

Bristol Hub Teen Center
Community Advisory Board
Meeting Notes
Thursday September 3rd 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm

Attendance: Taylor Welch,-Hub Director Alex Mihavics-Hub and Rec dept Assistant Director, Dave Rosen- Community member, Chuck Richardson-community member, Liz Sayre-community member, Ray Beaver -founder of the Hub Teen Center and community member (zoom)

Taylor provided updates on the following agenda items:

Camp Recap – The Hub and Rec Department ran camps using the Hub as a ‘base camp’ from the end of June to the beginning of September. Camps included Mountain biking, skateboarding through the Burton Chill program, Adventure Camp, River Camp, and Make it/Break it camp. All summer camps used the Hub in some way so at the very least, many younger kids got to see and spend time in the Hub for the first time.

Work Projects - Also during the summer the Hub, Rec department staff and volunteers completed several major skatepark projects. The main project was to strip and repair the central skatepark ramp. All new plywood and mostly new 2x4s replaced rotting components and the original metal panels were trimmed to fit better than they had been previously. Ray Beaver mentioned that if we need future metal work/welding, Craig Brown offered us free help whenever needed.

Inside the Hub, Alex and Taylor focused on creating more space in the main room and converted part of the backroom into a quite workspace for staff and teens. Taylor has also been working on a new mural inside that is bright and eye-catching.

Partnerships- Over the summer, The Hub was able to lay the groundwork for some new community partnerships that will benefit the Hub and its teens.

The Burton Chill Program has offered to run a fall session of their skateboarding program at the Hub/Skatepark. Details on how this program will run are still to be worked out between Burton Chill and the Hub.

Another new partnership is with the newly reformed Big Brothers Big Sisters of Addison County. Jill Strube, former Boys and Girls club of Vergennes is heading up the new BBBS of Addison County. The initial plan is for the Hub to host future events for BBBS.

The final new partnership is with the Catamount Trail Network. Over the winter the Hub is planning to host a learn to Cross Country ski workshop with the Catamount Trail Network providing skis, equipment and the instructor.

Reopening Plans – The Hub is re-opening for after school drop in hours starting next week from 3-6pm. The plan is to be open for Monday/Tuesday students only on Monday/Tuesday and the same for Thursday/Friday Students. Like the schools, the Hub staff will thoroughly clean the building on Wednesday and stay closed. The maximum number of teens in the hub will be 20

(well below the %50 capacity the State recommends). Taylor or Alex will conduct health screenings and temperature checks on every teen who enters the Hub. Teens will be required to wear a mask inside the hub and must remain physically distant as much as possible inside the Hub.

New Programs for the Fall – The Hub is planning to offer a skateboarding program with Burton Chill starting in October. Chuck and Ray briefly discussed the importance of keeping all prices for programs at zero to ensure that all teens have the chance to participate. Both Chuck and Ray offered to sponsor two teens to take part in the class if a registration fee is attached. The Hub is also planning to host and facilitate a free tutoring program for teens. Taylor has already reached out on Front Porch Forum and has received quite a few responses from interested people. The Hub is also interested in resuming previously planned programs such as the money talks series as well as new guest speakers. In general, folks who are willing to come to the Hub to talk about their career or experience are welcomed to contact the Hub to setup a time. With the schools no longer allowing volunteers, the Hub may be able to fill that need. Taylor is continuing to do her once a month radio spot with Bruce on WVTK.

Donations – The Hub has received several XC skis, boots and poles from various community members. These donations are much appreciated and help move the Hub closer to its goal of being able to rent out XC skis in the winter to teens.

Building maintenance for the winter – The outdoor outlet has not been looked at by Tony that hub staff knows of. Other maintenance issues are related to poor insulation in the Hub or bad seals on doors/windows. Contacting Button Up Vermont or Efficiency Vermont is on the to-do list.

Discussion:

Including teens in CAB meeting proceedings. Dave mentioned that they don't even need to speak/contribute but they should be aware of what the board does. Ray mentioned that the Hub used to host local girl scout meetings and birthday parties.

Public perception of the Hub is something that the board needs to constantly be aware of. Hopefully the tutoring program will help bring in new adults and teens that otherwise might not come in to the Hub. Summer camps have allowed more parents and kids to visit the Hub and Skatepark which will hopefully increase the perception of the Hub and encourage more young teens to check us out.

Taylor and Ray discussed the possibility of a pool table at the hub. Back in the day it used to be a very popular activity amongst the teens.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm