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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 6, 2019

Rye Town Hall

10 Central Road, Rye, NH

6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Cory Belden, Stephen King, Gregg Mikolaities, Brett Mulvey, Joe Persechino, Georgina Saravia Commissioners, and Lee Arthur, Recreation Director.

Guest: Thomas Hunter, Rev. Ron Lavoie, David Mikolaities, and Skyler Mikolaities.

A. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call

C. Approval of Minutes

• Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2019.

The meeting minutes of April 18, 2019 were reviewed. Joe Persechino noted that there is a spelling error in the last paragraph (motion) on the second page; “Board o Selectmen” needs to be corrected to “Board of Selectmen”.

Motion was made by Stephen King to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2019 after changing “Board o Selectmen” to “Board of Selectmen” in the last paragraph (motion) on the second page. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cory Belden to take under Old Business: Eagle Scout Project – Skyler Mikolaities and Rye Congregational Church Ice Rink – Rev. Ron Lavoie out of order. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

D. Old Business

- **Eagle Scout Project – Skyler Mikolaities**

Skyler Mikolaities from Troop 164 in Portsmouth, NH, provided the commissioners with a hand-out of his presentation. He explained what being an Eagle Scout meant to him and shared some of his experiences. His proposed Eagle Scout Project is to improve signage, trail maintenance and build a kiosk at the Recreation Area. The work would take place over this coming summer. Examples of the restroom signage and kiosk were included in the hand-out. He closed his presentation by asking the commissioners to approve the project. He pointed out that his next step would be to acquire donations from local businesses and others, because the project would be self-funded. It was discussed that there is a need for a kiosk and that Cole Adams built the stairs from the parking lot to the lower field at the Recreation Area as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

The trail maintenance would be around the Recreation Office Area, signage would be for the restrooms and the kiosk would be located at the entrance to the lower fields. The work will take place between July and August. There was a discussion of what would be posted on the kiosk. Skyler Mikolaities was requested to provide, Lee Arthur with a project progress update every two weeks.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to endorse the proposed Eagle Scout Project to improve signage, trail maintenance and build a kiosk at the Recreation Area. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

- **Rye Congregational Church Ice Rink – Rev. Ron Lavoie**

Rev. Ron Lavoie and Thomas Hunter of the Rye Congregational Church provided the commissioners with a hand-out of their presentation. Rev. Ron Lavoie indicated that he would like the church to be active in the community, not only providing religious service. The church board has approved reviving its outdoor recreational free space area. This included a basketball court, a volleyball/badminton court and a horseshoe/croquet court. Rev. Ron Lavoie showed the commissioners on a map the church recreation area. He noted that church volunteers will maintain the facilities including lawn care, rink set-up, rink tear-down, snow removal and ice resurfacing.

The proposed rink involves a plastic liner flooded with about 3 inches of water. It would be set-up in late December and taken down the first of March and have boards around the sides. The facility would be free to the community. The church is inviting Rye Recreation to partner in its use and development. The church volunteers will be able to assist with programming. The plan includes providing temporary lighting for the rink, battery powered LED lights strapped to the trees. The rink would be 60ft x 90ft.

Thomas Hunter indicated that the church is requesting assistance from the Town of Rye in flooding the rink in December. In addition, to permission to post a sign on

Washington Road advertising the daily ice rink condition and if it is open or closed. He also requested that the Town of Rye assist if there needs to be surveying done and/or grading of the area.

It was indicated that Rye Recreation could potentially assist with the request in flooding the rink. However, the Board of Selectmen is responsible for signage throughout town. Rev. Ron Lavoie indicated that the expectation is that the Recreation Commission would endorse the churches request in a letter to the Board of Selectmen. It was noted that there is a lot of local interest in the project.

Rev. Ron Lavoie hopes to generate enough community interest and support to allow the church to underwrite the cost of a chiller system. This would extend the skating season and permit the scheduling of community events. The cost of a chiller system and monthly operation cost was discussed.

It was noted that it is important to be successful the first year. The question is to go with the chiller system first or wait and prove the concept. When ready the plans will be submitted to the Town of Rye Planning and Zoning Department for approval. If there are any above ground changes the appropriate historical board/commission will be consulted.

The project will be managed by a team of volunteers consisting of church members, the pastor, community volunteers and a neighborhood representative. The following individuals were mentioned: Todd Cronin, Thomas Hunter, Ray Smoyer, Camden Mitchell, Mike Badger, Rev. Ron Lavoie, David Conte, Frank Roy, Bruce Valley and Tom Mouton.

Rev. Ron Lavoie stated he will be speaking with the neighbors in advance and wants to add to the community not detract. It was mentioned that during specific time frames there will be supervision at the facility, however, at other times not.

The commissioners indicated their support for the project and liked the lighting idea and chiller option. It was pointed out that an ice rink was included in the Town of Rye CIP at one time. Rye Recreation used to travel to Dover and Exeter for a-learn-to-skate program. It was discussed that the commission could decide to request funds to support the rink in next year's budget as well as offer programing. Rev. Ron Lavoie indicated that a separate LLC may be developed in the future to operate rink.

