



# CITY OF CONCORD

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## REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Matthew R. Walsh, Dir. of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, & Special Projects

*M Walsh*

**DATE:** March 2, 2015

**SUBJECT:** CIP #443: City-wide Multigenerational Community Center Letters of Support

### Recommendation:

Accept the following report and attached letters of support.

### Background:

The purpose of this report is to provide supplemental information concerning CIP #443 "City-Wide Multigenerational Community Center" as follow-up to the information presented to the City Council on February 9, 2015 concerning schematic design options for the project.

### Discussion:

1. Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Recommendation: Attached, please find a letter from RPAC in support of design alternative "Option 2".
2. Letters of Support: Attached please find letters of support from a variety of community organizations for the project.
3. Supplemental Information Requested by City Council: During its February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council asked for additional information concerning the following:
  - a. Preservation and adaptive reuse of the cafeteria only (known as Option 4);
  - b. Alternative options for delivery of library services;
  - c. Elevation drawings for Options 1A, 2A, and 3A, as well as new design Option 4 which features preservation of the cafeteria;
  - d. Projected programmatic revenues, operating costs, and General Fund subsidy for renovation of the existing Dame School and Height Gymnasium.

This supplemental information will be presented to the City Council prior to the public hearing scheduled on March 9, 2015 for the schematic design options.



## City of Concord, New Hampshire Parks & Recreation Department

14 Canterbury Rd  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 225-8690  
[www.concordnh.gov](http://www.concordnh.gov)

February 27, 2014

Honorable Mayor Bouley & City Council  
41 Green Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee  
City Wide Community Center Recommendation**

Mayor Bouley and the Members of the Concord City Council,

At the February meeting of the Recreation Parks Advisory Committee, the Committee reviewed the proposed plans for the City Wide Multi-Generational Community Center. The Advisory Committee voted to support Option 2A. This plan warrants support for a variety of reasons. First, according to the proposed plan, the Community Center will be a newly constructed building with the potential for future expansion. Additionally, Option 2A offers one of the lowest development cost plans and has the lowest annual operating costs. Finally, Option 2A offers a credible array of facilities covering a wide variety of diverse community needs.

It is with great enthusiasm that the Advisory Committee asks the Council to approve funds to move forward to the final design phase of the proposed Community Center Project. The Advisory Committee expresses its appreciation to Matt Walsh for his time and effort presenting the various options for the Community Center. We are hopeful that the City Council's vote will bring Concord one step close to realizing the goal of achieving a City Wide Multi-Generational Community Center.

On behalf of the Recreation Parks and Advisory Committee,

Mary Miller  
Chair

Art of Archery by Dana White  
ArtofArchery.com  
603.396.7979

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of the new community center being built at the 14 Canterbury Rd location. This project completion would help expand and improve the archery program being offered for youth and adults. It would provide better shooting accommodations and potentially increase revenue for Concord Parks & Recreation.

We have worked within the current space offered at the community center, however, the current space really limits the types of programming many can offer. With a new community center the options would be rather limitless. The Concord community could really benefit from a state of the art facility that includes space for a larger archery range, indoor turf field, collegiate size basketball court, fitness classrooms, teaching kitchen, indoor walking track, and the list goes on.

Please consider approval of such an amazing project that would serve the community and extend many benefits to the youth and adults for the various programs offered through the Concord Parks community!

Very respectfully,

Dana & Deb White  
Art of Archery  
603.396.7979

**Gill, David**

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**From:** Chauntéy Greene <cngreene1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 11:45 AM  
**To:** Gill, David  
**Subject:** Community Center Meeting

*Hello David,*

*I wanted to follow up with you. I have reached out to members of our previous board as they were more familiar with this project. It sounds like it will be an amazing addition to the Concord. Our position on the matter remains the same. Though we are in full support of the community center coming to fruition it is not something that we would utilize as much as some other area programs. As like most, things change and maybe it is something for us to revisit in the future as our program evolves. Thank you for keeping us informed and look forward to hearing from you soon.*

Regards,

Chauntéy Greene  
President  
Capital City Vipers

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Richard Lamoury [<mailto:rlamoury@challengersports.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, February 23, 2015 3:34 PM

**To:** Bryant, Laura

**Subject:** RE: Letter of support

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share my support for the new Community Center to be built at the Old Dame School location. Our organization Challenger Sports has partnered up with Concord Recreation for many years to provide the local children with professional soccer coaching and fun summer programs. These programs are aimed at children of all ages and abilities and have proven to be very successful due to the increase in numbers and the feedback given to us by parents. With a new indoor community center the recreation will be able to cater for more children in the area and help to offer new programs without being too concerned over space and inclement weather.

Sport is an essential part of a child's early development socially and physically. Our staff are experts in this area and Concord Recreation have facilitated a positive learning environment which will expand and continue through the use of said facility.

