

Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes May 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5 pm on Thursday, May 2, 2024. In attendance were Bonnie Sparks, Bill Procko, Julie Lehenbauer, Misty Gleason, Yvette Grindle and guest Kim Brooks. Absent: Gary Edwards, Don Snokes, Velma Thomas.

New Business:

1. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on April 4. A decision was made to approve the minutes via email so they can be posted more promptly than voting on them at the following meeting.
2. Bonnie Sparks shared the content of the April 18 meeting held at the SS Recreation Center. Larry Johannesman and the Scenic By-way Committee were present to share a vision of what the Department of Transportation could do to beautify the Scenic By-way entrance from Sumner Park to the Recreation Center. Wonderful visual images were presented with design for improvements to the SS Rec Center including some building façade improvements, a pavilion for a bike station including water, tables, etc., improved parking and landscape and a multipurpose path from the Rec Center to Sumner Park.
3. The federal government should be announcing the availability of grant funding for National Scenic-By-Way projects. We need to be prepared with a plan and documentation for when the funds are available and consider how we would support the 25% local matching funds. This would be done in collaboration with the Schoodic Scenic By-Way committee. Ray is working with Maine DOT on Village spot funding to create a multi-use path from the Rec Center to Sumner Park. That would require a 10% local match. Each of these efforts will work toward a vision that promotes a "Village" concept for Sullivan.
4. Bonnie recently submitted a CORA Grant for \$53,000 with a focus on hiring a landscape engineering company to assess and design Sumner Park to resolve the water issues to make the park handicapped accessible, improve safety, and make full use of the park property.
5. The committee discussed the potential of developing subcommittees to tackle the variety of tasks that face us and to draw in more volunteers to assist with these tasks. All were in favor and will consider the types of subcommittees that would be beneficial and bring ideas to our next meeting.
6. Field trips to each of our 7 park locations by our committee was discussed. The topic was tabled for consideration at our next meeting. All members agreed how important it is for us to have experience with each of the parks. Bill Procko specializes in skateboard parks and is interested in participating in improvement of our park.
7. Bonnie went to the budget committee and shared that we have a budget of \$2,000 or \$2,500 for each park. She also requested \$1,000 for programming. We need to review our immediate needs for each park and set priorities.
8. Ideas were floated about FUTURE visions for parks in Sullivan, ie. additional access on Taunton Bay, water access behind existing Fire House, revamping Skate Park and Playground?

Old Business:

1. Survey Results will be reviewed by Julie Lehenbauer utilizing her analytics skills.
2. Bonnie noted Deana Workman's resignation as Chair of the Sullivan Daze Committee and indicated the committee will proceed with a collaborative approach coordinated by Erin, Norm and Misty. All agreed this was a good compromise.

3. Yvette talked about a promotion and communication plan for Sullivan Daze. She created a Facebook Page and will proceed with Instagram account for the event. We discussed signs, posters and program advertising for the event.
4. Misty reviewed the Proposed Activities plans in Velma Thomas' absence. Significant progress has been made with plans for three venues, (Sumner Park, Gordon's Wharf and SS Rec Center) with many new events, the addition of Tracy's Lobster as a food vendor, and many fun vendors!

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.