

## Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee

Draft RPAC Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2016

Attendees:

Councilor Candace White – Bouchard

Councilor Gail Mattson

Mary Miller – Chair

Marilyn Fraser

Christopher Jacques- staff

The meeting was called to order at 5:25 pm

**No quorum was established**

The meeting is informational only

Agenda:

### **1. Monkey Around Playground**

Chris Jacques distributed an assessment report created by the manufacturer of the Monkey Around Playground, Leathers Inc. The report was submitted by Justin Fowler and Marc Leathers after a site visit attended by David Gill, Christopher Jacques and Craig Barrett. Craig Barrett is the Recreation and Parks Certified Playground Inspector and the person most familiar with the ongoing issues with the structure.

Chris Jacques discussed with the group the current condition of the playground structure, which after 21 years is in good condition and has been very well maintained as attested to by the manufacturer. The issues with the structure, failing implements, ones that don't meet the current safety codes and costly repairs or having to remove or shut down certain implements have lead staff and the manufacturer to agree that a makeover/retro fit is possible rather than a complete replacement. The retro fit will approximately \$180,000 for materials. The installation would be done by volunteers or a "community build "as the original structure was installed. Chris reported that the Friends of White Park, who spearheaded the purchase and installation of the current playground, have been informed of the condition of the structure and have been asked to fund raise for half of the anticipated cost. The City would then contribute the other half.

Other options were discussed, such as doing nothing, re-doing the playground in sections or replacing the playground with something other than wood.

It was reported that David Gill would be presenting the Leathers Assessment Report to the City Council in the next few months

**2. Summer Employment Applications**

Staff briefly explained that open summer positions in the Park and Recreation Department are now posted on line. It was also reported that Recreation Staff will be attending several job fairs in local high schools to maximize the department's potential labor pool

**3. Updates on Recreation Events for the weekend of January 23-24, 2016**

Staff reported that there are 2 events scheduled to take place sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department this weekend. On Saturday January 23 the annual Winter Carnival event will take place. On Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> a Family Fun Event will take place at Beaver Meadow Gold Course. Both events will feature Bon-Fires, Skating and other events for the whole family.

**4. Black Ice Update**

Staff reported that the ice is now thick enough to hold the event next weekend, as long as the ice stays at the current thickness, which is about 8". The event starts on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January and ends on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Updates needed for next meeting:**

1. Candace White Bouchard asked for an explanation on how programs are judged for success or failure and what criteria are used when a program is dropped or added.
2. The group asked if Concord Housing Authority will be donating funds for swimming this year
3. Group asked for an update on CIP ideas brought forward when they met with the mayor and Tom Aspell.
4. The group would like an update on language regarding scholarships and their use

The informational session ended at 6:10 pm