

**City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2023 5:30pm**

**Committee Members:** Chair Mary Miller, City Councilor Candace Bouchard, Robert Kleiner, Chiara Dolcino, Jennifer Roff, Nick Kotkowski, Marilyn Fraser, Cuong Ngo and Zoey Murphy.

**Staff Members:** David Gill, Parks & Recreation Director and Laura Bryant, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

**Guests:** Meredith Cooley, Fisto Ndayishimiye, Susan Woods, Jonathan Smith

Meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Chair Mary Miller

Minutes approved as written from the July 2023 meeting (no meetings in August or September 2023).

**New Business:**

**Bike Park Update** David has met with the group and they have narrowed down 2 locations in Concord that would work for them. The first is at Rollins Park and the second is at Russell Martin Park, both in the South End. Russell Martin Park provides more space and opportunity for growth in addition to using an underutilized area of the park. The cost of the park is roughly 200k and the group is willing to fund raise. RPAC members asked who will chose the final locations. David indicated he feels the neighborhood input will help with choosing the final location. David will schedule a follow up with the group organizers.

**Ski the Beav:** City Council had referred the Ski the Beav group to come to back to RPAC to continue the efforts of their 3 phased approach to improving XC skiing at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course. After purchasing the snow rabbit (groomer) last year the group is ready to move ahead with phase 2 (snow making) and phase 3 (lights). They asked for RPAC's support in moving forward with a meeting between the advisory groups to explore these efforts. Chiara motioned to support said meeting, seconded by Mary, passed.

**Gaga Pit at Fletcher Murphy Park:** David was contacted by the church across from Fletcher Murphy park about donating a gaga pit. The church will cover all costs and Parks & Recreation staff is willing and able to build the gaga pit. David asked for RPAC's support in moving forward with this project. Candace made a motion supporting the project, seconded by Chiara, passed.

**Granite Seating Request from Friends of White Park:** Jonathan Smith from Friends of White Park presented the idea of creating amphitheater type seating at the Merrimack Lodge. In addition, they would also like to have 1 extra-large Adirondack chair placed in the park as well as some normal sized chairs. RPAC discussed the seating options. While many agreed about the granite seating by the lodge, they asked for more details about the chairs and how they could be secured. David asked for RPAC's support in further researching seating options and looking into finding granite pieces to use in the amphitheater. Mary motioned to support exploring more seating options Rob seconded, passed.

**Project Story:** postponed until November

**CIP Updates:** David reviewed the following CIP's; all CIP information will be online on departments web site shortly.

- CIP #51 White Park: Pond Restoration and new playground. Staff will be going back to council in December for final decision on next steps for the pond; mechanical harvest, chemical spray or full dredge.
- CIP #52 Keach Park: Community meetings per approved CIP, design for athletic field lights on one soccer field. PO will be open end of month and planning will begin
- CIP #60 Kiwanis Park: Final design and permitting of new master plan
- CIP #528 Pocket Parks: Thompson Park – tree work is complete, new entrance will be done in the spring followed by a rededication.
- CIP #543 Merrimack River Greenway Trail: Phase 2 has been approved
- CIP #557 Memorial Field: Conditions study and master plan process, first meeting went smoothly. Once the contractor’s comeback with a scope of the project additional meetings will be scheduled.
- CIP #558 Cemetery Improvements: Paving, building condition report and wall repairs. Paving is schedule to begin this month, waiting on building reports hoping to have them by the end of the year. Wall repairs will begin in spring 2024.

**Old Business:**

**Disc Golf Course:** David hasn’t heard back from this group since they came to RPAC a year and a half ago.

**Review of lower rental rates at CWCC:** September will be 1 year since the lower rates went into effect. We have seen a significant increase in user groups and overall rentals and David will provide update at a future meeting.

**Goodbye to Marilyn:** Mary along with the rest of the RPAC members thanked Marilyn for her dedication and devotion to RPAC over the last 20 years.

**Public Input:** Meredith Cooley asked about the policy for obtaining insurance while renting at the City-Wide Community Center. David shared with her while private citizens can sign the indemnification, all organized groups are required to provide insurance. Meredith also shared that she thought the cost of renting the auditorium was still too high for residents especially if insurance is needed.

Fisto made a request that when Parks & Recreation rents parks for special events the city should provide all additional Porto potty (if size of event requires more) and access to water with those rentals. Fisto also asked about Second Start receiving free space at the City-Wide Community Center and why Project Story doesn’t get free space. David stated he has not seen any written request from Project Story regarding space needs or asking for free space.

Fisto also inquired about the placement of the lights at Keach Park. Both Fisto and Meredith were under the impression the entire park would have lights. Candace pulled up the information on the Park CIP as approved by council during the FY24 budget process and read it to the group which states one soccer field will be lit. David explained to Fisto if he now wants to request the entire park needs to be lit he should do so in writing to City Council before we begin the process of public meetings and final design/permitting. Fisto said he was ok proceeding with the one field and would follow up as that is different from what he was promised.

Candace made a motion to adjourn meeting at 7:16pm, seconded by Mary, passed.

Summited by Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Laura S. Bryant