



Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 19 – 5:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Mary Miller (Chair at 5:30 pm).

Committee Members Present: Chiara Dolcino, Jennifer Roff, Stacey Brown, Nick Kotkowski, Marilyn Frasier, Mary Miller (Chair), City Councilor Candance White Bouchard and City Councilor Nathan Fennesy.

Staff Members Present: David Gill and Heather Shank.

Minutes from the June meeting were approved by committee. No meeting in July as there was no quorum and no scheduled meeting in August.

Mary welcomed committee members and guests. Committee members introduced themselves to guests.

Guests present: Clement Kigugu and Jessica Livingston

Park Mural and Umuganda Event: Clement and Jessica introduced themselves and discussed what a Umuganda event is: one day event when the entire community would work on volunteer projects. They would like to bring such an event to Concord. They also discussed their Mural Idea for Keach Park: they would convene the community to help develop and then create a mural on one of the sheds at Keach Park. They indicated they would have any art work approved by the city prior to painting. David indicated Art and Murals in Parks are now very common around the country and feels it would be great to include in our parks system. Stacy asked what the approval process would look like. David indicated a mural project was recently approved by City Council for downtown. David indicated he thought it would be good to write a report to Council to make sure they would be ok if Art work and Murals in the Parks could be approved by City Manager. Committee supported that idea. Candance made a motion to support the Umuganda Event and a Mural at Keach Park, seconded by Stacey and approved.

Skate Board Sub Committee Update: The first meeting of the joint RPAC, Arena Committee and community group was scheduled for Sept 7. David indicated the group seems very well organized and ready to work with the city to help create a news skateboard park.

Disc Golf Course Update: David has reach out to the folks who presented to RPAC at a previous meeting however has not heard back yet.

City Council Action: David let the group know City Council approved using \$9,000 of the remaining CIP dollars from the Merrill Pool renovation to look at creating a splash pad at the current location of the White Park Pool. The White Park pool is scheduled to be renovated in FY23.

City Council Request: City Council asked the City Manger to have a public meeting on the possibility of adding field lights to Keach Park. This request was made a couple of years ago and recently city council has heard for several residents asking to city to move this project up in the CIP. The field lights currently listed in budget as a FY31 project.

Capital Improvement Updates (CIP): David gave an update on FY22 funded projects

CIP51: White Park. Staff are working with Milestone for quotes on the repairing and repointing at the Trolley Stop and dredging of the pond.

CIP52 Keach Park: Working with a vendor for final scope of work and quotes for irrigation expansion.

CIP55: Rolfe Park. RFP has been issued to add the pickleball courts.

CIP56: Rollins Park. RFP has been issued for the full renovation of the basketball and tennis court

CIP528: Pocket Parks. Thompson Park. PO's have been issued for the work.

Summer Overview:

David highlighted it was a great summer. All summer camps where held with all the traditional all-day summer camps full (like last summer). Pools season was very good considering only 5 or the 7 pools opened due to not being able to hire enough certified staff. The community was very supportive of the staff and we received numerous complaints and praise for the pool users. Nathan asked what can we do to be ready for next summer. David explained in non Covid years the red cross offer certification classes over the winter and we usually start hiring in January. We do offer to pay for the cost of certification as long as they pass the class and stay the entire summer. We pay ½ first week they work and then the other ½ at the end of summer. One of the main issues this summer was the red cross did not offer lifeguarding classes until May and we start our in-service training the first week of June.

Fall Overview:

David indicated at the current time all programs and classes are near pre Covid numbers.

Nick made a motion to end the meeting and was seconded by Candance.