
2 Richmond Recreation Committee
3 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FOR August 31, 2020

Members Present: Mark Fausel, Ashley Hanlon, Stefani Hartsfield, Chrissy Keating, Martha Nye,
Kirsten Santor, Harland Stockwell

Members Absent:

Others Present: Ravi Venkataraman (Town Planner/Staff), Justin Graham, Rosy Metcalfe

6 Ravi Venkataraman opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

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8 **2. Roll Call**

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10 Venkataraman announced the names of all the participants in the Zoom meeting for the record.

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12 **3. New Business**

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14 **a. Welcome and introductions of new committee members**

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16 Venkataraman asked if all members could introduce themselves, since the members may not know each other.
17 Ashley Hanlon introduced herself, stating that she: is a principal of a brand-new school; has been working with
18 Stefani Hartsfield and Venkataraman on recreation committee-related community work; is a Richmond resident;
19 and has children in the local schools. Chrissy Keating introduced herself, stating that she: is a Bolton resident;
20 works at UVM Medical Center Community Health Improvement Office; has worked with Justin Graham, Rosy
21 Metcalfe, and Hartsfield; and found out about the Recreation Committee from Graham, Metcalfe, and Hartsfield as
22 well as the Bolton newsletter. Kirsten Santor introduced herself, stating that she: is a Richmond resident; is the
23 Recreation Program Director for Essex Junction; is looking forward to applying her know-how to the Richmond
24 community; has an almost one-year-old son. Mark Fausel introduced himself, stating that he: has been a Richmond
25 Planning Commission member since 2009; moved to Richmond in 2002; has two sons in their early 20s who were
26 active in local sports leagues; took note of the lack of centralized organization around recreation in the community;
27 hope to improve the marketability of Richmond's recreation capacity while improving recreation opportunities for
28 the community. Martha Nye introduced herself, stating that she: has been living in Richmond since 1987; retired in
29 2006; volunteered on the senior community group which she has greatly appreciated; found that her life changed
30 dramatically due to her experiences with recreation; and hopes to improve recreation opportunities in Richmond,
31 Bolton, and Huntington. Hartsfield introduced herself, stating that she: is a Richmond residents; works with
32 addressing health equity; has strong values regarding the community as a concept; has children who participated in
33 local sports leagues; and is looking forward to working with all the committee members. Harland Stockwell
34 introduced himself, and stated that he: moved to Richmond 32 years ago; has been on the Recreation Committee
35 since then; recognizes the park as his backyard; and is interested in maintaining the park. Justin Graham said that
36 he and Metcalfe have been working in the Richmond area for about a year as a part of the Rise Vermont initiative.
37 Graham said that Rise VT is focused on primary prevention, overweight, and obesity, which are all directly
38 connected to recreation. Metcalfe introduced herself as a program manager at Rise VT, stating that she is excited
39 that this committee is finally meeting, will be outgoing in October but will still be in the area. Venkataraman said
40 that he will be the Town staff person and staff liaison, but both he and Graham will be working closely with the
41 committee to help it reach its goals.

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43 **b. Core Values Exercise**

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45 Graham overviewed the importance of having the committee members get to know one another in order to reach
46 its goals. Graham said that he would like to review the survey he and Venkataraman distributed prior to the
47 meeting, firstly asking committee members to list their top five values. Nye said her values were community,

48 commitment, and compassion. Hanlon said her values were acceptance, advocacy, creativity, flexibility and
49 honesty, with creativity and advocacy as her top two. Keating said her values were collaboration, balance, family,
50 growth, and health. Santor said her values were playful, passion, inclusive, resourceful, and wellbeing, with
51 wellbeing being her top value. Hartsfield said her values were diversity, kindness, love, making a difference, and
52 passion, and her top three were passion, making a difference, and diversity. Stockwell said his values were in the
53 park and the Richmond Fire Department. Fausel said his values were community, inclusiveness, and team-
54 building.

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56 **c. What does recreation mean to you? Exercise**

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58 Graham asked the committee how their values relate back to recreation. Nye said that recreation to her is
59 community, recreation leads to community building and relationship building and therefore can be a powerful
60 opportunity. Hanlon said that the definition of recreation nowadays is changing from outdoor activities to
61 mindfulness activities and building positive connections within the community through a wide range of activities.
62 She added that this committee could work on how to enable positive connections within the community, support
63 people's health and wellbeing, and bolster voices that are underrepresented. Santor said that she supports Nye and
64 Hanlon's responses regarding community, and applying a different and new lens to recreation such as mindful
65 activities that challenge participants to step outside their bubble. She added that playfulness is key to her
66 understanding of recreation, and that being outside can mean a variety of accessible activities. Keating said she
67 agreed with Santor's statement that recreation means different things to different people. Keating said that she
68 understands that active recreation may be daunting for certain populations based on her work, and that the most
69 important aspect about recreation is building social and emotional connections that is a part of community
70 building. Hartsfield said that she agrees with the other members' statements about the shift in the definition of
71 recreation, the differences in generational values with recreation, and the connection between recreation and
72 wellbeing. Stockwell said that he helped build the park and aims to maintain it. Fausel said he hopes to make the
73 community aware of all the recreation activities in town and possibly use it as a marketing tool for the businesses
74 in town.

