

## Town of Richmond Recreation Committee Draft Minutes

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Committee Attendance: Kate Kreider, Kirsten Santor, and Sheri Lynn, Virtual Attendance: Mark Fausel. Absent: Harland Stockwell. Others in Attendance: Ravi Venkataraman; Town liaison and Lisa Miller; Planning Commission liaison

Call to Order (by 7:00pm). Welcome and Roll Call

Non Agenda items: Welcome new member Kirsten Santor, who returned after a hiatus, and brief discussion of recruitment for Bolton rep. Kirsten and Sheri work on development of Recreation Committee (RC) section of the new Town website. Mention of email from Rob Crites, introducing himself as a circus instructor and performer looking for community engagement. Ravi stated he will be handing support of the RC to Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager. Miller mentioned how much she enjoyed the July 4th celebration parade and activities.

Agenda items:

Approval of June 14, 2022 meeting minutes approved. A planned discussion with Laura Arnsen, member of the Mad River Recreation District history, did not occur.

Discussion of co-chair position; Lynn nominated Kate Kreider as co-chair, second by Fausel. Unanimous yes vote.

Code of Ethics and Open meeting: Lynn concerned about quorum discussion outside of posted meeting times. Venkataraman clarified coordinating meeting times with a majority does not violate open-meeting laws. Lynn emphasized the importance of everyone signing the Richmond Town code of ethics attestation.

4<sup>th</sup> of July PC / community outreach booth: Fausel stated great event, but not a lot of activity at the booth itself. Better outreach could possibly be achieved with more preparation such as materials and props, like photos and more information about committees. Miller mentioned, the 4th is more of a fun event and people are not focused on government operations. Recommended having items that would engage passersby. Lynn discussed setting up the lawn games and what a big hit it was with kids and parents. Discussion evolved into long term storage of games, which the RC purchased, at the park for residents to use. Kreider suggested public outreach at the Farmer's Market.

Volunteer's Green Clean-up Maintenance: Santor discussed recent visit had a lot of over-flowing trash and heavy use, including river tubing activity. She brought up concerns about playground area ground cover; sparse wood chips/bark mulch coverage, etc. Santor recommended volunteer group for light maintenance. Venkataraman recommended reaching out to the Park Enhancement Ad-Hoc committee that has been planting trees and improving river access. Venkataraman offered to reach out to Jon Kart who is on the committee. Discussion of funding/donations for upkeep came up and Venkataraman mentioned there may be some Town funds now that there is a new fiscal year. We should schedule playground finance discussions in the September meeting. Kreider mentioned a large sandpile next to the sandbox that was used for a local group event and whether that should be cleaned up. Kreider is going to follow up.

Bench purchase at Brown's Court Park: RC approved financing for a bench at the June meeting, but Venkataraman mentioned it has been slow progress on the purchase and installation due to staff vacations. Venkataraman asked about decision on location. Lynn and Kreider recommended placement in the back of the park; all agreed. Lynn has shopped different styles, but still hasn't decided. RC agreed that it would be good to have it installed this fall.

Create a Feedback/Inquiry Form: Lynn wondered if it should be user specific or more of a general survey. Santor suggested it could be for more general outreach for what the RC should focus on. Kreider suggested feedback from specific users. There was general agreement that a form addressing both perspectives would be best. Lynn said she would begin putting something together and get back to the RC.

Fausel brought up again the new Town website and his desire to create links to local organizations. Venkataraman brought up concerns about advertising or endorsing for-profit organizations. Lynn recommended the website include events and organizations in all three towns. Fausel suggested including any organization that provides recreation opportunities. Lynn summarized that we need to define specific criteria for listing on the website. Miller added that the Cochrans are a huge local resource. Santor expressed concern about marketing for-profit companies.

Funding/Grant Writing: Lynn asked if we received feedback from VOREC about why we didn't receive the grant. Venkataraman stated he has asked repeatedly without a response. Lynn mentioned the grant application was a good learning opportunity and one of the lessons was how important it is to include public outreach for grant spending such as the playground. Lynn expressed that the Better Places Grant has some drawbacks with their requirements for significant volunteer fundraising. Venkataraman mentioned there are few areas in town that would satisfy the grant requirements. The grant is only applicable to the village downtown area.

Agenda for the September meeting: Lynn listed the website, feedback inquiry form, coordinate with the Park Ad-Hoc committee about a walk through for Volunteer's Green and playground, check on Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Venkataraman clarified that the Selectboard will need to re-approve the CIP. Materials for the ballfield, the playground rubber flooring, and bench purchase. Santor asked about square footage of the rubber matting for the playground. Venkataraman said it may be larger than current area, but would find out. Need to discuss whether installation now or use wood chips temporarily and upgrade the structure. Try to schedule meeting Laura Arnsen.

Motion to adjourn made by Santor, second by Kreider at 8:20PM