

## City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from February 2015 Meeting

**Committee Members:** Althea Barton, Counselor Gail Matson, Mary Miller (chair), City Counselor Candy Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser,

**Staff Members:** Matt Walsh

**Guest:** Chris Brown

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mary Miller.

1. Chris Brown started the meeting off talking about the Little League field at Memorial Field. He spoke National and American leagues coming together to make one league and the need for the field at Memorial to be able to accommodate Little League and also AAU play. The improvements would most likely be done in four phases. The phases would consist of: 1. Backstop needs to be replaced 2. Press box needs to be redone 3. Need to help drainage by installing a catch basin in outfield 4. Lights. These improvements have a price tag of approximately \$250,000.00.

He did touch upon the fact that he might have one donor that would donate the whole amount. He would like committee approval so he may move ahead with getting in touch with the donor. Marilyn motioned to accept the improvements, Candace second the motion and the rest of the committee was in agreement.

2. Matt Walsh was up next to talk about Community Center plans. Matt set up a power point presentation for all present as well as a hand out to follow along. Matt went over each plan and the financial impact of each one. He expressed that we were looking for a recommendation to city council from RPAC.

Marilyn expressed an interest in having some sort of library here. She feels there is a great need. There was a discussion of having maybe an online library request where people could request a book and come to the community center to pick it up. Also, maybe have a representative from the library here in one of the multi-purpose rooms maybe 20 hours a week to assist people in this area. Marilyn did not want it to be a burden to the tax payers.

The discussion then moved to CTV. Althea feels that even though they are at the high school that particular location is not very advantageous. The parking is pretty much non-existent and difficult for general public to use.

Candace spoke that she supported plan 2A but has a desire to keep a small amount of the original building – the gym/cafeteria area.

Althea has issues with all the plans – she feels that this represents a “sports” center not a “community” center. Asked about the \$4 to \$5 “drop in” fee. Had other questions in regards to the fees – are they competitive?

Candace had a question in regards to NHTI’s involvement. Matt shared that NHTI is going to write a letter of support for the project and that David and Laura were working with other organizations to garner more support.

Marilyn motioned to accept plan 2A – Lauren second. Everyone else except Althea was aye. Althea was not comfortable with any of the options because “they do not seem to meet the needs of the community”

RPAC will recommend 2A Mary will write a letter to David to include as part of the City record.

Respectfully reported: Terri Stevenson