

**City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2021 ZOOM Meeting**

**Committee Members:** Chair Mary Miller, Stacey Brown, Jennifer Roff, Chiara Dolcino, Andrew Doyle, Althea Barton City Councilor Nathan Fennessy, City Councilor Candace White Bouchard and Mayor Jim Bouley

**Staff Members:** Parks and Recreation Director, David Gill, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Bryant and City Planner, Heather Shank

Meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Chair Mary Miller

David read the public meeting procedures notice. Stacey mentioned typo in February committee members, Laura will update. Nathan made a motion to accept minutes from February 2021 meeting, second by Mary, approved.

**New Business:**

**Pollinating Gardens**

David shared the departments plans to add pollinating gardens to several parks (Merrill, Keach & Rollins in 2021) and some of the roundabouts in Concord. All areas will also include educational signs. Many RPAC members offered their help as needed. Stacey asked about offering a foraging class as well as a plant giveaway to encourage more residents to plant local species in their gardens. Althea applauded all efforts to increase pollinating habitats.

**Pesticide Free Parks**

David reviewed the parks in Concord that are currently pesticide free. The hope for the department is to be able to move to all organic treatments in the future. David also discussed there may be a need in the future to have limited pesticides in some of these parks to remove invasive species We would hire a licensed vendor when that is needed. Candace asked about the ballfields at the pesticide free parks and how the turf is holding up. David explained that the fields don't look as good as some others but also with the lack of irrigation the use of pesticides wouldn't be very successful. Heather mentioned she is working with a firm on a restoration project and is doing a wonderful job managing the invasive species. She will send the contact information to David. Nathan asked about how we will communicate to residents if in fact we do need to use a pesticide at a previously pesticide free park. David explained what vendors are required to post information. Mary enforced the need to make sure all pesticide use is posted.

**Spring Programs**

Laura gave an update on spring programming. Registration numbers are the best they have been since Covid began. This increase in participation is for all ages (youth and adult classes) We are excited to see the continued growth.

**Planning for summer and unknowns**

Laura explained the guidelines for camp are the same as last year and in some areas a little more flexible so in addition to offering the traditional days camps, we will also be bringing back several specialty camps such as

soccer, basketball, Concord TV and Circuit Lab. Unfortunately, we still won't be able to offer trips however we are working on a plan to be able to bring outside entertainment to camp.

As far as pools are concerned it is definitely a work in progress. We are currently advertising the lifeguard position to recruit as many staff as possible. We have arranged to manage all required training in house so if we are able to hire enough staff we are hopeful we will have a successful pool season.

David gave a brief update about July 4<sup>th</sup>. He let RPAC know we have until late April to notify Atlas (fireworks vendor) as to whether or not we will hold the event. Nathan asked about setting the fireworks off from a different location that wouldn't necessarily draw a large group to one place. David stated he does not have another approved location at this time.

### **CIP Updates**

David gave an update on the current projects. Fundraising for the groomer at BMGC is at approximately \$8000.00 the group spearheading the effort is hoping to make the purchase for next year. The goal is still to have the fundraising completed by August.

The MGWT phase 2 design is underway and we are still waiting to hear about the LWCF grant request. The hope is to have a completed the phase 2 design by December with construction starting spring of 2022.

Monkey Around Playground design is complete, the design was completed by Playground by Leathers. The Friends of White Park have updated their website and will begin to collect donations. Cost of the playground is roughly \$700,000. FOWP plan to ask council if the City of Concord NH is still willing to pay half. Mary asked about playground inspections and safety. David explained the playground is inspected and repairs are made whenever necessary.

Mary asked about any feedback we have received after moving the dog park. David shared that all feedback has been positive and the addition to the lights has been huge in adding to the perceived safety of the environment. Some of the dog owners still do not pick up and remove their dogs waste.

### **Additional comments**

Mayor Bouley asked the group about adding a Disc Golf course. He had been approached by a group interested in having a Disc Golf course in Concord. Mary suggested they get on the agenda for RPAC and make a presentation. Nathan asked about what type of area they are looking for. The Mayor indicated they would be looking for a wooded area.

Jennifer Roff asked about plans for the skate park. David acknowledge that the park is 20+ years old and use has certainly increased over the past years and the out years of CIP includes new skate board park.

Althea gave an update about MRGT asked for a letter of support from the Penacook Historical Society to apply for a 1-million-dollar grant

Candace made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:46pm, seconded by Mary, passed.

Summited by Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Laura Bryant