

St George Parks and Recreation Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 9th 2018
Town Office 6pm

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Absent: Ann Hoppe and Brandon Caron

Agenda adjustments:
New rec center
Corn-hole tournament
Letter to share about rec center

Approval of minutes; Gary motions to approve, Summer seconds. Motion passed.

Public comment: none

Old Business:

1. SENIOR REPORT: Seniors March luncheon had 25 in attendance and school chorus was great. Pizza for lunch tomorrow and Crew is coming to give seniors notecards. Sign-ups for trips begin May 1st.
2. FINANCIAL REPORT: Finances are in good shape. Bought new LL uniforms for the 9-10 year-old knights. Maine Printing prices were better than local competitors. Girls are getting new uniforms from Oceanside LL. Budget balance looks good because we budgeted to pay for Oceanside LL but we don't pay in this year.
3. ADULT PROGRAMS: Volleyball and basketball wrap up this week. Summer wants to get the word out a little better for basketball next year. She will personally contact people when it starts next fall. Pickle ball will start up after school ends. Potential for horseshoe pits in back of town. If public shows an interest, we may be able to talk to local courses to get a golf club started, particularly in the fall and spring seasons when the courses are a bit slower.
4. 2017-2018 GOALS:

Collins park: We have made some good steps toward achieving this goal. The old merry-go-round is being removed this week. Next step is to select something new to put in that place. Gary spoke to several people in town that thought that 10k was too much to spend on playground equipment. Ben suggests talking to the public about what should go in there if we decide not to do the merry go round. Summer didn't like the plastic ones that were priced lower. Some concerns were raised about safety and town insurance with the presence of a merry-go-round at the park. Any playground equipment has to be installed to specs in order to fall under the town insurance umbrella. Ben reminded the group that the reason this project money is available is because we didn't use the full amount designated to renovate the ball field dugouts. This project money will roll over and be reabsorbed into the town budget in June. Bryan feels as though anything worthwhile is going to cost the money. The committee discussed the other park improvement which was the play lobster boat. Missy contacted Cecil

White to discuss some possibilities for this project and she said that he was working on plans. She will contact him for an update and to schedule a meeting and Ben will go to the park to measure how much space we have for this structure. Summer makes a motion to move forward on the merry-go-round and the Boosters lobster boat project. Jaime seconds. 7 in favor, Meghan Benner abstains and cites safety concerns as her reason. Ben will order the merry-go-round tomorrow.

Concessions: The committee was working toward having more of a concessions presence this spring. To do this, we need a member of the committee to head this up. We have 11 home games at the big-ball field. One committee member can do the shopping but we would need parents to run it. Summer will ask some parents and Bryan will share something that we write up on the Parks and Rec page. Missy will do the shopping and Cassie will do some amazon shopping.

Adult programming: Committee is making progress toward offering more adult programming with the addition of pickle ball and ping pong.

Increased 5 k Participation: Increased participation in the Marshall Point 5 k was one of the goals. The committee talked about how would we advertise differently in order to reach more participants. Ben volunteers at other races and he can continue to get the word out there. We can get on Facebook pages for local runner's clubs. We can also call local running enthusiasts to help spread the word. In addition to that, we can increase signage – Ben has signs being made up for summer clinic registration and has made signs in the past for sports registration. Maybe we have a sign at the town office with a reminder for runners to sign up for the race. Starting this in May will help to achieve our goals by July 21st.

5. MUSSEL RIDGE WRAP-UP: With a net income of \$5765.55, we raised more this year than we ever have. Crowd sizes were smaller but advertising increased. Advertising on t-shirts was a good improvement and has had a good response from sponsors. Graphics came out well; double page sponsors were slightly bigger than full page in proportion to the amount that they paid. We will print t-shirts for sponsors that don't have the correct sizes already made up.

For next year: Maybe we can do three-point shootouts in between games. One idea is to pay a dollar to do a foul shot and if you make it then you pick a prize out of a bag – gift certificates for concessions, coupons for t-shirts, and other small cost items. Maybe coaches can do a foul shot contest or have players do hot shot contests.

