

Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2023
DRAFT

2 The regular Recreation Commission meeting was held Wednesday, January 11, 2022 at Stowe Arena starting at 5:00 P.M.

3 Members present: Lynn Altadonna, Ryan Thibault, Brett Loomis, Jared Annelo, Forrest Shinnars, Dave Rogers, Matt Frazee. Absent: Ed Stahl Audience: Michael Diender, Jed Lipsky, Tiffany Donza, Nick Donza, Donna Adams, John Adams

4 **5:00pm called to order. Agenda Approved with amendment to add Financial Scholarship limits item**

5 **BL motioned to approve the minutes LA second**

6 **Memorial Park Study Update**

7 Harry Sheppard presented an update regarding the process for contracting the Memorial Park Study and Master Plan update and referenced the Memo Memorial Park Project Update which was included in the packet. He said he has been preparing application for the 3 acre storm water treatment requirements. They has a beaver deceiver installed last summer but only lowered water by 1" and not expected to be long term solution which means grades will have to be raised for the project which adds cost. Also there will likely be impact fees up to \$20-50K for not being able to treat all water on this site. Used qualified selection process to identify Black River Design for the project. They are familiar with Vermont regs and there is symentry with school. Lynn thanked Harry and said its beginning to look like there is light at the end of the tunnel. Michael asked how a potential Town/School collaboration would work financially, Harry said its too soon to know where things will end up. Nick asked if the water level will keep rising. Harry said he doesn't expect things to get better or that the beaver deceiver will be significant or work long term. Brett asked if the wetlands were Town owned if we would have more options. Harry said there have been some discussions but the land owners are working to understand their options and requirements. Brett asked if project is eventually ready to move and approved, will the Town and public works dept have the capacity to move forward timely or will it get backlogged as other past projects have. Harry said if/once this project is approved it will not require as much in-house and would be more consultant driven. But he and other town staff would have to have involvement and he can't promise that this project would be there town's immediate top priority. Lynn suggested the town utilize citizen engagement and expertise. Harry said the agreement with BRD includes 4 public meetings. Forrest asked if the proposal including adequate engineering, Harry indicated he thought it was sufficient. The agreement and memo will be presented to the Selectboard on Feb 13th for their consideration to award.

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9 **Spring and Summer Program proposal**

10 Matt presented a listing of proposed programs for the spring and summer and highlighted new offerings and answered questions.

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12 **Field Rental Fees for Large Events**

13 The group reviewed their recommendation to increase fees for field rentals which was approved by the Selectboard. Forrest mentioned that in light of complaints from Michael Gaetano from British Invasion, regarding the fee increases, he wanted to make sure there wasn't anything further that should be considered. Ryan said he has a lot of experience with events and the fees are reasonable and

appropriate and that events benefit from the Stowe name. Brett agreed that the rates should not be adjusted. Lynn said that Stowe Vibrancy indicated they may be willing to pay and offset the additional fees for British Invasion because they have their block party event as part of the event. Matt said that Michael indicated they have not applied for this year and are not decided if they are going to. Ryan said the Town is much busier and there are higher occupancies now than years ago and there doesn't seem to be the same desire or need to bring in large events. Matt agreed and added that the mission of Parks and Recreation is to provide places and experiences to promote healthy and active lifestyles, not really in the business of economic development and we also need to treat like situations equally. Forrest requested to review annual work plan to amend to include annual review of rates.

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15 Financial Assistance Program amendment

16 Matt presented a review of the Financial Assistance Program Policy which stipulates a \$500.00 annual limit per person. In light of recent increases of summer camp fees and also increased funding for scholarships thanks to the Libby families donation, Matt proposed increasing the annual limit to \$750.00 per person. Since people can qualify either for 50 or 100%, that would allow 50% to be awarded \$500 and 100% to be awarded \$750. Forrest motioned to recommend the annual scholarship per person limit to increase from \$500 to \$750. Dave seconded, all in favor

17 Other business

18 Nick stated that he would like to see the Stowe HS logo on center ice of arena and a locker room dedicated/decorated for HS hockey. Matt said he will work with Nick to get on next agenda for further discussion.

19 Brett asked that the Arena Scheduling Guidelines be reviewed at next meeting.

6:21p Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Matt Frazee