

Richmond Recreation Committee

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR May 4, 2021

Members Present: Chrissy Keating, Kirsten Santor, Rich Roberge, Stefani Hartsfield, Mark Fausel, Kate Anderson

Others Present: Ravi Venkataraman, Kurtis Swahn, Justin Graham, Trish Healy, Ariana Mathews-Salzman, Julie Rusk, and Catalina Langen

Kirsten Santor called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Public Comment/Non-agenda items:

1. Ariana discussed the location of the farmer's market:
 - There are two location options: in the field and by the bandshell
 - The bandshell is preferred due to shade, electricity, and visibility
 - Farmers market Board agreed to keep the market by the bandshell
 - What is the role of the Recreation Committee in the Farmer's Market?
 - Connect with Josh Arneson, Town Manager
 - Stefani and Ariana will connect and talk more

Financial History of Rec committee and Farmer's Market

- Ariana is requesting a donation from the committee
 - Reasons to support
 - Institution of the Town
 - Enhances recreation opportunities
 - Supports local businesses
 - Brings people to Town
 - Free entertainment(funds needed)
- 2. Rich asked where we are with Brown's Court
 - Action Now Committee (Kate) gave an update:
 - There is potential funding for projects because of money coming to the state for Covid relief
 - Idea: Build a bridge across the ravine between RES/CHMS and Brown's Court
 - Justin is meeting with Mr. G (PE teacher at RES)
 - Kate is creating a Brown's Court plan(calendar of events and projects)
 - Potential roadblock is paving; will need to get DRB approval; Neighbors might not want additional parking in their neighborhood
 - This project will take time

Noted: Regarding Covid relief funds; Before we apply, check in with other committees to see if there is potential for collaboration or crossover. We all don't want to compete for the same funds if we can work together.

Noted: Next meeting will be dedicated to Brown's Court discussion.

3. Justin (RiseVT updates):

- Mr. G is applying for funds from VT After School for a low ropes course behind the campus. Can he document the Recreation Committee's support in the application? Yes. Chrissy made a motion to support Mr. G's application for a low ropes course. Seconded by Stefani. Voting unanimous. Motion carried.
- Justin will share the application with Kirsten when it is complete (May 6th).
- Other funding available:
 - United Way grant support work around substance misuse
 - 1st round: targeting existing coalitions; 2nd round: schools and municipalities
 - More information on round 2 coming soon (focused on BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Socioeconomic status)
 - Stefani: Substance abuse employees at VDH assisted our community with this work and have stayed connected. We should look at 2019 data from the Vermont Youth Project that shows an increase in cannabis use in our area

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting:

Motion by Mark to approve the April 6th meeting minutes, seconded by Katel.

Voting: unanimous.

Motion carried.

Presentation by Civic Wellbeing Partners: Julie and Catalina

- Background: They come from local government and understand the process
- Shared Index Development Framework overview(PPT presentation)
 - Starts with the question: How are people doing?
 - This helps define what they measure: Recreation resources, inclusion, access, mobility, technical access, learning opportunities. It is all interrelated in the community
 - They help elevate goals
 - Facilitated a round robin within our group: What would we like to see a year from now? What does success look like? If there were 1-3 "wins" in this first year, what would they be?
 - Mark: Improving connectivity of social organizations, creating a resource for recreation opportunities, including businesses
 - Kirsten: Sharing what is available, identify what is needed (focus groups)
 - Kate: Support for childcare, pre-k, and early childhood education
 - Justin: Substance abuse prevention coalition; connect to larger Chittenden County Prevention Network
 - Rich: Participation from all ages in Recreation

- Trish: Make Brown's Court a multi-use area for all ages
- Civic Wellbeing Partners Next Steps:
 - Prepare for DASH grant application
 - Interviews with local stakeholders
 - Create sustainable work moving forward
 - Focus on messaging
 - Contact information: julie.rusk@roadrunner.com and catalinalangen@gmail.com

Committee Positions:

2 open positions: 1 for Richmond and 1 for Huntington

Committee member renewal:

- Committee decided not to endorse committee members for renewal
- Mark made a motion for Committee to opt out on making recommendations to the Selectboard for committee member renewals. Kate seconded. Voting unanimous. Motion carried
- Next Selectboard meeting is May 17th

Financial support for Farmer's Market:

- We have \$500 in our budget to support projects. \$100 has been earmarked already.
- We will contribute funds to support the market with the understanding that we may not be able to continue financial support to the market in the future.
- Kirsten made a motion to contribute \$400 to supporting the Farmer's Market this year. Chrissy seconded. Voting unanimous. Motion carried.

Kirsten made a motion to end the meeting; **Stefani** seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Keating