

Recreation Committee Report: 7/21/14

Final updates

On 7/10/14, President Allaire and I sat down with Superintendent Wight to review all issues currently in committee and get updates on projects currently in progress.

1. Giorgetti Arena: The Recreation Dept. is currently negotiating a new contract with RAHA. Without a contract, the viability of an ice rink is in question. This issue must be worked out prior to beginning rink improvements and upgrades. The planning and engineering for Giorgetti's upgrades are proceeding well. The Department is anticipating final numbers by late July/early August for necessary building renovations. These will be presented at a public meeting with the architect present to answer questions.
2. Rotary Park: Otter Creek engineering has completed final design work on the fields at Rotary with future site plans for a walking path and pavilion also taken into account. Permitting is complete and construction bids will be released in the near future. The Department expects that building removal and field construction will commence this fall. Alternate field space for football has been secured for this season. The Department has remained in communication with the Rutland Rotary Club throughout this process.
3. The Department in cooperation with the Treasurer's office and Auditor Northrop has completed the Donation, Fundraising, and Scholarship Policy and is ready to bring it to committee for adoption and/or final editing. Both Cindi and I feel that the policy meets the recommendations of the auditor, the needs of the Treasurer, and provides the latitude for the Recreation Department to carry out its mission. In the process of completing this policy, the Department also developed definitions and descriptions for each of its funds to improve transparency and set parameters on use of each account. The Department also developed recommendations on the investment opportunities regarding the Giorgetti Trust Fund. Cindi is also looking into other strategies for managing and collecting donations for recreation facilities and programs. Once again, this issue is ready to be reported out when the new Recreation Committee next meets.
4. Courcelle Building: The roof is done. There was enough administrative line savings this year to fully pay for the project. The department is continuing to pick away at updating and rehabilitating its new facility.
5. White's Park: Bids for the Pool assessment were due 7/11 with bid award scheduled for 7/28. Approximately 7 firms participated. Report of needs is expected by mid-September 2014.
6. The final issue that remains open and not addressed is the issue of giving permission to the Recreation Superintendent to set fees. This should be addressed shortly as the BOA gave temporary permission to the Superintendent at the beginning of the year until a formal policy or ordinance could be developed.