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76 **d. Review 2018 Richmond Town Plan – recreation related goals**

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78 Venkataraman said that the members' values and comments align with the Town Plan goals. Venkataraman
79 overviewed the Town Plan goals related to recreation, and how wide-ranging recreation can be. Graham shared
80 similar thoughts on recreation.

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82 **e. Review 2005 Recreation Committee Vision, Mission, Objectives**

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84 Venkataraman said that the committee can work on this item during this meeting and the next meeting after
85 everyone has reviewed the Town Plan goals and reflects on everyone's respective values. Graham overviews the
86 goals set in the 2005 Recreation Committee Vision, Mission and Objectives. Venkataraman read the vision
87 statement and asked for recommendations for revisions. Keating asked for further clarification on "increase
88 community involvement". Nye said asked for further clarification on "a sense of citizenship and civic
89 consciousness", and asked if "community support for one another" is synonymous with the aforementioned text.
90 Fausel suggested adding text regarding "increased awareness", encourage community member participation, and
91 resiliency. Fausel added that a strong recreation program can help support other Town Plan goals, including
92 resiliency and community awareness. Nye asked for clarification on "resiliency". Fausel said it is the ability of a
93 community to withstand adversity. Hartsfield added that hardships should be considered with the definition of
94 resiliency and that the committee should create opportunities that foster resiliency in terms of mental health and
95 overall wellbeing. Venkataraman clarified the term resiliency in terms of urban planning, and said that the
96 committee should consider honing in on the type of resiliency the aim to address and the steps to take to return to a
97 sense of normalcy. Graham suggested looking at the vision statement outside of the meeting, and returning to the
98 next meeting with a clarified vision statement. Hanlon said she has a lot of ideas based on data she has collected,

99 and that these ideas would complement the ongoing conversations. Graham suggested bringing the data to the next
100 meeting. Venkataraman asked the committee if anyone would be interested in working on the vision, mission and
101 goals prior to the next meeting. Hartsfield requested that the next meeting agenda include an overview of the
102 DASH grant. Nye said she would volunteer to work on the vision statement. Santor also said she would volunteer
103 to work on the vision statement. Venkataraman asked if anyone would be interested in working on the mission
104 statement. Graham suggested merging the mission and vision statement. Santor concurred. Graham suggested
105 creating another ad hoc committee to work on the goals. Venkataraman reviewed the example goals listed on the
106 shared document, and said that the goals are based on requests he has received so far but the committee is not
107 obligated to carry out the listed goals. Nye suggested creating the mission/vision statement first before establishing
108 goals. Stockwell and Hartsfield concurred. Graham recommended having Rebecca French attend the next meeting
109 to discuss her idea for Halloween to the committee. Graham said that in the next meeting agenda, the committee
110 will need to appoint a chair and clerk, and that anyone interested in those positions can reach out to Venkataraman
111 or Graham. Hartsfield said she was skeptical about the idea of Halloween this year due to Covid, that the Town
112 typically does not have a role for Halloween, and that Halloween could sneak up on the committee. Graham said
113 that this event could be a good starting point for the committee to support. Nye recommended looking into every
114 suggested activity.

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116 **f. Determine reoccurring meeting time and frequency**

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118 Graham asked the committee on when they would like to meet regularly and how frequently they would like to
119 meet. Fausel asked if Venkataraman would be sending out a poll. Venkataraman said he firstly wanted to ask if
120 anyone had any strong opinions on whether they wanted to meet in two weeks or in a month, and based on
121 committee members' responses, he would send out a poll to check for the members' availability. Hanlon
122 recommended meeting in two weeks. Hartsfield said that Stockwell said that the Recreation Committee
123 traditionally met the first Tuesday of every month. Graham recommended sending out a poll to determine regular
124 meetings.

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126 **4. Adjournment**

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128 Motion by Fausel, seconded by Santor, to adjourn the meeting. Voting: unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting
129 adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

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131 Respectfully submitted by Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner