



TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Recreation Advisory Committee
Monday, July 27, 2020
Meeting at the Rec Area (30 Park St.) Pavilion

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order: 5:22 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. Updates by the Recreation Department, Haidi Arias:

a. Summer Camps:

It's week six of camp, and it's going well. The staff is great. Because of the new statewide mandate requiring masks, the camp rules will change next week and staff will wear masks the whole day. Camp attendance numbers remain steady at 34 kids each week. No one has gotten sick at camp or at the pool. Parents have been really good about keeping kids home if they are sick. Temperature checks happen each morning and there have been no fevers.

- b. Town Pool:
Swimming lessons are going well, and the morning water aerobics classes are great! There are 10-11 people each day participating. The new pool reservations system is going fine, despite the complaints of a few. People are happy, no complaints at the pool itself. Families are being respectful of social distancing and mask requirements and are happy to be there. People from neighboring communities are coming as well. The only real issue is with a small handful of people, who consider themselves experts on the subject of COVID, who have been unwilling to social distance and have needed several reminders from staff that the pool has state-imposed mandates to follow. Walk-ins are welcome when the pool is not full. Thorough cleaning is happening between lessons, classes, groups, etc.
- c. Tennis:
The August tennis schedule will be out tomorrow.

4. Scheduled Items

a. Fall sports:

What to do? The issue of fall sports is incredibly thorny because of COVID. The decision has been made that there will be no traveling for the summer with sandlot baseball, and there is no one from other towns coming to play here. Fall soccer will have a delayed start because school will not begin until 9/8. Haidi Arias asked committee members for their opinions on what to do as far as playing other towns, traveling for games, and allowing other teams to play at the Randolph fields.... The younger age groups have enough kids that they will be able to play against themselves. The older teams (third/fourth & fifth/sixth) really want to compete outside of town. So, the town needs to make a choice. Parents of kids on these older teams want them to have the opportunity to play against other towns and don't want them to compete against each other, but there are serious safety issues to consider. Larry Davignon asked why we couldn't scrap the whole notion of teams this year and do other fun stuff that builds skills and athletic conditioning but doesn't field teams or play games? Kyla Grace said she'd be happy to have them stay here and not compete with other teams. The consensus of the group seemed to be to keep it local to Randolph, Braintree, and Brookfield only. Arias thought if we can get enough kids to field three small teams at each level, they will be able to safely play themselves. Dalyn Luedtke asked if we could abide by behavior contracts with other towns -- maybe with Bethel, South Royalton, Northfield, and Williamstown? Arias liked this idea and will look into all coaches signing behavior contracts on behalf of their town's teams. Fall soccer will be able to use school fields again this year and will stagger practices. The question really is whether enough coaches will volunteer to field higher numbers of smaller teams. Arias is giving herself a hard deadline of mid-Aug to confirm coaching staff and will then open player registration until filled. Davignon asked if the season will be shorter without games? Arias answered that she will be meeting with Williamstown and Northfield to see what they're doing. Maybe some position-specific training can be incorporated into the practice this year.

The final decision reached was to see how many coaches volunteer. That number will help shape a decision. The conversation with the other towns will also be helpful in determining the direction.

b. Special Events:

Halloween: Safe & Seen Halloween will need to look completely different this year because of COVID. One idea is to have a drive-by Halloween hosted at the Randolph Elementary School, in which businesses could have tables set up along the round-about green and families could trick-or-treat around the circle from their cars. Much discussion was had about vehicle congestion and the location size (too small to accommodate the numbers). The group brainstormed other locations and distribution methods. Could we break the celebration up into multiple locations? Could we use all three elementary schools as distribution points? What about the Braintree Meeting House? Tent set-ups in these locations? Arias and Valerie Schoolcraft will need to talk with businesses about what they're willing to do and where they're willing to go. The group liked the idea of using the elementary schools as hubs for the event.

** At this point (6:20 pm), committee secretary Kristen Gage needed to leave the meeting to go back to work