

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025; 6:30 PM

Location: Barre Social Club, 105 N Main St, #102, Barre

1. Call to order

2. Adjustments to the agenda

Added Easter Egg Hunt

3. Public Comment

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

Haley needs to type up and will send around in advance of March meeting

5. New agenda items

- **Joint Committee Meeting:** committee decided to table this idea for now
- **Easter Egg Hunt**

Cat: concerned with logistics, and costs - is \$750 really enough for thousands of eggs plus activities expenses? For hundreds of children?

Haley: ask for a budget for last year, see what's left; ask for a proposed budget for additional activities. Lean toward free recreational activities. Could we get any donated prizes (seeds, garden tools, etc.)

→ **Due-out: CAT will ask Barre Town committee how much money they have and also talk to Bob [Nelson?]**

Josh: turf is going in in March - we should all go visit, visualize it. Likes that most of the activities are just about hanging out, don't have to go overly extravagant

Cat: Let our minutes show that we would like recreation-related prizes, she doesn't love McDonald's as a sponsor, doesn't really add much to event (Josh would prefer to support local businesses; Haley is fairly agnostic)

Ginger (guest): Agrees about McDonald's not being in alignment with recreation

Ellen (guest): What about a day pass to the pool?

→ **Due-out: JOSH will email Nicolas about pool pass, see if we would need to warn a field trip to the BOR, and get on the agenda of an upcoming City Council agenda to see how we will get updates from them about the committee; he will also see if Thygessens is interested in donating prizes or sponsoring event**

Cat: We could do planting as an activity, low-cost. We could contact the Garden Club to see if they have seeds. (Ellen's idea - she will send us Diane Blodgett's contact information) - could also collect egg cartons

6. Old agenda items

- **Next steps on projects:**

- **Rain gardens:** Nicolas is in favor of City Hall Park as a location, but has asked us to go in front of City Council to make the suggestion. Nicolas didn't provide budget info, so would need to check if we have one. Could team up with the Garden Club.

→ **Due-out: JOSH ask to be put on the agenda for the next City Council meeting.**

Ellen: Winooski Conservation District does free assistance for rain gardens - they are in Berlin

→ **Due-out: contact Winooski Conservation District. Has storm smart program as well. Might look at the whole park area, do an assessment for free.**

- **Rose garden:**

Josh: could kill two birds with one stone, roses are native?

Ginger: a lot of places she's lived in the past had them, they were such beautiful places to go. Thought it would be a beautiful thing to have. Could be a memorial rose garden, so community members could sponsor a rose garden in honor or memorial of someone. Was going to do a tour of some spots (with Stephanie). Ginger had submitted a proposal. Maybe near Elmwood?

→ **Due-out: Add this location to our City Council presentation? Still in the planning phases, see if the Elmwood space is still available.**

Ellen: community garden may expand - check first.

- **Parks and rec map and tour:** Haley noted that the City's website has a decent list of parks and facilities, but we could create a more easy-to-read one pager based on this information, and also create a map

→ **Due-out: HALEY: do a one pager, do a bingo card for next meeting**

- **Mathewson Playground** (Ellen asked to discuss this)

- *Ellen: This is City-owned land, Friends of Mathewson Playground, started in the 1930s; wants to create a more park-like atmosphere, applying for a grant, should find out in March. Friends are fixing infrastructure to allow the park be a venue for events. Would like our committee to consider it as a venue, maybe bike safety event? A couple of nights in the summer, we could have a family night - ice cream and music. Quick discussion about tree types in park - maybe willow shrubs would be a good option. Committee is interested in partnering with the Friends and hosting events at the park.*

- **Further discussion on previous agenda items:**
 - **Microgrant proposal**
→ **Due-out: CAT will draft grant application. Funds not available until July 1**
 - **Dart Club fundraising for new equipment at Charlie's Playground.** No further discussion. If we went to cohost, money should go directly to City.
 - **Use of the Auditorium and BOR.** Table skate rentals, need more clarification on how it would work.
- **Open discussion:**

Ginger: *what do we think about the proposal to eliminate parks and rec director?*

Cat: *it's been challenging, some things are more appropriate for a full-time staffer to manage (creating leagues, etc.); it changes the scope of the committee.*

Haley: *even a part-time staffer would be good.*

Josh: *we could find people to run leagues, but not much beyond that.*

Ellen: *does Tom Baker come to our meetings? No.*

Cat: *It would be nice to have a city rep at each meeting.*
- **New items for next meeting:**
 - New committee member recruitment
 - Solidify easter egg hunt (how do we work with them more?)
 - City Council - ask for an update on the rec director position, and how we can be better informed about city resources (this is also a due-out)

7. Adjourn

Next meeting date/time/location: Thursday, March 13; 6:30pm; Barre Social Club.