



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Recreation Advisory Committee
Monday, May 18, 5:30 pm
Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Notes

1. **Call to order:** 5:31 pm

Committee Members Present:

Kristin Chandler
Larry Davignon
Kristen Gage
Kyla Grace
Dalyn Luedtke
Valerie Schoolcraft

Absent: Paul Rea

Town Staff Present:

Haidi Arias, Recreation Director
Larry Satcowitz, Selectboard Liaison

2. **Public comment:**

None

3. **Scheduled Items**

a. **Summer Programming:**

The playground is closed until further notice, and the tables have been removed to discourage gatherings. People have still been coming in and using it but not in large numbers. Using this time for painting, repairing, and replacing the picnic tables, which are being stored in the pool area right now. Claude, who works at the pool, is doing this work. If all goes well, the tables will be put back in place in the next week or two.

The Tennis/Pickleball and Basketball Courts are open. So far, there's not been a lot of activity, which is good. Moving forward with tennis and pickleball leagues because there is no close contact and there are no spectators. Enough participants for two teams will need to sign up, and the teams will need help with scheduling, etc. Kristin Chandler said there are other leagues out there that people have been joining so we should gauge interest before putting a lot of effort into it. She also suggested that there be one fee for tennis and

P O DRAWER B 7 SUMMER STREET RANDOLPH, VT 05060-0017

TELEPHONE: 802-728-5433 FAX: 802-728-5818

www.randolphvt.org

pickleball. Haidi agreed. Haidi reported that the benches at the courts have been removed but will be put back in place in June. Chandler thought they were too small for appropriate social distancing and didn't like the idea of bringing them back. Valerie Schoolcraft was concerned about clusters of people and/or confusion over the schedule of play. Chandler and Haidi said this isn't an issue. There is a regular Tuesday/Thursday schedule for play that all of the players are aware of.

b. Harmony Park

David Palmer presented his plans for the Harmony Park to the selectboard on Thursday. They liked it and have requested a letter of support from Dalyn Luedtke (committee chair) and Haidi confirming location and endorsement from the Recreation Department. Schoolcraft suggested that it would be a nice gesture to document the installation process so that David Palmer could be recognized for his efforts down the road. Haidi thought this was a good idea.

Schoolcraft and Haidi created a new logo for the recreation department. It will be featured on the COVID-19 face coverings for the camp, highway, water crew, etc. The face coverings are gray in color and lightweight. Haidi ordered 100 of them. Luedtke asked if they need to be washed every time they're worn? If so, that will need to be communicated with the families of campers. A second logo will be created for the pool and the ice rink. This logo will be used for the membership cards that will be used at both facilities.

c. Summer Camp

Kids USTA Tennis is a go. Kids are already signed up. Luedtke asked if there are any mountain biking camps moving forward. Haidi answered that she met with Hannah Barden and Morgan Easton. They're working with RASTA and the Gear Shop to see if they'll put up the insurance for it. RASTA needs insurance to work with the schools, too, so it should move forward. The science camp is on hold because the company pulled out for insurance reasons. Haidi would like to figure out how to hire Tommy Zani to do it and is looking into buying kits from the science company who would have been running the camp. The camp would be limited to eight kids and would be held at the ice rink. Chandler suggested that Faith Hester-Reyes would be perfect to lead this. Kristen Gage and Luedtke agreed. Luedtke asked if the person leading the science camp would need insurance, and Haidi will look into that. Soccer camp has been moved to the end of August. It looks like it will move ahead.

Haidi will be meeting this week with other towns to talk about the summer camp guidelines. All towns need clarity. Camps will go forward, but there's no clear answer about the maximum number of kids, the limitations, etc?

There is a restart stipend from the state for face shields, sanitizer, supplies to be used by one individual only, etc. Haidi is working on the numbers now to submit to the state before the June 15th deadline. The stipend is based on the number of kids/week of camp (currently capped at 24, but the numbers may change), so she really needs clarification on how many kids can attend. She is also trying to find gloves, disinfectant, sanitizer, etc. for use throughout the summer. Currently, the department has enough to get opened up for camp and pool.

Haidi made the decision not to raise rates for camp this year. Chandler asked how the registration was being handled -- first come, first served? Haidi answered yes. She is sorting

through the paperwork now. Chandler then asked about scholarship funds and Haidi answered that there is plenty of money in the scholarship fund thanks to grant dollars received. Gage asked if fewer campers means less staff? Haidi said that the same number of camp counselors will be needed, perhaps even a few more because of the additional cleaning/monitoring responsibilities. Training will be much harder than usual because of this. Gage asked if those staff member hires were in place? Haidi said she's interviewing people this week and that she's getting applicants from Lotus Lake and Castleton since neither of those camps will be running this year. She's also trying to get another tent so they can spread campers out more. She's working with Rain or Shine on that. Still waiting to hear about summer meals for all campers through Abby Group and the state. Gage asked whether Bethel will still be a drop site for those meals. Haidi didn't know. Gage suggested she get in touch with the Randolph Area Food Shelf about deliveries, as the RAFS has a pool of volunteers that are delivering food orders to residents anyway and there could potentially be collaboration between the two organizations. Haidi thought that sounded great and will look into it.

