

Greater Richmond Recreation Committee- Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Committee Members Present: Kirsten Santor, Kate Anderson, Chrissy Keating, Stefani Hartsfield, Kate Kreider, Sheri Lynn

Called to order 7:04 (Kirsten Santor)

Public comment on non-agenda items:

Martha Nye thanked the Rec committee for continuing their work even though the Community Senior Center is no longer represented on the committee. She is curious if there may be another open seat as she knows someone involved with the CSC who is interested. She would like us to post the virtual meeting link.

Kirsten-we are open to reconsidering our numbers, but could also add people to the community advisor group to receive emails and be involved without formally having a committee seat.

No other non-agenda items.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes passes. 5 members voted yes; 1 member abstained as she was not present last meeting.

Kirsten: Richmond Rescue has requested placing an AED on the side of the band stand. This is free of cost but must be approved.

Chrissy: Will there be signage about this?

Kirsten confirmed there will be signage.

Stefani noted there are other AEDs in town and wondered who coordinates these. Justin Graham shared that Richmond Rescue does all of these and maintains them.

Kirsten made a motion to support this, Chrissy seconded, and motion passed with 6 yes votes and none opposed.

Kirsten: How do we want to support Rod West's picnic in the park idea? When do we do this, if at all?

Question from Shari- would it be promoted via FPF, and how many expected?

Kirsten- Biggest concern is liability and town's insurance-- we would need to approve this. Rod is happy to continue to organize it but would appreciate some formal approval.

Sheri-- do we have parameters for responding to these requests generally?

Justin- There is a formal way to do this currently through the town administrative offices and a usage form to complete. Rod had wanted this level of support from the town/committee, and potentially waiving a use fee.

Sheri- we should have a structured way of doing this rather than a case-by-case basis. The selectboard should make that decision since it is based on the town's insurance.

Stefani- is this use form available online? Want to make sure that public can access it.

Sheri-- need to consider safety of fire pit, parking, waste and disposal, criteria to help us decide whether or not to approve

Kate Kreider- we would need this information Shari noted to go to the selectboard.

Chrissy- is this timing adequate for us to get this going this season, or should we wait until next season?

Ravi-- if the committee is co-sponsoring it and it is a town event, then we can set those parameters and design what is needed.

Stefani-- there is both a need for community events, but also a lack of capacity to do all of these things simply amongst ourselves. But this speaks to a larger issue of the community needing and desiring more events than we have capacity for.

Sheri-- could we do October?

Chrissy-- potentially another Halloween event, soccer, picnics could conflict

Halloween last year filled out the park use form and paid the fee, so while the committee supported it, we were not co-sponsors.

Stefani- we could let Rod know we will support him but not able to officially co-sponsor at this time.

Kirsten--we can return to Rod with this update and let him know we'd like to be able to offer more support in the future for upcoming years.

Justin- working with Ari from the Farmers Market to come up with ideas to increase market usage. Small grant from NOFA to increase signage, considering a grant from RISE VT to help support this over two years. Learned there is a Volunteers Green sign which is very small, and considering updating the sign to improve visibility. Because it is in the flood zone, we could not build something significantly bigger.

Ravi-- floodplain structures, typically 1:1 replacement is allowed, no grading, no fill allowed.

Justin-- current sign is similar size to an open laptop

Stephanie-- who would update it? It would be great to share everything going on and post things but who is responsible for making sure it's up to date?

Justin-- whoever is hosting an event can get the key from the town office and update it.

Kirsten-- realistically, will people actually do it?

Justin-- based on current sign, not worth it, but with a larger sign it may be worth it so people know what is going on.

Purpose of the sign-- to advertise for events

Sheri-- is this useful and needed, or can people advertise in other ways? Good to do multiple things and increase visibility.

Stefani- we could add a line on the park use form about the sign and adding event to it. We could also go along the lines of the new parking signs throughout town.

Kirsten- let's plan for the Action Now sub-group to think about this plan to consider updating the sign for this spring.

