

**City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2022**

**Committee Members:** Althea Barton, Chiara Dolcino, Chair Mary Miller, Nick Kotkowski, City Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Jennifer Roff and Andrew Doyle.

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

Guests: Zoey Murphy (Ward 5) and Tyson Merrill from Merrimack River Water Shed Council (MRWC)

Meeting was called to order at 5:39pm by Chair Mary Miller

Minutes approved as written from the January meeting.

**New Business:**

**Merrimack River Watershed Council:** Tyson Merrill from MRWC gave an overview about the organization, how it started during the clean water act and how today their goal is to work regionally. They now have an office in Concord. The overall goal is to make the Merrimack River and head waters safe. Their goal is to remove invasive plant species and plant trees in their place. Being in May they will be hosting two Americore Interns who will be responsible for community outreach events. Tyson shared plans for such events to be held at Merrill Park, Terrill Park and Healy Park. Tyson is looking for RPAC/City of Concord support as well as community volunteers to assist with the events. RPAC was very supportive of the plan and recommended Tyson works with city staff to focus on one or two parks – Merrill and Terrill Park was suggested. David indicated he will work with Tyson and Beth Fenstermacher the Assistant City Planner on the project.

**Continued CIP Review from last meeting:** David reviewed a handout with Park CIPs listed for FY21, FY22 and possible projects for FY23.

David highlighted his request for the FY23 CIP.

CIP52 Keach Park: \$160,000 to convert the tennis court to soccer min pitch

CIP55 Rolfe Park: \$15,000 to convert court lights to LED

CIP56 Rollins Park: \$15,000 to convert court lights to LED

CIP60 Kiwanis: \$250,000 for Master Plan as requested by RPAC and Arena Committees

CIP557 Memorial Field: \$600,000 for new track (50% could be from other/grant)

David mentioned that recreation impact fees might be able to help with some of the \$160,000 at Keach Park. Jennifer asked about the pocket parks, David let the group know that Thompson was funded this year, the renovations will conclude with a rededication of the park. Chiara motioned to support the CIP projects as presented seconded by Mary, approved.

**CIP 567:** David gave an update on the new Penacook Riverfront Park (former Tannery site), designer has been selected just waiting for purchasing to finish the paperwork. This designer will also remain on available under contract as needed for the next 5 years in order to expedite future park projects.

**Dillon Softball Field Lease Renewal:** The lease for the Dillon Softball field is up, Davis has reached out to the group about renewal. Lease will be renewed for 3 years. Councilor Fennessy raised concerns about for-profit teams using the fields. David said we would keep an eye on things. Committee indicated no concerns with renewing the lease at this time.

**Final Copy of the Year in Review:** David let RPAC know the final copy of the Year in Review had been shared with city council as well as with the community. Its has been well received and appreciated by city council. David let the group know this will be a yearly process. Mary thanked staff for the report and thought it was very well done.

**Groomer Update:** The Groomer fundraising group is on track and making great progress, so far, they have raised 56K.

**Summer Employment:** Laura spoke briefly to the group about summer employment, all jobs are posted on the City of Concord NH website. We are looking to hire about 25-30 lifeguards, all certifications will be paid for by the city. Laura also let RPAC know that a new Recreation Supervisor has been hired and will start working the first week in March.

**Spring Brochure:** Laura shared with the group that the spring brochure is now available online and includes spring sports, programs and our traditional summer camps.

Mary made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:46pm, seconded by Chiara, passed.

Summited by Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Laura S. Bryant