

Richmond Recreation Committee Meeting
June 6th, 2023

Members Present: Sheri Lynn, Kirsten Santor, Duncan Wardwell, Kathy Costello, Kate Kreider

Public Members Present: Jack Lazarowski, Lisa Miller, Becky Vigneault.

Note Taker: Kate Kreider

Meeting started at 7:04 PM

Non-agenda Items: Sheri read comments from community Member Jessie that were submitted to the committee. Comments included professional contacts that we may want to reach out to when we are exploring different playground structure options.

Approval of Minutes from May 2nd, 2023 Meeting: Kirsten motions to approve, Kate seconds. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

Park Use Events Update: Duncan reviewed the new events. Duncan mentioned the cub scouts got permission from Josh to camp overnight but they were reminded that fires/open flame are not allowed under the ordinances.

Budget Discussion and Vote: The Recreation Committee has a budget of \$500 and the end of the fiscal year is June 30. The Committee has not spent any of the budget so far. Kate updated committee members regarding the feedback that she received from the library regarding recreation equipment that they want. The library has asked for some summer hiking poles and a few lawn games, such as bocce and cornhole. Members discussed the idea from last month to have a wooden box built to store the lawn games at Volunteers Green. Duncan reported that he asked the appropriate town employees if a wooden storage box attached to the back of the bandshell would be allowed. Duncan stated that according to the feedback he received, this would be allowed because the bandshell is high enough that it is out of the floodway.

Committee members also discussed signage for the lawn games and for the playground structures. Members are uncertain at this point regarding what signs we want and/or need and how much they would cost. Kate mentioned that the playground signs could probably be paid for using the town's budget for Volunteers Green. Sheri asked if anyone has a cost estimate for building the wooden storage box for the lawn games. No one has an estimate at this time. Also discussed the possibility of purchasing extra lawn games for Volunteers Green to have on hand for when/if some of them go missing. Committee members would need to find out what the cost would be before purchasing additional games. Kate discussed the prices of some of the items that she looked up for the library.

Sheri suggests that the committee uses our budget to fulfill the library's request for items. The committee does not have prices at this time for other items that have been discussed, so it would make the most sense to fulfill the library's requests given the short time frame we have left in which to use the budget for this fiscal year. The other items can be reviewed for the next

budget that starts July 1, once we get estimates of the costs. General consensus among committee members. Briefly discussed how many pairs of poles to purchase for the library. Kate stated that she will reach out to the library and ask how many pairs they would like and will check in to confirm what lawn games they would like to get. Kate makes the motion to approve spending up to a maximum of \$500 of our budget to purchase recreational equipment for the Richmond Free Library. Kathy seconds. All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

A community member named Becky asked if bleachers could be put in down at the ballfields at Volunteers Green. Sheri responded that the Recreation Committee is responsible for the yearly \$500 budget which is what the focus is for this meeting. The Recreation Committee can make recommendations about additions to Volunteers Green, but the selectboard makes the final decision regarding putting new structures at Volunteers Green. The Recreation Committee also does not have any funds available for projects such as that. Sheri suggested that Becky could reach out to the ARPA Committee with her suggestion as they are working with the Selectboard to decide what to do with the one time money the town received. Becky stated that she knows Jay and will get in touch with him.

7:38 PM: Website Discussion: Sheri and Kirsten shared the updates to the website that Kirsten has added since our last meeting. Briefly discussed the changes/additions and committee members had some minor edit suggestions. Sheri suggested on the history page where it has present committee activities to add that the committee is working to raise funds to replace the Volunteers Green playground. Kathy suggested being mindful of how we word that on the webpage and make sure that it is clearly our goal before putting it on the web page. Kathy also suggested having the committee's vision/mission statement on the history page or having a link to the main recreation committee webpage so that it is easy for members of the public to find our vision/mission statement. After some brief discussion, it was decided that it would be best not to specifically post replacing the Volunteers Green playground on the website. The committee still needs to secure funding and conduct a public engagement process regarding the playground and possible replacement options before making any specific recommendations to the selectboard regarding replacement of the playground. Our agendas, minutes, and work plan can be accessed by community members in the public documents on our meetings page if they would like to learn more about what the committee is currently working on. Kathy suggested that the history page could state that the committee is working towards maintaining a safe playground structure.

