

1 Recreation Commission Meeting

2 Monday, September 23, 2019 - Stowe Arena

3 The Stowe Recreation Commission Task Force meeting was held Monday September 23, 2019 in the
4 meeting room at the arena starting at 7:00 P.M.

5 Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Adam Rice, Ben Novogroski, Candace Elmquist, Adam Rice, Brett
6 Loomis, Dave Rogers, Matt Frazee. Absent: Mike Loughran. Also in the audience was Terrie Wehse, Jed
7 Lipsky, Adam Davis, Scott Keys, Ian Nifer Hoehn, Dominick Donza, Tiffany Donza, Tony Whitaker.

8 **The agenda was approved.**

9 **Summer Ice Schedule:** Matt presented a calendar showing the schedule of the Arena for June through
10 August 2019. The calendar showed what was reserved/utilized and what was available based on hours
11 of operation. Jed applauded the Town's continued efforts to promote and offer figure skating.
12 Suggestions were made to offer more evening and weekend public skate/stick time offerings. Also
13 recommend to consider reduce/adjusting operating hours by moving early morning groups. Nick and
14 Jed commented on how well the staff does on maintaining the facility and how much cleaner it is
15 compared to other arenas they have been to. Niffer asked if available times could be show on the
16 website and it was explained that anyone can search for available times through CivicRec and staff will
17 consider the possibility of an availability calendar online. Ben indicated he would like to look at who the
18 summer users are and how many people are using the arena in the summer. Matt said he would
19 provide that info at the next meeting.

20 **Arena Financials:** Matt presented Arena financials for the last 5 fiscal years, financials for the last two
21 summers and revenue from NAHA for the last two years and last two summers. Tiffany questioned why
22 the revenue by fiscal year did not match up with the revenue for the last two summers. Cindy Fuller
23 indicated it was a matter of how the reports were run and she will provide revenues received by
24 summer for the last two years when she has time to do so.

25 **School Town/MOU:** Matt presented background regarding the MOU between the Town and the School
26 for exchange of utilization of facilities. The MOU was signed in 2014. The value of the usage of School's
27 use of Town facilities was estimated at \$47,528.75 in FY19 and the value of the Town's use of School's
28 facilities was estimated at \$8,252.50. Scott commented that the MOU should be invalid because the
29 agreement was between the Town of Stowe and the Stowe School District which is now part of a
30 merged district. Andy Lundeen who was present from the LSSU indicated that when the school district
31 merged, it assumed pre-existing agreements and contracts. Ben made a motion to exclude further
32 conversation regarding the MOU for the purposes of this meeting since we were tasked with the
33 viability of summer ice, Adam R seconded and discussion ensued. After discussion the vote to exclude
34 failed 2-6. Lynn asked Andy if he believes it would be in the Town's best overall interest to charge the
35 schools or not. Andy said that both sides have benefited from the agreement. If the Town were to
36 require the school to pay, they would have to build that expense into the LSSU budget. Tiffany said prior
37 to the merger, if the school were to pay it would have only affected Stowe tax payers, but if the school
38 were to pay now, the cost would be spread out with Morrisville and Elmore also. Andy agreed that all
39 three Towns would share the increase in the budget. Tiffany said so it would impact Stowe residents
40 less now than prior to the merger? Andy said yes that is accurate. Nick question whether is would

1 equitable for the Town to continue to absorb the cost of the schools use rather than spread the cost to
2 the entire school district if they were to pay. Scott says that Stowe is bearing all of the financial burden
3 for the schools use. Nick asked if there are opportunities for more Town use of school facilities. Matt
4 said the only additional use would be if the Summer Camp program were run 100% out of the school but
5 that has not been an option because the school has limited availability due to maintenance. Lynn said
6 that the Town and School should evaluate the MOU going forward but the topic was out of the domain
7 of the Recreation Commission.

8

9 **Other Business:** Ben stated that he talked with Charles and that he indicated the Town is open to
10 exploring the concept of hiring or contracting a sales/marketing person in some capacity by using the
11 existing marketing budget.

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13 Motion to adjourn by Lynn, seconded by Dave, all in favor at 8:47 pm

14 Respectfully submitted,

15

16 Matt Frazee