



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council.

FROM: David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director.

Re: Snow Making demo at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course

DATE: October 29, 2024.

Recommendation:

Review and accept this report

Background

Since 2019, the SkiTheBeav organization has been working with the city to improve the xc skiing at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course. Their goal is to promote an active and healthy lifestyle while maximizing the recreation potential of the capital city. SkiTheBeav and the city believe that Beaver Meadow Golf Course has immense potential as a cross country skiing venue and will become a community skiing hub.

In 2023, the nonprofit group was instrumental with helping the city buy a gently used groomer as they raised over \$50,000 to help with the cost of the machine.

Last year SkiTheBeav also discussed their desire to set up a demo for snow making near the driving range and connecting to the fire hydrant in the parking lot. They obtain permission from the Golf Course Advisory Committee and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee for the demo. In addition, on February 15, 2024 held a neighborhood meeting with residents near the Golf Course as part of a RPAC meeting. Residents present were supportive with conducting the demo however had concerns with noise as snow making usually happens overnight. Once the demo was held the goal was to come back to both committees and abutters to gather feedback.

In February 2024 we reviewed their snowmaking demo request with the cities General Services Department and Fire Department to ensure there are no issues with using the fire hydrant as a water source for the demo and to make sure the Fire Department can get quick access in case the hydrant is needed. The SkiTheBeav organization has agreed to pay for all expenses for the demo.

The snow making demo did not happen in February or March 2024 due to the warmer than normal winter.

For more information on SkiTheBeav visit their web site: www.skithebeav.org

Discussion

Working with the SkiTheBeav organization we are looking at holding a snowmaking demo on the driving range at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course sometime in December 2024. The driving range was recommended by golf course staff.

One of the challenges last year was trying to schedule a snow gun for a demo at the last minute based on weather conditions. To help increase the chances of conducting the demo the SkiTheBeav has worked with regional manufacture of snow making equipment and we will have a unit onsite for the month of December. This will allow us the ability to hold the demo quickly if weather conditions allow. The ideal temperature to operate the snow making equipment is below 20 degrees, can be warmer depending on wet blub temperate (see chart below). You can make snow with temperatures around 32 degrees if air is dry (low humidity). In addition, since we do not have three phased power by the shed on the driving range SkiTheBeav will also rent a portable generator to run the snow gun.

When the weather conditions are ideal for the snowking demo we will have notices on the city’s web site, related social media sites and local media. After the demo SkiTheBeav and city staff will report back to the Golf Course Advisory. Committee, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and City Council.

