

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2021

Committee Members: Chair Mary Miller, Stacey Brown, Jennifer Roff, Althea Barton, City Councilor Candace White Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser and Nick Kotkowski

Staff Members: Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Bryant, City Planner, Heather Shank, and Parks and Recreation Director, David Gill (joined in at the end)

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chair Mary Miller

Marilyn made a motion to accept minutes from August 2021 meeting, second by Candace, approved.

New Business:

Skateboard Park Sub-Committee Update

Mary Miller gave an recap about the meeting she and David attended on September 7th. She said they had a great turnout about 15 people. The group reached their goal on Go Fund Me to be able to move forward with creating a 501 3C. The group including members of the Arena Advisory Committee agreed to take some field trips to look at other skateboard parks in the state. The group expressed that they would like to stay in a park either Kiwanis or possibly moving to Rollins but definitely staying in a park to make it a destination. The groups also discussed getting the word out through public meetings and events. The next meeting is October 5th.

Fall Update

Laura gave an update on current fall programming numbers. Soccer and flag football are both at or in some divisions exceeding pre-Covid numbers. Indoor programming is also starting up again this week. Several adult classes are close to full such as Tai Chi, Yoga and Buff Bones. We are currently running youth dances and art classes as well. RPAC members asked about Covid cases and Laura reported they had only had 1 exposure reported and the concerned parties were quarantining.

FY22 Park CIP Update

Laura provided updates on CIPs. CIP51 White Park, David is currently working with Milestone on pricing. CIP52 Keach Park irrigation, David is working on scope of work and obtaining quotes. CIP55 Rolfe Park, the PO has been issued for the work on the 4 Pickleball courts. Demolition will begin this fall with the projected completed by June 1, 2022. CIP56 Rollins Parks, the PO has also been issued for the work on the basketball and tennis courts at Rollins following the same timeline as Rolfe, demolition this fall and project complete by June 1, 2022. CIP528 for Thompson Playlot, the PO has been issued for the work which includes, removing the cement slope, new walkway and steps as well as some tree removal.

Fundraising update for Tracked Groomer at BMGC

Laura gave an update about the group raising money for the groomer at BMGC. They are currently at 35K with a goal of 60-70K knowing that the City of Concord NH will contribute 50K. They continue to plug away at soliciting donations and hope to plan another event in the fall such as a 5K.

Winter Brochure Update

Laura talked about working on the upcoming winter brochure. She mentioned the hope of returning to a normal basketball season including bringing back travel basketball. Laura also let RPAC know Parks & Recreation will be bringing back some cooking classes and in person safe sitter classes. Parks & Recreation is looking forward to a full season of winter sports including Nordic skiing, ice skating and basketball.

Upcoming Special Events

Laura reminded RPAC of the Arts Market at Rollins Park on Saturday September 18th as well as the Multicultural Festival taking place on Sunday September 19th at Keach Park.

Additional comments

Laura and Candance updated RPAC on their meeting with Lydia from Change for Concord. The Change for Concord group is looking to resume using their monthly space at the City-Wide Community Center for events and meetings. They would like to expand their offerings from just socials events like the previous coffee house to more educational offerings like Know Your Rights Classes. Lydia also clarified that at this time Change for Concord is not interested in pursuing the addition of lights at Keach Park.

Mary made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:10pm, seconded by Jennifer, passed.

Summited by Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Laura Bryant