

Recreation Council Meeting Minutes from Nov. 18th, 2014

Attendees: Jill K., Reese, Laura, Karin, Jill C., Kristin
Minutes taken by: Reese

Approved October meeting minutes

Skating rink photos: Nancy wants a photo for the cover of the town report but we haven't found a suitable one. Jill will ask Nancy to postpone a year and we'll see if we can get photos taken this winter. Maybe Lars?

Lions Club grant:

- For refurbishing basketball court behind MCS. No deadline. Laura hasn't heard back from Bill Hammond yet.
- No need for an interpreter for summer camp this year.

Huntley Meadow traffic / parking:

- Bridge connecting Huntley Meadow to Legion: estimating \$100-\$200k. Trying to find a volunteer to do an aquatic study. Subsequent discussion as to whether this is really a high priority relative to other things we could be spending time and resources studying / pursuing. Which brought us back to discussion of the need to complete our vision and strategic planning, and set priorities accordingly.
- Another way to alleviate traffic / parking problem would be to reduce usage of fields. Lightning Soccer currently pays \$15-20k/year for usage. We have heard that Lightning is exploring possible usage of new fields in Hartford near aquatic center, though there isn't adequate parking there, either.

Pool: Neil put money in budget for legal costs if we need to take the state to court. (11/26/14 update: The SB removed this line item from the budget. Newest Update – it is back in)

Strategic planning:

Research / input from stakeholders: Need to define learning objectives prior to designing the research. Discussion ensued and we agreed that we are looking for macro input to guide the vision, as opposed to micro input regarding existing services. We agreed on a 2-part initial approach:

1. "Intercept" surveys at three high-traffic locations to get very high-level input from townspeople. Pairs of Rec Council members will spend two hours at Dan + Whit's, the transfer station, and the farmer's market (if one is scheduled) on a given Saturday (December 13th) and will present townspeople with a 3-question survey:
 - a. What do you value most about Norwich's recreation programs?
 - b. What would you like to see improved?
 - i. (If prompts are needed, improvement areas may include constituents served, programs offered, facilities and natural areas.)
 - c. Help us envision the future: What would you most like from Norwich Rec in the future? Don't be afraid to think big and don't feel constrained by resources.

Jill will post an announcement on the Listserv on the Thursday prior to the event (December) alerting people and asking them to stop by and see us at those locations. Also will provide an email response option (recreation@norwich.vt.us).

2. Roundtable session organized and led by Jill K. By invite. Jill to design this session and determine invitee list. (Rec Council members can call Jill with ideas to help shape the invitee list – 649-3040 x.5)

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 14th @ 7pm in Tracy Hall. Preliminary topics include: Strategic plan; Huntley Meadow Fitness Trail (Conor Koehler); skating party

Minutes taken by:

Reese Madden
Director of Corporate Marketing
Hypertherm, Inc.