

Skatepark Site Selection Committee Minutes Draft

Meeting: January 30, 2014

Meeting called to order: at 5:17 PM by Betsy Gentile

Members present: Joe Bushey, Marty Fitzgerald, Betsy Gentile, Elizabeth McLoughlin, Jacob Roberts, Dan Sontag, Andrea Watkins

Others present: Carol Lolatte, Jeff Clark, Adam Hubbard, Les Montgomery, Karolina Oleksiw, Fric Spruyt, Francine Vallario, Patty Fitzgerald

Agenda:

1. Public Participation

Adam Hubbard apologized to the members of the committee if his remarks e-mailed to them on 1/23/14 had been construed as negative. His apology was accepted.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from January 9, 2014 meeting

Vote: Motion carried

Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on January 9, 2014 were approved without modification.

3. Public Input Via E-mail

Carol Lolatte was asked what response was being given to e-mails sent by the public to the site: skateparkideas@brattleboro.org. She said that all e-mails are being acknowledged, the sender thanked and informed of the next SSSC meeting. It was discussed and then decided that "input suggestions" should be categorized according to topics and considered when the specific topic came up at a meeting. A question arose as to whether the e-mails should be made public since the privacy of the sender was a consideration. Carol proposed she would check with the Bob Fisher, the attorney for the town, as to how to handle this.

4. Discuss Skatepark Criteria

The reworked criteria sheet was reviewed. The design/mission statement used on the sheet was questioned. After a discussion of the wording it was agreed to keep it as written with the substitution of "criteria" for the word "mission". After reviewing all the criteria and the factors chosen, one factor was eliminated under "Safety" and the following list was agreed upon. Public comments on the list will be welcomed until February 20, 2014, the next SSSC meeting.

Design Criteria: To identify and evaluate sites within the community that will be appropriate for a premiere, concrete, wheel-friendly skatepark in a clean, safe environment.

Criteria

1. Size

Factors

- a. Acreage (6,500 sq. ft. minimum)
- b. Meets design criteria (see above)
- c. Can accommodate skill/age variation
- d. Property includes ability for expansion or mixed use

2. Location

- a. Accessible by foot/sidewalks

- b. Accessible from schools
- c. Parking available
- d. Near neighborhoods/population density
- e. Near or benefit to local retail businesses
- f. Proximate to other recreational attractions
- g. Proximate to rest rooms/water/shade
- h. Served by public transit
- i. General accessibility
- j. ADA accessibility
- k. Liveliness - level of activity

3. Safety

- a. Visibility
- b. Ability to patrol by car/accessed by emergency services
- c. Quantity of pedestrian activity
- d. Ability for emergency phone/cell service
- f. Traffic safety

4. Cost

- a. Purchase price
- b. Loss or gain of revenue
- c. Maintenance costs
- d. How is the site currently being used

5. Topography

- a. Act 250 and other land use controls
- b. Flood control/drainage
- c. Noise levels
- d. Topography
- e. Site remediation needs
- f. Other physical/environmental concerns
- g. Green to gray/gray to green
- h. Buffers

5. Brainstorm Sites

There was a discussion whether to use Brattleboro's "Maps Online" or printed aerial maps supplied by the Planning Services Department. It was decided to start with the latter since they already had approximately 20 possible parcels of land highlighted on them and color-coded as to ownership (town, school or private). These sites had been suggested by the Recreation Department and the Planning Services Department. Members of the committee, using these maps added other potential sites they knew of or had been suggested by the public through e-mails or in person. All of the brainstormed sites will be compiled into a single list. For the next meeting, the committee members were asked to think of ways to narrow the list to the more viable sites. They were also asked to think of ways to score the factors on the criteria sheet.

6. Set Next Meeting:

February 20, 2014 at 5:15 PM at the Gibson Aiken Center

Meeting Adjourned: at 6:43 PM

Submitted by: Patty Fitzgerald