

Recreation Council Minutes 11/7/17

Members present: Rob Johnson, Gered Dunne, Jill Kearney Niles, Jill Collins (president, chaired the meeting), Kristin Fauci, Bill Tine, Ryan Gardner, Page Tompkins, Chris Clapp, John Girard & Amy Tuller.

Public visitors in attendance: Jim Cardenali, Brie Swenson

Minutes. The minutes were reviewed and approved. (Page Tompkins motion, Jill C. second.) Minutes passed.

Bridge fund-raiser (Jill K. presented on behalf of Brie Swenson). Would be a fundraiser for several bridges, estimated at approximately \$70K (Huntley, Ballard, and Pepper property). Brie has \$3200 committed. The suggestion was to focus on a single bridge (likely the Pepper property bridge first) vs. all bridges at once.

Baseball notes:

Some notes:

Baseball subcommittee consisting of John Girard, Ryan Gardner, Chris Clapp, and Rob Johnson met October 10, with Robb Cramer, Rob Snyder, and John Lobb who were present to answer questions as to the proposed Cal Ripken structure as well as provide their concerns on the existing Upper Valley structure

-Rob took good minutes which were sent to everyone to review

-Presenters believe that changing leagues would provide more structure, and be best for both baseball and kids of Norwich

Comments / Discussion:

-Negotiating rules before every game is an issue, and one that Jill should address with UVRL recreation directors and umpires

-We have excellent coaches in Norwich that care deeply about the players and development and it would be a shame to lose them

-Cal Ripken may increase travel times & number of games as well as number of seasons in which baseball is offered, and such increased level of competition is something that is not necessary for the players to have a solid recreational experience in which all can participate

-Coaching at levels from kindergarten to collegiate to internationally, most development occurs during practices not games

-If the issue is about pitching, participants can practice pitching during practice in a safe environment

-Presenters also brought up the excellent point of ensuring that coaches are appropriately trained, something that we as a rec council should make a priority

Page moved that we continue to develop the Norwich baseball program as part of the Upper Valley Recreation Association. Seconded by Ryan. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Subcommittees: In order to get more accomplished each month, with only 1 hour meeting per month, we would like to break into sub-groups to work on various topics. People have different interests and schedules. This is an efficient way to accomplish things and then report back to the Council.

Communications

Parks and Trails

Programs- new programs or changes to existing programs, forecasting

Long Range Planning

Council members signed up for subcommittees they are interested in. In December, Council won't meet, but subcommittees will meet December 5th or as planned, and then report back in January.

-Director's report:

Jill thanked everyone who helped out for Halloween celebration. Very large turnout.

Basketball rules meeting today: Rules stayed the same

Not enough girls for $\frac{3}{4}$ team. Hanover wanted more kids, so they opened to Norwich kids, but only 2 signed up.

Baseball: Jill reported on which towns are planning to stay in Upper Valley Rec Assoc.

Ryan suggested that Carpenter St. and Hazen St./Cliff St. be closed on Halloween. Jill will investigate.

-Surveys: Rob presented information. All boys and girls soccer except kindergarten were surveyed. 48 responses were received. One flaw is that some families have multiple children in the different levels. Can only answer survey once.

Rob Johnson reviewed results of survey.

Updated signage: Gered and Kristin: Signs are up and look good.

-New Business: Next Council meeting: January 2nd 7pm