

**Highgate Recreation Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 29, 2024**

The Highgate Recreation Commission (HRC) board meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Ryan Maskell. The meeting was held at the Highgate Arena.

HRC board members in attendance:

Ryan Maskell, Chairman

Mark Gilbert, Vice Chairman

Karen Gagne Fortin, Secretary

Allen Jacobs, Director

Mike Fontaine, Director

Jes Bombard Rec Director

Christian Favreau, Building and Grounds

Guests:

Sharon Bousquet, Town Administrator

Merry Souza, Selectboard

Ben Lowell, Selectboard

Richard Flint, Selectboard

Kyle Lothian, Selectboard

Ty Choiniere

Gary LaShure

Jon LaShure

Ryleigh LaShure

Public Comment: Sharon asked what dimensions the stage should be. It was suggested 12ftx20ft not to go past the back garage door. It was suggested aluminum so it would be easy to move inside if needed for other events.

The Rail Trail Grant of \$50,000 has been awarded for the pavilion adjacent to the rail trail.

Sharon asked the HRC to enter a float in the Highgate Memorial Day Parade.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report for the April 20, 2024, meeting were reviewed by all in attendance. A motion was made by Allen Jacobs to accept the secretary's report. Mike Gilbert seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. A request to amend the minutes to state review systems not to exceed \$34,000 rather than purchase.

Building and Grounds Report:

Christian stated that he has cleaned up the equipment shed and has been getting himself familiar with the grounds and did the first mow of the season last week. He stated he has used the new drag that was recently purchased.

Christian was able to fix the dog waste station needs rather than replacing it

Christian has received two quotes for the new snack bar gates. He is waiting on the third and will have it for the next meeting.

The new baseball batting cage has been delivered. Christian said he will need some help putting that together. It was suggested over the weekend. Ty asked what was going to be used for benches for the new dugouts. It was stated that we will be using the soccer benches for this season.

Christian presented a list of things to be completed inside and outside the arena in the coming weeks depending on the weather.

Pro Shop:

Gary, Jon and Ryleigh LaShure attended the meeting. Gary and Jon expressed how they felt about the HRC not renewing the Pro shop contract.

Gary raised the question about the Google Business Page. Gary claims he is the owner, but the Highgate Rec manages the page. Gary stated that it had been posted that LaShure's Proshop was no longer in business at the Highgate arena. He asked who had posted that as they have the lease until the end of June. The HRC and Jes were not aware of the Google Business page for the Highgate arena and did not know who made the post.

Gary asked Jes if he could schedule a few days to hold a liquidation sale. Jes had no problem working with Gary to get that scheduled.

Rec Director's Report:

Advertisement: Jes stated Perigo has been put up and has four others that need to be put up. Mags Concrete sign has been ordered for the farm league and will be printed on the farm league t-shirts. Jes added that she ordered 4 extra shirts for Ryan Magnet and family.

Jes asked if there would be anyone interested in running a cornhole league. It was suggested to contact Jeremy Valyou. He currently runs one and may be interested in running an additional one.

Jes presented Finnly Sport to be used rather than Myrec. Jes added that the scheduling piece is very user friendly. The cost is about double. It was suggested to reach out to Myrec to see if they have other options for scheduling.

Jes stated that little league games start this week.

Pickleball is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Big Rig day is Saturday, May 4th from 12pm-3pm

Father Daughter Dance "Ties and Tiaras" will be held on June 8th from 5pm-7pm

Jes stated that Brian Spears had stopped by and asked about getting seed and fertilizer for the parks. It was suggested to have the soil tested in the parks. Ryan stated that he will invite Brian to the next meeting.

Jes will be purchasing four street hockey nets \$75 each and street hockey goalie equipment \$180 per set. The HRC will charge \$65 to register. \$25 goes toward a jersey through the NHL program. Karen added that she has spoke with Stowe who is also running this program. They will be running the same age U8, U10 and U12's from July to August. They would be interested in possibly holding some games.

Jes presented the playground quote to review for \$32,500 with installation. The system holds 25-30 children. There is also a swing set with 2 swings and 1 toddler swing for and additional \$1474. A motion was made by Mark Gilbert to bring the request to purchase the playground and swings to the selectboard meeting on May 2, 2004 for approval. Seconded by Allen Jacobs. All in favor, motion carried.

Merry Souza was going to look into an ADA swing through the Lions Club.

Ty Choiniere stated that he has been in contact with John Montagne who does carvings from trees and is interested in the trees out back. It was suggested to cut down the two pine trees and clean up and consider having him carve the bigger one.

A motion was made by Allen Jacobs to move into executive session. Seconded by Mike Fontaine. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made to exit the executive session by Mark Gilbert. Seconded by Allen Jacobs. All in favor, motion carried.

The next HRC meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024, at the Highgate Arena at 5:45pm.

A motion was made to adjourn the HRC meeting was made by Mike Fontaine. Seconded by Allen Jacobs. All in favor, motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by
Karen Fortin
Highgate Recreation Commission Secretary