Chandler asked if Haidi is coding all COVID expenses, and Haidi answered yes. Chandler asked about thermometers for camp and was told that they've been ordered and will be here by mid-June. Chandler asked what other camps are happening this summer? Haidi said One Planet, Motio Rec, and maybe others. Lotus Lake is not opening.

d. Pool Update

The selectboard has approved the bid to repaint the pool. Hoping for early June to start. It is a five-day job and needs 10 days to cure. So far, there has been no guidance from the Governor about pool re-openings, but Haidi is optimistic that it will open... it's just a question of how. She's feeling frustrated and would really like to have some solid answers. Pool maintenance also needs to happen. That hasn't happened in 3 years. It is a company from MA that does that. If all goes well, the pool will open the last weekend of June. Because usage numbers will need to be limited, there will need to be a system in place to designate separate times for families, camp, etc. and families will need to sign up in advance. There will need to be a software program that will handle that. No kids without parental/adult supervision will be allowed at the pool. Gage asked if the town is putting a plan in place for the additional influx of people to the river on town property. Haidi said that there is an ordinance about not going in the river but acknowledged that the ordinance isn't followed and river use will undoubtedly go up as pool access will be limited. She will talk with the town manager about signage and liability.

Schoolcraft asked how pool membership/visit payments be handled/managed. Haidi had spoken with the town's Financial Director today. The town will sell season passes, as well as 10 & 5-day passes. Passholders will be issued a physical card that they can swipe. There will likely be no more day passes offered. Passes can be purchased onsite. There will be plexiglass up to limit contact between staff and the public, and there will need to be changes to the indoor rooms as well. Gage asked if there would be a limit on the number of visits for season pass holders. Yes, there will have to be, and the online scheduler will only go live for 2-3 days at a time so that small numbers of families can't monopolize the pool. Luedtke said that Norwich University has a very strict no-show policy in place. Three no-shows and then that person/family can't come again -- something like this would be important for the town pool in this new climate of limited slots and numbers. Gage noted that this whole system is going to be hugely time consuming and labor intensive for Haidi, who agreed. She will look

into automated systems for this. Schoolcraft asked why payment needed to be made in person. Why not online? Haidi answered that this is a larger town issue. The Rec Dept could go online anytime, but it would cause problems because other departments don't have that capacity, and the public would become irritated. Luedtke suggested that a color-coded bracelet system could help identify families coming into the pool at different times. Haidi will consider that. She's thinking that 90-120 minutes per family is a reasonable amount of time, but we need guidance. Chandler thought the magic number would be 50, 10 families of five at a time in the pool area. That's what Haidi was thinking as well, Luedtke suggested a "before dinner" and an "after dinner" shift. Haidi reiterated that unsupervised kids (who typically spend a large portion of the day at the pool) will no longer be allowed entry. Gage worried about where those kids would go during the summer months. Haidi agreed but said that the staff can no longer be asked to provide this service -- they need to be monitoring water safety to save lives, not policing social distancing. Schoolcraft asked if there would be lanes for each family to swim within. Haidi said this was a possibility. Luedtke went back to the colored bracelet idea as one that would make things easier. Everyone agreed that the public would need quite a bit of education about whatever system is put in place. Haidi anticipates a whole new marketing plan for the pool that will be funded by the state's COVID stipend money.

e. Fourth of July

Haidi met with the Chamber of Commerce and it was decided that there would be no Fourth of July parade this year. She is checking with the fire department about whether they're planning to move forward with a fireworks display. Some ideas that the Chamber is considering: decorating businesses and homes and publishing a map of decorated places for prizes. Fire departments from each town decorating their vehicles and driving through towns with the public voting on which town had the best display... does the committee have thoughts? Schoolcraft thought that something similar to the Easter drive-through would be fun. An Uncle Sam or Rosie the Riveter in the back of a truck, visiting neighborhoods. Chandler wondered about rain. Schoolcraft suggested the public dress up in patriotic garb and submit photos for prizes. Luedtke thought this could be similar to the current front porch portrait project and wondered if Ben DeFlorio might be willing to take it on. Gage thought car parades and decorating sounded great but didn't love the idea of pitting town against town in competition. Schoolcraft suggested a cooking demo at Gifford Medical Center, and Gage thought there could be some interesting opportunities to tie this in with Veggie Van Go and RiseVT, both of which are based at GMC. Chandler suggested uploading videos to patriotic songs. Haidi thought these were all great ideas and would pass them along to Linda at the Chamber as well as Megan Harvey and Andrea Easton, who are on the Board. Luedtke suggested something similar to the passports from the State Parks -- What if the towns collaborated on a list of scavenger hunt/geocaching-type activities featuring the RASTA trails, pool, golf course, etc that could be done over the course of the month of July, highlighting some of the unique places in Braintree, Brookfield, and Randolph. Prizes could be given at the end. The group thought this was a great idea. Chandler offered to help by painting rocks and organizing the hiding of them. She emphasized that this should be done by the committee and not by Haidi, who has enough on her plate right now.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15th at 5:30 either outdoors or via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.