

Recreation Committee Meeting January 3rd, 2023

Members Present: Kirsten Santor, Sheri Lynn, Kate Kreider,

Members of the Public Present: Jack Lazarowski (Senior Center), Lisa Miller (Planning Commission)

7:05 PM: Meeting started

7:07 PM: Public Comments and Non-Agenda Items:

Sheri mentioned the VYCC Volunteer Project for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on 1/16/23. Twenty individuals will be available for a few hours to do whatever work we would like done. Kirsten suggested removing the extra sand next to the sand pile and raking the wood chips at Volunteer's Green. If we could obtain additional wood chips by that day then the volunteers could also add more to the playground. Another option regarding the sand pile is that the sand box could be built larger to accommodate the extra sand.

Recreation Page on the Town Website Update: Kirsten has been working on updating the website. Discussed how to format the page. Right now it's just a list of youth programs and community programs. Kirsten suggested a series of pictures with topics that people can click on to take them to another page with more information. The question was raised regarding if we want to list the names of private business on the website, and if that is even allowed. Sheri stated that she can check with Duncan to find out if it is appropriate to put private businesses on the website.

7:19 PM: Approval of Minutes from 12/6/22: Kate motioned to approve, Kirsten seconded, no discussion. All in agreement, passed unanimously.

7:22 PM: Annual Report Submission: Sheri will write the report, Kate will edit it, and then Sheri will send it to committee members for review before it is submitted to Duncan.

7:23 PM: Review of ARPA Committee Feedback from the Public: Feedback related to recreation was reviewed and discussed. Some popular items on the ARPA feedback had to be dismissed due to the projects requiring on-going maintenance costs. There are items related to improvements at Volunteer's Green in the feedback. Kirsten also mentioned that the data from the recreation survey that this committee did also had suggestions for Volunteer's Green improvements from the public. Kate suggested that we focus on getting funding for at least the playground from the ARPA Committee. Reviewed list of needed Volunteer's Green improvements that were identified for the VOREC grant application. Kirsten suggested that we ask for all of the items on the list. Kate suggested that we could ask for all of the items but tell the ARPA committee to prioritize the playground if they are not willing to cover the entire cost.

Costs have increased, so we will need to update the spreadsheet. Kirsten will update the costs on the spreadsheet and Sheri volunteered to write a request to be sent to the ARPA Committee.

7:38 PM: Capital Plan Request and Possible Vote: Discussed voting on an amount of funds annually to ask for from the selectboard to be put in a capital plan for Recreation projects, focusing on Volunteer's Green. Sheri raised the point that the selectboard would probably want specific items that the capital plan funds would be used for. Discussed possible items, such as recreation related requests from the public that the ARPA committee collected. A new playground at Volunteer's Green is more urgent, so using a capital plan to pay for it would not be ideal. Sheri suggested for us to think about funding for ongoing maintenance needs for Volunteer's Green. Kirsten suggested that we could easily spend \$10,000 a year on maintenance related needs. However, general maintenance would fall under the category of a budget request, not a capital plan. Discussed the possibility of using a capital plan for additional small playground structures/add-ons if the ARPA funds don't cover the entire cost of a new playground. Due to uncertainty regarding what items we would ask for using a capital plan and the fact that a committee member was not present to weigh in, an agreement was reached to postpone voting on the capital plan funding request at this time.

Kirsten also suggested increasing our sporting equipment, such as purchasing skis and skates for the public to use. Briefly discussed getting the storage box and bench purchased. Sheri will check with Duncan regarding that.

7:59 PM Discussion of Possible Public Meeting: Discussed the possibility of hosting a public meeting to collect feedback regarding the design and materials for a new playground at Volunteer's Green. After some discussion and information provided by Kristen related to her professional experience, the committee decided that it does not make sense to move ahead with a public meeting at this time. We really need to know our budget for a new playground before we can price out various design and material options for a new playground and have the public provide input. In the meantime, committee members will learn more about the different playground structure options and the different companies to familiarize ourselves with what is available. Kirsten will share some websites that we can look at to learn more regarding playground element options. Kirsten stated that when a Rec department wants to add a new playground they would typically tell a company their budget and then the company would provide possible options. She also suggested that when we do host a public meeting in the future after we know our budget for a new playground, it would probably be better to present the public with a few different design options versus a lot of options. Sheri suggested that she can reach out to the Bristol Rec department to learn more about their natural playground.

Discussed how we can keep the playground at Volunteer's Green safe for public use while we await funding. ARPA doesn't have to allocate their funds until 2024, so it may be a while until we find out if we will get ARPA funding for a new playground. Kirsten suggested that we could reach out to the manufacturer of the current playground or a safety inspector to identify repairs that could be done to the current playground to keep it functional for as long as possible. The manufacturer of the current playground is probably Miracle, but we would need to check. Kate

suggested that once repairs are identified we could request funding from the Conservation Commission Reserve Fund to cover the cost. Kirsten suggested that we should make a list/plan and prioritize what we want to do at Volunteer's Green. All agree and next meeting we can come up with a plan and priorities.

Sheri motioned to adjourn. Kate seconded. **Adjourned at 8:37 PM.**