

City of Concord, NH
Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2024 5:30pm

Committee Members: Robert Kleiner (Ward 2), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), Sarah Beauregard (Ward 4), Zoey Murphy (Ward 5), Brian Sartorelli (Ward 6), Nick Kotkowski (Ward 7), Paula Bowers (Ward 8), Chair Mary Miller (Ward 10), Councilor Michelle Horne, and Kenny Edwards (MVSD)

Absent: Bard Higgins (Concord School District), Althea Barton (Ward 1) and Councilor Nate Fennessy

Staff Members: David Gill, Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Bryant, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director and Anne Marie Skinner, City Planner

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

Minutes approved as written from the October 2024 meeting.

New Business:

CIP Review: David reviewed the CIP process, staff start with safety items and repairs. David provided RPAC with the CIP plan for the next 10 years and well as staff recommendations for FY 26. David asked RPAC members to review the packet and then look at the parks in their area/ward to see if they have any further recommendations. Will review again at the December meeting.

Penacook Community Room: Laura shared with RPAC that the Penacook Library and Community Room will officially open Thursday December 5th, more information coming soon. The library will open first and Parks & Recreation will begin offering programming on December 17th. Initially Parks & Rec will be focused on Senior Programming but anticipates in the new year adding some youth programs as well as offering rental opportunities.

Staffing Update: David and Laura shared that there are 11 openings within the department. 2 are FT shared positions in the Cemetery and the remaining are 9 open positions administrative/ programming positions with Recreation. Several of these positions will be for the newly funded SPARC program. David also let RPAC know the winter plowing stipend was approved again this year for staff from both Cemetery and Parks Divisions are participating in winter operations.

LWCF Grant Award for Skate Board Park: David shared with RPAC that we did receive the grant for 500K towards the skate board park at Kiwanis Riverfront Park. David will continue to work with that group and expects fundraising efforts to ramp up to continuing working to the goal.

Community Meeting on Keach Park Lights: The second meeting for the Keach Park lights has been scheduled for Thursday December 12th. At this meeting (led by consultants) the following items will be discussed further; field use, user fees, care and maintenance and field size. The project has been approved however cannot be built without City Council approval. Sarah asked about field size and lacrosse having access. David reiterated this will all be discussed at the public meeting. David told RPAC user groups interested in the

project should attend the meeting. At this time the project is estimated to cost 380K. Mary asked about the public meeting with the neighbors of Keach Park and the Police. David said they did have the meeting and overall it went well.

Memorial Field Update: The proposal has been approved by City Council and the School Board, currently working on next steps.

White Park Playground Update: Contract has been signed by the vendor. Work is projected to start this summer. It will be an all-inclusive playground. Final design will be updated and shared publicly in December.

Pending – TBA: The Rolfe Park community safety meeting still needs to be schedule with Concord Police Department.

Michelle shared that she has heard from residents that the fields at Rolfe Park are in bad shape. She was wondering if that would be appropriate to bring to the CIP discussion, David said yes and also let her know that irrigation for Rolfe Park is currently listed in FY2031.

Zoey asked about getting Friends of SPARC on the agenda for December and David indicated Mary will reach out to see what is requested.

Next RPAC meeting will be held Thursday December 19, 2024

Motion was made to end the meeting by Mary at 6:30pm and seconded by Michelle and approved.

Summited by Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Laura S. Bryant