

**City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2019 Meeting**

**Committee Members:** City Councilor Candace White Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser, Chiara Dolcino, Stacey Brown, Nick Kotkowski, Chair Mary Miller.

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

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

Candace made a motion to accept minutes from May 2019 meeting, second by Stacey, approved.

**Guests:** Michael Roundy, from Concord Kinetic Sculpture Race

**New Business:**

**Concord Kinetic Sculpture Race**

Michael Roundy gave a presentation about the event he is proposing to host in Concord in June 2020. He spoke about his involvement in the Lowell Kinetic Sculpture Race as well as the history of such races. The Lowell Race is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year and is expected to draw 3000+ people to the area as both racers and spectators. Michael has already garnered support from Concord Chamber, Community Development Team and Intown Concord.

This is a free event to both participants and spectators. Funds to pay for the event are raised through sponsorship from local businesses. The route is still being worked out but they think they are fairly close to finalizing. The event would end at the Everett Arena and they hope to incorporate food trucks and live music.

RPAC is in support of the event.

**Review Draft of Rental Fee Waiver Procedure**

David reviewed the process for fee waivers for the 4 community groups designated by city council to receive free space at the City Wide Community Center. There was lots of discussion about number of hours per group, insurance requirements, accountability, why these groups and not others etc. How much “value” should be given to each group.

RPAC requested that David write a report to Council asking them to provide more guidance regarding time/financial amounts and insurance requirements. Candace also mentioned she will look at setting up a meeting with the Mayor, City Manager, Parks and Recreation Director and her to review.

Candace made a motion to request further information from City Council, second by Mary, approved.

**Terrill Park Update**

David updated the committee on the public hearing scheduled for the September City Council meeting where he is asking the city fund \$180,000 to be combined with the LWCF grant of \$100,000 and \$69,000 from the Friends of Merrimack River Greenway Trail. The funding would be used to building the paved Merrimack River Greenway Trail, build new dog park, new parking lot, related site work, some tree work and lighting in

the parking lot. Mary thought this is long overdue as it will clean up a riverfront park and bring more residents to the river. Stacey asked if approved when the work would be completed? Committee mentioned it would also be great to close off the lower dirt parking lot when the new parking lot and dog park is built as this will prevent folks from using the area for non-park activities. David indicated that is the current plan. The current plan would be to have a RFP out in late Fall/early Winter with the contract awarded mid-January. Project should be completed by summer 2020. Committee members continue to be in full support of this phase of the project.

### **Program/Camp Update**

Laura reported that the summer was a success. Camp numbers were the best they have ever been, camps surveys showed very happy parents and kids. Mary asked if staff could come back at a future meeting with some details on number of participants and revenue of programs this past season. Laura said she would love to bring the data to a future meeting.

Laura mentioned the new fall adult class brochure will back from printers shortly with classes beginning in early September. She mentioned one of her favorite new programs is Cooking with Concord Fire – a member of the Fire Dept. will cook a meal for registered adults.

### **White Park Pond Update**

David gave quick update on the weeds at White Park. The work performed by the vendor to kill the growth around the pond has worked and the pond is performing much better. The vendor was fully permitted by the state to treat plants in aquatics areas. David mentioned the vendor will be back in September to treat the remaining growth. Members asked if it possible to put up a couple of additional signs around the pond when the next spray happens. David indicated yes.

### **Tree Plantings**

David mentioned the Parks staff recently planted new trees at Garrison and Reed Parks. This fall they will also be planting new trees at Beaver Meadow Park.

### **Dogs in Parks**

Issues continue in the parks with folks not having their dogs on leash and not picking up their waste. The Police did get involved at Rollins Park letting dog owners know that going forward they can be fined for not having their dog on a leash. Staff reported there are signs up in all the parks and this summer have scheduled several social media posts.

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

Summited by Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Laura Bryant