

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes from May 19, 2022 5:30pm

Committee Members: Althea Barton, Chiara Dolcino, Chair Mary Miller, City Councilor Nathan Fennessy, City Councilor Candace White-Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser, Jennifer Roff and Zoey Murphy

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

Guests: Matt Walsh, Robert White, Crayton Brubaker, Jessica Livingston and Clement Kigugu

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm by Chair Mary Miller

Minutes approved as written from the April meeting.

New Business:

Overcomers Refugee Services: Laura introduced Jessica and Clement from the Overcomers Group. Jessica spoke about their upcoming Umuganda event on June 25th. This event is native to Rwanda. It is a day for citizens of the community to come together to work on projects that beautify the community. Jessica came to RPAC to ask for support of the mural design they have proposed be painted on the storage building in Keach Park. The art work represents the community here on the Heights. In addition to the mural during the Umuganda event the participants will also plant an pollinator garden by the tennis/basketball courts in Keach Park. Candace asked about maintenance of the garden and Jessica shared that the Project Story group has volunteered to oversee the maintenance. Mary asked what they were expecting for participation, Jessica indicated they hoped for 50-100 people but were still in the early stages of advertising. Chiara moved to support the mural design Zoey 2nd, approved.

Penacook Riverfront Park: Matt Walsh introduced himself and Bob White the architect for the project as well as Crayton Brubaker who has been assisting with the project. Matt gave a presentation about the new Riverfront Park in Penacook. The park will be located in the old tannery site. This plan has been in the works for 35+ years, in 2015 the Penacook Village plan shows the emerald necklace concept for Penacook. The concept being to eventually connect all green spaces. On this particular site there are some capsulated materials that limit some areas to remain lawn only. Bob shared with the group the rough design he had prepared outlining some of the amenities that could be included. They are hopeful to begin construction spring of next year. The construction budget is 1.75 million, they will be applying for an LWCF grant. Matt asked RPAC to share their feedback and let them know there will be a public meeting June 20th 6:30pm at the Penacook Elementary school. Candace asked if they had considered including a dog park, Matt said that had not come up yet. Jennifer suggested incorporating a playground. Bob spoke about creating a nature-based play structure using existing elements. Heather inquired about permitting, Matt and Bob both expressed their optimism in getting that done. Marilyn asked that the history of the area somehow be included, Matt indicated that had been included in the design request and they plan to incorporate 3 history panels somewhere in the park. Althea spoke about including the Abenaki people. RPAC was very excited about all the possibilities.

Seasonal Employment Update: Laura shared with the group that Parks & Recreation currently has 5 WSI's and 16 lifeguards hired for the summer. We continue to advertise and interview as applications come in. Summer camp staff is all set.

Summer Camp Update: Laura gave a status update on the summer camp registrations. Rec Stay and Play camp is full for all 8 weeks, we plan to increase the enrollment max to 32 rather than 24 to accommodate those on the waitlist. Kids Stay & Play has 3 weeks full and the remaining 5 weeks have 5 or less spots available. All adventure camps are full totaling 32 campers each week.

FY22 Funded CIP Updates: Laura gave a brief update on the following projects: Rollins Park basketball and tennis courts are on schedule and will open in June. Rolfe Park Pickleball court project is also on time and will open in June. Trolley Stop repairs at White Park will begin this month. David is putting together a report with recommendations about moving forward with the White Park pond project.

Additional comments:

Heather shared with the group that she had been approached by Ian West who was concerned about safety at Russell Martin Park. Lots of people seem to be going to the back-parking lot at night.

Jennifer thanked Parks and Recreation for the additional garbage cans at White Park

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

Summited by Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Laura S. Bryant