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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 5, 2018
Rye Congregational Church
Gymnasium – 2nd Floor
580 Washington Road, Rye, NH
6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Gregg Mikolaities, Chairman, Cory Belden, Todd Cronin left at 7:19 p.m., Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Georgina Saravia, Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

Guest: Steve Buchanan, Rye Congregational Church

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. New Business

Rye Congregational Space and Tour

Steve Buchanan of Rye Congregational Church led a tour of the facility. The first stop was the third floor. It was discussed that the space was being considered for a supervised drop-in youth center and had been used previously by the youth church group. It was noted that the bathrooms are located on the second floor and that the lift does not reach the third floor. However, the space needs minimum work other than perhaps flooring and paint. The third floor of the older section of the church would not be used.

The tour proceeded to the first floor; where it was pointed out that there is a lift available to provide additional access to the second floor. The fellowship hall, dining hall, kitchen and fireside room were toured. The Active, Alive and Over 55 Club luncheons and fitness classes utilize those spaces.

On the second floor, the nursery rooms, chapel and sanctuary were toured. It was mentioned that the yoga program is held in the orange room and that the Memorial Day Ceremony has been held in the sanctuary before, as it is the rain location for the event. The space currently being used for the thrift shop on the second floor and gymnasium is being considered for other programming and a senior center. The thrift shop rooms were adjacent to each other and each one had a divider. In the gymnasium where the tour

began the storage space was examined. It was noted that the cost to lease space would have to be negotiated.

Gregg Mikolaities indicated that there are two things on the table, utilization of the schools and church. He provided a recap. Lee Arthur and he met with the Rye Elementary School Principal, Suzanne Lull and School Board Member, Paula Tssetsilas to discuss future school use and that the fifth grade will be moving to the junior high next school year. As a result the School Board plans on allowing Rye Recreation to exclusively utilize the two lower classrooms that are currently being used for the after school program. Rye Recreation would have to install a restroom and provide janitorial services. It was also noted at the meeting that space under the gymnasium at the junior high school may also become available. A meeting was set-up to tour the space at the junior high school as well as a second meeting to regroup. Gregg Mikolaities cancelled both meetings. In the interim it was discovered that the thrift shop was closing and that the previous request to use the space as a youth center would be entertained as well as the opportunity to use the thrift shop space for other programming including a senior center.

The additional funds requested under the facility line in both the recreation and recreation revolving budgets were supported by the selectmen at their budget workshop and residents attended the meeting in support of the request.

The School Board is meeting with the public on November 8, 2018 and School Board Member; Paula Tssetsilas sent Gregg Mikolaities an email regarding messaging. The email and Gregg Mikolaities response was included in the meeting packet and reviewed.

Both the school and church space was discussed. It was noted that the space underneath the gymnasium at the junior high would require a significant fit-up and be very costly. The allocation of the two lower classrooms would provide space for additional students. Based on the 2018-2019 demand there could still be a waiting list. The space available at the church is significant and the church council is open to a multi-year lease. The ability to enter a lease with the school is unknown. The selectmen have been informed that they would need to participate in the initiative to acquire a long term lease with the school board. It was discussed that the afterschool program could still operate at the elementary school and the space at the church could be used as a senior center, youth center as well as additional programming.

Gregg Mikolaities indicated that the Recreation Commission needs to decide whether to pursue space at Rye Congregational Church and/or at the schools. He requested each commissioners input. Corey Belden indicated that utilizing the church should be explored to the fullest. Todd Cronin pointed out that there is a lot of available space at the church and raised the possibility of moving the recreation office. He thought that the after school program is best suited at the elementary school to avoid a transition as well as providing a separation from the older kids. Brett Mulvey indicated that he agrees that the elementary school is the best location for the afterschool program. However, a third classroom or additional shared space should be requested to meet demand if needed. He supported utilizing the church as much as possible because "it's built space" and is much

more economical than other options. He also mentioned the possibility of moving the summer program to the church. It was noted that the church has limited green space and if the program was moved it would not be in close proximity to other summer programs held at the recreation area. Joe Persechino thought that the after school program should remain at the elementary school to avoid a transition and allow participants the opportunity to participate in PTO programming. Georgina Saravia supported acquiring space at the church for programming. It was mentioned that additional space at the church could potentially accommodate the individuals on the after school program waiting list.

The only funds requested from the general fund for the project were for facility assistance; all other programming expenses would come from the recreation revolving fund. The church space being perused is the two second floor rooms currently being utilized by the thrift shop, gymnasium and the new section on the third floor. It was discussed that this endeavor is a great low cost option to see if a multi-generational community center would work and if there would be support down the road for a physical structure or to build out the space under the junior high school. It was discussed to pursue multi-year lease with the church.

