

City of Concord, NH
Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2025 5:30pm

Committee Members: Althea Barton (Ward 1), Robert Kleiner (Ward 2), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), Sarah Beauregard (Ward 4), Nick Kotkowski (Ward 6) Brian Sartorelli (Ward 7), Paula Bowers (Ward 8), Chair Mary Miller (Ward 10), Councilor Nate Fennessy and Kenny Edwards (Merrimack Valley School District)

Absent: Barb Higgins (Concord School District), Zoey Murphy (Ward 5), Councilor Michele Horne

Staff Members: Laura Bryant, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, Anne Marie Skinner, City Planner

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

Minutes approved as written from the January 2025 meeting.

New Business:

Concord Baseball Association Request for signage at Memorial Field: Laura shared the email she received that was forwarded from Councilor Nate Fennessy from Curtis Barry of Concord Baseball Association. Curtis is requesting to install signs at Memorial Field recognizing the work the Association did to purchase and install permanent seating at the baseball field. After some discussion RPAC was in favor of the signs but thought they should detail the exact projects as well as the time so there won't be in confusion going forward with the redesign of Memorial Field. It was also suggested the signs be free standing to affixed to any building, Althea recommended the signs also be reviewed by the City of Concord NH sign committee. Mary made motion to approved signage with suggested changes (details about specific projects and time line) and approval from the City of Concord NH sign committee. Sarah seconded, unanimously approved.

Council Referral for modification of easement located at #31 and #33 Samuel Drive: Anne Marie gave an overview of the area and the cause for moving the easement, which is protestors are using the area to protest certain projects that Steve Duprey's company is working one. The easement is for public access to trails as well as utilities. Althea shared that planning board also received the referral and suggested reducing eth easement from 35ft to 10ft, approval of that is pending. After some more discussion RPAC decided it wasn't within their scope to weigh in. Nate made a motion that RPAC takes no position. Mary seconded, unanimously approved.

Dogs in Cemeteries and Parks: Laura reviewed that dogs are currently permitted in parks and cemeteries but are required to be on a leash and owners are to pick up after their pets. RPAC has a lengthy discussion about the issue of enforcement and how it is very difficult. There was also discussion of installing dog waste stations to help reduce the amount of dog waste bags thrown into trash cans. Laura let RPAC know that staff would look into dog waste station costs.

Spring Brochure: Laura passed out the new Spring Brochure and highlighted some of the new programs such as music classes with Eric Lindberg and Yoga with Jason Lavallee. She also touched on the camp sign up date of March 3rd. Brian and Sarah both commented on how quickly the camps fill up. Brian asked why we don't increase the size. Laura let Brian know the camp size is actually increasing this year but we need to maintain a safe number should all campers need to be inside due to inclement weather. Laura also spoke to making sure the camp maintains its integrity and manageability.

Hiring needs for summer: Laura shared with RPAC that all seasonal positions are posted online and interviews will begin after February break. Once again, we are looking to hire camp counselors, Splash Pad Attendants, Lifeguards, WSI's and Laborers.

Mary asked about the SPARC program and reported she had heard good things. Laura shared that the program was going very well. The "teen time" has been growing over the last few weeks and seem to be a hit. The SPARC staff has been amazing.

Althea asked about the safety meeting for Rolfe Park, she is interested to hear when it will be.

Nate brought up the complaints he has been receiving about White Park Pond being closed for the season. Laura had also received the complaints and explained after the last storm was a holiday, there is 4+ inches on the pond and it isn't safe to put equipment out there. Laura did let RPAC know that the rink at White Park as well as the Rollins Skating area are still being maintained. Mary shared that she had seen staff out there diligently prior to Black Ice and was very happy with skating season this year.

Motion was made by Mary to end the meeting at 6:11 pm and seconded by Rob and approved.

Next RPAC meeting will be held Thursday March 20, 2025

Submitted by Laura S Bryant