

1 Recreation Commission Meeting

2 Wednesday, February 6, 2019 - Stowe Arena

DRAFT

3 The regular meeting of the Stowe Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, February 6, 2019 in the
4 meeting room at the arena starting at 5:00 P.M.

5 Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Brett Loomis, Adam Rice and Mike Loughran, Ben Novogroski.
6 Absent: two vacancies. Also in the audience was Emily Rosenbaum, Candence Holmquist, Charlotte
7 Tims.

8 **Motion to amend agenda to hear from audience regarding skating first and to move item 6 to be**
9 **discussed second, seconded and approved. The agenda was approved.**

10 **Minutes of 11-7-2018:** Lynn moved to approve as written, seconded by seconded by Adam with all in
11 favor.

12 **Figure Skating:** Candace wants more time available for figure skating, spruce isn't always available, need
13 more opportunities for figure skating. Charlotte says most focus is on hockey, public skating times work
14 for tourist but not working locals, wants more times on evenings and weekends. Emily says wants more
15 options for her daughter/kids who don't play traditional sports or team oriented sports. Current Figure
16 skating programs are Fridays from 5-7pm, times don't work for everyone. Brett asks if summer sessions
17 would work, indicates more time is available then. May work for some but not all interested in skating
18 in the summer months. Ben says that hockey players used to and can also benefit from non-hockey
19 specific skating lessons/programs. Candace suggests skating lessons/programs that are not specific to
20 hockey or figure skating to attract broader customers. Emily mentions religious conflicts with Friday
21 evenings. Matt thanks them for being their and for their input. Says town has continued to offer
22 different figure skating programs and options trying to establish interest and that he is happy they are
23 which shows the interest is building. Matt suggested revisiting with existing skating clubs (Waterbury,
24 Champlain Valley) to gage interest in them buying ice time to offer satellite programs in Stowe. We
25 have reached out to them in the past but at the time there wasn't an established market. Matt said USA
26 Hockey has programs for figure skating and programs that benefit both figure skating and hockey. Brett
27 asked what times could be available if a club wanted to rent times. Matt said weekdays are booked
28 pretty solid during the winter but times could be available Saturday evenings and some time of Sundays
29 in addition to Friday evenings. Groups should speak with Tony before August to inquire about ice times
30 for the winter. The figure skating programs now are offered by the Town, there is not a group renting
31 the ice, participants register individually. Adam mentioned a possibility of SYH sharing ice to offer figure
32 skating and hockey. Matt encouraged Emily, Candace, and Charlotte to contact him directly to discuss
33 further ideas/programs and said that we plan on offering additional programs in the spring and summer
34 and continuing to evaluate.

35 **Mayo Event field maintenance Discussion:** Matt said that the town had soil tests done on all the town
36 fields and Bruce Godin and Matt met with Lee Keller (turf expert) to review the results. They also
37 reviewed the proposal from TruGreen's for a fertilization program. Although the results are limited by
38 the current quality of the fields, current usage of the fields, lack of irrigation, mother nature, etc. the
39 fertilization program would likely yield positive results to some degree, however the town does not have
40 the current budget capacity to consider outsourcing a fertilization program for all of the towns fields.

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Bruce will use recommendations from the soil tests to alter fertilization and seeding applications done in-house to the fields. Bruce says Parks division has budget capacity in this year and next to contract TruGreen for a fertilization program for just Mayo B. Matt says they will test the soils again in the fall to compare Mayo B to the other town's fields so they will have side by side results for in-house applications and TruGreen. Brett said it will be important for Bruce to track and record the treatments he does and all of the expenses so they can be compared to contracting it out. He said that he made the comparison for his business and determined that it was more cost effective for him to contract out the fertilization applications. Ben said we should track the cost of materials, equipment and man hours for the town and compare that to TruGreen. Matt will provide analysis after the fall.

Brett leaves at 5:54pm

Day camp/afterschool program late pick up fees: Matt presented revised Late Pick Up Fees procedure which was previously discussed at November meeting. The procedure was revised based on feedback from the RC to clarify fees and how it was invoiced. Adam motioned that the language be changed from 5-10 minutes, 10-20 minutes to more than 5/less than 10, more than 10/less than 20. Lynn motioned to approve the procedure as amended, seconded by Adam, all in favor.

Spring/summer proposed programs: Matt presented a listing of the proposed programs and events for the Spring and Summer. Most programs have been well populated and running. We have increased number of programs offered annually significantly over the last three years and continue to do so. Adam motioned to approve program proposal, Lynn seconded, all in favor.

Other business: FOJ donating \$2000.00 to go toward the purchase of new ice skates for rental. New skates were needed but not in the budget. FOJ to consider donating Alumni plaques for past SHS Hockey teams and wanted to gage RC on their thoughts. The RC was in favor of the concept.

Matt informed the RC that he had met with childcare licensing representatives from the state and that that the afterschool program will be required to obtain a license in the foreseeable future in order to continue being offered. Once more specific information is available it will be presented at a future RC meeting.

Lynn informed that a Boy Scout troop from Morrisville plans to plant flowers in the Stowe Peace Park the first week of June and will coordinate with Bruce Godin.

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Motion to adjourn by Lynn, seconded by Mike, all in favor at 6:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Novogroski