

Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, September 2, 2020  
DRAFT

- 2 The regular Recreation Commission meeting was held Wednesday, September 2, 2020 via Zoom starting at 5:03 P.M.
- 3 Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Dave Rogers, Mike Loughran, Adam Rice, Brett Loomis, Matt Frazee.  
In audience: Kelli Millick
- 4 **5:03pm called to order. Agenda Approved.**
- 5 **Summer & Fall Programs**
- 6 Matt gave a brief update about the summer camp program. The summer camp extension weeks filled for the two weeks. We ended up with the equivalent revenue as last year, even without the club options. With the DCF grant we were on par with past revenue.
- 7 Fall programming- Our largest program is the Flag Football program in the fall. At this time, we have reached out to past coaches, other community's flag football leaders, and local youth organizations. Stowe Soccer Club informed us that they are not pursuing a season this fall. They may revisit that and the end of September and may offer a clinic based program. We took that as an example of how people are generally feeling in the community about youth sports. To date only one flag football volunteer coach from last year would be interested in coaching. The format of the Flag football program would be vastly different, requiring 7v7 play and wearing a face mask while they play. Lynn asked the Rec Commission members if they understand the constraints that are driving the recommendation of not having fall football. Adam made a motion that given the current restrictions of COVID and the overall lack of interest in the fall football program and soccer that the Rec Commission recommend not moving forward with pursuing those sports. Dave asked if anything were to change is it too late to run a program if things open up? Lynn felt that the wording of Adam's motion "given current restrictions" allows us to revisit it later if needed. All in favor. Motion passed.
- 8 Matt has been in constant contact with the school and Appletree, trying to identify the needs of the community going forward. There have been several options on the table such as a full childcare-type program to leasing our space out to an organization such as Appletree. The Stowe Elementary School reached out to us about the concept of providing a location for internet access. Right now, it is looking like the Gale Center or the Community Room will be utilized for internet access for families. Lynn asked for clarification on who would be using the space, is it a whole class or individuals. Matt explained that families have reached out to the school with concerns about access to internet access. The parent would bring their child(ren) to our facility to access the internet to do the work they needed to for school. It would be very limited and pre-registration would be required. We would offer 4 hour-long timeslots with 30 mins in between for cleaning. Space would be limited to 2-4 families, roughly. There would be no charge.
- 9 **Arena**
- 10 New ACCD guidelines have come out for ice arenas and indoor sports areas, effective 9/8. The biggest change being that everyone will be required to wear a face mask. Anyone in the arena including staff, players, spectators would be required to wear a face covering. Lynn asked if there have been any positive COVID cases in any of our programs. Matt explained that there have been no cases brought to our

attention. Matt made a point to say that the guidelines are not from the Town but from Vermont's ACCD. Otherwise, the Arena staff are continuing to prepare and plan for a winter season. VPA is set to decide about youth hockey until October 8<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting various groups to use the Arena including our regular groups and new groups from communities that have not opened their arena's yet. We have one part time employee and we may see a need to hiring another to help on the weekends to clean in between groups as to not turn away groups and book available ice time. We are exploring ways to bring back Public Skate and Stick Time. It would have a similar set up of the Friday Figure Skating program that is currently running.

## **11 Live Barn**

**12** Several people have recommended that we look into this in the past and we have several times. Adam brought it up at our last meeting that we reexplore Live Barn or explore other options. Matt reached out with Live Barn and attempted to engage in negotiations. Matt was able to knock off a year of exclusivity rights from 6 years to 5 years. Matt has passed it off to Charles. Charles has authorized that our legal council to review and negotiate on behalf of the town. If Live Barn does not amend the contact to where it's something the Town attorney could recommend, the next step would be to go to the Selectboard, potentially under executive session to determine if it's something they want to move forward with it if legal council has advised against. Matt is exploring other options, one option that seems like it may serve us is Boxcast. It states on their website that they work with municipalities and it is a month-to-month subscription. Adam asked how to department would generate revenue to balance the expense. Matt stated that given the small monthly fee it would be something we could build into the existing budget. Lynn asked for a timeline from our legal counsel. Matt said the timeline would be three weeks, tops, due to the time it takes for the companies to come in and set up in time for hockey season.

## **13 Other business**

**14** Lynn referenced an email from Charles in regard to a new tennis court in another community in Vermont. Matt explained that currently there is a hold up with permits, until that is sorted through, we're at a standstill with the courts. Lynn asked if there was another location in Town available to put the tennis courts. Matt said during the planning process for the town's skate park, there were no available land options to put the skatepark. The same would be true for the tennis courts. The issue with any of the properties around Memorial Park and the Parks Department is that the land was donated to the town with restrictions of new infrastructure including hard surfaced facilities. Matt stated that the path of least resistance would be to try to obtain a permit, if that is not an option then we could reengage and try to come up with an alternative location.

**5:54 Michael motioned to adjourn meeting. Dave second.**

Respectfully Submitted

Kelli Millick