

Minutes for Norwich Recreation Council Meeting 5/3/16

Present: Jill Kearney Niles, Laura Duncan, Page Tompkins, Kristin Fauci, Rebecca Mateo, Amy Tuller, Ryan Gardner, Gered Dunne, Jill Collins & Bill Tine

Reviewed minutes of last meeting. Minutes accepted with motion by Jill Collins, second by Laura Duncan.

Selectboard member Stephen Flanders is putting together a committee to look at community pool options. Would like to include at least one Rec Council member. Discussed history of Norwich pool and its demise - an inability to rebuild due to agency of natural resources regulations. One thought is that there are several swimming options outside but near to town, and that it seems like many Norwich residents are not interested in funding large projects at this time. Jill K-N has contacted Dick Dodds at Storrs pond and he was open to the idea of offering a discount for Norwich residents there. In summer, people need a place to cool off on hot days. Milton Frye has said that many people have been going on his property to access the stream. Jill Collins will consider volunteering for this committee, as she has an interest in CT river access.

Spring Sports Update: up and running. Only girls' softball needed to be cancelled due to numbers-joined with Hanover as they also had low numbers. Mini Kickers: program is full. 32 three to six year olds in a Challenger British soccer program. Coaches come from Rhode Island every Monday to run it. Very well educated and professional coaches. They will also have programs in the summer. Jill has lacrosse officials all lined up and John has helped line up umpires for baseball. 37 Girls on the Run signed up. Some have questioned why we don't have a "Boys on the Run" program. Jill has been trying for 3 years to get this together but has not been successful in lining up coaches. Discussion ensued about how to include boys running program. Maybe look to Upper Valley Running club for coaches. Should we have a program that is separate from the Girls on the Run organization? In the past we have had the Trailblazers group. Should we pursue a relationship with Dartmouth College and/or help from high school team? The middle school will have a program for 6-8 grade cross country.

Touch A Truck day: Wednesday, May 25th from 2:15-3:30pm by the Green. Laura, Jill, Rebecca, Kristin, Page have offered to help out. Discussed set up of trucks for best safety and flow. Need sponsor for snacks. ? King Arthur? Action Alert: Bill will help with this. ? Norwich Square café?

Summer Programs: Action Alert: Page will come in to sit and discuss rock climbing program with Jill. Maybe 3 or 4 Fridays in the summer. Jill has sent out emails to sports program counselors to ask if they will help with some Friday afternoon programs. One consideration is that school is out on June 15th but there are no programs that week. Discussed ideas to offer. Jill Collins suggested discussing option of adding rock climbing and mountain biking options for fall/spring offerings. Rebecca might consider running the fall mountain biking program. Also ask Jeff and Josh Chu and Arturo Johnson to help. Maybe contact the Rutland group and Catamount organization to do a skills camp. Action Alert: Rebecca will look into this.

Fall: Jill has found a possible fall soccer coach. Need a 5th/6th grade coach who is advanced and able to take these kids to a higher level, such as a former high school or college player. Action Alert: Jill will ask Paul Foster. Dave Barlow might be good choice for younger kids. We need to have a specific outline/philosophy for all coaches to follow. Jill says this already exists, from Bill Miles.

Action Alert: Laura suggests putting out a “teaser” about fall soccer, this spring, before school ends. It would be helpful to look at projected numbers now, for lining up coaches. Laura suggested asking Bill Miles to coach 5th/6th grade. Laura also offered to help be the organizer for this group. Gered asked if some coaches follow kids all the way through the grades? Jill discussed incentives based on years coached, such as the very coveted Norwich Rec sweatshirts, etc. Could revisit volunteer appreciation bar-b-que in the fall. Maybe something at Norwich Inn.

Pump Track: Kristin reported that Thetford elementary received a grant for a pump track at the elementary school. Could we also request a grant? Could we just use Thetford’s track? Should we step back and see how the Thetford track works out?

Gered would like to continue to pursue possibilities of using an area on edge of Huntley Meadow. Action Alert: Rebecca will start looking for grant money. Laura suggested that the person who is spearheading this project attend a Selectboard meeting to see how the process works and get an idea of what will be asked of them, in order to get approval.

New Business for next time: Action Alert: Brief report on each project being worked on to report back to group on. Pump track, fall mountain biking, rock climbing, Norwich swimming, running program for boys, Touch a Truck, projected numbers for fall soccer, Gered will pursue bridge on wheels option, which would be removed every winter. Only about \$3,000 price.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.