



Montpelier Recreation Department
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
January 13th, 2020

Attendees: Heather Bailey, Peter Cohn

Absent Board Members: Karlynn Koenemann, Chris Hancock

Attending Recreational Department Staff: Arne McMullen, Eric White

Attending From Community:

Call to order 5:42 p.m.

I. Public Presentations-Leah Murphy Jones, Keith Jones, Dean Jones

Skate Park

- a. Over 100 survey responses
- b. Survey results will be addendum A.
- c. Group of Volunteers to help.
- d. Paint, clean up, etc.
- e. Coordinate Efforts for clean-up and fix.

II. Approval of November 12, and December 9, 2019 minutes.

- a. No Quorum. Will have to approve in February.

III. Financial Statements

- a. Budget layout setup as requested.

IV. Old Business

- a. Skating Rink
 - i. Weather a challenge.
 - ii. Second Liner put on rink. Just not freezing.
- b. Rec. Board Advertising
 - i. Application on City Web Site.

V. New Business

- a. Public Meeting for Rec. Building
 - i. Presentation of building information for the public and answer questions.
 - ii. Reviewed survey results from the community survey.
 - iii. Shared programming ideas and possible space use.
- b. Basketball Tournament
 - i. T-shirt will be for sale.
 - ii. Boys and Girls play both days.
 - iii. Donations for food to sell from vendors.
 - iv. Volunteers Needed.

- c. Snow Day Childcare
 - i. Games, Playground activities, and more.
 - ii. Meeting at facility to finalize plans.

VI. Directors Report

Facility Challenges

- i. Ice conditions have been challenging due to weather.
- ii. Pool Drain line fixes. Cost more than anticipated.

VII. Program Coordinator/Pool Director's Report

- a. Programs
 - i. Pool Directors are returning.
 - ii. Feb. 8th and 9th Basketball Tournament.

VIII. Other Business

- a. Upcoming special events
 - i. Valentines Dance Reminder. 6:30-8:30 pm. Feb. 11th.
 - ii. Volunteers needed.

IX. Adjournment at 6:33 pm.

Next Meeting: February 10th, 2020.

Addendum A - Survey Results from Skateboard Committee

Recreation Department Board Meeting- 1/13/20

1. Overview of Survey Results

2. Ask if Recreation Board is interested in community members gathering a group to go assess needed improvements
3. Ask if the Recreation Board is interested in having us gather a group of volunteers to do a clean up day in the spring to address the concerns raised in the assessment
4. Ask what kind of plan can be put in place to ensure the allotted budget money is spent on the skate park come July 1 and how it will be decided what to spend the money on.

Overview of Survey Results

-121 people filled out the survey

-of the first 100 responses it was reported that 156 individuals in Montpelier homes either skateboard/scooter (%16 of the “no” responses answered “I have no interest in skateboard/scooter though I value the sport for others”)

-Of the people who skateboard/scooter, 22% did so once a day, 31% did so once a week, and 14% did so once a month

-31% indicated they skateboard/scooter at their home, 61% indicated they skateboard downtown or other public places, and 42% said they did so at skate parks (people could choose more than one answer to this question)

-of the yesses, 52% skateboard at Montpelier Skate Park, 28% at Barre Town Skate Park, 7% at Plainfield Skate Park, 5% at Waterbury Skate Park, 17% at Talent Indoor/Bolton Skate Park, 25% at Burlington Skate Park

-of the yesses 2% rated the Montpelier Skate Park as “excellent-no improvements needed”, 19% as “useable but would like to see improvements”, 47% as “poor, needs improvement”, and 9% as “do not use because of condition, layout, equipment”

-of the people who filled out the survey 91% were Montpelier residents, 5% were not residents but use the Montpelier Skate Park, and 3% were not Montpelier residents and did not use the skate park.

Optional Comments

not needed

It is dated, could use some freshening up, also safety concerns

I would love to see funding for an improved family-friendly park in a central location with an engaging & safe playground for a range of ages.