Discussed listing of businesses on the website. Sheri shared the list of businesses that Kirsten compiled. Sheri attended the Selectboard meeting to share our website page and she mentioned listing businesses. Sheri stated that the Selectboard didn't have any strong opinions regarding how we post the businesses on our web page and the feedback regarding our web page was generally positive. Sheri suggested that we add a general disclaimer on the web page stating that it is not an extensive list and that businesses can contact us if they would like to be added to the list. The plan is to only list the business names, no other information. People can look up the businesses' webpages if they would like more information. Discussed that posting businesses that are physical places where people can recreate is our priority, not places where

you only buy or rent equipment. General committee member agreement that the current business list looks good and that it is best to stick with businesses that are a physical recreation location. General consensus among committee members that the website looks great. Minor edits/additions that were discussed will be made, and additions/edits can be made in the future as needed.

8:07 PM: Volunteers Green Clean Up Day: Sheri and Kate talked about how the Green Up event went. It was fun and great to have families come and help clean up Volunteers Green. It was really busy during the clean up because of the sports practices going on. The sand pile next to the sandbox was more than we could reasonably remove. Overall it was a great time. Kate asked Duncan about removing the sand pile. Duncan stated that Pete has been busy and that he will follow up with Pete regarding getting more wood chips for the playground and having the sand removed. Kathy suggested that a fall clean up is probably not needed, but maybe a walk through as a committee would be nice to look at Volunteers Green in the fall and assess the area.

8:15 PM: Work Plan Review/Discussion: Sheri reviewed the work plan tasks for Volunteers Green. Progress we've made includes: submitted our proposal to the ARPA committee for improvements and a new playground at Volunteers Green, having an inspection of the current playground conducted, hosting the clean up day, and discussing the possibility of asking the Selectboard to start a capital reserve fund for a new playground at Volunteers Green. Sheri reviewed the inspection report of the playground. The identified repairs haven't been fixed yet, so we will need to do follow-up regarding that. Sheri suggested that in our next meeting we can discuss the repairs more and prioritize the repairs and then make recommendations to the Selectboard. General agreement among committee members. Kirsten asked if the wood chips have to be spread by a contractor, or could it be a volunteer work day? Duncan said that it could be volunteer work, but it's probably easier to just have a contractor do it. It's a lot of work to spread the wood chips and it's a lot to coordinate volunteers as well. Kirsten suggests just to keep in mind that committee members are willing to help if that would be beneficial but we are also fine with having a contractor do it if that is easiest.

8:24 PM Funding/Grant Writing: Discussed again the possible funding sources the committee can seek for repairs at Volunteers Green and replacement of the playground at some point in the future. The committee is planning on discussing the possibility of seeking a capital reserve fund during our next meeting in August. Sheri suggested that the committee should come up with a more formal work plan regarding seeking funding. The committee is hopeful that about potential ARPA funding, but it is good to explore all possible funding possibilities. Sheri mentioned to committee members to be on the lookout for any grant opportunities available that may be worth pursuing as well.

Reviewed other work plan priorities and briefly discussed what we have accomplished. Committee members discussed promoting the snow shoes again next winter to increase public awareness and use. Discussed creating a QR code link for the recreation feedback form. Sheri asked committee members their thoughts about contacting some of the professionals that

community member Jessie suggested and seeing if they are interested in hosting any presentations. Kirsten mentioned that she also has some connections/contacts. Kathy brought up the issue we have discussed previously, which is do we secure funding first before starting public engagement? We have received feedback from some community members who are very interested in public engagement. Kirsten suggested that the committee first speak with the suggested professionals and ask them questions as a committee, and then at a later time have the individuals participate in a more organized public engagement meeting. Kirsten suggested that it would be important to have some guidance/structure and know what questions we want to ask to help frame and organize the public engagement. Sheri stated that she would like to learn more about how to conduct community engagement regarding playgrounds/recreation so that our committee can gain information about how to move forward with public engagement in a way that is productive. Committee members agree that this is a good idea. Sheri also mentioned that the committee has not coordinated with Jack yet about getting recreation information in the senior center newsletter and doing some recreation outreach through their newsletter.

Discussed that our next Recreation meeting will be in August due to the 4th of July holiday.

Sheri motions to adjourn the meeting. Kathy seconds. All in favor, the meeting is adjourned.