

Mad River Valley Recreation District Board Meeting
November 14th, 2023, General Wait House, Waitsfield

Attending in person: Alice Rodgers, Mary (Bear) Simmons, Doug Bergstein, Laura Arnesen, Molly Bagnato, and Luke Foley.

Attending via Zoom: John Stokes, Corey Ayotte, Peter Oliver

Not in attendance:

No public comment

Bear made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17 Board Meeting. Peter Seconds. All in favor

- 1) Limited grant update: Laura added a \$2,500 request from BLK. The total amount requested is \$57,868 from 13 different organizations.
Budgeted \$50,000 for grants. Reimbursements yet to come in: BKL-\$2, 500 from last and Skatium- \$3,000 from last year
- 2) Formal Budget Hearing:

No public comment.

Insurance increase from last year: workers comp- decreased by 1.6%, Liability went up by 2%, and Property Lines up by 8% Increased insurance to \$1,400

Laura suggests increasing her mileage budget to \$900

Alice- Has there been a discussion about plowing for Mad River Park?

Bear- No discussion with Kingsbury yet. The plowing bill was already paid for this year. Mad River Park budget has a \$13,434 carry over.

Molly- Did we agree to put CRV in the budget?

What is in there has not been agreed on yet.

CRV- Alice suggests contributing \$5,000

Molly-What are the other expenditures for the website?

Doug- Reimbursement to Laura for paying annual Zoom fee.

Changed line item to Website/Communication: to include Valley Reporter notices increased to \$750 for the line item.

Income question: The amount put in for Moretown (\$4,000) is not agreed upon yet.

Bear- If we take this out, we are still ahead by \$1,500

Doug- We are not ahead for 2024, it appears that way because of the carryover.
Molly- Should we put \$2,200 in since that is what they paid last year?.
Doug- Increased because of expenses at Mad River Park. So should be kept at \$4,0000.

Doug: Should VOREC (cash flow)/ Reserve be separate?

Laura: This is the only big project we have at this point.

Molly: We put the project manager's salary into this amount.

Doug: This is safe because we will get reimbursed for this.

Alice: Is this amount exclusively for VOREC or can it be used for something else such as the irrigation system? Can we draw from this if we have a maintenance problem?

Molly: It is labeled correctly.

Executive Session:

Doug makes a motion to go into executive session for staff review. Bear seconds. All approve.

Returned to a public meeting.

Laura has done an outstanding job.

Doug moves to increase Laura's salary by \$4.00/hr which is \$42,432 annually. Bear seconds. All approved.

3) Vote on Proposed Budget 2024:

Alice moves to vote on the proposed budget. Molly seconds. All approve.

4) Revised Case Statement for Moretown Participation

Needs to be presented to the Moretown Rec. committee. Laura can't attend the Moretown Rec. committee meeting on Monday, 11/27, can anyone else?
Then it will be presented to the select board.

Most people don't know that Moretown is not part of the MRVRD. We were asked what benefits they would get.

Luke: They have been benefitting from the programs without financial support. We may need to rethink what Moretown families pay if they are not willing to contribute. Hopefully, families will realize they have been benefitting and should be contributing.

Molly: Do we know for sure Moretown has a lower tax base?

Bear: We have not found any proof of this.

Laura: Should we remove language from the statement about the tax base?

Molly: We don't need to put their argument in the first paragraph.

Bear: Could we say commercial tax base?

Alice: If there is a smaller grand list, that impacts the tax base.

Laura: We are trying to sell this to all the towns (we are only asking moretown for ½).

Molly: Do we have the numbers to back this up? We should have as many facts as possible.

Alice: I will look at their town report from last year to see their grand list from last year.

Molly: The statement overall is very strong.

Alice: Moretown has access but not proximity to all the amenities in the other towns.

Luke: Moretown numbers for participation are about a quarter of the kids using the local youth sports. This should be the main argument. There are many shared community resources being used by Moretown residents.

5) Grant Application Discussion:

Late submissions for grants: Are we willing to consider these?

Alice: Recognizes that most of these people submitting grants are volunteers.

Bear: A ten-day grace period might give people time to get applications in if they missed the deadline.

Laura: We have fewer requests this year than typical. We should read them and consider the late applications.

