

## **Rolfe Park Safety Concerns and Traffic Meeting**

Meeting was held at Merrimack Valley High School on Tuesday, March 11 at 6 pm

*Meeting notes (D. Gill, Parks and Recreation Department)*

### City Councilors Present:

Brent Todd, Michele Horne, Amanda Saxton Grady, Jennifer Kretovic, Judith Kurtz and Mayor Byron Champlin.

### City Staff Present:

David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director; Barrett Moulton, Deputy Police Chief and Police Officer Melissa Pfefferle.

Around 60 residents in attendance. Meeting started at 6 pm and ended 7:15 pm

### Rolfe Park Concerns:

- General concerns about late evening activities: noise, cars driving fast, possible illegal activity.
- Parking lot needs to be painted to help folks park correctly, several folks mentioned need for larger parking lot.
- Residents asked staff to check court lights to make sure off at 11 pm.
- Asked to look at Improving entrance area to allow people using cross walk to enter park safely.
- Requested the city confirm there is an agreement with School District to allow students to park in lot.
- General agreement adding the pickleball courts has helped as a different group are using the pickleball courts compared to teenage and young adult crowd at the basketball court.

### Traffic Concerns:

- Everyone in agreement speed is main issue on Community Drive and High Street. Residents asked for more enforcement on those two streets.
- Agreement main time frames are: just before school starts, school ends and after sporting events.
- Due to new traffic pattern seems like High Street has increased use after school and events. People cannot drive out of school parking lots directly onto Community Drive now.
- Discussed need for public information campaign geared towards middle school and high school students and their parents.
- Police mentioned their ring camera program where they can use footage to help with enforcement.
- Discussed possible solutions to speed on those roads – traffic bump outs, trees, stop signs and enforcement. Reviewed how cities Traffic Committee works.
- Discussed possibility of adding stop signs at Dolphin Street, Community Drive and park entrance. Possible low-cost way to slow folks who are driving on Community Drive.
- Reviewed the intersection at the end of community drive and Allen Street. New road layout - if in right lane you turn right onto Allen Street while the left lanes going into the school lots. Discussed looking at adding road markers to help show turn lanes and increased signage.
- Police indicated they usually only have one patrol officer in Penacook and they understand the community would like more enforcement in the area. Several residents asked if the police department needs more staff and resources. Deputy Chief Moulton their biggest thing needed at moment is staff as they are they currently have 12 vacancies. He indicated they will strive to be more visible during the times discussed.