

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2021

Committee Members: Chair Mary Miller, Stacey Brown, Althea Barton, City Councilor Candace White Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser and City Councilor Nate Fennessy and Nora Ismael

Staff Members:, Parks and Recreation Director, David Gill and Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Bryant

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

Marilyn made a motion to accept minutes from September 2021 meeting, second by Stacey, approved.

New Business:

Concerned Resident regarding waiver used by Parks & Recreation

David introduced Jon Kelly, he had sent an email to the department expressing his concern over the waiver that is currently used for participants. Jon spoke to the group about his email and let the group know he also published it as an op ed in the Concord Monitor. Jon shared both positive and negative feedback he has received from the article. Some folks say the waiver doesn't stand up in court but Jon points out that he has a friend who was injured at an amusement park and was denied legal counsel because she signed a waiver. Jon asked RPAC to please reconsider the waiver requirements for participants. Mary thanked Jon for his time and let him know the issues has been presented to the City of Concord NH's legal department and is up for review. David told Jon he would be in touch once we heard back from legal.

Concord Crew Update

David introduced Steve Garside, Head Coach (volunteer) for Concord Crew. Steve gave RPAC an overview of the club and what they have been working on. They recently installed a new fence next to their building to help with keeping the homeless out of that area. They plan to grow the program and employ a fulltime coach in the near future. Concord Crew is also working on plans to expand their building for year-round training. They would also like to add a high-performance group for those athletes looking for more. Nate asked how RPAC can help, Steve simply answered to continue to supporting them as an organization and letting them keep the boat house at Kiwanis Park. Steve also indicated Concord Crew is very interested in being part of the Master Planning process when the times comes. Mary asked would he be willing to write a letter of support for the master plan and Steve indicated they would

Fundraising for Groomer at BMGC

Joe Ayotte spoke to the group about the fundraising efforts for the groomer at BMGC. The group is close to 40K and with the 50K from the city is very close to the 100K. They are also exploring the option of purchasing a used (in great condition) one from Holderness. Joes also shared they are looking to do another fundraiser a 5K at the Beav in November.

Update in 1960's Bandwagon

David informed the committee due to its age and very poor condition the bandwagon will be sent to Auction this spring. Everyone agreed the city should not replace the bandwagon at this time as they are hopefully a concert ½ shell could be built at one of the parks to allow more concerts and events to be held.

Update on Skateboard Park Sub-Committee

David gave an update on the skate board subcommittee. The subcommittee continues to meet with the Skate Board user group. The group has filled out the paperwork to become a 501c3 and is creating a handout of local skate board parks they would like committee members to visit.

Land and Water Conservation Grant Update

David let the committee know the City was recently informed the LWCF Grant request to build the next section of MRGT was approved. The grant is for construction of 4,000 +/- feet of trail from Loudon Road south towards Terrill Park. The LWCF grant does require a 50% match and the grant award was \$275,000. The projected cost of this section is \$550,000 (2020 estimate). The city currently has VHB out of Bedford under contract for design and permitting of this section.

New Winter Brochure is now Online

Laura shared information about the new winter brochure. She shared that we have brought back youth cooking and will be offering some new nature-based vacation camps at the Merrimack Lodge.

FY 22 CIP Updates

David let RPAC know the status of all projects remains the same as last month.

Additional comments

Nate asked about the White Park Pond, and where the project stands. David has met with the state they highly recommend the hydro-raking. Everything that is removed must stay onsite to dry out. Next year the goal is to complete the digging up of the lotus and removal from the pond. The work is planned for late summer early fall.

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

Summited by Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Laura Bryant