

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2015

Camden Snow Bowl Lodge

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

Ray opened the meeting at 5:26 pm.

Minutes: Brian moved to accept the May 6 minutes, David seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Landon reported that work on the Tobogganville parking area and the base of the double lift has begun, that the main parking lot should be finished by the end of July, that grass is growing on the hillside and survived three days of rain, and that the building committee is set on the current design of the lodge.

National Toboggan Championships: Beth reported that there will be a volunteer get-together at the Waterfront Restaurant on Friday, June 5 and that there will be a signup sheet for Toboggan/Winterfest volunteers at the voting polls on Tuesday, June 9.

Pathways: Geoff reported that we did not get the "People for Bikes" grant for surveying the Middle School section of the Riverwalk. He did meet with Coastal Mountains Land Trust and walked the upper portion of the Seabright section, which will need some work to make it ADA-compliant on the slope near the dam. He also noted that the Pathways Committee will be preparing an infrastructure plan for Camden's pathways.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Snow Bowl Budget: Beth reported that we are \$77,000 in the red as of today, with a handful of receivables (maybe \$5,000) still to be collected. The Committee reviewed the current budget, the proposed pricing plan for the ski season, and the proposed Snow Bowl budget to be presented to the Select Board on June 16.

Key items discussed about the current budget included (1) the high labor costs for full-time and part-time staff, attributed to the redevelopment project and offset by \$150,000 in reimbursements from RMRA; (2) the higher-than-budgeted electricity costs, which were due to additional snow-making and price increases; and (3) the \$25,000 in sponsorship revenue that did not materialize due to the late start of the ski season.

Key items discussed about the proposed pricing plan included (1) the decision to forego any "loyalty pass" due to logistics; and (2) the various pricing levels for season, daily, and half-day passes.

Key items discussed about the proposed 2015/16 pricing plan included (1) the amount of projected revenue from the Ski Club, gift cards, and Efficiency Maine grants; (2) the need to revise the current food service contract; (3) a new expense line for marketing that will include website development to improve customer service and market info; (3) the number of ski patrollers who get free passes as compensation; and (4) the estimated expenses and revenue for the Toboggan Nationals.

NEW BUSINESS

Tannery Work Group: Ray asked for the Committee's ideas on what could or should be done with the old Tannery site that he can present to the group currently working on recommendations. Suggestions included a community playground, skate park, bicycle training area, basketball court, tennis courts, seasonal farmers' market, food trucks, café, day care center, and soccer field.

David moved that the meeting be adjourned, Brian seconded the motion, and it was approved 5-0 at 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 1.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen