

Mad River Valley Recreation District Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Board members attending in person: Alice Rogers, Mary Simmons, Doug Bergstein, Cory Ayotte, Molly Bagnato, John Stokes and Laura Arnesen (Executive Director) Attending via Zoom: Peter Oliver and Luke Foley.

Absent: Shevonne Travers

Meeting called to order at 6:41 pm. Motion for January board meeting minutes approved.

Website Updates

Structurally there are some changes that are needed as well as general updates.

- We are going to use News and Events for a depository for older events that leave the homepage.
- Update the homepage “current events” to include seasonal registrations. May need to add another box.
- Laura added a page about the Dog Park.
- Under youth sports: Mad River Little League should house T-ball, Softball and Baseball
- Add Girls on the Run
- Don’t add sports that don’t need participants i.e., pick-up basketball.

Survey

- It’s decided we will keep the current survey on our website, but we won’t “push” the survey until it has been refined and updated.
- Use the conversations with our partners to reshape the survey. Then push the survey via website, FPF, etc.
- Change the sequence of the survey and have the “punch” in the start. Keep demographics on the survey but move it to the end.
- Prize- Mehuron’s \$, other ideas?

Surveying our rec partners

The premise is what can we do for each other?

How can we do a better job communicating to the public about your efforts? And

How can you do a better job communicating about what we do for you?

There is a copy of these questions in an addendum.

We want to ask the broad questions of what people really need. We need to know this to shape the future of what and who we are and how our strategic plan evolves.

Email survey to those who we don’t partner with often and open the invitation for a conversation. Those partners we work with often have a face-to-face conversation.

After we speak to our partner organizations, ask them to get the survey out to their constituents.

Send out a list to the Board with partners that need interviews. Board members can sign up via email.

We did have less grant applications this year. We need to do a better job getting our grant information out there.

Peter- worries a bit about opening the door to helping with things like registration. Everyone agrees. This would have to be a part of our future and we would have to reshape ourselves to meet those needs.

Mad River Park

Mad River Park Committee met and came up with a dream list.

- Potable water is one idea. Laura isn't interested in this at this time because we have a system that is working.
 - Doug- needs more research about how big of a project this is.
- Park Committee- wants more signage, lights, bleachers, better cones, topsoil, and seed. Group did not see a need for a permanent restroom.
 - Corey- what is the signage for?
- Bear- could see a need for two more porta lets. Would be nice to have some on the other end/near the distillery.
 - John- move them closer to the shed so they aren't so far from the far fields.

Alice- would be nice to get something to Lawson's in the next few months about how we are using the money.

Update on well at Park

There will be seven junction boxes that you connect to with the hose. Hose and reel weigh 300# or 370# with water. Junction boxes are flush to the ground and are bolted shut.

The hose and reel need to be moved around and connected to the junction boxes to water various parts of the field.

Watering of the field can take several days. 16-18 gallons per minute with our system. To soak the field, you will need multiple days. You set it and can walk away. It will stop and wind itself up but it must be manually moved from one area to the next. The number of hydrants will determine the number of "strips" and how many days it will take to fully irrigate it.

Price for the hose and reel increased to \$9,600

Kingsbury- price includes seed and fertilizer along with digging the trench. \$6,150 for the trenches from the well to one hydrant and then it T's out.

Timing. John would like to start the first week of April, after the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mike and John will measure the field and figure out where the boxes go.

Laura- is there a training on the irrigation system? John- not sure.

Kingsbury mows the lawn. Could they do the sprinkler too?

Peter- would have to think the irrigation is an as needed basis. Makes sense for the same person to do it.

Ask Mike to talk to Kingsbury about the mowing contract. Could they add in the irrigation?
Laura is the point person on that.

Need to figure out who is going to irrigate and what training is needed.

Fun-a-thon

Purpose has pivoted because we don't need to raise money for the park any longer.

Peter and Doug are both okay with dropping the event given that circumstances have changed.

After much consideration, we decide to push pause on the event.

Dog Park

Town of Warren is going to accept liability. Yestermorrow is building the dog park structure.

Yestermorrow cannot be on the hook for the materials. Volunteer labor but not materials. Do not need permits because of the size of the structure.

Liability issues have been worked out.

We have ~\$44k in our account. Better Places Grant holds back 10% and sends that as a final payment when the project is done.

We are the fiscal sponsor until 2023 currently but the Dog Park is responsible for the maintenance.

The Dog Park is another great opportunity for exposure.

Alice proposes a motion to have Yestermorrow build the structure. Cory seconds. Everyone is in favor. Alice will sign the contract with Yestermorrow.

Laura Staff Report

VOREC- Alice worked on the MOU with partners. Everyone is prepared to sign. The MOU lays out who is responsible for what.

Hoping to sign grant on April 1.

Asking to shift some money for trail development as the original trail was changed.

Patty is managing the accounting. It's a reimbursement process. Laura needs to be involved, but Patty keeps QuickBooks, gathers invoices and progress reports from our partners and sends in forms to the State.

Couple's Field is considering building a backboard and not moving the Bocce Court. It is a \$40k project so we would need to reallocate their grant funds. Not at that point yet. They are thinking of a fundraiser.

Would it put the bocce court in the shade?

Is the backboard ugly?

Doug- Warren Rec Committee is getting revitalized. Doug is on this committee for Brooks Field.

Alice- there has been a tension in the community around trail building. Part of the VOREC grant is to balance the recreational needs and wants of the community with ecological preservation.

Board has one week to send edits on the survey for the partners. Laura will send around.

Board meeting adjourned. 8:10.