If there is anything I can do to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best Regards,

**Rich Lamoury**

Regional Director

Challenger Sports

401 213 3161 Office

401 864 8880 Cell

[www.challengersports.com](http://www.challengersports.com)

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Concord Youth Lacrosse Association  
EIN27-3695668

Concord Youth Lacrosse Association  
P.O. Box 960  
Concord, NH 03301  
EIN27-3695668

RE: Concord Crush Support for Concord Heights Community Center

To David Gill:

Concord Crush is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation with the goals of developing, promoting, and regulating the sport of lacrosse in the City of Concord for the benefit of local youth lacrosse players. As you know, our focus is teaching the sport of lacrosse to boys and girls, providing teams for spring lacrosse, and sponsoring clinics for youth lacrosse players and coaches that are conducted by qualified instructors.

Concord Crush supports the Concord Heights Community Center (CHCC) initiative because the proposed indoor sports field would provide a central location in Concord for youth lacrosse clinics, and practices. Currently, we must rent space in other indoor field facilities outside of Concord. The proposed fees for use of the sports field at CHCC are commensurate with those we pay to other commercial facilities. We anticipate that our organization, which services between 250-300 local youth lacrosse each year, would consistently rent space at CHCC throughout the year, mainly in the fall, and winter prior to the spring lacrosse season. We would also potentially use classroom space for team, and program organization meetings.

If you have any questions, or would like any further input, please do not hesitate to contact any of our board members.

Sincerely, Scott Daniels  
For, Concord Crush (Concord Youth  
Lacrosse Association) Board of Directors

NHTI, Concord's Community College  
31 College Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
[www.nhti.edu](http://www.nhti.edu)

To: David Gill  
From: Paul Hogan  
Re: Community Center Project  
Date: February 15, 2015

Dear David,

As a private vendor working in the Greater Concord Area, I am writing in support of the Dame School project that has been ongoing for many years. This project offers numerous opportunities for different types of programming and rentals here in Concord at a convenient location.

The expansion to create a collegiate sized gymnasium is an excellent move for local groups wishing to rent the space for events, practices and contests. Here are a few options that would be potential rentals;

- AAU basketball practices and tournaments
- Junior Olympic Volleyball practices and tournaments
- Basketball Showcases
- Summer camps
- Weekend clinics

My summer camp business is Hogan Camps, LLC which operates numerous summer basketball camps in June and July. I would certainly be interested in exploring options for some of the above named potential rental options expanding my camp business to include a facility such as the new Dame school.

Sincerely,

*Paul Hogan*

Paul Hogan  
Director of Athletics  
Professor of Sport Management  
Men's Basketball Coach  
603-230-4041  
[Phogan@ccsnh.edu](mailto:Phogan@ccsnh.edu)

NHTI, Concord's Community College  
31 College Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
[www.nhti.edu](http://www.nhti.edu)

To: David Gill  
From: Paul Hogan  
Re: Community Center Project  
Date: February 17, 2015

Dear David,

I am writing to offer our continued support the renovation project for the Dame School Community Center project that could be utilized year round for the city of Concord. The project adds great value to the Concord and creates a whole new set of options for the local community to enjoy fitness, social opportunities and athletic competition. The renovated facility will be a boom for the every age group with potential usage from morning till late at night.

From our standpoint here at NHTI, we welcome the opportunity for future students to be involved in working or internship positions at the facility. This relationship could be a win-win for our Sports Management students wishing to actively explore and gain experience at a sports facility throughout the year.

NHTI is certainly interested in the indoor space with the soccer training area, multipurpose field and collegiate sized basketball facility. NHTI would like to once again host the USCAA national basketball championships (2005 & 2006) and the potential use of a secondary facility is a "must" for this type of event.

Concord is a terrific small city in need of a facility like the one being proposed. I believe the project is worthwhile and would extend more opportunities for the area population. I fully support the new project. Please keep me in the conversation and let me know how I can help with this terrific development.

Sincerely,

*Paul Hogan*

Paul Hogan  
Director of Athletics  
Professor of Sport Management  
Men's Basketball Coach  
603-230-4041  
[Phogan@ccsnh.edu](mailto:Phogan@ccsnh.edu)



February 26, 2015

I am writing this letter in support of the new Community center planned for the Heights Community Center location at the former Dame School location. I have been a Concord Parks & Recreation volunteer basketball coach since 2004 at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys level and have realized the need for the Recreation Department to have another gym that it "owns". Practices are hard to come by at only 1 hour a week, and practices have been cancelled at the Concord School District gymnasiums for a long list of activities including plays, math nights and also being bumped out because of High School sports. If we have an opportunity to provide the city with one or two more gyms, that would create a better situation for the players signed up for the Recreation Basketball program by increasing the ability to have 2 practices a week and create a place to play games on Saturdays without interfering with school's schedules and security. The new gyms at Abbot-Downing School and Christa McAuliffe School are nice for the players, but there is hardly any seating for the parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, etc. to watch a game. They also do not have much room for a coach to stand and instruct their players.

I still envision the partnership of the School Districts gyms with the Concord Recreation Basketball program for practices, but the additional gym or gyms at the new Heights Community Center would lift the pressure of scheduling practices for all and create an even bigger interest in the wonderful basketball program the Recreation Department has to offer (I know I have stayed coaching in it for over 10 seasons!).

As a resident of Concord, I support the plans for a new Heights Community Center at the old Dame School that includes new gymnasiums.

Sincerely,



Gary Ford  
432 N. State St. #1  
Concord, NH 03301