It would be great to have one that's updated in town!

This survey could have been done with a little less bias. Perhaps edited by someone with no skateboarding interest. If done with more openness you might gain more support and interest.

I've used the Montpelier Skate park for nearly 10 years and I'm amazed at how it basically sits there neglected and falling apart. Skateparks are travel destinations and I don't know how many time I've skipped over the Montpelier skate park and driven 1 - 3 hours out of my way to get to a better park. When I, and many others do this, we bring our money with us. Our time and money is spent on communities that have high quality entertainment options and for skateboarders a skatepark sits on top of that list. Montpelier deserves a skate park that people can be proud of and brag about to their friends(don't forget the international web of social media), a skatepark that draws in people from all over the east coast and farther who will then spend their money supporting our local businesses, a skatepark that people actually want to use and is a positive place for our youth. I currently only use the Montpelier Skatepark because it's close by and I'm too short on time to go elsewhere, that's not a very good reason. Montpelier deserves better and an investment in upgrading the Montpelier Skatepark will send a message that we care about our younger population and will have a positive ripple effect throughout our community for many years to come.

It feels abandoned and unsafe. The message to teen skaters is: we don't care. I hope something better will emerge from this.

It would be really great to see the Montpelier skate park get a facelift. I can only imagine what it would do for the skateboarding community in Montpelier!

Skateboarding was important to my sons growing up!! Actually they roller bladed!!

I didn't even know we had one. You didn't ask whether I would support having a fun and safe skatepark even though I don't skateboard. (I'm 67 an apt to trip over my own feet.) I would support space for an activity for kids as long as it is somewhat monitored.

I didn't even know that we had a skate park in Montpelier! I think it would be great to fix it up. I have 2 kids who may be interested in using it someday.

Upgrade it. Money well spent.

Better flow!

It could be a really great skate park

Let's do it!

Any space in our community that is used for our youth and for those who enjoy the space should not have to deal with a space that needs maintenance. Keep it safe and usable.

Is it needed?

Though my kids are older now and no longer skateboard, a nice, fun skate park would be a welcome addition for this community. It is important to offer as many healthy alternative outdoor opportunities and skateboarding at a skatepark is a great thing to do. I am a non park user and a Montpelier resident and I'd wholeheartedly support improving and expanding the skatepark!

Literally ANYTHING to improve: skate parks, bike paths, bike trails, outdoor basketball courts, indoor basketball courts, and ball fields would be an improvement. There is so little to do for families that why would you want to live in Montpelier? What's the draw? For old people they have their pickle ball but for those who have kids and families WE WOULD LIKE MORE! Thank you!!!

i want to urge you to consider equity of access, encouragement and usage design as you plan any updates to the park. How can it be made especially welcoming to populations that might not typically skateboard? Or those who don't typically feel comfortable using community resources? What about those who don't own equipment? How can barriers for entry into the sport be mitigated or removed? Especially if this project will use city money, it is crucial to our vitality as a community to invest in updates that are creatively inclusive.

I love taking kiddo friends to the skate park! They often enjoy running up and down ramps more then skating or scooting.

I've visited a few times - and it seems fine as is. No need to make improvements.

If it is going to add even one cent to the property tax rate, I will certainly vote NO. We are going to have a massive hike this spring, and I do not want one more cent added to the possible budget. I would vote against the budget if that happened.

Small, old and not very fun

I think an updated skatepark would encourage more people to utilize the space. I know the renovations to the A Dog park in Burlington have made a world of difference

Its needed quite a facelift for quite awhile now. I think it would be great if this was given a new chance

We hope people who love these sports will have a good park to enjoy them.

I have no idea where it is but would like to see it

Skateboard park should be turned into a bike pump track.

As a teen advocate, I believe interesting skateparks that are in good condition are an important youth resource

I bought Roarokit skateboard kids for Christmas to build decks with the kids as a woodworking project. We'll see if it turns into them trying the boards out. If so, we'd head down to the skatepark, and I, as a resident and parent, think the skatepark is a good thing to have.

