



**Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Agenda
Thursday, June 17 – 5:30 pm**

Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Mary Miller (Chair at 5:40 pm).

Committee Members Present: Althea Barton, Chiara Dolcino, Jennifer Roff, Stacey Brown, Andrew Doyle, Nick Kotkowski, Marilyn Frasier, Nora Ismael, Mary Miller (Chair), City Councilor Candance White Bouchard. *Staff Members Present:* David Gill and Heather Shank.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved by committee with one change: Under CIP Updates: cost of playground at White Park is roughly \$700,000 and not 7 million. (April meeting was canceled and in May there was no quorum)

Mary welcomed Committee members and guests, she also expressed she was thankful we are finally meeting in person. Committee members introduced themselves to guests.

Guests present: Approximately 30 guests where the meeting to talk about several agenda items. City Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins was also there as a guest.

Skate Board Park: Jeff Rowan introduced himself as a resident who is interested in working with the City to create a new Skate Board Park. He indicated he was there with several other people who are also willing to work with the city (they all raised their hand). Jeff indicated they are looking into getting better organized and asked for RPAC to form a subcommittee to help with the review. Althea thanked the group for their offer to help the city and made a motion for RPAC to form a subcommittee. Seconded by Nick. Approved. City Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins who is a member of the Everett Arena Advisory Committee indicated the Arena Committee would also like to be involved. David indicated he will work with Jeff, RPAC and Arena to schedule meetings to start the review.

Disc Golf Course: Matt Flanders presented a plan to bring a disc golf course to Concord and is interested in working with the City to create one that could be maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department (similar like the other parks in Concord). Matt gave a handout to committee members highlighting some of the benefits of having a Disc Golf Course, rules and budget needs. Mary thanked Matt for the presentation and information and asked what he needs. Matt indicated the largest issue he sees is finding a parcel of land that is useable for a Disc Golf Course. In the ideal world an 18-hole disc course needs 30+ acres and ideally the land is wooded to allow the course to be built around trees. He mentioned they have looked at several areas however most are conservation areas. Heather Shank indicated if they are looking at conservation areas he should be talking with

the Conservation Commission as they have strict rules they need to follow regarding land use. Overall the committee members had positive comments about the concept. Mary asked Matt to work with David to formally look at potential city owned sites and if needed to talk with the Conservation Commission. Mary asked if he and David could report back later this fall. David and Matt agreed to continue to conversation.

Pickleball multiuse courts at Beaver Meadow Park: David gave an update on use of the outdoor Pickleball Courts. As the department has seen a return to normal operations for most of the adult programs and an continued increase in overall park usage at the end of May the Department advertised the pickleball courts at Beaver Meadow on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 9 am to noon are for users 55 and over while Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 12 noon are for all ages. Outside of these times the courts are available for tennis or pickleball. The goal in doing this was to avoid overcrowding of the courts. Since then David and Laura as receive several emails and calls – some in support and some against the change.

A group of pickleball players presented a petition asking the rule go back to any age can play Monday – Friday 9 am to 12 noon. Several explained there has never been an overcrowding at the courts and the sport by its nature open to all abilities and ages. Althea thanked the group for coming and expressing their concerns. She wanted to group to know the committee and staff have fully supported pickleball growth over the past couple of years and the city has 6 outdoor courts lined at Beaver Meadow and 6 indoor courts – 2 at GSCC and 4 at the new Center. Stacey asked David what will it take to change to rule understanding they indicate they never have a waiting list and all courts are available to all abilities. David explained he can make the change starting tomorrow if committee feels it is the best approach. Stacey made a motion to ask staff to change the rule back to: all ages, all abilities as long as all courts are open for all. Nick approved and was approved.

Summer Update – Camp, Pools, events: David gave an update on summer recreation activities. Last summer we only offered our traditional all-day summer camps and our new nature camp. This year those camps are returning and we will be offering many of our specialty summer camps: Soccer, Basketball, Concord TV, Learn to Row with Concord Crew etc. Due to limited staffing the department is starting off the summer with only opening four pools (Rollins, Keach, Merrill, Rollins) if we are able to hire a few more lifeguards we hope to open Kimball Pool. Outdoor Summer Concerts will be held as they did last year.

Trash Cans at White Park: Megan DeVorsey a resident from White Park asked for additional trash cans at White Park. The four located around the playground are often full and there are no other trash cans in the Park. Megan also asked for signage around the park asking people to carry in/out trash. David indicated there used to be as many as ten trash cans in the park however over the years we have slowly reduced as staff had a hard time keeping all the trash cans emptied in all the parks. In addition, last year we removed all the trash cans in all the parks due to limited staffing and Covid. Mary Miller asked in what areas does Megan feel cans should be placed. She mentioned if the trash can by the Trolley Stop can be returned that would be very helpful as people are leaving trash and dog waste bags in the former location of the trash can. David indicated he will have staff add a trash can to that location.

At 8 pm Chiara made a motion to end the meeting, seconded by Nick. Approved