



# TOWN OF RANDOLPH, VERMONT

Recreation Advisory Committee  
Monday, August 17, 2020  
Meeting at the Rec Area (30 Park St.) Pavilion

## Meeting Minutes

### 1. Call to order: 5:34 pm

#### Committee Members Present:

Larry Davignon  
Kristen Gage  
Dalyn Luedtke  
Paul Rea

#### Absent:

Kristin Chandler  
Kyla Grace  
Valerie Schoolcraft  
Larry Satcowitz, Selectboard Liaison

#### Town Staff Present:

Haidi Arias; Recreation Director

### 2. Public comment: None

**3. Update on current programs and activities, given by Haidi Arias:** This is the last week of summer camp. Things have gone extremely well despite the challenges of COVID-19. The pool will likely stay open for one week beyond the closing of camp. Arias is very pleased with the new pool vacuum -- the pool has never been cleaner. On September 1st, Nick Bent will be hired on as a part-time Recreation Supervisor and assistant to Arias. He will work 20 hours/week and will work on special projects as well as working on nights and weekends. Nick is the perfect candidate for this position, and we're excited to have him.

### 4. Scheduled Items:

**a. Harmony Park:** David Palmer and Rotary member Ted Elzey walked the committee through the proposed site of the new park. They had measured out where exactly the instruments will be placed with cardboard placeholders in the size and shape of each instrument. There was much discussion between Elzey, Paul Rea, and Larry Davignon of how the instruments will be installed to minimize frost damage and increase longevity. Estimates are being gathered now, and work is slated to begin on Sept. 1st.

While installation is happening, that section of the playground area will be cordoned off with caution tape for safety. This discussion continued for 30 minutes, after which Palmer and Elzey left the committee meeting.

**b. Fall Sports:** Arias has a meeting this evening with all of the fall soccer rec coaches about what the protocols will be for a COVID season of soccer. Ben, the athletic director at RUHS, has had very good info/input and has met with Arias multiple times. The high school will continue to allow the Rec teams to use the high school soccer fields again this year as long as teams commit to wearing masks. So far, it looks like there will be a Pre-K team that will practice once/week with Arias and parents coaching. The first/second-grade section potentially has enough coaching staff for three teams and would practice twice/week. The third/fourth grade section has the potential for one girls' team and two boys' teams, and the fifth/sixth grade section could field one team each of boys and girls. The high school is having some logistical issues on their end as well as very low player registration numbers. If they wind up canceling their season, the Rec dept will cancel theirs. So far, Arias has gotten a commitment from Williamstown that they would abide by a mask mandate, and she will be hearing from Bethel and Northfield about whether they are willing to do the same. Chelsea has canceled their fall Rec sports. Unfortunately, Cal Ripkin is not allowing teams to influence the decisions of the teams they are competing against, so if we are playing a team that does not require masks of their players and coaches, there is nothing we can do about it.... Which is thorny for us. We'll see what happens. Player registration should be open by Wednesday depending on the outcome of the meeting this evening with coaches.

**c. Halloween:** Dalyn Luedtke spoke with Kate Forrer from UVM Extension about the possibility of using Allis State Park as a drive-through Halloween location. It doesn't sound like it would be difficult to obtain permission from the state if that's the direction the committee wanted to head in. Arias reported that the Chamber liked the idea of staging the event at the schools and/or Gifford. The sheriff's department preferred the idea of using the high school, rather than the elementary school, because of the better traffic flow. The sheriff's department is on board for handling traffic for the event. RACDC is supposed to be reaching out to businesses so that we know if the event can move forward. Arias will be meeting with all involved parties on Wednesday to discuss the options. Luedtke said that the school club at Brookfield is happy to help with the planning and execution of the event and suggested that photo booths would be a fun addition.

**d. Ice Rink:** Arias is thinking about ways to circulate air in the rink over the winter. There will be outdoor tent options as well, but indoor air safety is a concern she's looking into. A new liner and boards are coming for the rink! Paul Rea would like to level out the rink itself, since there is a large dip in the center of the ice. There was discussion of how this could be done, and it was agreed upon that this would necessitate building up the existing area with sand because of the asphalt beneath. The new liner will need to be taken down every year and should last at least two to three years. It weighs 600 lbs.

**5. Future Agenda Items:** Arias asked that committee members begin thinking about creative ways for the Recreation Dept to engage kids during distance learning.

**6. Adjournment: 6:29 pm**