Location is not great for kids because most need transportation to get there.

Montpelier skate park could use an upgrade

We would use the Montpelier skatepark if it was in better condition/safer

It's pretty sick that we have it, just wish it was a tad larger.

Invest in the youth. Give them something to do. Build a professional concrete skatepark and it will draw Vermonters from all over helping bring more people and helping businesses as well. Make it be another destination visit in Montpelier. I lived in Durango CO and watched them build a real skatepark in the park across from my house and the cement bowls drained into the nearby river. I watched the attendance grow daily and watched those those kids skill level grow and a bunch of those kids went on to be pro riders and made great livings off of their skills. The quality park allowed that to happen and it gave these kids something to focus on. The town then went on to develop the river to have surfable waves for the kayakers and the same thing happened as well. Develop outdoor tourism.. please!

This little city needs all the recreation opportunities for youth as we can have. Skate park should be maintained and improved m

Definitely needs an upgrade, we stopped going due to poor condition

I think it needs an update!

Reconsidering the Montpelier Skatepark feels like an important effort to offer a safe place for the skateboarding community to sustain.

Our community should have a safe environment for skate boarding

Closer to downtown please

It's crap, kids could get hurt the way it is presently

Last time we went there, my son cut his knee open and needed several stitches. Please fix the skate park. And consider adding features for bikes

Yay!

Would like to see it become a safe and fun facility for skaters of all age and genders

As the Capitol city Montpeliers skatepark should be current with the surrounding Vt skateparks. There are a lot of people who would frequent the park more often if improvements were made.

It is in a sad state. Let's make the skatepark as wonderful and dynamic as UES playground!

The ramps are rickety; it's not an enjoyable place for a parent. Could use a bench. River could be tied in more to the view. The park is small and not as exciting as the A Rod park

My grandchild skateboards and I would like the skate park improved and most of all, safe.

We typically travel to Warren to skate

Update the park

We live in dc lolz

It's one of the worst, if not the worst. There is no interesting terrain. It's microscopic. The surface is too rough.

Does anyone use it

It could definitely be better! There are lots of kids that would use it if improved.

Didn't know one existed

Focus on ensuring the biking and park infrastructure would be more helpful

Its a prime location for our youth, however, the condition of it makes it dangerous and less accessible to kids/youth trying to learn skills.

The skatepark needs some improvements. There are so many kids that use it and need it to be a safer more enjoyable place.

This is so exciting! I hope we can make improvements for this very special group who loves this sport!

The skate park and basketball courts really need updating, to be better lit, and cleared of snow during winter months. There is very little to do for teens in Montpelier, so any improvements would be very welcome!

The skatepark and basketball courts would get much more use if they were updated, better lit, and cleared of snow. There are very few recreational opportunities for teens here in Montpelier, so anything that can be done SHOULD be done!

More options. Friendlier look. Engagement for all ages. Bigger.

Unsafe

I believe everyone who likes to skate should have a safe place to go so

Unsafe and incredibly unsatisfying

you for this! Would love to see improvements!

Should be accessible. Should be visible. Should be maintained and self-monitored

Please support skateboarding!!!

I see kids skating in parking lots and other less safe spaces. Let's give them a fun and safe space!

Newer ramps that aren't falling apart, smoother black top, different elements/more variety in the courses, water fountain, bathroom

It is very dangerous because of the spikes metal.

We would love to use the park if it were in good condition!

The current park doesn't have enough options (beginner to advanced), is small and poorly maintained. Lamé compared to skate parks in other communities.

Thank you!!!

Montpelier youth (of all age groups) would greatly benefit from an updated, safe place to scooter and skate! Kids could use that space to exercise and learn new skills! I would support this project!!!

UNSAVORY PEOPLE, TRASH, NOT VISIBLE LOCATION, UNSAFE

needs work

Every obstacle is rusty and cracked. It's bad for the skating community. A new skatepark would be awesome for everyone in this town.

Happy that kids have this option for outdoor recreation!