

Recreation Council *Minutes for 11/1/16

in attendance: jill niles, jill collins, ryan gardner, page tompkins chris clapp, kristin fauci, rebecca matteo, gered dunne

*We thank Gered Dunne for filling in for our Secretary, Amy by taking the Minutes.

1. Minutes from Oct 4th approved

2. Disc Golf - the council enjoyed spirited discussion on the merits of disc golf as a potential new outdoor activity in Norwich. possible locations were discussed. the council felt there was some need in the area for a moderate to beginner level disc golf location, to complement the very challenging course at Storrs Pond. after some discussion on "who" exactly disc golfers are, at least one council member came forward to admit closeted fanaticism for the sport, having, in fact, their own practice course at home. Gered Dunne will be contacting the club that designed and built the storrs pond course to inquire on costs, and sampling community interest via the Norwich listserv.

3. Youth Basketball - all coaching positions for the upcoming basketball season have been filled. the council discussed gender and team selection. the basketball schedule was reviewed in attempt to find a 2nd weeknight practice time for 5/6th grade boys.

4. Winter programming ideas for kindergarteners - a movement and music program, as well as combination yoga/dodgeball, that could meet in the multipurpose room at Marion Cross. Kristin Fauci will be contacting potential dance and yoga instructors. no local dodgeball talent could be identified.

5. Halloween party feedback and ideas - community feedback was overwhelmingly positive. there was some discussion on the lack of bobbing for apples, when an excellent fountain for said bobbing is available on the lawn of the Norwich Inn. it was agreed that, although it might be good old fashioned fun, perhaps bobbing for apples might also be a public health hazard.

6. Pool committee updates - Gered Dunne shared happenings at the bi-weekly pool committee, which has been meeting to review potential swimming options for Norwich, and make recommendations to the selectboard of locations that meet the expressed interests of Norwich residents.

7. Winter ice skating on the Green at Marion Cross - Many thanks to the Norwich Women's club for generously donating the funds needed to purchase a new industrial grade rink liner. Rec council is now seeking Hosers to help fill and spray and resurface the rink as needed throughout the winter. Any community member interested in helping should contact Jill Niles at the Norwich Rec Department. Although not specifically discussed, it is worth noting that that colloquial Canadian term of endearment "hey [thank] you hoser" refers to the noble men and women who brave darkness and subZed temperatures to spray and resurface, by hand, the nearly 10 million open air hockey rinks in Canada.

8. Pump track updates and future mountain bike programming and plans - Rec council will be holding a special subcommittee meeting on December 6th at the Norwich Inn to discuss ideas on how help foster the creation of accessible, safe, beginner and kid-friendly mountain biking options in downtown Norwich. A number of grants are available for new trail and program development, and council members will be working on a plan to seek such funding. An additional goal is to encourage the Little Bella's Girls Mountain Bike Camp to select Norwich as a future program site. This excellent non-profit organization provides inspiration and instruction for girls with an interest in the sport, and often features guest instruction from former US Olympians. All are encourage to attend the 7 pm meeting.

9. Old Business: The council agreed to, as a rule, avoid scheduling youth games on open house and curriculum night at Marion Cross.

10. Action items: Page - climbing programs, Kristin - Kindergarten programming instructors, Gered - storrs pond disc golf club.

11. Future Business - strategic planning subcommittee and mountain bike programming subcommittees will both meet at 7 pm on December 6th, at the Norwich Inn front room.