Lafayette Recreation Committee

**July 19, 2018—Meeting Minutes**

Attending: Cindy Berlack, Kim Cowles, Launa Glover, Haley Ireland, Gordie Johnk, Kris Kappler, Matt Koehler, Meghan McPhaul

Absent: Adam Boyer, John Hynes

Guests: Andrea Price, Denys Draper, Lafayette School Board member (Easton)

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

**Pavilion update**

Andrea presented the latest update on the Pavilion project. She and Kim met with Thad earlier this week to look at potential locations at the Dow for the Pavilion. They discussed three possibilities: one closer to the gazebo and Dow field, one closer to the Libby field (this area would need the least site work), and one centered behind the playground, about 30 feet off the playground border. All are 50 feet from the high water mark of the Gale River.

Andrea shared an overview of the budget for the project. The most recent numbers show a total cost of $111,384.70. That includes Presby Construction’s revised bid, the structural engineer’s fee, permitting fees, concrete costs (higher than initial design, because we will need a frost wall and concrete prices are higher than a year ago), and estimates for plumbing and electrical work, plus a $5,000 contingency. The amended plan also includes a cupola, which will be donated. Our current fundraising amount for this project is $116,043. This means money raised through this year’s events (Triathlon, Wob-N-Gob, etc.) will be put back into the fund for future projects.

Kim said the amended plan satisfies donors and that Allan Clark has seen it and is on board. Lighting and outlet placement details are still being worked out. Kim will check with the electrician to see if he can pull a cord for potential WiFi during his work.

Motion (Meghan) and second (Cindy) to approve the Pavilion plan as amended and to construct the Pavilion centered to the playground. Unanimous approval.

Thad has indicated he will be able to begin in August. The project should take six weeks to complete.

Eric Price of Price Cuts has agreed to donate landscaping work around the pavilion. Fall Line Painting will donate the stain. Launa will check with Profile to see if there is a class/group there that could build picnic tables for inside the pavilion, including figuring out what size and how many will best fit.

Committee thanked Andrea for her ongoing work on the project and her commitment to see it through.

**After school program**

Franconia Children’s Center is in the process of eliminating their after school program due to restructuring of their program and staffing issues. Their board and directors do not feel it is feasible for FCC to run a program off-site at Lafayette. For the upcoming school year there are a limited number of openings available for Lafayette students who need after school care; these have already been filled. There will be no program available at FCC for the 2019-2020 school year. In the recent past, between 13 and 15 students have used after school care at FCC.

Denys Draper spoke in favor of the Recreation Department taking over the after school program and raised concerns for the children if such a program was not created.  She suggested that the Rec department is not doing enough to address this ‘last minute’ emergency.

Many parents are very upset about this and have turned to the Lafayette Regional School Board (LRSB) for assistance in finding a solution to the problem. A special school board meeting was held earlier this week and eight parents were present to discuss the issue.

One option for local after school care includes the Boys and Girls Club. Currently, approximately 10 Lafayette students are transported via van to BGC. Many parents are not comfortable with this option and have proposed that the Lafayette Recreation Committee (LRC) start an after school program based at LRS. Most surrounding towns have after school programs run by the local rec department.

The committee had a long discussion about what a LRC sponsored after school program would look like including staffing, funding, location, administration and programming.

Primary concerns voiced by committee members include funding, staffing, time constraints and administration.

There is a Lafayette Regional paraprofessional who is interested in being the lead teacher. Would need at least one, but likely two additional staff members.

Toni Butterfield has completed cost estimates for salaries, but current numbers do not include payroll costs etc. Also not factored in are cost of supplies etc. Estimate of per student per day cost is as little as $7/day up to $22/day, depending on enrollment. It has been proposed that parents sign up for a month, and pay per week. After reviewing these preliminary numbers, it is unclear if fees alone would cover expenses. Gordie and/or Toni will contact the school district to get better estimates of hourly wages.

Another concern is that there is only a little over a month in which to pull a program together. Neither the youth director nor parks and rec director have the time or resources to facilitate an after school program. The youth director has experience in creating and administering after school programs but is unable to be on site; however, she is more than willing to provide guidance, support, and supervision.

Another issue discussed is administration of the program. Who will be responsible for enrollment, tuition, bookkeeping, communications etc.

After a long discussion, LRC has decided it would be willing to be involved if the program can be self-sustaining and would not spread current resources too thin.

The school board is meeting again next week to discuss the issue further. Gordie will report back to the committee after this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.