Expenses were lower this year for food but we didn't make as much on concessions as in past years. More families seemed to leave after their games were done.

Committee discussed the idea of not having double elimination for the championship games but decided that you have to keep it. Other rule changes; the other tournaments have double-teaming allowed in the paint. There was also some talk about changing foul shots from the bottom of the circle to the line but we need to keep it at the bottom of the circle because of the smaller kids.

Gary would like to department to buy all new basketballs and to ask boosters to invest in a new popcorn machine.

Missy will compile a list of things for next year that we would like to improve upon.

Facilities concerns:

The committee discussed some of the concerns that the school had regarding the weekend of Mussel Ridge. Because basketball games tend to have siblings playing in the hallway, we might need to have a hall monitor. The new gate, while an improvement, opened up the other school entrance and also allowed kids to play near the trophy case. The weight-lifting equipment in the cafeteria is always a concern as children like to play on it. Some of the electrical issues at the school are being addressed at the facilities meeting which might help with some of our electrical load difficulties. The committee acknowledged that many of the concerns regarding the Mussel Ridge event are typical to most other school-sponsored events like March Madness, middle school games, etc., but that, because we are guests of the school, they have every right to hold us to a different level of expectation and it is our responsibility to adhere to those expectations. It was recommended that we meet with the school to see what their expectations are for our use of the facilities for next year. On the bright side, the school custodians and staff were complimentary about how we left the facilities in terms of cleanliness.

6. FACILITIES REPORT: Little league field is raked out and is ready to be played on which is earlier than usual. Field day is on Saturday- Ben will get coffee and donuts and there is a short list of things that need to be done: batting cage needs to be set up, little league fence is going to be set up. Clean deer droppings, we need big ladders, and Ben will order the coverings for landing fields. Tennis nets will go up Saturday.

New Business:

1. LITTLE LEAGUE – practice is inside but will be outside shortly – team schedules are set. Games start April 21st. Farm league practice starts after vacation. Games start in May – Josh McPhail will need an assistant. David Healey and Joseph Hufnagel will help with Girls farm team.
2. TRAIN TRIP: 71 people are going on the train for next Thursday.
3. ST GEORGE DAYS: Fun Run starts at 8:15 am and the 5k starts at 8:30 am. That will be on the website on May 1st. Should we buy a dunk tank? Gary will try to get a better price on the dunk tank.

Cornhole Tournament: As it has been brought up in the past, Gary would like to see a cornhole tournament take place this year. One thought was to have it during St George Days in place of the Old Timer's game. There has been very little participation for the Old Timer's game for the past two years. It was decided that it will be a Boosters sponsored event at Collins Park perhaps on July 3rd so it is to be discussed after the meeting.

4. 2018-2019 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: We need commitments for next year at our next meeting on June 11th.

5. SUMMER CLINICS:

June 26-28th: Art/Science split days-Art in the morning and Science in the afternoon.

July 10-12th: Baseball/Dance

July 24-26th: Basketball

August 13th-17th Dutch Soccer Academy

Jamie makes a motion to have two camps going simultaneously on the week of July 10-12th one for theatrical dance and the other will be baseball/softball– Summer seconds. All in favor.

Added to agenda:

Rec Center:

Ben read a letter from a 2nd grader with a plea to the Rec Committee that we need a rec facility with an indoor pool. Gary went to the Wiscasset Community center and really felt that St George could benefit from a rec center similar to that. Facilities included a senior center, exercise room, indoor pool, community room, and more. Ben spoke to Tim Polky who was open to the idea of a Rec Center and he would like to meet with this group to discuss it further. Cassie mentioned that Alane Kennedy and the CDC have been talking about securing space for a town pool – perhaps there is an opportunity for joined efforts. Ben brought up one area that would be the perfect location which on the open land behind Riskalla's farm. The first step is to meet with Tim and we will go from there. Gary, Meghan, and Missy will volunteer to go meet with Tim and once a meeting time is reached we can open it up to the rest of the group.

June 11th is the next meeting.

Adjourn – Gary made the motion and Jaime seconds, motion passed.

Adjourned at 8:40pm.