

EAST WINDSOR BMX & SKATEPARK

MINUTES OF MEETING

Monday, August 1, 2022

TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING – Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m., Park Hill Community Room, 1A Park Hill, Broad Brook, CT

ATTENDANCE

Brenda Crockett, Dave Crockett, Rebecca Crockett, Lori Gabriel, Laura Harney and Marisa Prior

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There was consensus frustration that East Windsor does not invest in the diversity of their youth's interests in sports. South Windsor is a shining example of a town that does.

OLD BUSINESS

- (1) Reviewed minutes from June 27, 2022 meeting. Motion to accept minutes, 1st Laura Harney, 2nd Lori Gabriel, In Favor: Unanimous
- (2) Updates:
 - a. At our June meeting, Laura Harney and Lori Gabriel shared that they've examined our current sign and that the sign itself looks to be in good condition but that the plexiglass protective cover needs to be cleaned and replaced. Laura talked to John Burnham who said that he's no longer involved in Boy Scouts and that we should be pressing Park & Rec for a new sign as they did for all the other parks. Marisa offered to contact Michelle Sobolis who has 3 boys in Boy Scouts to see if they'd consider taking on our sign refurbishment as a Scout project. Lori also offered to talk to her husband, Joe, so see if there's anything he can do to help.
 - b. Marisa said that Girl Scouts Troop 10113 would like to build and donate a bench for the BMX & Skateboard Park in 2023. Something to look forward to!
 - c. Marisa will look into the Tony Hawk Grant. Brenda and Lori will try to get Marisa a copy of the extensive grant Brenda submitted to Tony Hawk back in 2009 which was denied at the time because they said "we did not have enough at-risk youth within our community to qualify for it". According to Marisa, we do now so she will submit a new grant application to them.
 - d. Marisa has reserved a space for National Night Out at the Reservoir Park on Tuesday, August 2 and Brenda, Dave, Lori and Laura will also be there. We will display our park banners, framed park designs, donation jug, possibly our logo mugs, etc.
 - e. We are benching the Tom Kalmanidis Memorial Event until we have enough funds to make a more substantial equipment order for our park (likely not until Fall of 2023 for this event).
 - f. We made \$140 on the first load of cans and bottles from the July 9th bottle drive and there is another whole pick-up truck load to be sorted and returned for cash. Brenda will coordinate East Windsor High School students to sort and return the rest for community service hours the school requires for graduation.

- g. We decided to hold off on an equipment purchase for the park until we can raise more money to make a better order. What ARC is saying we can purchase with the \$15,000 we have now is just too insignificant an equipment addition to make it worth it at this time.
- h. Brenda and Laura met with First Selectman Bowsza on July 22 to seek his thoughts on how we can move forward with the advancement of our park and to see if there are any town funds, grants, etc., that could be applied towards the purchase of new equipment. He said the options as he sees it are (1) Funds from the operating budget “but that is not likely”, (2) Ask for CIP (Capital Improvement Program) for which there are far more requests than funds, (3) ARPA (American Rescue Plan Acts) and (4) Community Investment Fund, Department of Economic & Community Development for which there are two application opportunities over the next 5 years. He suggested us possibly establishing a 501C3 for Friends of EW BMX & Skateboard Park and also spoke of a Neighborhood Assistance Act through the Department of Revenue Services. Bottom line, no town funds we were hoping to secure, not even a goodwill donation to our funds. When asked about all the other park improvements, pavilion, splash pad, free concerts, etc. etc. etc., he said those were secured with grants/funding specific to those improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Come up with new fundraising ideas. Suggestions presented were:

- Purse Bingo - Laura
- Reverse Raffles - Laura
- Golf Tournament (9 Holes) – Spring - Laura
- Oktoberfest with the German Club
- Seek Corporate Sponsors (monetary donations or purchase piece of equipment)
- Chili Contest - Lori
- Karaoke Night - Lori
- Polar Bear Plunge – Brenda
- Cutest Pet Contest – Winter – Lori (All online w/Joe’s help...cutest, ugliest, smallest, biggest, etc. w/entrance fees – Determine prizes)
- Tough Mudder – Laura (Javon Edwards has helpful contacts)

Lori is a member of Enfield Elks. Something to keep in mind for potential event venue

- (3) We need an EW BMX Skate Park Website. Lori said that her husband, Joe, will do the website.
- (4) We need a Virtual Wall of Fame (for Windsor Federal Bank and other Wall of Fame qualified sponsors). Lori said Joe will take care of this as well.
- (5) We need to stock an inventory of merchandise (Shirts, sweatshirts, etc.). Currently, we only have the mugs with our logo.
- (6) Brenda will reach out to Fat Trax in East Longmeadow, MA for their input on what other parks have done to secure funding for their parks.
- (7) Marisa offered to contact Senator Anwar (South Windsor) who might be able to help us.
- (8) Laura will contact Tom Delnicki to see if he can as well.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:00 p.m. 1st Dave Crockett, 2nd Laura Harney, In Favor:
Unanimous