

**City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes from January 12, 2023 5:30pm**

**Committee Members:** Chair Mary Miller, City Councilor Nathan Fennessy, City Councilor Candace Bouchard, Marilyn Fraser, Nick Kotkowski, Jennifer Roff and Zoey Murphy

**Staff Members:** David Gill, Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Bryant, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director and Heather Shank, City Planner, Tom Aspell, City Manager and Jim Bouley, Mayor.

Meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Chair Mary Miller

Minutes approved as written from the October 2022 meeting. Mary welcomed City Manager Tom Aspell and Mayor Jim Bouley to the meeting.

**New Business:**

**White Park Pond Restoration Options:** David reviewed the White Park Pond restoration project. Red area on map is where the hydro rake was scheduled to clean up however was stalled by the lotus planned growth. VHB has been hired to evaluate the best way to clean up the pond and control the lotus plant. VHB has presented 2 options for this process. Option 1 Dry dredge and restoration activity would be 2 phases. First a full dredge and then a restoration/monitoring program for up to 5 years. This option costs between 260-765K. Option 2 would also be 2 phases the would-be hydro raking and then restoration activity. This option costs between 150-592K. Both phases would require the pond to be closed for at least 2 months and would use a floating wetland system for restoration. Jenifer asked about what the floating wetland system, the system provides nutrients to prevent invasive species. Tom asked 1. Do we want to spend the money, 2. How do we control the impact on Park use? Tom also added doing nothing would result in the loss of the pond. Marilyn motioned to save the pond by way of full dredge in the spring if approved by council, seconded by Jennifer, passed.

**CIP 60 Kiwanis Park and Visioning of the new Merrimack River Recreation Corridor:** Public meeting about the project will be held Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>, we are expecting a large crowd. Candace asked for an update on the skateboard group. David shared that they are now a 5013c and are working on developing a plan for a 30,000 sq. foot park. They are actively looking for grants and have hosted several fundraisers to reach this goal. Marilyn asked if the group could come give an update on their progress, David let the RPAC know he will invite the skateboard group will be at the February meeting.

**New Penacook Library and Community Center in Penacook:** David let RPAC know City Council approved a new satellite library and community center space attached to the Boys and Girls club in Penacook. Building will not be open for a year or two. David will update the committee as things move forward.

**Summer staffing update:** Laura updated the group to let them know we are currently working on increasing the rates for summer staff and will advertise the positions in early February. Have begun to reach out to last years staff about returning. We will reimburse certifications this year but staff will need to take the lifeguard, WSI or CPR courses on their own. Mayor Jim Bouley asked about pay rates, a short discussion was had about what is reasonable pay for summer staff.

**2022 Year in Review:** The member of RPAC received a copy of the 2022 Concord Parks & Recreation Year in Review. The department had another great year, a copy of the report is available on the Parks & Rec website [www.concordparksandrec.com](http://www.concordparksandrec.com)

**Additional comments:**

Jim asked Heather to share her idea for Loudon Rd. Heathers concept includes having business closer to the road and incorporating outdoor spaces amongst the stores to create a more downtown like feel. She mentioned although they are private businesses maybe through the new zoning she is working on the city would be able to encourage re development in the area.

Mayor Jim Bouley spoke about the declining conditions of playing fields at Memorial Field and that Concord School District would like to work with the City of Concord NH to fix the fields, track and bleachers.

RPAC had a brief discussion about adding lights to the fields at Keach Park as there is new interest in adding them to the park. There is concern of the fields being over used if lights were to be added as well as the cost of adding lights. RPAC asked if David could ask if the Change for Concord new leader would be able to come talk with the committee. David indicated he will follow up them.

Mary made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:50pm, seconded by Candace, passed.

Summited by Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Laura S. Bryant