

**City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2022 5:30pm**

**Committee Members:** Althea Barton, Chiara Dolcino, Chair Mary Miller, City Councilor Nathan Fennessy, Nick Kotkowski, Andrew Doyle, Jennifer Roff and Zoey Murphy

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:36pm by Chair Mary Miller

Minutes approved as written from the May 2022 meeting.

**New Business:**

**Summer Camp and Pool Overview:** Laura gave an update on summer camps and pools. She shared with the group that there were 1046 participants in summer camps and 464 participants in swim lessons this summer. More than half of all camp weeks were full. Group asked about getting people off the waitlist and how to accommodate more kids in camp. There was a brief discussion about staff and ability to get busses to accommodate more participants. Parks & Recreation staff will look into more ways to accommodate additional kids into camp.

**Fall Program Overview:** Laura provided a summary of fall sports numbers over the past 4 years including 2019 the year before Covid. Overall participant numbers are higher than those prior to Covid. There was a decrease in the Div. 3 soccer numbers as Rundlett offered 6<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to play soccer for the first time this fall. This was a significant lose to that division.

**Department Fundraising/Donation Update:** David gave an update on the departments fundraising efforts, year to date the department has collected \$39,245 for various events and programs. As for fundraising the department is actively working with several groups including Friends of White Park and Ski the Beav for upcoming Park projects.

**City Council New Rental Rates at CWCC and WSWH:** David made the group aware that City Council reduced the rental rates for the City-Wide Community Center and West Street Ward House. Since the decrease on September 1, 2022 we have seen a slight increase in rentals mostly at the CWCC. Nate spoke about the fee reduction specifically for CWCC and how council sees the value in having the building be accessible to all.

**Groomer Update:** The groomer has been purchased and is being stored at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course. Staff is looking forward to the season, we are just waiting on snow!

**LWCF Grants:** City will be applying for two separate grants. One for the new riverfront park in Penacook (\$500,000) and another for the new playground at White Park (\$400,000). Awards will be announced summer 2023 and grants require 1 to 1 match. The state will inspect both projects and we will be notified in the Spring if we receive the grants.

**Winter Brochure:** The winter 2022/2023 brochure is now available. This brochure features both pre-season and regular season basketball, ice skating lessons, XC skiing league, art classes, cooking classes and much more. We are looking forward to a busy winter.

- **CIP Updates:** David reviewed the following information with the group.

FY23 Funded CIP updates

- Rollins LED court light upgrades – PO Issued – work completed by end of October
- Rolfe Park Court light upgrades - PO Issued – work completed by end of October
- White Park Maintenance Building repairs - PO issued, work by summer 2023
- White Park Pool – Splash Pad – work is underway – completed June 2023
- Keach Park Mini Pitch - PO will be issued end of month – completed June 2023
- Condition study of buildings at Blossom Hill – PO will be issued end of October
- Paving select roads at Blossom Hill - TBA
- New mower (cemetery) and small multi use tractor (parks) - TBA
- Kiwanis Park/Recreation Corridor Visioning – PO will be issued end of October
- New Penacook Riverfront Park – PO issued, first public meeting was earlier this summer, follow up public meeting this winter.

#### **Additional comments:**

Nate spoke briefly about the 93-expansion project. He expressed the state is willing to work with the City of Concord NH to develop access. Design is to be finalized in the next 2 years.

David shared with the group a request he received to place a plaque on a tree that was donated back in 2006 in White Park. RPAC voted to continue to not allow plaques or name plates on trees. Motion by Chiara, seconded Althea, passed.

Heather shared with the group about a discussion had by the TOC in regards to speedbumps on Portsmouth Street. Chiara suggested we add it to next months agenda to discuss and Mary offered to speak to her neighbors. Nate suggested an art contest at BGS to design a mural for the street.

Mary asked about getting the gate at the dog park fixed. She said the SPCA is doing a good job maintaining the park. She also asked about the Merrill Tennis courts being repaired, David let her know that is a CIP for next year.

Chiara made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:45pm, seconded by Nate, passed.

Summited by Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Laura S. Bryant