

City of Franklin
Parks & Recreation Committee
February 8th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman George Dzijuna, Councilor Olivia Zink, Councilor Heather Moquin, City Manager Dragon and Parks and Recreation Director Krystal Alpers

City Manager Dragon gave the committee an overview on the creation of the community center, the funding used and the model we followed to ensure all organizations were paying into the operations of the building as well as a capital reserve.

Director Alpers gave the committee an update on personnel within her department as well as the seasonal programs. She explained the daily use of the building as well as the various committees she is involved with. She went through some short and long term goals for the department.
(Document Attached)

Director Alpers then reviewed participation numbers along with revenue and expenditures for each of the programs that are run through the department. Most of the programs are breaking even or very close to breaking even with the exception of the Summer Program. However, the loss in revenue has been decreased significantly so the program is not costing tax payers as much as it has in the past. The before and after school program is showing to be profitable and very successful. Director Alpers explained the need for the program is significant in our City as parents are working and need a safe place for their children to go. We are open on all vacations, snow days, delays, teacher workshop days, etc to ensure child care is provided so parents can work. Councilor Dzijuna asked whether it was easy to get volunteers to run the programs such as basketball, and Director Alpers stated it is harder. We are barely able to get parents to step up and coach let alone run a clock or referee a game like we were able to many years ago.

Director Alpers also provided an update on her involvement with the Teen Center Board. She explained they are still looking for a location. They have found a location that they are very happy with but need to make the funding numbers work. Director Alpers and City Manager Dragon explained the Odell Park Cottage has been a suggestion to the group as a possible location to get the group started. Then through grant funding such as CBDG, which the city has been very successful in receiving in the past, we could do an expansion as the Center becomes established and more successful. They are currently a Chapter of the Pemi Youth Center in Plymouth, so we have been writing grants together to get started with needed start up costs.

Councilor Zink asked about possible ice skating in one of the parks. Director Alpers would love to bring that to Franklin, but a significant amount of volunteers are needed to make it work. She explained the Town of Bristol had one donated to them, they formed a committee to set it up and maintain the rink every year and after the first year no one stepped up to put it up again. It is not

out of the question, but a serious group of volunteers would need to step up to help make it happen.

Councilor Zink also questioned when the bathrooms are open in the parks. Director Alpers explained mainly for games as the coaches will lock them when they leave. Depending on building and grounds rotation, they will leave them open during the day as well as the cleaners after they have cleaned but that does not always happen. Director Alpers stated leaving them open during the day can often lead to vandalism which is a never ending battle with the park bathrooms. City Manager Dragon and Director Alpers will work with Municipal Services to see if we can come up with a better plan for the future or possible porta potties.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krystal Alpers
Parks and Recreation Director