

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2021

Committee Members: Althea Barton, Chiara Dolcino, Chair Mary Miller, Nora Ismael, Nick Kotkowski, Stacey Brown, City Councilor Candace White Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser, City Councilor Nate Fennessy, Nora Ismael and special guest Mayor Jim Bouley.

Staff Members: David Gill, Heather Shank

Guest staff members: Chip Chelsey, Brian LeBrun and Jay Burgess

Meeting was called to order at 5:38 pm by Chair Mary Miller

Minutes approved as written from the October meeting (no November meeting).

New Business:

West Street Ward House: Jay Burgess from General Services Department gave an update on the condition of the building and future capitol improvement needs of the building. Slate roof needs repairing, new windows, heating system and other exterior building needs. Jay indicated final costs are not in but most likely will be over \$500,000. Mary asked is there is any grants available due to the age of building. There was a discussion on current building use and any long-term needs. Committee thanked Jay for his update.

Everett Arena and Kiwanis Riverfront Park. Jay Burgess indicated the Everett Arena Advisory Committee recently recommended moving up the design money for the Master Plan of the park. David reminded committee members over the past couple of months they have heard from Concord Crew and the newly formed Skate Board Park Group. Both of these groups also support a master plan for the area. Stacey indicated she liked the report from the skate boards as it was very information and she supports moving up the funds for the Master Plan. Nate asked if all activities will fit onto the site. David indicated he thinks so but that is another reason to hire a company to create a Master Plan. Mary made a motion to request City Council consider moving the design money for CIP60 Kiwanis Riverfront Park from FY24 to FY23. Unanimously approved.

Access to Skating Pond at Beaver Meadow Golf Course: Brian LeBrun discussed the need to prevent the public from driving to the pond during the ice-skating season. He mentioned the only way to access the pond is to drive across the 9th fairway and it is causing significant damage to the turf. Brian mentioned access to the pond will still be allowed for maintenance needs however the area will be marked and roped off to prevent public access. Mary asked will there be information listed on the course's web site and signs educating people of the need for the change. Brian indicated there would be. Mary thanked Brian for coming to the meeting.

Skate Board Park Group Recommendation. As part RPAC Agenda packet committee members received a copy of the report from the newly formed skate board park group. This is the same group that has been meeting with committee members over the past couple of months regarding creating a new skate board park. The group is looking for a new park around 30,000 square feet and would prefer it remains at Kiwanis Park.

White Park Pond: David gave the committee an update on the harvesting of the plants at the pond. Working with NHDES the City hired Solitude Lake Management to cut the plants prior to this year's ice-skating season. A larger pond restoration project will be completed next fall.

Indoor Pickleball: David reports indoor pickleball continues to have a couple of folks asking for different times for different ability levels. However, he does not recommend making the change at this time.

Staffing: David updated the committee on staffing levels. We continue to have one employee on Active Duty, another out due to illness and we are doing our part with time employees. David did indicate it may be hard to hire enough for summer 2022 as the current local hourly pay rate is over \$15 an hour (even for High School students).

Grants: City Council at their December meeting gave permission for the City Administration to apply for grants for the next Phase of Terrill Park and for the Boardwalk of the Greenway Trail. Both of these projects are multi million dollars and if awarded requires a 20% local match.

FY 22 CIP Updates

David let RPAC know the status of all projects remains the same as last month. All FY 22 CIP are in various stages of moving forward.

Mary made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:40pm, seconded by Marilyn, passed.

Submitted by Parks and Recreation Director David Gill