

DRAFT Minutes from Parks & Recreation Committee

May 2, 2017, 5:30 pm, Middlebury Rec Center

Present: Mark Wilch, Colby Benjamin, Bill Ford,
Greg Boglioli, Bill Kernan, Terri Arnold

Absent: Tricia Allen, Elaine Orozco-Hammond, Carl Robinson

Guests: Parker 'Monty' Montgomery; Megan Mayo, Leslie Wright

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm

Motion to approve minutes: Not a quorum to approve minutes

Motion to approve agenda: BF & GB

Public Comment:

- Megan Mayo was present and lives in the East Middlebury area and wanted to learn more about the renovation of the basketball court at Harold Curtiss Park and the possibility of a pump track or skate park also being part of the park. She does not see as many kids/adult playing basketball, but sees the benefit of a multi-use area that a black top court serves to the community. She is aware of kids who would use a pump track and skate park.
- Leslie Wright was present and lives in the East Middlebury area and wanted to learn more about the sum of money being devoted to the basketball court renovation and also thought a pump track and skate park components would be more attractive to the age of kids living in East Middlebury now.
- Parker Montgomery – no comment

***** There is an opening on the Parks & Recreation Committee, if anyone knows of someone interested in serving a term on the committee***

Master Plan Sub-Committee – Bill Kernan, member of the sub-committee stated the committee had been unable to meet recently. Terri suggested 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. Both Terri and Bill emphasized that there will also need to be a timeline and a funding plan and approval from the Infrastructure and Select Board for any new amenities beyond the Picnic Pavilion, offered by the Lion's Club, hopefully we will receive a commitment by June.

Future capital money needs to be kept in mind as well as taking one project at a time – any decision will need to be approved by the P & R committee, Mary Hogan School 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.

Bill Ford, in referring to the map provided at the meeting, depicting the underground utilities should include more lines that run from the Memorial Sports Center. Bill K. will talk with Jennifer Murray, Director of Planning and seek out maps that can be incorporated onto the Master Plan map.

Budget – reviewed the snapshot version of the current budget and explained that between last month’s meeting and now, Expenditures were down -4% and are now up +4%; Revenue was down 17% and is now down 9%. These figures are a reflection of many factors including time of year, pool expenses, park expenses, etc.

Administrative Report –

- 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.
- An RFP will then need to be written and released to the public for companies to submit bids from by a certain date
- An RFP for gutters and downspouts on the Town Pool building and the Teen Hut will also need to be written and released in the next month.

Recreation Report – as related by Terri in Dustin’s absence

- Dustin is busy with summer hiring: Pool Manager, Camp K. Director, Head Lifeguard, Head Swim Coach, lifeguards and camp counselors.
- Dustin is also attending the Certified Pool Operator course this Wed. & Thurs. making three staff members with CPO certifications (Bill, Sabrina & Dustin)

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 and gearing up for the summer camp season and Colby feels they have a great group of kids.

The Teen Center has their annual fundraising event this Saturday, May 6th at Carol’s Hungry Mind Café. \$25 per ticket.

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 mentioned field maintenance at Rec Park and Jack Brown Park was complete – he also thinks closing the fields for a month next year is a good idea.

Bill also explained the change in staffing and Parks & Recreation now being under the auspices of Public Works – Terri mentioned what a difference that has made to being able to keep up the parks, structures, pool, playgrounds, etc. Very good partnership.

Memorial Sports Center

Bill brought forward that his term on the Parks & Recreation Committee ended in April but he will bring it forward at the next Friends of Middlebury Hockey meeting and see what they want to do. Bill has plans to retire from Memorial Sports Center in June, but only to do other things, Bill has worked at MSC for twenty years!

On the slate for the MSC is:

- April 24-26th North Branch Hockey Tournament
- Ice out which takes about five days to be ready for Spring floor use
- Baseball practice
- Garden Brothers Circus
- June Graduation
- Camp Kookamunga, June – August

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.