Motion was made by Corey Belden to pursue a multi-year lease agreement with Rye Congregational Church for space. Second by Joe Persechino. Motion carried.

It was discussed that the School Use Subcommittee of Todd Cronin, Brett Mulvey, and Georgina Saravia would be tasked with continuing discussions with the school board regarding future school use. Todd Cronin indicated that he would reach out to School Board Members Margaret Honda, Chairperson and Paula Tsetsilas.

Program Updates

The basketball program registration deadline and late fee was discussed. A customer left a message on the recreation office phone shortly after the office closed on the day of the basketball deadline about signing-up. They called the office again on Monday and were told that the late fee was in effect. Included in the meeting packet was an e-mail from Vicki Loring, Administrative and Programs Assistant regarding the communication as well as a list of notifications distributed regarding the basketball program and late fee. Lee Arthur spoke with the customer who felt that they should not have to pay the late fee and from what she could understand it was because a message was left on the phone the day of the deadline. It was noted that payment is required when registering for programs. Gregg Mikolaities asked if the customer had participated in the program before. It was noted that they had. Corey Belden pointed out that the customer was waiting to find out when basketball would be held during the week before signing-up. It was discussed that participants are encouraged to register and are told that they will be refunded if they notify the office prior to the beginning of the program.

The late fee was put in place so the soccer and basketball leagues could be planned in a timely fashion. There was a discussion regarding changing the policy. Different

approaches were discussed including rewording the policy to indicate that there would be a discount if you register early.

Motion was made by Brett Mulvey to keep the late fee. Seconded by Georgina. Georgina Saravia Motion carried. Todd Cronin and Joe Persechino, opposed.

Todd Cronin left the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

The Recreation Commission requested that basketball program registrants are polled in regards to their anticipated program attendance. They were asked to indicate if they always, occasionally or never skied on Saturdays. The results were as follows: three always ski on Saturday, 28 do not ski on Saturday, and 14 occasionally ski on Saturday. The results would be considered when assigning registrants to teams. The current enrolment supports two 3-5 grade teams and three 1-2 grade teams. It was discussed that the lack of interest in basketball could be for various reasons (decline in population, the number of other activities available locally etc.). It was decided to evaluate the program over the coming year and see if there could be any changes made to increase enrolment. The weekday building use request has not been approved yet, because the Athletic Director at the junior high school is having difficulty finding coaching and as a result has not determined their usage at the elementary school.

The After School Program waiting list was included in the meeting packet.

IV. Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2018.

The meeting minutes of October 10, 2018 were reviewed.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2018. Seconded by Brett Mulvey motion carried.

V. Correspondence

The financial reports for October were reviewed. At the end of October the Recreation General Fund Budget had 27.3% remaining; Recreation Revolving Fund Budget had 41.45% remaining; Patriotic Purposes Budget had 22.96% remaining; and Recreation Revolving Capital Outlay Budget had 75.04% remaining. It was discussed that additional sections of the Recreation Area needs to be surveyed. Cory Belden indicated that he would contact Chris at James Vera and Associates.

The recreation budget and narrative was included in the meeting packet. The Board of Selectmen supported the budget request as submitted. The Budget Committee Work Session will be held on Thursday, November 8, 2018, the Recreation Department is scheduled for 8:30 a.m.

VI. Old Business

RFQ Recreation Multi-Purpose Storage Facility Update

It was reported that five companies attended the mandatory site walk at the Recreation Area and three submissions of qualifications were received (Big Spruce Construction,

JBC Construction and JRK Builders). The sub-committee reviewed the submissions and recommends JRK Builders of North Hampton, NH. The contractor was subsequently interviewed at 5:00 p.m., prior to the Recreation Commission Meeting. The proposal was included in the meeting packet.

Motion was made by Cory Belden to recommend JRK Builders to the Board of Selectmen to design and construct the Recreation Multi-Purpose Storage Facility. Seconded by Brett. Motion carried.

2018-2019 Rye After School Program MOU

It was noted that after the last Recreation Commission Meeting, Lee Arthur contacted the superintendent and indicated that the MOU does not represent the current use. Since that time a revised MOU was received and included in the meeting packet. The revised MOU did not accurately reflect amount of students that can be accommodated in the shared space. It indicated 25 instead of 15. It was decided to change the document to 15, sign it and return it to the superintendent.

VII. Adjournment

Motion made by Georgina Saravia to adjourn the Recreation Commission Meeting at 7:49 p.m. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried

**These are draft minutes. Please refer to the minutes of the next meeting for approvals/corrections.*