

CITY OF VERGENNES, VERMONT
REGULAR MEETING of the VERGENNES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

May 4, 2022

6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Location: City Hall, in-person

Join by Computer: <https://zoom.us/j/87315461473>

Join by Phone: Dial: 1 (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 873 1546 1473

Meeting Password: 1234

Members present: Kathy Rossier, Robyn Newton, Tania Bolduc, Michelle Eckels, Kim Palmer, Sue Rakowski, Lynne Rapoport, Lisa Casey, Erin Wolcott

City personnel present: Martha DeGraff, Ron Redmond

6:00 pm 1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm

6:03 pm 2. Amendments to the Agenda

Robyn suggests adding MOU with ANWSD with item 7

6:05 pm 3. Approve minutes to April 6th meeting

Lisa Casey moves to approve the minutes, Robyn Newton seconds

All in favor

6:10 pm 4. Hear visitors

No visitors

6:20 pm 5. Workgroup updates

A. Parks and facilities, see attachment

Question about signage in Parks Group priorities, Erin clarifies that it's about general signage all around Vergennes; Ron adds that this will be a sort of Phase 2

Kathy expresses looking forward to clearing the stairs leading down to MacDonough Park for the spring, whenever a volunteer day can be organized. Erin proposes June 11th for the volunteer day, seems favorable.

Robyn asks about dog park progress, where are we? Erin clarifies that the idea was to put the dog park where the current sewage lagoons are, once the town sewage project completes in ~2025

B. Pavilion/fundraising, see attachment

Robyn and Martha have discussed getting some squeegees for self-service use on the basketball court, as there is some standing water that remains after rain storms, but otherwise the footing of the court/pavilion looks good

Kathy adds that Hoehl foundation has raised possibility of giving us money to hire a grant writer, but will not directly fund the 2nd phase of the pavilion.

C. Ice rink

Nothing to discuss

D. Trails

No report this month, still waiting to hear how to move forward with VOREC grant.

E. Pool, see attachment

Lisa would like to propose a volunteer day for the pool, to do some painting and scraping and other things to get it ready for opening. Need to figure out when we can get that on the calendar, as we'd like to open the pool by the end of the month. Weekend of the 14th or 21st seem to make the most sense. Lisa will get back to us.

F. Skate park, see attachment

Robyn points out that the cracks on the tennis court are looking very bad, even though we had someone fill in the cracks just last year. Advantage Tennis did the crack repair, Kathy/Ron will follow up with them to see if there's some kind of guarantee.

Abercrombie & Fitch gave us a bunch of scooters, skateboards, safety equipment, which are going unused until the park gets fixed up. Kathy wonders whether we could loan them to the Bixby Library's lending program. Lynne wonders what the liability concerns would be with that; Kathy says that anyone signing out equipment at Bixby has to sign a waiver. Robyn points out that it would probably be good to have the items available at the Bixby, so kids could use them around town or in their own neighborhoods, rather than being tied directly to the skate park. Kathy requests skate park group think about this.

Old rotten backboard came down yesterday, Robyn leading with help from Kim, Mark Koenig, others. Yay!

G. Programming, see attachment

Swim lesson sign up started on Monday, some of the classes have filled up already. Martha looking at someone to possibly run a 3rd session of the Splash With Me class; would prioritize people currently on the waitlist.

Martha will be talking to the Rotary next week, who said to bring her "asks" – some suggest a new pool liner would be an appropriate thing to ask Rotary to help with.

Martha discusses pool budget.

Martha will be presenting Rec budget at the next City Council meeting, could use some support. Kathy recommends we push that the Council needs to support fixing the pool in a big way.

Martha notes that although last meeting we voted to give Steve Sawyer a \$500 gift for his work on the ice rink over the winter, but City Council rejected that, as it was submitted as an invoice while he is actually a volunteer and we meant to be giving him a thank you gift to help defray the costs of his time and equipment donated, rather than pay him for services. Martha proposes giving him a \$500 visa gift card, others generally in agreement.

Talked with swim team to get a MOU in place with them, they drafted one, and it is now being reviewed by the City's lawyer, but Ron says it looks generally good.

Martha has had requests to put together a 5k run map that we could post on the city's website. Ben offers to help.

Martha relates that Jim Larrow says that his budget is already maxed out, so any requests

for him would be helpful to come with an idea of where the money should come from. He also requests to have a plan for parks maintenance and what is needed.

7:00 pm

6. Budget

Discussion of budget for next year; suggestion to add \$5k to Parks Maintenance under Public Works budget; there's concern among members that this budget isn't kept separate at Public Works, and we don't know what this money gets spent on. Also it's not clear that if we increase the budget that Public Works actually has the bandwidth to do a bunch of extra things for us. Also if the money were in our own budget, then we could more easily choose our priorities to either ask Public Works to fix specific things, or else contract out to fix those if Public Works can't do it.

In general there's a lot of frustration because the whole city is full of decades of deferred maintenance. We have a finite budget, and there are a million things that need to be fixed, and we just have to do our best with what we have.

Martha would like to get a water bottle filler for the pool, thinks it costs ~\$1k. Jim Larrow has said he can install it. Erin makes a motion that Rec pays to get a water bottle filler for the pool. Sue seconds. All in favor.

Michelle suggests that we take the mowing of inside the pool grounds out of Public Works' hands, ask for a donation of a push mower and make that the lifeguards' job.

7:20 pm

7. Other business

- MOU with ANWSD: Robyn wonders what the status is, as the committee had given Ron suggestions at our last meeting. This is particularly about the opening date for the pool. Ron requests that someone send him a marked up version, Robyn says she can do that. Robyn points out that the school currently charges the city for use of the fields and other school grounds, suggests the MOU include language that neither the City nor school will charge each other for such things. Ron suggests we try to get this agreement in place before the end of May.
- There were items from April's meeting that we said we'd discuss tonight that we haven't had a chance, we will push those to next meeting (walking tour, flowers)

7:30 pm

8. Adjournment

Erin motions to adjourn, Sue seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourns at 7:43pm