

Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
DRAFT

2 The regular Recreation Commission meeting was held Wednesday, August 5, 2020 via Zoom starting at 5:02 P.M.

3 Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Dave Rogers, Mike Loughran, Adam Rice, Matt Frazee. In audience: Kelli Millick

4 **5:02pm called to order. Agenda Approved.**

5 **Update**

6 Lynn asked for an update on the programs and activities taking place at Stowe Parks and Recreation and the Stowe Arena. Matt explained that the summer camp program has been going well but there have been some challenges. This year we have served close to 100 kids, averaging about 60 per day. On July 28th it was announced that the universal school start date was delayed until September 8th. The Stowe Parks and Recreation Department quickly sent a survey out to the parents currently utilizing the Stowe Summer Camp. From that survey we gathered that 40 children needed additional weeks of care. Of that 40 children- 19 were Stowe residents, 11 were Lamoille county residents living outside of Stowe, and 11 resided out-of-state. The Stowe Recreation Department foresaw a few challenges with extending the program by two weeks. The first being access to the school. The Lamoille South Unified District has extended our usage of the school through week 8 of our summer camp program, but it would not be available after August 14th. The summer camp extension would have to take place in the David Gale Recreation Center. Another challenge is staffing, out of our current summer camp staff only two can fully commit from August 17th-28th. Matt explained that with the available space and staffing we could serve a maximum of 20 children.

7 Matt provided the Recreation Commission with an overview of the proposed fall/winter programs. He explained that the Recreation Department decided to forego producing the Fall & Winter brochure because it was unrealistic to plan and advertise 6 months of programming. Instead, we are focusing on 6-8 weeks of programming at a time.

8 Concerning the Arena, Matt shared that the opening of the Arena and daily operations have been going well. We have seen a few challenges with the operation of the Arena, these include the time it takes to clean between groups and as a result, reduced available ice time. The Stowe Arena staff are thinking of ways to cut down on the 45 min break between groups required for cleaning. In a typical season the turnaround time between groups is only 15mins to do the ice, with the additional requirements, that time has been extended by 30 mins to allow for deep cleaning and disinfecting between groups. We are still waiting for decisions from VPA and VASHA regarding youth programs. Matt has been working with VRPA to provide guidance for operation of ice arenas in the fall and winter season. Matt referenced the letter attached in the Recreation Commission meeting packet. This letter will be sent to the Governor's office.

9 **Stowe Recreation Summer Camp Extension**

10 After providing an update for the Recreation Commission, Matt opened it up for questions and discussion. Dave agreed there was a need to extend the summer camp program by two weeks. He did have a question if there would be any ramifications of limiting the enrollment to Stowe Residents only

based on the status of a unified school district. Matt explained that the Town is a separate entity from the school district, and we can operate as such. Lynn asked if we foresee any financial challenges or impacts from extending our program. Matt said no, we budget all our programs to at least break even and we did receive a COVID-19 Restart grant that would be utilized for any expenses. Lynn asked Kelli if there would be concerns with staffing. Kelli explained that with the two counselors and a maximum of 20 kids that would be an acceptable ratio and it would not be a concern. Adam asked for confirmation that registration would be open to Stowe residents, then Lamoille County residents, then out-of-state participants. Matt explained that our department has not historically limited registration due to residency, but it is a possibility because Stowe residents are the ones paying town taxes. Kelli also added that there is a need for residents to have childcare due to returning to work.

- 11 Adam motioned to extend the Stowe Summer Camp program by two weeks. Dave seconded the motion. Matt asked the Rec Commission if they would like to include opening the registration for the extended program to Stowe residents first. Lynn asked if the Recreation Department would be limited if the Recreation Commission did not specify that in the motion. Matt explained that the Recreation Department would follow any recommendation from the Recreation Commission. If the Recreation Commission did not limit registration to Stowe residents first the Recreation Department would open it up for all participants. But if the Recreation Commission decided to include that clause, the Recreation Department would move forward with that. Adam amended his motion. Adam motioned to extend the Summer Camp program by 2 weeks and registration could be limited to Stowe Residents for a period decided by Stowe Parks and Recreation, then open it up to non-residents. Michael seconded the motion.

12 Arena

- 13 Matt expressed that the camps and groups taking place at the Stowe Arena have been successful since the re-opening of the rink. Kellian Hockey and the Pelkey camps have been steady. Lynn asked if the Stowe Arena is financially better than last summer. Matt explained that with the elimination of tournaments he is estimating a \$20,000 decrease of revenue compared to last summer. Looking ahead to the fall and winter season, Matt said the Arena is planning for multiple scenarios depending on what decisions are made about school, VPA, and VASHA. Adam expressed that if youth games take place but there are no spectators allowed, we should explore the option of an online streaming service such as Live Barn or something similar. Matt said he could reach out to Live Barn again to see if that is a possibility and he is willing to explore that option again.

5:38 Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Kelli Millick