



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Gill, Parks & Recreation Director

DATE: September 23, 2024

SUBJECT: City Council Referral to Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee regarding Change for Concord's request for free room use.

At the April 18, 2024 meeting the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee reviewed the City Council Referral on the new meeting space request from Change for Concord.

For the past several years Change for Concord has received free meeting room space at the city-wide community center for up to four hours a month during regular open hours. If meeting room was needed after regular open hours the organization would pay all the regular rental fees. Their new request is for free room use twice a month for two hours on Friday evenings.

Mr. Ndayishimiye from Concord for Concord was present at the April 18th meeting and explained the four hours of free use during regular opening hours does not work for his organization. He would like Friday evenings when more of his members are available and in an area that will allow more members to take part. He indicated he currently meets with his members Monday – Thursday in the evening from 6 – 8 pm at their Park Street Office. Committee members asked if there was a way for him to meet here mid-week when the center is open until 8 pm and Mr. Ndayishimiye indicated he could not. RPAC members asked if there were any issues with reserving space at the center and Mr. Ndayishimiye indicated there have been no issues.

At the April RPAC meeting members asked staff how many free hours did Change for Concord use in 2023 and staff reported ten (10) hours were used out of the forty-eight hours (48) allowed (4 hours month x 12 months). As the center is traditionally not open on Friday evenings the committee asked city staff to come back at a future meeting to review the cost to have the city-wide community center open on two Friday's evenings a month as requested by Change for Concord.

At the September 19, 2024 Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meeting the request from Change for Concord was again on the agenda. City staff reported the estimated new yearly staff cost to have the city-wide community center open as requested by Change for Concord would be \$3,300. This new expense would have to be approved by City Council and the department would need to make sure there was staff available to work.

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee voted not to recommend Change for Concord's request due in part to the increased costs and the organization has not been using the free room space as approved in past years.