

Norwich Recreation Council Meeting 9/13/'17

Present: Rob Johnson, Ryan Gardner, Chris Clapp, Kristin Fauci, Gered Dunne, Jill Collins, Jill Kearney Niles, Amy Tuller & Bill Tine

Meeting started with introductions of Rob Johnson and all Council members. Minutes from last meeting reviewed and approved.

New Business:

-Spring Baseball: Jill will send out information about the Central VT Cal Ripken league to the Council for consideration and comparison purposes. Discussion will resume at our October 3rd meeting, at which some Norwich Coaches and the CVCR president will join us.

-Summer recap: Jill N would like to offer a summer girls' biking program because girls seem to be less served by our current summer programs and might enjoy more biking opportunities. Think about a program that doesn't compete with the other biking programs in the area. Kristin suggested adding trail running or hiking also. Ryan brought up need to continue to evaluate what the need is for families for summer programs. Jill Collins suggested that it is still important for us to offer the summer camp options, but maybe mix up the types of things offered in it. Discussed counselor ideas for next year. Gered suggested adding civic activities. Toddler yoga, offered in Hanover this summer was very popular. Could offer toddler yoga or toddler dance during winter or summer.

Rob asked about offering a tennis program. Jill N explained that courts are rented out to RVC and that they have really good instructors. Bill asked about policy of advertising for rec programs outside of Norwich Recreation offerings. Jill explained that if the program is new & different than what we offer and the Coordinator/Organizer has requested help with getting word out, we will try to include it in our brochure or on-line.

Jill Collins suggested trying a survey to parents after each rec season asking about what they liked or would change about the program. Perhaps a Rec. Council member could be in charge of the survey. Should look into the SI Play platform that we use for sign ups, to see if there is a survey offering built into that.

-Leadership Development: Ryan explained that he & Page brainstormed a "principles and practices" platform. What are we trying to do and how do we get to it? Ryan will send out first draft of this process. Working on developing a few concepts for coaches of "here is what we stand for" and resources for help when needed. Ryan would like to boil down summary to a 2 page PDF for the website. Jill N suggested writing 2 different documents for K-2 and Grades 3-6. Jill C and Ryan both discussed how they feel the values we teach and philosophy we base our programs on, remain the same throughout the ages, even though specific issues change.

-Labor Day Road Race Summary and Suggestions: Jill N. thanked all the people who volunteered to help with the race. Kristin Brown suggested charging \$10 per family, \$5 for all individuals, rather than \$2 for kids, to simplify the registration process. Straw pole showed that most people preferred the 9am start. Registrations were down a little this year. Will get sandwich board out in front of Tracy Hall early next year. Other suggestions were to have 2 tables for registrations, Big Paper clips, Paperweights.
Gered suggested considering making this event a Hanover HS Cross Country fundraising event if they might be interested in taking it over.

-Fall Youth Soccer and other Fall Programs: Everything is going well, per Jill N. Numbers are strong across the board. Yoga has two new wonderful instructors, but it will take some time to gradually develop a larger clientele. Also weather has been great and since participants can sign up on a drop-in/per class basis, numbers should rise as the fall progresses.
Bill Tine brought up that numbers in the earlier grades at Marion Cross are getting smaller, so we should expect lower enrollment for rec in the future. This will especially be an issue in the spring, as there are more sports offered.

-Bike (Gnarnia) Trail: Kristin is working on signage for safety
There have been a lot of positive comments from the community. Bill has heard some comments that this project was pushed in too quickly. The group reviewed the process of how this project was planned and approved and implemented and all proper procedures were followed. Kids who were using the trail this afternoon were brought there with their bikes for that purpose, not just a continuation of another activity. Bill suggested putting up a sign to warn people to stop, look, and be aware, if they are going to cross the parking lot.

-Huntley Bridge: Nothing to update at this time.

-Norwich Skiing: Need to have someone step up to take on this program if we choose to offer a Nordic program for K - 2nd Grade skiers. Kristin suggested Jenny Barba, who may be interested in working on this. Kristin will invite her to October meeting to talk about this. Jill N suggested that if we run such a program it should be offered on a Monday afternoon or Saturday.

New Business: Bill pointed out that Huntley is in great shape. Kudos to the town Highway / B & G Department.

Subcommittees: Jill C suggested that if people have an item that they are interested in getting going, that they should form subcommittees to discuss and then bring the group suggestions to the next monthly meeting.

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, October 3rd at 7pm in the Tracy Hall Conference Room.