Doug: How do we handle late submissions way past the ten-day grace period?

Luke: We could use submission timing as a criterion for accepting all or some of the grant requests if there are two equal requests, perhaps we don't fund the late one in full?.

Laura: In August notification for grant requests was sent out. Also posted in the paper and on our website. Reminders were sent out closer to the deadline. Also, individual emails were sent to different organizations.

Harwood Youth Basketball: Danielle Kent

Record turn-out this year. Added stress for scheduling games and practice space. Need more good, durable basketballs. Running low on basketballs for teams.

Other equipment needs: cones, pinnies, etc.

Peter: Is there a cap on the number of kids who can participate?

Danielle: Next year there will be some more limits.

Alice: How many teams? How many are practicing at one time?

Danielle: Crossett is allowing us to use their backup balls.

Luke: Is there a charge from the schools for the use of the gyms?

Danielle: No charge.

Little League: Catrina Brackett

Safety training for all coaches: basic training for coaches to help them understand their role in working with children. Field maintenance

The grant request is for \$5,000

Molly: How often do you have to redo the clay?

Catrina: Needs to be redone every year because it compacts easily.

Fayston PTO: Deb Powers

The grant request is part of an improvement project at the Fayston school. They would like to add some basketball space with age-appropriate adjustable hoops.

Alice: Do adults use the outdoor basketball court at this time?

Deb: Not that she is aware of at this time.

Doug: The surface is unsafe at this point. This is part of the bigger project. The grant request is \$5,200 for adjustable hoops.

Deb: Only closed to the public during recess time and there will be signage to show that it is open to the public.

Luke: Concern about dunking on the adjustable hoops. Do you know anything about the durability of the hoops?

Deb: The adjustable crank can be removed. Not sure about the durability of this brand. Another brand has a lifetime warranty but these are middle-of-the-road hoops.

Skate Park: Pierre Hall

5013c is all completed.

Pierre: Asking for one more year of support to finish what has been started. In the future, they will look for larger grants to expand.

Alice: How will things coordinate with the basketball court?

Pierre: Do our best to keep the court clear.

Doug: Warren PTO is upgrading the playground and would like to put in a full basketball court in a different location and give the existing court space to the Skate Park.

Skatium: Jeff Brauer

Voted to expand the board at the last meeting. Will be starting a full capital campaign for a roof and upgrades.

Laura: Have you done a feasibility study?

Jeff: There is not a plan at this time.

Laura: On the website, there is fundraising goal of \$15,000 at this time
Would like to be open more days.

Short-term improvements to the base material to help retain more water.

Snow removal is challenging because there is no roof yet. Need a professional-grade snowblower.

Alice: Will a snowblower glide over the new base material without damaging it?

Jeff: Should be able to adjust the blade so it doesn't damage anything.

Peter: Are these improvements just for the short term?

Jeff: Yes, these are for now. The plan is to demolish everything there once money is raised for the complete improvements (many millions of dollars needed)

Doug: Part 5 numbers do not add up. Is there something missing?

Jeff: Marble dust is missing. This would bring it to the correct total.

Bill Koch League will submit a late grant for \$2,500 for equipment. That will be discussed at the 11/28 meeting.

7) Staff Report from Laura Arnesen:

Community Survey: 223 people have participated. An improvement over last time a survey was put out.

Laura: Should we continue to send it out again? What trends do we see in the surveys?

Laura will send emails to each grantee and ask them how they have distributed the survey.

Alice: One more FPF. Emails to grantees.

Luke: Bill Koch could have a survey available at ski pick-up. Signs at schools also.

Alice: Survey at the post office.

Mad River Park update: The irrigation system is all put away for the winter. Porta-Potties will be picked up this week. Next year when we go from 3 to 2 port-o-lets we should keep two in the parking lot and let the once across the fields be removed.

Leagues should have people responsible for cleaning up after games. Daily checks are necessary. Bear put out a trash can with a sturdy lid and extra bags and checks on it. Having one parent on each team responsible for cleaning after games may be the plan for next year.

Extra cleaning of porta-potties during peak season times may be needed.

VOREC: \$48,000 reimbursement is almost completed. The funds would come back to us in late December.

8) Other Business:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 pm