**Lafayette Recreation Committee**

**September 1, 2016 – Meeting Minutes**

Attending: Adam Boyer, Launa Glover, Haley Ireland, John Hynes, Gordie Johnk, Meghan McPhaul, Kim Cowles, Kris Kappler

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m.

Members voted to approve **June 29 meeting minutes** as written.

**Summer Rec. recap**

Kris reported the summer went well, as indicated by her earlier emailed report to the committee. She said the staff was excellent and she would happily ask any of them to return next summer. She worked with the family of one high-needs child to provide the support the child required. The family was able to hire a former Lafayette Rec. summer counselor to be with the child on a one-on-one basis, which worked out really well. Kris will look into policies other similar departments have in place so that we can draft a more formal procedure for similar situations that may arise in the future. Kim reported her summer program with the older kids was also a success.

**Soccer**

3rd/4th grade and 5th/6th grade soccer teams started practice this week. Both groups have more than 20 players. 1st/2nd grade and kindergarten teams will start next week. Kris is working with coaches to develop game schedules for the season. The earlier registration was helpful for the coaches, although there have been several late registrants.

**Halloween Cup** will be Oct. 22. Launa reports Andrea Price will again head up the food tent operations, which are a huge part of the day.

**Field Signs**

Gordie shared a sign the school board building committee had made, which will be placed on the school property. Wording is very similar to what the committee has considered for other Rec. fields. We need to revisit this issue at the next meeting. Items to be determined:

* Pricing (from Matt).
* Wording along top line (e.g. “Welcome to the Dow Field”).
* Where these will be placed at the Dow.

**Tent**

Also to be revisited at the next meeting: options for replacing the 30 x 60 tent canvas that has been further damaged during its limited use this year. Tent was originally donated to the Rec. Dept. and is 30 years old. Kim believes a new canvas costs $10,000. She will check with Abbott’s Rental in Littleton to see if they have a used one they may be willing to donate. Matt is checking with a contact he has to see if they have one to donate. We still have all the poles, just need the canvas. Another option is to build something more permanent at the Dow.

**Tri-town agreement**

Kim reported the meeting with representatives from the three boards of selectmen went well. There are some minor wording changes the lawyer suggested, and once those are made, the boards should sign the agreement. Kim also reviewed the preliminary Rec. budget with select board members.

**Self-evaluations**

Kim and Kris have both submitted their self-evaluations. Committee will need to determine a date to review these and complete the staff evaluations.

**Meeting with soccer coaches**

Bruce McLaren and Vince Bell from 5th/6th grade, Josh Lawton and Mike Kenney (and Meghan) from 3rd/4th grade, Mike McKeever (and Meghan) from 1st/2nd grade, Mike Berry from kindergarten met with the committee. Mike Kenney expressed concern over the ratio of game time to practice time and believes there are far too many games on the schedule at the 3rd/4th grade level and that the coaches should be focusing on developing strong fundamental soccer skills at this age, rather than competition. Lengthy discussion over what the focus of Rec. soccer should be, options for reducing game time and/or increasing practice frequency. Both 5th/6th grade and 3rd/4th grade coaches will begin optional Saturday practice/pick-up times beginning next week. General agreement to consider the game-to-practice ratio in future seasons. Coaches also shared the seasonally-repeated concern/frustration that a few kids who seem uninterested in learning the game are often disruptive at practices, to the detriment the other kids.

**Next meeting**: Oct. 6

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Meghan McPhaul