

**City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2019 Meeting**

Committee Members: City Councilor Candace White Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser, Chiara Dolcino, Sarah Ward, Stacey Brown, Nick Kotkowski, Chair Mary Miller and Geoa Gaff.

Guest: Change for Concord

Staff Members: Parks and Recreation Director, David Gill and City Planner Heather Shank

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Chair Mary Miller

Marilyn made a motion to accept minutes from March 2019 meeting, second by Sarah Ward, approved.

New Business:

Change for Concord. They discussed their idea of having the Auditorium open for music acts or space to highlight talents and to have the gym available for sports and would like the center to be open two weekend nights per month starting in October for people ages 18 – 30. They indicated they met with City Councilor Candace White Bouchard and David Gill about this concept. Change For Concord Group is concerned about the rental cost as they have no funds available. The group requested that RPAC support their request for use of the city wide community center for free, two nights a week next winter (Friday or Saturday night 6:30 – 10:30 pm).

Candace asked about the age group range and would they be able to do a High School age group (grades 9 -12) and then one for young adults out of High School to late 20's. The group indicated it would be possible however they often have teenagers hanging out with adult in their late 20's. Marilyn indicated she loved the idea however she does have concerns about having teenagers hanging out with older adults in this type of event. Mary asked David Gill if this was a city sponsored event would it be opened to everyone not just the Change for Concord Group. David indicated if the Parks and Recreation Department sponsored the event we would break it out to high school and then one for young adults and would be open to entire community. Althea also indicated she was very supportive of the ideas and supports Change for Concords efforts to help provide a safe and fun place for teenagers and young adults to hang out in.

David indicated he thinks this type of event could be sponsored by a local business and asked to continue meeting with the Change of Concord to fine tune things and come back in late summer with a recommendation. RPAC agreed and thanked Change for Concord for coming to the meeting.

Merrimack River Greenway Trail and Terrill Park Update.

David gave the group an update on the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail request to use a LWCF grants, along with additional funds from the committee and city funds to make improvements at Terrill Park. David indicated the FMRGT estimate last summer was \$310,000 and the new estimate is \$378,000 (including a 8% contingency). With this price increase the LWCF grant is \$100,000 and the FMRGT are able to donate up to \$69,000 (50% of the cost of the paved trail), the city would now be asked to pay \$178,760. Last summer the estimate for the city share was \$141,000, without the 8% contingency of \$25,760.

David indicated the new cost shows the new path being paved however in the event the new path was stone dust it would save around \$80,000 (paved estimate \$140,000, stone dust \$60,000), However the paved path is what has been requested by FMRGT and paved multipurpose trails are truly all inclusive. Meaning it can support use

by cyclists, strollers, walkers, skateboard and more. David also indicated the paved trail will be paid for by the LWCF grant and FMRTG.

Stacy indicated she does not support a non-paved greenway trail as this section is part of the North-South connection and all the research supports a paved trail and paved trails traditional have a 15-20% increase in use compared to non-paved trails. Chiara indicated she supports a paved trail and doing quick math the city is just paying a little more than half of the \$347,000 project. Nick indicated he thought this was a good use of city funds as the city is gaining a long desired park improvement at a great price. Partnering with the grant and FMRGT is another great example of how the city can partner with other groups to fund park improvements. Mary also reminded the committee the Terrill Park Project with the turf field was one of the committees recommend priorities for FY20. Chiara made a motion to have the city make the improvements as requested by the FMRGT and have the new pathway paved. Seconded by Althea, passed 8 -0.

Parks and Rec Spring Sport Update:

David indicated registration is ongoing for their youth sports that will start in May. Currently spring soccer has 151 kids registered and spring NFL Flag Football has 85 kids. He also gave an update on summer camp registration – currently there is 450 kids registered across all camps which is an increase of 150 kids compared to same time last year.

Field Conditions Update:

David gave a quick update on the fields. Most of the fields are still closed due to frost coming out of the ground and very wet conditions. Although some of the parks are open all fields at Memorial Field are still closed and most likely will be for another week to ten days. David indicated this is the worse spring staff can remember for field conditions.

Staffing Update:

David indicated they are still looking for another two WSI/Lifeguards for the summer and ideally a couple more on call lifeguards. We are still in need for couple of tennis instructors. Other than that all staff has been hired for parks and cemeteries. Much better position compared to this time last year.

Mary made a motion to adjoin meeting at 6:45 pm, seconded by Candace, passed.

Summited by Parks and Recreation Director David Gill