

## Minutes for Norwich Recreation Council Meeting 4/5/16

Present: Jill Kearney-Niles, Laura Duncan, Jill Collins, John Girard, Page Tompkins, Kristin Fauci, Amy Tuller, Ryan Gardner, Chris Clapp. Bill Tine - visitor  
Review of last month's minutes by Jill.  
Minutes accepted by all

### New Business:

John Girard reported that we have two 5/6 grade groups signed up to play baseball in Norwich. He felt that it was a good decision the Council came to, to offer a choice of which league they wanted to play in. This has worked out well for Norwich families.

Amy Tuller has offered to keep minutes for meetings.

April 13<sup>th</sup>: On selectboard meeting agenda- a proposal to have a committee to discuss options for a Norwich pool.

Action item: Jill will send an update next week after the meeting.

Suggestion of a Bike Pump Track at Barrett Meadow has been raised by Gered Kristin discussed what a pump track is- piles of dirt that are rollers for kids to roll over, with minimal pedaling to increase balance skills, muscles, and can be used by all ages. Barrett Meadow doesn't have a lot of parking, but is a place kids could ride to. If it were at Huntley Meadow kids could be biking in the pump track while siblings are playing other sports. Could go around outside and back of Huntley. Graham Webster has volunteered to donate his time if this project comes to fruition. Bill asked "Why Barrett?" Kristin feels it is an underused space.

Laura asks about supervision and maintenance. Also, would it get used for digging/sandbox? Would need to be maintained. Who would maintain it? How will it get paid for?

Action item: Kristin will get some more information on how other towns manage these.

Jill identified a gap in mountain biking program, as nobody has been running it recently. If anyone knows of somebody with the skills to teach this, please approach them and have them contact Jill. Jane LaMasurier might be a great contact, to help with this, due to her biking and ski coaching background.

Huntley Spring Schedule and Parking Issues: Thank you to Jill C. for setting up the activity calendar for Huntley Meadow for this spring. Jill and Jill have been able to highlight days that will be very heavy parking days.

Jill goes through each sport schedule as they come to her, and has done everything she can to avoid overscheduling. Probably next year, they will move softball to Dresden fields, which will relieve some parking. Jill brought up about 9 days that are especially busy, which means that people end up parking in the road, which is

dangerous. Parking at Legion is not a viable solution since there is no longer a walking bridge across the brook to Huntley. Suggestion to have coaches send out to parents to please do just a drive through for pick up. Might not be helpful, as traffic will get backed up in Huntley lot. Jill could ask Doug Robinson to come by to help with parking on these days. Ryan brought up possibility of asking the high school to provide a bus to drop off high school students to practice. Will need to be a cultural change to get people to carpool or walk to Huntley. One option would be to work with AT for kids to take AT and families to park in town Norwich. Could relocate commuter lot for heavy days- probably not helpful, as it doesn't get used much for that. Could have someone out with sandwich board to redirect on heavy days or have Norwich PD there to redirect. Coaches could take whole team up to lot at a specific time and place so parents can drive through and pick up. Drawback- parents might be in a hurry or kids might go back to field if parent is not there. Will send out emails again this year, to encourage parents to reduce parking at Huntley. Are there more spaces if we line the lots? At some point, we need to make a change if safety is compromised. Demand is greater than supply. Outside teams bring in revenue. If renting space was eliminated, the problem could be solved but there would be a major decrease in revenue for the Town.

Coaches could send a weekly plea to parents to please carpool.

Could use a few parking spots on Turnpike, if you park off the road. Could plan to meet your kids in town 15 minutes after practice. Coaches can put out email and parents can use team wall to set up carpools.

Would someone like to take on the project of getting another footbridge built? Cost was estimated at \$250,000.

Round Table discussion:

Action item: Kristin and Gered will research pump track more. More biking in general.

Bill: was curious to see what happens here and may have interest in joining group in the future. Who is in charge of MCS playgrounds? Could be better. Dresden. Could work with Bill Hammond to develop volunteer group to tackle this.

John: Action item: Jill asked if he would line up umpires for baseball season

Laura: Still thinking about a rec center. Discussion ensued about survey that was sent out and what people want: People are generally satisfied with programming. Many people interested in a pool, bike trails, all day summer program for kids.

Chris: Bathrooms at Huntley Meadow. Need bathrooms for the amount of people that use it, and also concessions. Rec Center- would like to pursue for future.

Would need to put together a proposal. Would make sense to wait until a new Town Manager is in place before pursuing this..

Page asked about Youth in Action for library supervision. Could not promise to have someone available for every day.

Jill C.: would like to see some kind of Connecticut River access available. Make it more known that people can use canoe access. Maybe build a dock for swimming.

Ryan: Have a coach supervisory program that is both kid-specific and sport-specific.

Jill has a program put together by Paul Donahue that she shares with new Basketball

coaches. Has set up progression of skill development/drills to do for various ages  
Could bring in some outside speakers to talk about how we are coaching. Action  
item: Ryan will put together resources he likes. Jill will review her library.

Page: Interested in the positive youth development idea and how we create positive  
experiences for kids.

There is a group of kids that are interested in rock climbing. a rock climbing  
club/team. There are a few parents who are experienced rock climbers (Page). This  
activity might fill a nice gap for some summer Fridays or an afternoon program.

Action item: Page will continue to research.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 7@ 7:00 pm. June 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. No meetings in July.