

DRAFT Minutes from Parks & Recreation Committee

April 4, 2017, 5:30 pm, The Hut Teen Center

Present: Mark Wilch, Colby Benjamin, Bill Kernan, Dustin Hunt, Tricia Allen, Carl Robinson, Elaine Hammond, Greg Boglioli, Eric McFerran, Bill Kernan

Absent: Terri Arnold, Bill Ford

Meeting called to order at 5:45 pm

Motion to approve minutes: CB & CR

Motion to approve agenda: CB & EH

Budget – New snapshot of up-to-date budget, numbers run a month behind; format indicates year over year by month comparison. This budget shows P & R is behind in revenue, Dustin/Terri can provide committee with a reasoning and better picture next month.

Turkey Trot – We will hold onto the race for at least one more year and perform a cost/benefit analysis to decide about moving forward in subsequent years or moving it along to Middlebury Fitness.

Committee is comfortable with budget layout as presented

Master Plan Sub-Committee – Carl Robinson, chair of sub-committee stated the committee had been able to meet a couple of times, including a meeting with Judith Harris to make maps including features covering the entrance through the pool area; what exists, what is needed, where new features can be accommodated in the park and where. Upon the second meeting, more detailed features were identified including landscaping with main focus on siting a pavilion and additional bathroom facility. Terri is suggesting that the public have an opportunity to see the Master Plan and give comments on what they would like to see with the room available – committee is thinking perhaps an hour before the next couple of P & R Committee meetings. Also, funding sources for requested amenities need to be planned whether through capital budget or fundraising.

Future capital money needs to be kept in mind as well as taking one project at a time – anything decided upon will need to be approved by the P & R committee, Mary Hogan School Board, Infrastructure committee and perhaps the Design Review Board, then final from Select Board. The importance is doing it right the first time and not rushing the Master Plan in order to include as many entities as possible.

Elaine echoed that a presentation to the ID#4 Board be done before any new work is started.

New Sport – Table Tennis

Eric McFerran, local philanthropist and avid sports person, attended the meeting to talk about Table Tennis being introduced as a new sport for all ages. Eric noted that some people are not able to play pickleball either and that this enables those folks less stress on their joints.

Eric purchased a brand new table from Forth & Goal for the Middlebury Recreation Center and met with Dustin to set up specific times and when to start advertising the program. This sport is best played in the Multi-Purpose Room or Corridor. Both Rutland and Shelburne have robust table tennis clubs and want Middlebury to join as a middle point, similar to pickleball – Eric also thought an outdoor table wouldn't be a bad idea.

Basketball Court at East Middlebury

Jason Laroque surveyed the basketball area at Harold Curtiss Park and is drawing up plans for a bid packet. It requires a total reconstruction and they would like to start this year in the good weather. The P & R capital budget will cover 50% of the cost (\$14,000) in addition to sponsors to fund new standards, hoops and nets.

The Hut Teen Center

Colby reports the average after school kids numbers are about 13 per day due to great programming from Erin Morrison. Colby and Erin are gearing up for the summer camp season and Colby feels they have a great group of kids.

Ilisley Library

Tricia reported Kevin Unrath is out on paternity leave. Tricia also reported they are in the middle of a very long process to study space needs for a possible expansion. Architects have come up with a plan that committee supports. Also, gearing up for summer programming. The library is interested in joining the Homecard System which allows users to use the library cards at other libraries.

MALT

Carl Robinson has resigned as the Executive Director of MALT but will continue to work on trail projects. MALT is in the process of hiring a new director. Carl plans on continuing on Parks & Recreation Committee.

Public Works

Bill brought up the hanging light at Harold Curtiss Park as it was supposed to be removed by Dennis Newton. Greg said he would follow up with Dennis about getting this taken care of.

Bill thought field maintenance at Rec Park would begin within the month – he also thinks closing the fields for a month next year is a good idea.

Gym floor at Middlebury Recreation Center needs to be stripped for the first time and re-sealed. The gym will be closed from June 12-26.

Bill is working with the local Rotary Club to paint the outside of the Town Pool over the new siding completed in January.

Middlebury Dog Park

Mark Wilch reports the fencing is now installed and signage is the next step before opening.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.