

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT**

**BOARD MEETING
November 19, 2018**

The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Board met on Monday, November 19, 2018 at the Gibson Aiken Center.

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

Attending Staff Members: Director Carol Lolatte

Agenda Adjustment: Move Old Business 4., C to top of agenda.

Public Participation: Peter Gaskill, Jill Shriver

Meeting Structure: Motion to nominate Conor Floyd to run the meeting was made by Jess Gould and seconded by Bethany Ranquist. By a vote of 4-0 the motion was approved. Jess Gould took the minutes.

COMMUNITY GARDEN: The Board revisited the proposal it received in October for a bee hive to be added to the community garden in 2019. Jill Shriver presented the board with examples of successful public bee hives in other communities. The most relevant to us is Battery Park in New York City. A handout was provided for members. Peter Gaskill spoke with the other community gardeners and reported that most were in favor of the proposal. Once voiced opposition due to the risk of drawing bears to the gardens for honey. Carol reached out to the town attorney and did a site visit with Wade Masure from Vermont Cities, Leagues, and Towns. The insurance company agent does not recommend the location for this proposal. The town attorney, Robert Fisher, also does not recommend and would recommend a different location, not on town land. Carol recommended looking into BEEC, Lisa Holderness on Upper Dummerston Road, and West River Park, and voiced that she would have a hard time recommending the current proposal to the board based on information received from the attorney and Vermont Cities, Leagues, and Towns. Becky Day moved and Jess Gould seconded that we not recommend based on the recommendation of the town attorney and insurance company. By a vote of 3-0 with one abstention the motion passed. Carol will send the recommendation of the board to the Selectboard. They may choose to go forward regardless of the recommendation.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the October 15, 2018 minutes was made by Jess Gould and seconded by Bethany Ranquist by a vote of 4-0 the September minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

SKATEPARK UPDATE: Carol gave the board members printouts of the finalized design for the skate park which will now be brought to the DRB to approve and renew permits. Construction should begin in the spring.

SKI SKATE SALE: The annual Ski Skate Sale this year included just under 500 items and grossed \$6800. It was very well attended and very busy. Carol led a discussion about changing the closing schedule slightly so that next year at 4:00pm when items are nearly all cleared from the gym they would be moved into the painting room to free the gym up for regular use.

DISCUSSION WITH SWIM TEAM: Carol had a meeting with Brattleboro Swim Team and presented a proposal of 1. Morning practices, 2. Later evening practices, and 3. Split time practices. At the meeting the idea of Saturday and Sunday morning practice times was brought up and seemed like a comfortable compromise for everyone. Discussion will continue.

NEW BUSINESS

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES:

- Jessy Cudworth has resigned as Assistant Director and finishes her role December 7, 2018. Interviews will begin the week of November 26th.
- November 15th was the Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. They served 101 people. It was a great meal and they saw a lot of new faces this year!
- Senator Sanders has again stated that he will sponsor a free Holiday luncheon for the seniors. The meal will be held on December 20.
- The Senior Center is looking to schedule an AARP safe driver course, a nutrition presentation, and is planning their annual cookie swap in December.
- The Brattleboro Senior Corporation approved the painting of the mural at the entrance of the Senior Center. Painting as planned to begin the last week of November with Terry Sylvester as the project coordinator/painter.

PROGRAM REPORT:

- Open gym and game room:
 - Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 86 participants
 - Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday: 123 participants
 - Early Release (Open Gym 1:30 PM-5 PM, K-12th grade): 47 participants
 - Parent/Tot Open Gym: 5 to 15 participants, started on Thursday, November 15.

- Horribles Parade & Brattle-Boo: There was a huge turn out for the parade this year escorted by Brattleboro police, BUHS band, costumed community members, light saber artists, and a Brattleboro Fire Department Truck. The addition of Brattle-Boo and the partnership with the Downtown Alliance seemed to attract a lot of families to the event.
- The Phil and Mary Dunham Ski, Skate, and Hockey Equipment Sale: had just under 600 items donated and grossed over \$6800.
- Santa Claus Is Coming To Town: Saturday, December 1 at 1:00 PM.
- Youth Basketball:
 - Kindergarten: 18 participants so far
 - Grades 1 & 2 Co-ed: 40 participants (4 Teams)
 - Grades 3 & 4 Boys: 35 participants (4 Teams)
 - Grades 3 & 4 Girls: 14 participants (2 Teams)
 - Grades 5 & 6 Boys 304 participants (4 Teams)
 - Grades 5 & 6 Girls: 21 participants (2 Teams)
- Chess Class: 6 kids in the beginner class, two in the intermediate, two kids in the advanced class. Classes began Thursday, November 1.
- Gymnastics classes:
 - 107 students within 12 classes. This figure does not include Wednesday and Thursday open gym attendance.
 - Gymnastics team and pre-team: 45 girls
- Adult Basketball Leagues:
 - Men's League: 17 teams - games begin November 28
 - Women's League: 3 teams - games begin November 26
- Adult Programming:
 - Zumba: 14 drop-ins, the class is now only once per week.
 - Badminton: 10
 - Volleyball: zero
 - Pickleball: 18 table
 - Tennis: 14 drop-ins, one punch pass
- Nelson Withington Skating Facility
 - Ice Rink Dollar Visit: 352 (140 at this time last year)
 - Resident Student: 560 visit (464 this time last year)
 - Resident Adult: 125 visit
 - Non-Resident Adult: 48 visits
 - Non-Resident Student: 97 visit (43 this time last year)
 - Seniors: 43 visits

- Toddlers: 0 visits
- Resident Stick Time: 62 (45 student)
- Rink Non-Resident Student Stick Time: 9
- Skate Rentals: 587 (320 this time last year)
- Speed Skating: 0 participants, Sunday, November 4 was the first day

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

- The insulation installation at the rink and warming shelter will be completed in the spring after the Rink closes for the season.
- The R-22 refrigerant used to keep ice frozen at the rink is doing great so far since its replacement.

SKATE SHARPENING PROPOSAL:

A proposal was submitted by William Miskovich to set up a Skate Sharpening service at the Skating Rink. After discussion, Bethany Ranquist motioned, seconded by Becky Day, that we do not accept the proposal based on liability and lack of insurance and concern that the proposal is in direct competition with local business owners that the department has a strong connection with. The motion was approved 4-0.

LOLATTE VACATION: Carol will be on vacation and out of the country from December 19 2018 to January 5, 2019.

FYI UPDATE:

- WIFI Public Password is now posted in the building.
- The Green Street Promise Committee has not installed the new playground structure at the Crowell Lot and needs to have it installed by the end of this calendar year. Carol is unsure of whether they will be able to complete this as the ground is freezing and installation will be more difficult.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2018 at 6:15p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Jessica Gould, Seconded by Bethany Ranquist at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jess Gould and Bethany Ranquist

Rec and Parks Board Members