

Bristol Recreation Advisory Council

March 7th, 2023

Meeting Minutes- Special Meeting

Present: Rick Alpers, Ben LaRoche, Stephanie Vogel, Mike O'Neill, Frank Dolloff, Peter Daniels, Doug Williams, Wendy Williams, Les Dion, Jill Reise, Mark Dionne.

Rick Alpers called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Facilities Committee Update: Doug Williams advised the committee has met and visited other facilities including Meredith, Franklin, and Concord. Still must go out to Claremont. The committee is looking at an 18,000-20,000 sq foot annex building. The Facilities Committee unanimously decided that they would like to move forward with the annex building first rather than with the renovation of the current TTCC. The committee believes it would be too difficult to continue with current programs and renovate the existing space at the same time. Doug has met with the superintendent, and he is all for a land swap they are meeting with the Kelly Park Commission next week to see if they can get their buy-in for the swap. Doug further stated that the footprint of the annex will be the same at either parcel (171 N Main at .71 acres or the old Prebble property/bus yard at .73 acres) There was discussion on the land swap taking some time as we are not entirely sure of the process involved. Rick stated that Selectboard has the authority to buy/sell land- however, no money would be exchanged- probably will not need a town vote. The town of Bristol did request BRAC go to the Kelly Park Commission 1st to gauge their interest as it would be nice to have their buy-in. Les reminded everyone that the Kelly Park Commission is advisory only.

All Ways Wrecking bill came in at \$12,500. The Hall's Excavation Quote for 171 N Main is \$91,000.

Grant Report –Mark stated it is all about the timing. Some deadlines are coming up and need to know from the board what we want to try and get money for. If we are looking for funding for a new build, then the process for architecture plans needs to be started ASAP. Wendy mentioned that some of the grants only need conceptual plans. Letters of support will be needed from entities within the community to attach to grant requests, it was suggested that letters be obtained from the Town of Bristol and the SAU. Mark inquired from the board if we want him to submit grant proposals for the renovation or the new build or both simultaneously. Rick opened the floor for individual comments and questions. Stephanie stated that the questions being fielded from the community have been about the current building and the renovations needed, think it needs to be clear that we are not leaving this space, we need more space with an additional building. Think we should seek funding simultaneously. Les advised that the renovation/ repairs to the steeple are being done this spring, and money is already secured for that project. Frank stated that he believes that through this process we as a board need to meet often as a full committee as larger decisions are needing to be made. Rick agreed. Ben stated that he doesn't want to see us rush the process of a new build because of the money. Ben continued to state that it could look differently depending upon what property we secure for the new building, the truth of the matter being that it is going to cost the SAU and towns if we do a swap for the moving of the bus yard, etc. The SAU will have to have the votes to do that and with the SAU currently looking at its current facilities, the process could take years. The potential hang-up is of concern if the land is swapped and the bus yard needs to be moved, as it then would have to go to deliberation as it would cost taxpayer money. Wendy agreed with Ben that she doesn't want the new building to be rushed, let us do

it right. Keep in mind that some of these grants can be “pitching a concept”. Peter believes it is going to be tough securing contractors. Mike stated that we need to take all we can get at this time.

Rick made the following motions:

- 1) **Authorize BRAC to move forward with securing a design for an annex building for 171 North Main St property.** Doug made a motion to accept, and Peter seconded. **10 yes/ 1 no MOTION CARRIED**
- 2) **Authorize Mark Dionne to continue with grant writing to secure money for the current TTCC building renovation through the Community Center Investment Program Grant.** Doug made a motion to accept, and Peter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- 3) **BRAC authorizes Chairman Rick Alpers the authority to sign off on grant funding requests for these projects (TTCC renovation and 171 North Main annex).** Doug made a motion to accept, and Peter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Next Steps: Les will push out another letter regarding the campaign. We would like to see a letter to the public to hold a public meeting after 3/13 to get public input.

Donor Platform Information- Mark stated that after having some discussions with people and research his recommendation is to go with “Network for Good”.

BRAC Member Vote – MaKayla Smith Frank moved to accept, and Ben seconded. MaKayla was unanimously accepted as a new member.

Dinner 3/14 at 6 pm The Homestead RSVP- to Les

Rick Alpers moved to adjourn at 06:33 pm. Peter seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Vogel
Secretary