

ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 2, 2017 6:00 PM

RECREATION DEPT., 39 BARLOW ST.

In Attendance: Tom Koldys, Angie Sturm, Joanie McGinn, Alec Kaeding, Jeff Young, Barbara Weinstein & Stina Booth.

Absent: None absent.

Staff Members Present: Andrew Gratton, Recreation Program Manager & Kelly Viens, Recreation Director.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

2. Welcome back Barbara.

Barbara offered idea for alternate to major water feature in Taylor Park as seen during her travels.

3. Update on miscellaneous items from previous meeting.

- Benches: Alec may be able to get discarded cast iron bench components from Burlington.
- Houghton drainage: Alec may have idea for playground drainage solution based on similar Burlington park issue, Kelly waiting for word from Bob on flexibility of playground structures (not likely the height can be adjusted).
- Barlow easement (north entrance in fence): will defer asking for easement until a time when we are willing to lose it in case current homeowners are not willing to give to city, Jeff proposes City buys parcel at some point to alleviate liability from homeowner.

4. May 4th tree and understory installation.

- Begins May 4, 12pm - understory installation.
- Fewer high school kids available but more City School kids helping.
- Josh will be bringing equipment.

5. Create and define expectations for sub-committees on park ordinances and a donor brochure.

- Subcommittees should be smaller than 4 members.
- Ordinances subcommittee: Barbara, Tom, Jeff.
- Donor Brochure: Stina, Alec, Angie (draft after same format as another pamphlet).

6. Discuss what would go on a sign to acknowledge donations (i.e. RiseVT).

- Jeff mentions City has signage package.

- Angie suggest to marry RiseVT mission statement to signage, Kelly will contact RiseVT for input
- City logo plus RiseVT logo.
- Waiting to produce signs until TP consulting process is finished, may determine size/placement.
- Tom suggests rock or passive seating incorporating sign to avoid destruction.

7. Identify steps to creating a master plan for Houghton Park.

Barbara asks about possibility of again pursuing ideas/funding for skate park. Idea tabled due to low rank on City's current priority list.

- Is a similar consulting process necessary? Park infrastructure will need to be defined (hydrology, topography, etc.).
- Barbara suggests once Taylor Park process is done to request funding from City or help in finding funding to continue the process with Houghton park.
- Jeff suggests Champlain Basin Initiative for funding, Tom notes Mylan as potential sponsor/funding source.
- Tom will discuss with Chip.

8. Discuss planting options for trees at Houghton Park (D&V).

- We will plant 4-5 trees around playground and use as demo/teaching opportunity.
- Discussion about concerns around neighborhood participation.
- Angie suggests turning it into sponsored event.
- May be conflicts with sport schedule.
- Stina suggests interpretive signage to reach broader audience, Angie suggests small signs with nuggets of info to pique interest.
- Andrew suggests staking out areas and implementing mystery signs to advertise events, discussion evolves to idea of city wide parks scavenger hunt.
- «« Playground planting event:
- Pre-dug holes (Jeff can do on 5/12).
- 1 hour demo with instruction, flyers available, on 5/13 9-10am.
- Andrew will place advertisements in FPF, newspaper, Facebook.

9. Consider approval of meeting minutes: 4/4/17 & 4/11/17 (D&V).

A motion was made by Joanie McGinn; seconded by Alec Kaeding to approve minutes of 4/4/17 and 4/11/17 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Other business – to be considered for future agenda.

Jeff provided pamphlets for Poor Farm classes, showed Green Stormwater Infrastructure Bicycle Tour map (to consider as idea to implement down the road).

11. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Joanie McGinn; seconded by Angie Sturm to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.