

Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes

December 12th, 2018 3:15pm

Attendees: Emily, Rosa, Ed, Yoanna, John, Jodi

Call to order at 3:22 p.m.

November Meeting Minutes: A couple of spelling errors need to be corrected on the minutes, however the content was approved. Yoanna motioned, Jodi second. All in favor.

Story Book Walk Series

Marie from the library came to speak about the Story Book Walk Series. This is a program where parents and their children can go around and read stories (Literacy and Park Connection). There are different ways to do it, but the basic premise is that you can change the book and follow kiosk in the park. There's a grant, America walks, available for these types of projects and there's an example of a Story Walk in Nebraska for the Board to review.

Emily said there was an MRPA Meeting that she attended, and she found out that many other towns have these Story Walks available. She said the suggestion is to make sure the trails and program are in safe areas and suitable for kids.

There are also different ways to set up the program. Emily and Marie talked about it prior to the meeting and they suggest making this more permanent. They also thought it could be done in Central Park and Carlisle due to the current walkways and layout of the park.

Ed's concern is about the amount of maintenance work the kiosks could create given the number of posts/kiosks the program would have if approved. There was a question regarding the number of pages in a book. Marie said kids' books could be 16-32 pages.

John wanted to know if this type of program could also be done around events. Marie and Emily said they would gather details. Yoanna liked the concept. Yoanna thinks Central Park is geared toward an adult population. Carlisle seems like a great spot. Ed said they're trying to keep things more open in Central. He didn't think it would make sense to put in the open areas as they're trying to allow for people to have picnics, play ball, etc. Jodi liked the idea a lot and was open to hearing more details on less permanent and permanent structures. John suggested testing the concept. Emily liked John's idea of putting structures up temporarily to see what works. Emily will continue to discuss with the library and maybe we can put up a temporary exhibit this summer.

Glass Backboard Quote:

Emily received prices for the glass backboard for the basketball court at Savage Field Basketball Court. The boards are \$1600 for two, and the cost does not include installation. We could either have our crew do it or have someone else do it. Emily doesn't think it's a pressing issue. Emily is suggesting that we wait to see if we have the money. Yoanna made a motion that we do not do anything to replace the current backboards until they are damaged. Jodi seconded. All in favor.

Logo stencil for basketball court at Vale Street

Emily said that she researched the cost of the logo stencil on the basketball court at Vale Street and it's going to be approximately \$5K. While there wasn't a vote, all agreed that we should wait on this and it's not a priority.

Donation to Central Park:

John asked about the request from the Brody Family about putting a statue in Central Park and whether there had been any updates. Emily said she had asked them if they were open to putting one in any other park and if they would also be willing to set up a maintenance fund. Emily researched the maintenance cost of this type of structure and found it would be approximately \$700-\$1000 every two years. Emily said that the family seemed to be open to setting this type of fund up to keep the statue maintained if approved. Emily will keep the Board up-to-date as things develop.

Administrative

Budget timeline. Emily will have it ready to present in January. Emily is waiting for an update on Ash Street. Is the school requesting money? What about staff? Ed wants to know if we are going to put in money for tree replacements. Emily said she has four donors lined up and three picked out at this point. Yoanna thought Russ was going to combine the global tree request removal. Emily said she and Russ are going to meet to discuss how the budgets will be submitted, what's included, who's asking for what, etc. and keep us posted. The budgets are due the end of January, early February and then reviewed in March. Emily requested a Rec Coordinator Position year-round. She mentioned that she was able to save \$16K in the budget and the position request is \$18K so she's only looking for \$2K assuming we don't increase the expenses.

Emily mentioned that The Baseball Tomorrow lighting grant fund is complicated. We're asking for \$142K (it's a matching grant). The total lighting is about \$295k. This will be submitted before the holidays and fingers crossed we receive the grant!

Recreation

Holiday Pops went very well except for one glitch. The musician needed a piano. He was given a keyboard that Parks & Recreation had on hand and it worked out well.

The 50/50 netted the P&R \$150. Final payouts have not been totaled yet so Emily is unsure of the final numbers for this event.

Gingerbread - The gingerbread workshop was a big success, this year we did a candy bar for supplies and had a book reading from a local artist.

Clinton Youth Softball League sponsorships are being sent out. The board was asked to help reach out to any potential donors. There are different levels: Gold for the team, Green for equipment & operating and Advertising. Emily met with Dick's Sporting Goods and they're donating equipment and Banner. This is the first year they will be a sponsor of the league.

Block Party on Ice party on 1/25.

Emily and Rosa met with Dr. Meyer about 1 ½ weeks ago. They wanted to speak to him about an Activity Van as well as the usual collaboration between the school and Parks and Recreation. During the meeting, Dr. Meyer talked about the before and after school program that's run at the Elementary School and wanted to see if Parks and Recreation would be willing to take it over. Dr. Meyer said it runs itself. He said that all participants pay a fee and the staff is paid out of a revolving account. He also said they have 80 kids year-round. Morning is 7:30-8:45 and then afterschool is 3:15-5:30. All agreed that Parks & Recreation can't assume the program with the current staffing level, but it would be worth learning more about and talking it through. Emily said the program would continue to be located at the schools. Emily will follow-up with more details and present a plan to the Board once she's gathered more information and speaks to Russ and the school department.

Open Items:

Ed feels as though we could do a lot more at Turini's Corner and it needs a little TLC. Emily will follow up with him.

The Board discussed the comments that were included in the paper during the Selectmen's meeting regarding sidewalk clearance in the park during snowstorms. All agreed that Parks & Recreation is understaffed and unable to provide a resource before or after hours or on weekends to clear the paths during that time so they're done when staff comes in during business hours. Sometimes there's a delay depending upon when the snow or ice hit.

Emily mentioned that she and Russ were working on some HR issues and that she would keep the Board updated as needed and necessary.