Justin- The action now sub-group has been discussing a bin of games available for people to enjoy while picnicking. This would be a weatherized bin near the bandshell with a handful of

low-cost games (cornhole, frisbees, bocce, etc). There are some grant funds left over from the survey mailer. Justin recommends that we use these funds to purchase these items and allow the Action Now group to move forward and have the bin ready by mid-September. Question comes up of winter storage.

Kirsten-- Pete said that we can chain the bin to the bandshell and put it behind the bandshell. He has not yet confirmed where to store it.

Ravi- perhaps wherever Linda stores 4th of July stuff, possibly basement of town center?

Chrissy- could we swap out the items inside for winter items, skate items?

Stefani-- make sure there is strong signage that asks people to use it appropriately and return it in good condition. Motion to approve to use the \$501.99 towards this. Chrissy seconded. Motion carries with 6 yes votes and none opposed.

Kirsten- Questions for the park ordinance and suggested changes (in red) in the Parks Ordinance shared before this meeting?

Justin- not sure if this includes my edits previously, especially the hours of the park because we specified hours rather than "dawn to dusk" since the summer has longer hours. Could they be there before 9 am? After 9 pm in summer? People sometimes use the ice rink before school day starts, for example.

Ravi- We would not yet vote to approve this here. Ultimately it would go to legal team and to Kyle (Chief of Police), and then selectboard would approve. Goal is to have a process to officially sign off on events.

Kirsten-- dawn to dusk seems most appropriate since it changes with seasons, but must make sure that use is allowed in particular events that may fall outside of the daylight hours.

Stefani-- concern about making exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Also, there is no specific info about dog use since it's covered broadly by City ordinance, but it is a major issue in the town and on the green.

Ravi-- could put in a cross-reference to the dog policy in the document.

Kirsten-- so we would like to update the hours open, as well as a cross-reference to the dogs.

Stefani-- what about firearms? I see prohibition of hunting and carrying but did not specify about the presence and use of guns.

Ravi- state statute prohibits us from limitation of the right to carry firearms, even on public lands. You may not discharge it on public lands, though.

Shari-- Section IV, it does prohibit use or carry of firearms.

Ravi- this is not enforceable so we will update it.

Ravi-- main goal of this process is to remove Rec Committee as approving group and put in the town administrative offices.

VOREC Grants- Shari-- this could be a strong opportunity to receive some funding towards improving recreation but working as 3 towns together (Richmond, Huntington, and Bolton) could allow us to submit a better application.

Kirsten-- we could consider using it for Volunteers Green, as we already have the mats to replace the playground and it would be a missed opportunity not to also replace the actual

playground while doing so. If this seems like the right use, then the Action Now sub-group could consider writing a grant to use these funds to do this work on Volunteers Green.

Chrissy- could we include Browns Court more broadly by referring to both green spaces in the town?

Justin- Browns Court will be a longer process as there is much more history and controversy surrounding it, so maybe we can focus on the green.

Stefani- Could we also consider Huntington and Bolton town forests and their needs, making it broadly focused on outdoor recreation in a multi-faceted approach. What if we have a new sub-group, short-term, to look at this grant application?

Sheri- will discuss with people she is working with in Huntington and gauge level of interest. We would likely need selectboard approval from each town.

Ravi- one town for a three town consortium could be the sponsoring town and make sure funds are distributed appropriately. We would create a steering committee that includes different stakeholders to represent all 3 towns, business support, school support, and social/environmental justice group.

Sheri- how are we a consortium and what is our mission?

Stefani-- we do have this 3-town Rec Committee with a mission that we can use and share in this application.

Stefani- Make a motion to pursue LOI through VOREC grants, with potential for a 3-town collaboration. Kirsten seconds motion. 6 yes votes and no opposed votes. Motion carries.

Justin- survey data is currently in raw form and Kurtis (intern) has written up any comments from community members. This is a very initial starting point for conversations. 510 responses total.

Ravi, Justin, Chrissy, Kirsten, and Sheri will work on the letter of intent for the grant.

Adjourned at 8:31 pm.