

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING
October 20, 2014**

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Board met on Monday, October 20, 2014 at the Gibson Aiken Center in the Senior Center.

Attending Board Members: Bonnie Carr, Renee Woliver, Sam Rowley and Ben Underhill.

Attending Staff members: Director Carol Lolatte, Assistant Director Jessy Cudworth and Administrative Assistant Kim Isaacsen.

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie Carr at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Adjustment: Bonnie Carr made a motion to move the presentation for the Dog Park to the top of the agenda, Sam seconded and all members voted in favor of the change.

Public Participation: Rachel Selsky and Marianne Guerinot

Motion to approve the September 8, 2014 minutes was made by Ben Underhill and 2nded by Sam Rowley, by a vote of 4-0 minutes were approved.

Dog Park Proposal: Carol gave a history of the dog park proposal for new Board Members. Carol has working with Rachel Selsky to research proposed locations for a dog park, when Marianne Guerinot reached out to Carol about possible locations for a dog park, Carol connected Rachel and Marianne. Rachel and Marianne worked together with Paul Ethier and Carol to complete a proposal for a dog park at Living Memorial Park. An off leash dog park would be an asset to community residents and visitors. The presentation included ideas for fundraising and items that will be needed to complete the project. The estimated cost for the project is \$17,000.00. This project would have no impact on the Recreation & Parks budget all funds used would need to be raised. The space that is being considered is already being maintained by park maintenance staff. Due to the location of the dog park it would only be accessible when the ski/sledding hill is not operating.

Board members Renee Woliver and Sam Rowley asked if trees would need to be removed, no trees would need to be removed; however some low lying brush would need to be cleared.

Sam Rowley asked about the impact on the July 4th fireworks display, Carol says this will not be an issue the fireworks can be set up in a slightly different location.

Ben Underhill and Bonnie Carr asked about how the park will operate and who will control the dogs. Rachel and Marianne felt that with the right signage dog owners will

police the area themselves. Ben also stated that there is a need in the community for a dog park.

Carol recommended that all Board Members visit the suggested location for a better visual of the proposed area.

The next steps will be for Carol to speak with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns about insurance impact, Board Members will visit the proposed site and at the November Board meeting take a vote and make a recommendation to the Selectboard.

Sam Rowley made a motion that the Board wait until November to vote as more Board Members will be present at the November meeting and it will give all Board Members a chance to go to Living Memorial Park and see the site. Sam's motion was seconded by Bonnie and the motion was carried by a vote of 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

SKATEBOARD SITE SELECTION UPDATE: Carol has spoken with the Theresa Brungardt family and they approve of the suggested changes to the Senior Picnic area. They requested that there still be a picnic area with easy access for seniors and that Theresa Brungardt still be recognized.

BASIC: A few Board members have met with Carol and Paul at Living Memorial Park site. They have to determine how much of the proposed site is usable space and if the site large enough to accommodate the proposed Skatepark.

WEST RIVER PARK UPDATE: The Snack Bar/Rest Room will go out for a re-bid for the project to be completed in the early spring. Carol has asked for \$50,000.00 from Vermont Community Foundation, Withington Fund to help complete the project. To date 48 bricks have been sold. The maintenance shed was painted in September. The fields are in good shape, the vandalism we repaired by maintenance staff and a few changes have been made at the Park to prevent vehicle entrance to the fields.

POOL ENGINEERING SERVICES: Carol has put \$400,000.00 into the Capital plan to address issues at the pool, leaking. Cracks in the deck, filter plant issues, and update the pool house.

SENIOR CENTER: The Senior Center will be getting new window quilts from Friends of the Sun, the new window quilts are scheduled to be installed this week. The carpet needs to be replaced. Jessy has requested funds from the Thompson Trust to be matched by the Ray Riddle Trust the funds will be used to replace the carpet. All upgrades will be made at no cost to the town.

GIBSON AIKEN CENTER: Fire escape doors in the back of the building are being replaced. The works will be completed by November 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

PROGRAM REPORT:

- Fall programs are wrapping up.
- Basketball registration was October 15th & 16th, numbers a low but should increase before the program starts.
- Horribles Parade is scheduled for October 31st, the Parade begins at 6:00pm at the Brattleboro Co-op.
- Gibson Aiken Center opens for evening and adult programming on October 20th.

SKATING RINK: The Skating Rink is opening for the season on October 25th. Maintenance has started to make ice, painting lines and have added a new safety zone around on the ice near the boards this year. We have made time changes to the Saturday morning public skate and stick time to accommodate the requested ice time changes for The Brattleboro Youth Hockey Association.

ICE TIME REQUESTS: The Greenfield group has backed out of the requested ice time for this season, but the Women's Hockey Association has taken that time slot. Carol is now reaching out to other groups to try and fill the empty Thursday night time slot.

SKI-SKATE SALE: The sale is scheduled for November 7, 8 & 10, Jake Dixon should be contacting Board members to volunteer.

BOARD MEMBERS: The Board is still looking for another member, a few people have reached out to Carol and she has directed them to the Town Managers Office.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10th at 6:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Ben, 2nded by Bonnie at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Isaacsen

Kim Isaacsen, Administrative Assistant