

# **Laird Township Recreation Committee**

*Meeting Notes- 10/16/2023*

## **Member's in Attendance:**

Jeff Ploskonka, Paul Petersen, Deb Herrala, Ryan McGahan, Lloyd Lefeber, and Hannah Smith-Grannis

**This is the 1st Recreation Committee Meeting for the 2023 Group.**

- First Order of Business- Nominate Different Roles in this Committee:
  - President: Jeff Ploskonka
    - President will speak on behalf of the Committee at the Town Hall meetings
  - Vice President: Paul Petersen
  - Minute Taker: Hannah Smith-Grannis
  - Treasurer: Will decide when we have funds
  - Trustee's: Deb Herrala, Lloyd Lefeber, and Ryan McGahan
  - **Will Confirm Spelling with Committee at 11/20/2023 Meeting.**
- Need To Create A Mission Statement:
  - Why are We Here? What do we want to do?
  - Some Core Ideas Given:
    - Sense of community- Bring people together
    - Health Reasons- Stay Active to Stay Healthy
      - The more active-looking the community, the more attractive it is to younger generations.
  - Doesn't have to be decided at the first meeting. Bring more ideas for the 11/20/23 meeting.

- Alston Craft Show and Pie Social (Raffle?) happening on 11/20/23 from 10am to 2pm. Some proceeds (if not all) go to our Recreation Committee. Part of the planning for this event is coming up with reasons to fundraise and then that will be advertized. Our ideas for fundraising are:
  - Ice Rink Upgrades: Also, keep in mind that the township applied for an infrastructure grant, and if received could in some way help with this project also.
  - Ski/Nature Trail: Could use funds towards upkeep and maintenance of the trail? Warming Shack Upgrade's like Hot Cocoa, Coffee, and such?
    - Are volunteers needed for Fall/Spring clean-up?
      - Superior Watershed will do clean-up with the youth core for no labor costs. Paul Petersen will look into that more.
- The Committee recognizes in its newness, it does not quite understand its role in the Community Events sphere- including, but not limited to, The Alston Craft Show and Pie Social.
  - For Future Reference, HSG will confirm What our role is in this event. What is expected of us?
    - Exp. Are community events Rec Committee events?
    - Are community parties us? Bottom line- What's us and what's not?
  - Need to narrow down our focus.
    - Indoor/ Outdoor Physical Activities
- The PickleBall Equipment is In and waiting to be set-up by the Recreation Committee. Measurements being made as we speak for taping of the court. Committee questions and concerns at this time:

- How do people use this space? Set hours?
  - Could set up some kind of post? Fb?
- The more usage of the court, means more people in the building. This will result in the building needing more cleaning and that will come out of our budget. Any grants applied for in the future should include a cleaning budget.
- When can we (the community) expect to play?
- Paul Petersen has volunteered to take the Volleyball nets down before winter hits.
- The Ice Rink Maintenance job will go up for bid again soon. As a member of the Recreation Committee, Ryan McGahan has offered to take the job himself, bid's permitting.
- As another way to generate funding for future projects we should start researching grants and generating fundraiser ideas for ourselves.
  - Need to determine our priorities to start asking for funds
  - The Township's grant results should be back by early 2024
  - Portage Health Foundation likes to donate to small community based projects
    - For the next meeting individually brainstorm what we could ask Kevin Store for at the foundation.
      - Research what they like to fund
  - If the Courtney Lake Ski Trails belong to us too, is there any way to get help from the U.S. Forest Department?

- In the future, maybe we could coordinate with the Craft Show and do some type of silent auction with community donated goods?
- Church in the Valley is also a great place to ask for donations for specific events. Very involved in community events.
- PickleBall/ Cornhole Tournament in the Winter and Beach Volleyball fundraiser in the summer?
- For the next meeting, we should all research places to apply for community grants.
- Future Project and Community Enhancement Ideas:
  - Put the horseshoe pits back up in the Spring
  - Summer Basketball and PickleBall in the Ice Rink space
  - Paul wants a dirt track on the 30 acres the township owns
    - Low Cost and may cut-down on neighborhood destruction
    - Could eliminate problems with Tractor Races on Hoover Rd.
  - Jeff wants a Farmer's Market at the Pavilion/ Ball Field in the Spring, Sumer, and Fall.
  - Deb wants Yoga Classes in the upstairs of the Town Hall
  - Deb also suggested to Organize a Ski Buddy Event
  - Ryan would like a confirmed sledding hill
    - Need to look into available area's. Kobblers Knob has been a long time, popular, local's sledding spot.

- Laird School, down by the crick/ gulley, would be a nice nature trail.
  - It's on private property.
- Halloween Trunk-or-Treat at the Ball Field? Ryan will look into with Heather Allen at the Church in the Valley.
  - If a member of the Rec Committee is available and willing to go to the Trunk-or-Treat, the Township is will to supply a bag of candy
- Check with Bob Tolinen about Snowmobile Trail Updates
  - Has a secondary benefit to the community by way of revenue and traffic
- Meetings will be held every 3rd Monday of the Month. Next one will be 11/20/23
- Meeting Adjourned at 7:38pm.