

Norwich Recreation Council Meeting MINUTES from 10/2/18

Members Present: Present: Bill Tine, Rob Johnson, Kristin Fauci, Page Tompkins, Jill Niles, Jill Collins, Ryan Gardner, Amy Tuller, Dave Bartlett, Sarah Martin

* Ryan welcomed new member David Bartlett, who has yet to be approved by select board.

Jill gave summary of Labor Day Race. Thanks to Panera for a great donation of food. Actually much more food than needed. Things were very smooth thanks to many volunteers.

Rob brought up how there seemed to be less people this year. There were only 5 less than last year, but the weather was very hot.

*Winter Basketball: Questionable as to how many teams there will be. Jill is looking at grades and numbers of kids to determine how many teams. If anyone knows of a 3rd or 4th grade parent with a daughter, Jill is looking for another coach. Rob brought up that for 2nd grade, if there are too many kids, they should be split into 2 teams.

*Girard Fund: Jill reported that there will be 2 side baskets purchased. These will be installed on Friday. Girard family has asked if there can be a person to take kids home after sports if needed. Probably not practical, but council members discussed possibilities. Liability might prevent us from doing this. Jill will meet with Katie Courmier, MCS guidance counselor to see if there is a need.

Ryan asked members to think about what the fund could be used for that would be in alignment with John Girard's views and values. Jill brought up that new material needs to be brought in to the baseball field. This might be beyond recreation budget. We will return to this at next meeting.

*Land and Water Conservation Fund- a program of National Park Service. Grants available for large scale projects such as land acquisition, playground or swimming areas, etc. (50% grant and 50% sweat equity). Pre-applications due October 15th. Jill C brought up bridges as an option. Especially behind American Legion, including some parking. Ryan and Jill will discuss with Herb.

Kristin also brought up that we need more kids' mountain bike terrain, especially the Pepper property.

*Fall Programs: Seem to be going well. Good turnout. Jill met with Christina today. Going to try Yoganimals for November for 3-5 year olds. Thank you for the volunteers who are officiating. Michael Goodrich has done a lot of games. November 9th- planning Babysitting course with Sgt. Frank.

Halloween Celebration: Rob will order donuts. It is a Wednesday this year 10/31/18 from 3-4:30 at Norwich Inn. Trying to get Youth in Action for face painting and manning donut hole station.

*Pump Track: Trying to get a new sign made with information about how to use the track. The track is holding up very well. Would be good to get the leaves off it before the snow comes.

Baseball diamond maintenance needs to be done in the fall to be ready for spring.
*Ryan brought up the Rec budget. Jill is being asked to do 2 budgets: Level funding and 10% decrease. Ryan asked if revenues are also presented. Jill does present this. Ryan brought up how Norwich funds its' recreation department much more than neighboring towns, with user feeds. Bill brought up that we don't want the Girard fund to make up for budget cuts in the rec budget. Bill brought up how the budget needs to include money for regular maintenance, which actually increases the rec budget.

Discussed grants currently available. Byrne grant being used for baseball batting cages and netting.

*Jill brought up articles about possibilities for restrooms.

Jeff Goodrich has volunteered to help us with planning/costing, etc. if we pursue this. Not sure it is even feasible to pursue due to leaching.

*Kristin brought up that we need to talk about Cal Ripkin, for spring due to injuries last season. We need to have conversations about how to make it better. This discussion will be tabled until a future meeting.

*Rob suggested that we have a sign at Huntley for who has reserved the pavilion. Bill mentioned ditto regarding the brick oven. Will discuss at next meeting.

Next meeting will be tentatively Tuesday, November 6th at 7pm. Jill will look into whether we can use the police department training room,