Motion was made by Stephen King to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen indicating the Recreation Commission's support for the Rye Congregational Church Ice Rink Project and to include the hand-out. Seconded by Georgina Saravia. Motion carried.

E. Correspondence

- **Financial Reports**

The financial reports for April were reviewed. At the end of April the Recreation General Fund Budget had 70.64% left and \$87,950.42 expended; Recreation Revolving Fund Budget had 80.39% left and \$48,045.64 expended; and the Patriotic Purposes Budget had 90.09 % left and \$1,060.00 expended.

- **Rye Little League and Rye Soccer Association Rye Recreation Fields Use Applications**

The Rye Little League and Rye Soccer Association Rye Recreation Fields Use Applications were received. Shawn Crapo of Seaside Landscaping evaluated the fields and indicated that the fields can be used. However, has requested that the participants stay off recently seeded areas.

The signs on the batting cage were discussed and the question was raised, why they were not placed on the outfield fence? It was determined that the signs need to come down after the all-stars are finished and the season has ended.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to approve Rye Little Leagues Fields Use Application with the condition that the signs are removed one week after the completion of all-stars and the season has ended. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to approve Rye Travel Soccer Associations Fields Use Application with the condition that if they want to place signs at the Recreation Area they need to come back to the Recreation Commission for approval. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

F. Old Business

- **Recreation Multi-Purpose Storage Facility Update**

The bonds required for the project were just obtained and are currently being included in the final contract. The next step is to have a site walk with the Conservation Commission to discuss the relocation of entrance to back parking lot.

Brett Mulvey noted that a \$500 contribution was received from Rye Travel Soccer Association with their field application and Rye Little League does not make a monetary contribution, although the Town now pays for the mowing of the Flash Jenness Memorial Baseball Field. It was noted that Rye Little League does look after the turf and infield maintenance of both baseball diamonds and has contributed to the area dearly in the past.

- **Recreation Congregational Church Space Update**

A message has been left with the Chairman of the Church Facility Committee in regards to the status of the lease.

- **RecTrac and WebTrac Update**

The service charge component in reference to accepting credit cards has not been finalized and the After School Program Sign-up Night is next week. This is the last step in going live. There are municipal laws that need to be followed in regards to service fees. It is anticipated that it will be resolved before sign-up. However, communication needs to be distributed to potential participants ahead of time as their household information has been preset and each family has been assigned a log in and password. It is undetermined whether WebTrac will be available for Monday's sign-up.

The youth programming at the Rye Congregational Church was discussed. Lee Arthur indicated that the space cannot be programed until a lease is signed and she provided the church with a draft lease a while ago. The space needs to be renovated prior to programing.

Brett Mulvey suggested surveying the public as to what they want for programming and what they would pay. Lee Arthur indicated that she did speak with students at the Junior High last year and they indicated that they would like an unstructured program that would operate 3:00-5:00 p.m. She was thinking of charging a quarterly membership as an example. To offer a structure after school program like the one offered at the elementary school a minimum number of participants would be needed and space. The logistics of a drop in youth center approach was discussed. The Town Attorney needs to be consulted in regards to liability and the ability of minors to sign in and out of the program.

Gregg Mikolaities referred to the project timeline he created and indicated that it is off due to the lease not being ready. It was discussed that the Teen/Youth Center would not be a revenue generator.

- **2019-2020 Rye After School Program MOU Update**

Brett Mulvey indicated that he has not heard back from the School Board in regards to the 2019-2020 Rye After School Program MOU. It was left that the superintendent wants to be involved in the process.

G. New Business

- **Future Demographics and Trends**

Included in the meeting packet was an article that Gregg Mikolaities came across by Tufts Health Plan Foundation, 2019 New Hampshire Healthy Aging Community Profile for Rye (Rockingham). He found it very interesting and indicated the importance of understanding the trends and demographics moving forward.

- **Program Updates**

Included in the meeting packet were the After School Program Newsletter and the Patrick Mulvey Memorial Basketball Camp Scholarship Application. It was noted that the Town

of Rye is conducting a Right to Know Workshop on May 8, 2019 that commissioners can attend.

- **Other**

Stephen King indicated that the insurance certificate from Rye Little League needs to list the Town of Rye as additional insured.

Motion was made by Joe Persechino to amend his previous motion to approve Rye Little Leagues Fields Use Application with the condition that the signs are removed one week after the completion of all-stars and the season has ended. To include naming the Town of Rye as additional insured on their insurance certificate. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

Plan NH will conduct listening sessions regarding a Town of Rye Charrette on Friday, May 31, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at Rye Junior High School. The read out will be held on June 1, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at Rye Junior High School.

It was noted that the Board of Selectmen approved Seaside Landscaping's RFP for the Turf Maintenance and Mowing at the Recreation Area. It was the lowest RFP received.

H. Adjournment

Motion was made by Stephen King to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Seconded by Brett Mulvey. Motion carried.

The next Recreation Commission Meeting is Monday, June 3, 2019 at Rye Town Hall.

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