

Recreation Advisory Committee Notes

Monday, October 23, 2017, at 6:00 pm

Town Hall Conference Room A, Summer Street

Call to Order: Haidi Arias brought the meeting to order at about 6 pm welcoming the new members of the committee, and the public. Everyone went around the room introducing their selves. Members present were Haidi Arias, Larry Satcowitz, Erica Sears, Dayln Luedthe, Jessica Alonso, Juliann Sherman, Ian Sears, and Rick Hauser.

Public Comment: A towns member from East Randolph asked if all the spots are filled for the Recreation Advisory Committee? Haidi answered that they had, but anyone is welcomed to come to the meetings. There was a brief discussion about the East Randolph Committee relating to the East Randolph Hall which is now owned/managed by the Randolph Recreation Department. There was an inquiry from Haidi asking if there was any information from the East Randolph Committee or if it was still meeting. The response was that the committee had not met for some time, but members still wanted to know the status of the hall. The member needed to get more information to Haidi.

Update on Current programs and activities: Soccer has ended it was a successful season. Youth Basketball Registration information was sent to schools and the public informed. Registration will continue until the end of November. Haidi has also gone to the high school to seek out students who are interested in working at the ice rink this winter.

Scheduled Items:

- a) Selection of Committee Chair members: Erica Sears was nominated for Chair, Dayln Luedthe was nominated for Vice Chair, and Jessica Alonso was nominated for Secretary. All positions were seconded, and members were voted into these positions.
- b) Discussion of skateboard ordinances: Baily and Chandler, two teenagers, presented their reasons for wanting to amend the skateboarding ordinances (for current ordinances see attached copy of email notes).
 1. There are no signs posted in the downtown area, and the signs are not displayed on the streets where they are not supposed to ride.
 2. The times when the skateboarders can ride do not promote a safe environment for skaters. If anything, it encourages them to go out in the evening from 8 pm to 11 pm to ride and then between the hours of 7 am to 8 am (See Item D. District Limitations under Limits on skateboard use). Their parents expressed that the evening hours are not safe for their teens to be out at that time. For example, one of the teens ran into some “characters” who he did not feel comfortable engaging with. It was also suggested that some of the prohibited areas be opened up.
 3. In the III. Penalties, Enforcement, and Appeals the teens also expressed that it seemed unfair in section A. Penalty: a fine is issued without warning first.

The teens felt if there were no signs in town alerting the public to “Skateboarding Prohibited” or the appropriate hours and streets permitted they should be given a warning first not a fine first.

In the research the teens conducted, they contacted Officer Stalnaker. She informed the teens that there weren’t any problems with skateboarders in the years since the ordinances were updated. One of the reasons for the ordinances was that the skateboards were ruining the curbs and sidewalks at the time.

There was a lot of discussion among committee members and the public on how to proceed. Haidi and the teens will work more on the issues and come up with a plan. The committee will revisit this subject in January 2018.

c. Establish Committee Goals & Top Priorities for 2017/2018:

1. Park ordinances and signs for skateboarding.
2. A mission statement about Recreation sports, encourage children to continue, Handbook for sports, so every coach is on the same page with the correct expectations and put together a philosophy for the team sports.
3. Getting other community groups involved with the recreation department like Girls Scouts, 4-H, Boy Scouts, etc.
4. Communication between all of the towns (Brookfield, East Randolph, Randolph Center, Randolph, and Braintree). Possible communication venues- Facebook, quarterly new letter from Rec. department, send out a monthly card with activities on it, and Kiosk in other towns.
5. Liner for the ice rink.
6. More adult Programming like Cross Country Skiing, pickleball, etc.
7. Pool: Covered area to sit at the pool. Playground- shade for parents and a place to relax to watch children. Finish playground for adults and older kids.
8. Look for Grants- playground, skateboard park, sidewalks.
9. Reevaluate East Randolph Hall.
10. More parks and shelters (possible rent out shelters)
11. Crosswalk and sidewalk for kids to cross near Cumberland farms and ball field.
12. Tween Programming

Future Agenda Items:

- a. The bidding process for repainting the Tennis Courts on school Street will begin in the next could of months. The amount of \$10,000 is already in

the 2018 budget for this expense. The repainting will occur in Spring 2018. Repainting the tennis courts will include maintenance, fixing fence posts, filling in cracks, and a new backboard. Ian Sears will be constructing the backboard for the tennis court.

- b. The East Randolph Hall needs to be upgraded to fit the zoning requirements. Haidi explained that a budget would need to be put together for repairs/upgrades. She will let East Randolph and Committee members know the details of the budget plan as soon as possible.
- c. There was a discussion about the possibility of purchasing a liner for the ice rink.
- d. Juliann Sherman asked if we could stay within budgeted Agenda Time. Haidi and Erica explained that we try to keep within the time frame. However, the skateboarding presentation was the reason we went over. Members are also free to leave if they need too.

Adjournment: Haidi asked for volunteers to help with “Site and Seen” event it starts at 3:45 pm to 6:00 pm. Volunteers could show up between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm to help set up. Erica and Ian Sears volunteered to help judge the pumpkin contest.

Next scheduled Meeting November 20th 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Town Hall.

The meeting concluded at about 7:30 pm.