

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2016

Snow Bowl Lodge

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

Ray opened the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Minutes: Casey moved to accept the April 6 minutes as amended, David seconded, and it passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon reported that the Foundation has raised about \$1 million for construction of a new lodge, which might begin in spring of 2017.

Pathways: No report.

Tannery Work Group: Ray reminded everyone that there will be a public meeting on May 12 at the middle school at which the history and current conditions of the site will be discussed along with possible options for its reuse.

Outdoor Mapping Group: Landon reported that the new area outdoor guide is getting close to being reprinted. It will include 14 new outdoor recreation sites, including several in Rockport. Landon received a quote of \$3,800 for printing 10,000 copies. We are looking for a sponsor to help defray production costs.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Budget: As usual, the Committee reviewed the monthly Snow Bowl expense and revenue summary report. Beth said there are still a few payments and expenses coming in, but the total loss for the year will be about \$216,000. Landon noted that Shawnee Peak in Bridgton lost more than \$600,000.

Beth also distributed a year-end summary sheet that shows a precipitous drop in days of operation (42 in 2015/16 vs. 58 in 2014/15 and 67 in 2013/14), in snowfall (22 inches in 2015/16 vs. 121.5 in 2014/15 and 72.6 in 2013/14) and in total tickets sold (2,360 in 2015/16 vs. 11,738 in 2014/15 and 11,895 in 2013/14). There was some discussion about the number of seasonal employees (91 in 2015/16 vs. 77 in 2013/14), and Brian suggested using FTE (full-time equivalents) as a better measurement.

The Committee also discussed four-season opportunities for increasing income at the Snow Bowl, including the potential for ziplines and water slides, biking events, and boating on Hosmer Pond. Better food and drink concessions, including the sale of alcohol, could bring in more money.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 1

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen