

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING
October 15, 2018**

All Minutes are considered draft until the next meeting

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Board met on Monday, October 15, 2018 at the Gibson Aiken Center.

Attending Board Members: Bethany Ranquist, Conor Floyd, Jess Gould, Becky Day and Bill Willson.

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

Agenda Adjustment: Move New Business 5., D to top of agenda.

Public Participation: Peter Gaskill, Jill Shriver

Minutes: Motion to approve the September 10, 2018 minutes was made by Jess Gould and seconded by Conor Floyd by a vote of 4-0 with 1 abstention the September minutes were approved.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: The Board received a proposal for a bee hive to be added to the community garden in 2019. Jill Shriver is a local veterinarian who would like to install the bee hive with two tier electric fencing in one of the established garden plots. The Board had a lengthy discussion with the garden coordinator Peter Gaskill and Jill Shriver, they had many questions about how the other gardeners may feel about the hive, citizens who live or garden in the area with bee allergies, future use for education purposes, possible abandonment of hive by the bee keeper, insurance liability, concerns about attracting other wildlife to the area and electric fencing in a public park. Board Members requested more information on the insurance and if other Communities have been successful installing bee hives. Board member Bethany Ranquist made a motion to table the proposal at this time and revisit at the next meeting with more information, the motion was seconded by Jess Gould and all Board Members voted in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

SKATEPARK UPDATE: The second public meeting with the design firm Stantec was held on September 20th, it was attended by about 15-20 community members. They were presented with 2 design ideas as a result of the first meeting, the group then worked together to combine the best of both design ideas into one design. The goal is to present a finalized design at the next BASIC meeting scheduled for November 8th. The final design will be brought to the Board and the DRB will need to approve and renew permits. Construction should begin in the spring.

HARRIS HILL SKI JUMP: The DRB meeting on October 22nd will address the permitting needed to revitalize the 17 meter ski jump at Living Memorial Park. The Harris Hill Ski Jump Committee are working with the Rotary Disc Golf Committee to complete the repairs to the jump and relocate the necessary tee box. The repairs should be completed and the jump should be open for use this winter.

NEW BUSINESS

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES:

- Linda Whelan from The Brattleboro Museum and Art Center is offering a paper flower making class on October 25th.
- A Spooktacular Lunch is scheduled for October 31st.
- Terry Sylvester is working with Jessy to create a mural to be painted outside the Senior Center's front door.
 - The proposed Mural is a foliage painting that progresses through the season like our environment, the cost is estimated to be \$900.00. Board Member Becky Day made a motion to move forward with the mural provided Jessy is able to receive funding through a request to the Ray Riddle Trust, the motion was seconded by Jess Gould and all Board member voted in favor of the motion.
- Senator Sander's office will be offering the Senior Holiday Meal again in December.

PROGRAM REPORT:

- Soccer Program:
 - The pre-school program finished on October 10th.
 - Games have started for all the other levels.
- Field Hockey – 17 participant's games began on September 22nd.
- Flag Football – 46 participants in grades 3-6, this program will finish up on October 21st.
- Gymnastics has 122 participants in the current session that ends on October 29th.
- The Registration for Fall & Winter sports in October 16th & 17th.
- The Men's & Women's League Basketball kick off the season with pick-up games beginning this week and organizational meeting were held last week for Men's League and this week for Women's League.
- The Open Gym programing begins October 15th.
- The Skating Rink opens on October 20th.

ANNUAL HORRIBLES PARADE: New for the Horribles Parade & Brattle-Boo this year will be co-sponsored with Brattleboro Police Department and Downtown Brattleboro Alliance, over 40 business on Main St. will be offering trick or treating from 4:00pm-7:00pm.

ANNUAL SKI/SKATE SALE: The Annual Phil & Mary Dunham Ski Skate Sale is scheduled for Nov 2nd, 3rd & 5th. The BOC is responsible for coordinating volunteers for the event, Board Members should expect a call from Jake Dixon to volunteer if they can help with the event. Next year the Board would like us to research how other ski/skate sales work and review with BOC the 80/20% payment that is currently used.

SWIM TEAM HOURS: Carol will be meeting with the Swim Team Board at their next Board meeting to discuss the possibility of changing the current practice times. The Swim Team currently rents pool time for practice, however their practice times are during prime time swimming from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in the evening. The group is open to looking at the current schedule to see if any type of adjustment can be made, Carol has three options that she will be presenting to the Board.

CAPTIAL IMPROVMENTS:

- The insulation installation at the rink and warming shelter will not be completed prior to opening for the season. It will now need to be completed in the spring after the Rink closes for the season.
- During the preparation for opening the Rink it was necessary to replenish the R-22 is the refrigerant used to keep ice frozen. It has been many years since a full re-charge of the system was completed. Ice making and painting started on October 12th.

FYI UPDATE:

- Work with the Green Street Promise group continues, many improvements have already been made to Crowell Lot and the Elliot St. playground. There are still items that need to be completed and Carol will help coordinate the improvements being made to the parks.
- Morningside trail still continues to be a problem area to keep clean of sharps. Carol is working with Groundworks Collaborative to help keep the area clean and safe for citizens.
- There was a large tree at Crowell Lot removed on October 15th, it was necessary to remove the tree as it had become dangerous.
- LaRock should be removing the dead brush around Citizens Bridge soon, the dead brush is from the knot weed spraying that was done a few weeks ago.
- The fencing for the South Main St Park should be installed sometime over the next few weeks.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 19th at 6:15p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Jessica Gould, 2nded by Bethany Ranquist at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Isaacsen

Kimberly Isaacsen, Administrative Assistant