

RECREATION GOVERNANCE STUDY COMMITTEE MEETING

Joint Municipal Survey Committee

Meeting Minutes: June 27, 2016

Essex Junction Recreation & Parks

75 Maple Street, Essex Junction, VT

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

Absent: Christine Packard, Theresa Fletcher, Max Levy

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

Others present: Andrew Bolduc (attorney representation), Irene Wrenner

Call to Order: Michael Smith, Chair of the Recreation Governance Study Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Agenda additions or changes: None

Introductions: Andrew re-introduced himself to the RGSC

Public to be heard: None

Approval of June 22 minutes:

Amendments: George Tyler did respond to Lou Ann Pioli's question/concern re: the true current cost of senior services provided by the municipalities and recreation departments but his response was not included in the minutes. The RGSC would like his response noted in the minutes: George Tyler, Village President, responded, saying that the Village would continue to support the senior center space.

Review new Timeline for December Vote: RGSC in agreement with new drafted timeline. It was mentioned that Pat Scheidel, the Municipal Manager, really made the December 13th date a reality for the RGSC rather than a later date.

Draft FAQ's: Committee agreed to review document of FAQ's and reply to Kim Maiberger with comments/concerns/answers by Thursday, July 7th – one week prior to the next RGSC meeting. Kim will compile these in a concise manner to be reviewed at the July 14th meeting. Members were reminded to reply only to Kim, and not "all", due to Open Meeting Laws.

Review of Work Session Dates: The RGSC will meet at EJRP (75 Maple Street) from 6-9pm on July 14th and July 21st in order to have all documents ready to present to Boards in August (SB, Trustees, PC and UU).

District Agreement: Andrew led the conversation through the 19 page agreement which created great discussion on all points. Andrew took notes for edits and adjustments and will have the document to the RGSC by Thursday, July 7th to allow each member enough time to review the document prior to the July 14th meeting.

- Big discussion points were:
 - How do other municipalities join in the future?

- Funding: can this only be done through a Municipal Bond Bank or can it also include Commercial Banks?
- What do we call ourselves? Tentatively agreed on “Essex Community Parks & Recreation”.
- What happens if the Village and Town merge, will the District automatically dissolve? Can something be in the agreement so that does not happen?
- Structure of Governing Board – how can we formally get two from the Village, two from the Town outside the Village and one “at large” in the initial vote?
- Budget vote for April 2017

Adjourn: Prior to adjourning the meeting, Irene Wrenner asked if she could speak since she was late to the meeting and missed “Public to be heard”. This was granted and she advised the RGSC to come up with a draft budget, because many voters will not vote in favor of a ballot item if there isn’t an expected dollar amount/budget associated with the vote for a new municipal function.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.