

RECREATION GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING

Joint Municipal Survey Committee

Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2016

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

RGSC Present: Michael Smith, Jason DiRosa, Kim Maiberger, Erika Baldassaro, Betzi Bilodeau, Raj Chawla, Andy Watts (SB alternate), Lori Houghton

RGSC Absent: Max Levy, Theresa Fletcher, Christine Packard

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

Others present: John Sheppard, Dylan Giambatista, Irene Wrenner

Call to Order: Michael Smith called meeting to order at 7:34pm

Agenda additions or changes: None

Public to be heard: None

Approval of recent meeting/forum minutes:

Amendments: Members went through for small corrections:

- Sept. 28 (forum @ EMS): Mary & Evan MacEwan's names was misspelled on a few pages. Page 2 paragraph "The five member board..." had a misspelling that reoccurred on each set of minutes reviewed.
- Sept. 29 (forum @ ADL): Page 2 paragraph
- Oct. 6 (RGSC mtg): None
- Oct. 10 (joint mtg): Pg. 4, 5, 9 – small edits
- Oct. 13 (forum @ EES): Pg. 2 paragraph
- Oct. 18 (forum @ Fleming): Pg. 2 paragraph
- Motioned by Lori, 2nd by Raj. Approval with amendments: 7-0-1 (Andy abstained because of 10/10 minutes as joint meeting)

Public Forums Review

- **Meet the candidates?**
 - o Brad asked the RGSC if they wanted any opportunity set aside at the next two forums. Ally listed who had pulled petitions. Jason and Erika both indicated they didn't feel the purpose of the RGSC forums was to include this as part of the format. Jason and Mike mentioned if so candidates wanted to speak during public to be heard at the next forums, they would be allowed to do so.
- Mike offered to send an email to the candidates once they were confirmed.
- Jason asked if the Transition Team had new information to add to the presentation at this time. Brad and Ally didn't have anything new.

- Nov. forum: Kim will handle logistics; Jason asked for the cafeteria and gym for spaces. Erika and Betzi will be presenting that night.
- Dec. forum: Ally will work with EHS on cafeteria and CTE preschool classroom for spaces, along with technical needs
- Brad confirmed he will get sound help scheduled for both remaining forums.
- Betzi and Lori talked about added slides/info relating to the ballots and list of candidates. Lori said the Trustees will take out an ad describing the ballot format. Ally & Brad will get the sample ballot information for the presentation.

Review of forum question responses/response plan

- Erika prepared remaining questions to be answered and assigned them to committee members to answer. Erika asked everyone to complete their assigned questions by Monday and to send directly to her. Erika and Betzi will make sure all information on the website.

Task Updates

- **Public outreach opportunities:** Mike asked if there were any additional opportunities to be present. Lori suggested to have FB forum events posted, FPF posts. Lori let the RGSC know that she and George Tyler had their monthly Channel 17 “interview” (Lori filled in for Max Levy) and today’s topic was the upcoming vote and overall information re: the RGSC/ECPR topic. She will let everyone know when it is going to air on TV.
 - **Places to be with flyers:** Raj asked for flyers to go home in Friday Folders. Erika and Raj talked about changing the flyer format to update it to be based on the warning, candidates and ballot sample. Lori will call the SOS office on 11/4/16 to ask about Campaign Finance Law. RGSC will look to have an updated flyer for 11/30/16 for 12/2/16 Friday Folders.
 - **Presentations – Lions, PTOs, etc.:** ETSD PTO continually lists RGSC information in their weekly emails.
- **FPF & Essex Reporter outreach:** Erika has been sending the FPF posts to the Reporter regularly in case they have room to add in to an edition. Raj suggested rewording the information so it wasn’t the same message as seen on FPF.
- **Web Updates:** Under the “Vote” tab, voter registration, early voting, absentee voting, etc. is listed. Betzi added that the FAQ page reflects Cheryl Moomey’s memo clarifying the chosen vote date.
- **Web Inquiries:** Betzi mentioned a lot more inquiries have been coming in based on grand list, amendments to the Agreement, pie chart on video, etc. All have been answered.
- **Final Info Sheet/Q&A:** two options were reviewed and Erika will consolidate them into one, concise, reformatted sheet.
- **Presence at the polls on 11/8:** Lori asked for members to volunteer at polls with a sign-up sheet. Members will post for volunteers on social media with an online sign-up sheet. Betzi wanted to make sure there was no specific selection of volunteers and that the process stays as neutral as possible. Raj suggested to draft an email for the group.
- **Promoting early & absentee voting:** Lori suggested a letter to the editor be submitted
- **Videos:** Brad said that Kayhl is working on the final two videos that will be shared for edits; the goal is to have them ready for the next two forums.

- **Postcard:** rough estimate on postage is \$1500. Betzi, from work experience, is that the response rate is really low; however, it has been requested/suggested at open forums. Kim offered to mock something up for review. Betzi asked about a budget and who would pay for this option. Brad asked if the committee really wanted to do. Everyone felt it was the right thing to do. Brad will get firm numbers/amounts and deadlines based on a December 5th drop date.
- **Sharing information about candidates for ECPR Board:** Jason and Erika do not think it is the job of RGSC to be involved with. Sample ballot may be only piece to list candidates (if allowed).

Identify next meeting date/time: November 16, 8pm – after Public Forum at FMS.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm