

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2018 Meeting

Committee Members: Amelia Brock, Stacey Brown, Althea Barton, Mary Miller, Sarah Ward and Marilyn Frazer

Guest: Mayor Jim Bouley, Members from Merrimack River Greenway Trail: Dick Lemieux and Greg Bakos from VHB, Concord Northeast Softball Ryan Taylor, Concord National Little League: Joe Russell and Ari Pollack

Staff Members: David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director, Laura Bryant, Assistant Parks & Rec Director and Heather Shank, City Planner

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mary Miller

Mary motioned to accept minutes from August meeting, (David Gill added amending Sarah's last name) second by Stacey Brown, approved.

New Business:

Merrimack River Greenway Trail Update

David Gill introduced guests from Merrimack Greenway Trail; Dick Lemieux and Greg Bakos gave an update on the status of the elevated walkway phase of the trail, they explained that the bid came in high and they would like to build a multi-use trail that is listed in the new Terrill Park Master Plan rather than the walkway at this time. The LWCF grant expires December 31, 2018, and with the cities support has asked for an extension to the grant. Their new proposal is to use the LWCF money (\$100,000), private donation from the greenway trail (\$69,000) and ask the City of Concord to contribute (\$143,000). If approved this would allow the city, working with the MRGT, to move forward with the trail, tree removal/brush clearing and upper parking lot at Terrill Park (per the new Park Master Plan).

Committee members discussed how this request is a nice fit that supports the new Master Plan for the Park. Once this phase is completed, it would greatly improve an unsightly park and bring new users to the riverfront park. Committee members also talked about the importance of making sure the new dog park is included in this phase.

Stacey Brown moved to support the request to ask the city to help fund this as presented, seconded and was approved. Stacey went on to say it's a great opportunity for the city to have over \$300,000 in park improvements while only paying just less than 50% of the cost.

Dillon Field Update

David Gill gave a brief re-cap of the previous meeting and what each league is hoping to accomplish.

Dillon Field has been a softball field as long as anyone can remember and the current softball league who has the lease for the field would like to formally join and combine with Northeast Softball. Concord Little League (Grappone Field) is interested in converting the softball field to combine little league operations into one complex. In doing so Concord Little League would give back the Little League Field at Memorial Field and stop using Beaver Meadow Park Field.

Committee members asked Concord Little League why they did not use Memorial Field Little League field this year. League indicated it was due to amount of work and cost to make repairs. Mary asked David what legal rights the city has to take back the field or require the league to improve the field. David indicated there is a responsibility for the lease holder to keep facility up to code and useable.

After a lengthy discussion, Stacey made a motion to keep Dillon Field a softball field until the current lease expires in March, 2022 and during the next 12 months the Parks and Recreation staff takes a look at field use for all city fields and leased athletic fields in the city. The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted by
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Laura Bryant