

RECREATION GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING

Joint Municipal Survey Committee

Meeting Minutes: September 14, 2016

Essex Town Offices, 81 Main Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452

RGSC Present: Betzi Bilodeau, Andy Watts, Jason DiRosa, Michael Smith, Lori Houghton, Kim Maiberger, Erika Baldasaro, Raj Chawla

RGSC Absent: Christine Packard, Theresa Fletcher, Max Levy

Administrators present: Brad Luck – EJP, Ally Vile – Essex Parks and Rec

Others present: Irene Wrenner, Marla Durham

Call to Order: Michael called the meeting to order at 7:08pm

Agenda additions or changes: Michael wanted to add an update from the Trustee and SB members of the most recent meetings; Brad asked for some time to talk about the EJP budget.

Public to be heard (on items not on the Agenda): None

Motion to Approve Sept. 8, 2016 Minutes: Motion made by Jason, 2nd by Lori

Amendments to Minutes: Page 2, bullet 4 - Raj wanted a small change about the question re: information disseminated to voters to also include the Trustees. "What would be the Selectboard's & Trustees' plan to disseminate the information to voters?"

Approval of Minutes: Approved with edits 8-0

Update from Trustees & SB Meetings this week (added to agenda):

- Lori: provided DRAFT resolution presented at the 9/13 meeting, and with a minor change in wording, it was passed unanimously without too much discussion on the resolution.
- Andy: two agenda items from the 9/12 meeting in regards to communications by the RGSC and a Consent Agenda item re: the Agreement about the Town Manager managing both municipalities. No action was taken on either item.

EJP Budget (added to agenda): two pages provided with factual information to help answers and clarifies any questions or concerns. One question that has recently come up was in regards to the use of a Fund Balance; this is required in school districts to be used in the new fiscal year. Also, a question has come up about a level tax rate and Brad explained the process and details to the Committee. The grid provided just looked at tax support based on an avg. home value of \$280k. Lori suggested the information should be provided at the forums – whether as an added slide or handout. Raj wanted a comparison provided by the Town to show the difference in operations to the public. Ally will work with the Director of Admin. Services to draw up a comparison for RGSC to handout/available at forums.

Task Team updates: Erika asked the Chair to start off with clarification that any “tasks” are only assigned to two members. Primarily to assure that Open Meeting Law is not violated, but also to be sure that only those two involved know what they “own” in getting it ready for the committee to approve. Andy was appreciative of that clarification. Lori asked if any new FAQs have been coming in from the website. Betzi has taken on the role of gathering answers to incoming questions; Erika continues to be the responder to the public inquiries.

- **Outreach & Public Forums – Kim**
 - o Google calendar update handed out – a summary of upcoming events to have a member available to attend and hand information out. Lori gave an update on what that handout could look like, which opened up to discussion. Jason suggested Betzi compare the FAQs to the more frequent ones she has seen and possibly replace some on the flyer. Andy suggested that members ask permission from the schools to be sure they are ok with handouts at afterschool activities. Ally reminded members to be sure any publications are neutrally toned. Members offered a few suggestions to the flyer but will email Lori directly.
 - o Ally let the committee know that EPR has Manager’s permission to provide transportation to seniors for the first two forums.
- **Research & Discussion – Betzi**
 - o Pros & Cons are up on the “why” tab at www.essexrec.org, a FPF post is ready to go with approval; the new video has been posted on the website (as well as other social media outlets).
- **Transition Team – Ally & Brad**
 - o Brad & Ally gave a quick update that information is still coming in from staff in the separate departments and will have info to share as soon as available.

Public Forums planning:

- Jason and Betzi discussed the two possible presentations and asked for feedback using primarily the white background option. Members gave slide edits; Jason made corrections to the draft presentation. Brad and Ally were asked to provide significant differences (2 main items being park acreage vs. licensed childcare).

Next meeting date/time: Monday, September 26 @ 7pm, location TBD

Adjournment: Michael adjourned the meeting at 9:50pm