

Recreation Advisory Board  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020  
Remote via Zoom  
7:00 PM  
Final Minutes

1. Call to Order

Members Present: Dan Provost, Mike Wissler, Stephanie Papakonstantis, Jenn Harrington, Connor Barry, Brinn Sullivan, and Val Castonguay; Molly Cowan, Select Board rep; and Melissa Roy, David Tovey and Greg Bisson of Parks and Rec.

Members Absent: Steve Geiger, Courtney Marshall

Ms. Papakonstantis called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Ms. Papakonstantis read a statement:

As Chair of the Rec Advisory Board, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Public notice of this meeting was posted on the town website and on the bulletin board of the town offices at 10 Front Street. As provided in that public notice, the public may access the meeting online and via phone.

Please note that all votes taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting and who that person is (son, daughter, spouse, etc...), which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

2. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

3. Minute Approval

- a. September 29, 2020

**MOTION:** Mr. Wissler moved to approve the minutes of September 29, 2020 as presented. Ms. Castonguay seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

4. New Business

- a. Fall Recap

Mr. Bisson said had a hiccup with Covid exposures from the rinks. Most sports programs were shut down for one week, some for two. They extended the programs accordingly. Overall it was a successful season. David and Melissa are teaching the enrichment programs. The safety protocols are working. Mr. Tovey said they're still in the fall season, but everything so far has been going well. Ms. Roy said kids are having a lot of fun and parents are appreciative. Winter will

bring another set of challenges. Ms. Papakonstantis said she thought they handled the Covid issue well.

b. Winter Update

Mr. Bisson said they sent out a survey for basketball, looking at different options. Mr. Tovey said they received 114 responses. The SAU will charge a cleaning fee of \$75 per night. There will be safety protocol, such as masks and distancing. "Skills and Drills" does involve games, but not against other teams. They moved from the Lamprey River to the RIMS league, which is full. There's a chance of doing travel leagues for older teams. Mr. Bisson said they're leaning toward just Skills and Drills. \$75 per night for gym time adds up quickly, it could be a \$45 increase per child. They're lucky the SAU is offering space, as most school districts aren't. They could start two weeks after the holidays, in case there is Covid exposure during the holidays. Ms. Papakonstantis said EYSA Skills and Drills has been successful, although it's not ideal. Could they test kids for Covid? Mr. Bisson said it's not part of the State mandates. Hockey parents overwhelmed the testing sites. He could talk to Mr. Dean about whether they are allowed to mandate testing. Mr. Wissler said it's important to not have spectators. Ms. Sullivan said the mantra is "let kids play," and parents have to accept the new set of rules, such as no spectators and no away games. She thinks the regional standard start will be after MLK day. Mr. Provost said kids staying in schools is a priority, so they should keep the sports bubbles small.

Ms. Papakonstantis asked how they will work around Great Bay Kids at LSS. Mr. Bisson said he wanted to know as well, and had some questions about cleaning for Rusty Lister, the Facilities Director at the SAU. Ms. Sullivan said they should also find out about air quality and filtering in the gyms. Mr. Bisson said a parent suggested that kids wear a mask while they play. Mr. Bisson said they will be health screening; Mr. Provost said online health screenings save a lot of time. Ms. Papakonstantis said they should put into the contract that if any family member is quarantined to not send their kids.

Mr. Wissler said he doesn't see a lot of difference between Skills and Drills and games; it's more about where they play the games. Ms. Papakonstantis said there would be exposure to different kids with games. The Skills and Drills team would be 15 kids, vs 9 kids on a team that would play other teams. Mr. Barry said UNH required students to sign an informed consent document and a liability waiver. Mr. Bisson said they have similar documents in place. Ms. Papakonstantis expressed concerns about the additional cost. Mr. Tovey suggested limiting games and not having them on Saturdays, when they have to pay overtime. The Board discussed whether they should do games or Skills and Drills and reviewed the survey results. Ms. Cowan said she doesn't think the Select Board would support anything other than Skills and Drills, and from the survey it seems that parents would still participate.

**MOTION:** Mr. Wissler moved to allow the Rec Department to go to the Select Board to provide a basketball skills and drills program in 2021 as events allow. Ms. Castonguay seconded. By a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Tovey said regarding e-sports, he had a call with Mission Control, a company that organizes e-sports league play. They're also looking at another company. This would be inclusive, since people can do it at home. People would register with the Rec Department and get a specific code, get a scheduling app on their phone, and register and play against someone else. There's no cost through Rec, but a small fee for Mission Control. Ms. Papakonstantis said she's conscious of who her kids are online with, so she would like to know if they would be playing against Exeter kids, as well as how much would it cost. Mr. Tovey said the fee was \$15 or \$20 total per league for 10 - 15 weeks. There is chat monitoring, and they can ban players. Players must be between certain ages and within a certain area, but it's more of an honor system. It would be a Seacoast league, they have to register with the Rec Department. Playing Fortnite is with people across the globe, but something like Madden is just two local players. Mr. Bisson said there would be no shooting games, it would be sports or Mario Kart. Ms. Sullivan said it could also be an adult activity. Ms. Papakonstantis asked if parents could monitor the chats, and Mr. Bisson said either Rec staff or Mission Control could. Ms. Cowan said she would like to check if there is live monitoring during the game, as well as whether the child would have to own the game already. Mr. Tovey said yes, you would have to own the platform and the game. Ms. Cowan asked them to look into whether there was a way for children to get games out of the library or some other way to make it more accessible. Ms. Papakonstantis said one of their mission statements is inclusion, so they should consider the costs seriously.

c. Program Update

Mr. Tovey said they're opening skiing registration today, partnering with Gunstock for discounted season passes. The lodge is only open to people who need rentals, are using the bathroom, or are purchasing food. Parents can't stay there during a child's lesson. Rec is not providing transportation. Four lessons are included in the passes. Midweek Only is \$169 or a Prime Pass for \$299. The midweek gets half off blackout days (holidays and weekends). Parents have access to two flex passes for \$29 that get them half off rentals, passes, and lessons. The passes are for ages 6 - 19. Mr. Wissler suggested they should have the community bring in skis and equipment they're not using.

5. Project Updates

a. Gale Park Walkway Renovation

Mr. Bisson said the Select Board authorized them to use some of the Park Improvement Funds to renovate the Gale Park Walkway. This work started last

Wednesday and should be completed next Wednesday. It will be ready for Veteran's Day.

b. Gilman Park Pavilion

Painting is complete on the Gilman Park Pavilion. They hope to do an official ribbon cutting with the Select Board. Their goal is to start funneling more people to this park. They could allow birthday parties. They will have a playground there as well.

c. Halloween parade

Ms. Roy said she's hoping the weather holds out for the parade. They have an Antique Fire Truck, Police car, a Rec pickup truck pulling a float, and a high school volunteer float with the theme "Zoom Zombies". They had to cut the route down from the bunny parade because they can't go as fast with the floats. They have to limit the parade to four hours and be done by trick or treating. The route will be published tomorrow on social media and the town website.

d. Scarecrow project

They will post pictures of the scarecrows on the website on Friday. They will award the best scarecrow in early November.

6. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Mr. Wissler moved to adjourn. Ms. Harrington seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary