

Norwich Recreation Council Minutes 10/8/14 Meeting

Attending: Kristin Brown, Jill Collins, Laura Duncan, Karin Dwyer, Jill Kearney Niles, Kris Strohhenn

1. **Minutes** for the 9/10/14 meeting were approved, there was a discussion to highlight “Action Items” more prominently in the minutes and be sure to carry them forward to future meeting agendas, so as not to lose track of them
2. **Skating rink pics:**
 - Jill is still seeking photos of kids & families using the rink
ACTION ITEM: Jill will contact Bill Hammond to see if he has any photos.
ACTION ITEM: Kristin will also look for photos, as she was at skating party and took a lot of pictures
3. **Norwich Pool Update:** Terry McDonnell presented an update on the pool progress.
 - \$500K pledged by FEMA, these funds will expire on Nov 2016 if not used
 - Town is preparing a permit application, although expectations are that this will be difficult to secure
 - Town will work to establish a “baseline condition”, as this is needed in order to prove no adverse impact to environment by rebuilding pool
 - Terry is organizing a petition effort, asking local schools to assist, in order to show the State the broad level of community support for rebuilding the Pool
 - Terry will request Rec Council help as needed
4. **Lions Club Grant:** suggestions from last meeting:
 - \$700 requested for interpreter services for the Circus Camp
 - \$1000 requested for refurbishing outdoor camps: basketball nets, pain for backboards, shorter nets for court behind the school.
ACTION ITEM: Jill will confirm interpreter services needed this year
ACTION ITEM: Laura to confirm our suggestions with Bill Hammond and Jonathan Brush and create the grant request letter
5. **Norwich Animal Ordinance:** No further council discussion on this, although Jill was asked to step away from Rec Council meeting to present to Select Board, they are considering adding a sign or restricting dogs from “sporting events”, although nothing was decided that night.
6. **Huntley Meadow Parking Lot and Bridge to Elk’s Lodge:** new pavement at Huntley has improved the parking situation, although anecdotally there

were incidents noted by Council members that suggests parking is still inadequate and safety remains a concern

ACTION ITEM: Karin to call Neil to see if any progress has been made on the Engineering evaluation, needed to move forward with building a new bridge to the Elks Lodge lot

7. **Quality of Community Committee:** Laura Duncan volunteered to represent Rec Council on this committee

8. **Halloween Celebration at the Inn:** the celebration will be held at the Inn from 3:15 – 4:45, Lars Blackmore will photograph the event
ACTION ITEM: Kristin will ask BJs for cider and donuts donation, Kristin or Danielle will pick up items and deliver to party
ACTION ITEM: Jill will send out event flyers and ask Youth-In-Action if they have any volunteers who would like to help with face painting

9. **Rec Council Survey:** this item was tabled as Reese was not present...this item also ties into the broader Strategic Planning effort

10. **Strategic Plan:** Council will use Nov 12th and Dec 10th meetings to discuss outcomes of recent action items and develop timetable for plan, which has languished since February
ACTION ITEM: Karin will review Claremont Needs Assessment to see if Norwich can use as a starting point, especially survey questions
ACTION ITEM: Jill C. will get demographics data for Norwich from town officials

11. **Old Business/Action Items:**
 - **Budget for skating rink to Jill:** DONE
 - **Bad weather cancellation policy,** this was raised 2 years ago when SAU70 cancelled quite a few games that Rec thought could have been played, although it was not a big issue last winter it would be good to understand the criteria SAU 70 uses to determine cancellation
ACTION ITEM: Karin will get criteria from Jonathan Brush
 - **Gender separating for 1st /2nd grade sports:** no action items
 - **Middle School Athletics:** no action items
 - **Backstop MCS baseball field:** do we need volunteers to put this up?