

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2016
Washington Street Conference Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Landon Fake, Maureen Gordon, Casey Heard, Jim Heard, David Olivas, Brian Robinson, Geoff Scott. Excused: Emily McDevitt, Jessie Tobias, Beth Ward.

Ray opened the meeting at 5:32 pm.

Minutes: Casey moved to accept the Dec.2 minutes, Brian seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon reported that Stage 2 of the redevelopment project is finished. The double-chair lift is now operational, with the electrical problem solved today. He also said the problem with the magic carpet is solved. There are issues, however, with the potholes in the new parking lot that need to be addressed with the contractor. Stage 3 (the lodge) will begin once an additional \$2 million in funding is raised.

National Toboggan Championships: Landon reported that registrations are lagging somewhat from prior years, probably due to concerns over ice on the pond (or lack thereof)..

Pathways: Geoff reported that the National Park Service consultant attended the committee's last meeting to "make sure we're on track and guide us through the process" of developing the Riverwalk. She also gave the committee info on similar projects and discussed available tax incentives for public access on private property. The Pathways Committee also met with the Lions Club, the YMCA Teen Center, and Camden Villa to discuss the next stage of the Riverwalk, which could cross the properties of all three organizations. Geoff also reported on the state's plans to expand Route 1 north of Camden Hills State Park into Lincolnville.

Tannery Work Group: Ray reported that three different concepts for using the old Tannery site have been presented: (1) a farmer's market and playground; (2) a mix of commercial buildings, sculpture garden, water fountain, and open space; and (3) a multi-purpose cultural center. The presenters will try to merge some of those ideas into one concept for further discussion and evaluation before the group holds an open meeting for the general public, sometime in the spring.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Budget: No monthly reports available.

SNOW BOWL OPERATIONS

Strategic Plan: Landon presented a rough draft of the new Snow Bowl Strategic Plan at the staff orientation in December.

New Year's Weekend: Landon reported that 417 day tickets were sold over New Year's Weekend, which was better than expected. He added that 320 lbs of French fries were sold that weekend (the Snow Bowl went through 7,000 lbs of French fries last year).

Snow Bowl Staffing: Landon said the Snow Bowl staff has a lot of new people, some seasonal employees only want to work part-time, one full-time employee is retiring, and they still need to add more people. He noted that Tom Beauregard is on a quick learning curve as Fitzzy's successor.

Discounts: Landon also discussed discounts given to stewards, coaches and ski patrollers, indicating that the issue will be revisited next year.

OTHER BUSINESS.

New POS and Website: Landon said Beth is training staff members on using the new systems and making constant tweaks. Some historic Snow Bowl photos have been uploaded.

Property Upgrades: The Committee reviewed the revised property list and decided to focus on Shirttail Point in 2016. Of immediate concern is controlling the erosion along the water's edge. Other improvements to be undertaken this year are adding a boat & kayak rack; building a handicap-accessible wooden walkway and pier for fishermen and boaters; moving the dam warning sign and making it smaller; and reinforcing the rules regarding no smoking, dogs, and open containers. Ray will contact Meg Barclay to see if she would do a free conceptual drawing of what Shirttail Point could look like in the future; Maureen said Asa Peats might be willing to do it.

New Logo: Landon reported that the department's trucks are sporting the new logo design.

Signs: Geoff suggested that we use a totem-pole style with four square sides.

Upcoming Events: Maureen mentioned that the RMRA will be selling new hats as a fundraiser at this weekend's Christmas by the Sea event. The Snow Bowl will have a float in the Parade on Friday night. Jessie added that the Ski Club is interested in having a celebration on or before opening day.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen