey said they will be new. The committee created a hypothetical plan but it hasn't had rider input. The rough estimate for that concept was \$300-400K. We aren't going to get that much money so we will do things in stages.

**12. Adjourn**

**Howard moved to adjourn at 6:17, Greg seconded and the motion was passed.**