

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2010

Meeting was held at H.L. Turner Office at 27 Locke Road in Concord.

Attendees:

Committee Members: Mary Miller, John Mercier, Glenn Mathews, Liz Odell, Candace White Bouchard and Amada Grady.

Staff Members: David Gill, Karen Billings, Doug Woodward, Chris Jacques and Matt Walsh

Guests: Community Center Design Team: Bill Hickey, Jerry Blanchette, Jay Doherty and Ken Ballard

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by RPAC Chair, Mary Miller

CIP Update:

Chris Jacques gave an update on the park CIP projects that are funded in this year's budget.

CIP 51 White Park: \$48,848. Pathways on south side of park have been replaced, new Hockey Boards at Rink have been ordered and should be replace by end of October as will the new pavement around the admin building.

CIP 56 Rollins Park: \$31,847 The 2 Bay Storage Building next to the pool will be removed anytime and there are funds to replace building.

CIP 58 Memorial Field: \$35,000. Work has begun on the new infield, new bleachers and new dugouts for Softball A Field. This includes moving the electrical panel inside one of the dugouts. Chris and David indicated they have received a \$5,000 from the Concord High School Booster Club to help offset the city expense. The school district has also agreed to have their students build the dugouts over the winter.

CIP 360 Kimball Park: \$10,000 Basketball court has been sealed next to the Boys and Girls Club.

Chris reported all projects should be completed by end of calendar year.

Community Center Design Review

David Gill introduced Matt Walsh who is in charge of the Community Center Planning. Matt also introduced the team: From H.L. Turner Group: Bill Hickey, Jay Doherty and Jerry Blanchette and Ken Ballard from Ballard and King.

Bill Hickey and Jay Doherty introduced themselves and gave a highlight of the proposed plan:

Orange is the non sports side of the building/passive areas and is mostly re-use of the exiting building.

Blue is the sports/active side of the building and is mostly new construction

This is a 1% concept drawing

They highlighted each section of the building:

“Active” areas include: 2-3 gyms, indoor turf field, aerobics room and indoor walking track

“Passive” areas include: Senior lounge, 2 pre-school rooms and 6 to 7 community rooms, large function hall with full kitchen, open entrance area and small vending area.

This building is consistent with the 2003/04 Heights Community Center Findings.

Bill reviewed the list of potential partners who have met with the design team and no group has indicated having a problem with the plan. In fact, most are excited and indicated they can see themselves a potential partner and/or users of this facility.

The following groups have had meetings with the design team: Centennial Senior Center, NHTI, Center Health Promotions, Concord Family YMCA, Girls Inc, Penacook Community Center, East Concord Pre-school, Concord Capitals Football League, Concord Boys and Girls Club, Express Soccer Club, Vipers Football League, Shaker Road Elementary School, Concord Christian School and Concord Lacrosse League.

Bill also has indicated several of the groups have already had private meetings with either City Staff or the design team.

Ken Ballard talked about the desire from the City Council to have this facility pay its operating costs.. There will be a need to have two or three main renters in the passive side while the City runs the majority of the leagues, aerobics classes and clinics on the active side. Also, needed are groups who could rent the active side during the traditional slow times i.e. during the school day.

Glenn talked about the importance of making sure all youth will be able to use the center no matter their background or income levels. David agreed and mentioned the City will need to continue to reach out for scholarships donations to help support families in need.

Ken indicates the “wow” factor and one of the main revenue sources of this facility will be the indoor turf field which will support all age groups and all sports (soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey etc). There is also a walking/running track around the outside of field. RPAC members indicated there was no need to have stadium seating for 250 people in the turf section and asked if this could be smaller. Bill and Jay agreed

Mary and Candace asked what the time line, costs and next steps are. Highlights are:

- The School District has indicated they will be leaving the building during the summer of 2012.
- The City will need to talk with the school district about the possible re-use of the Dame School property. Either for the community center site or for parkland. Early thoughts are to schedule a public forum at Dame School with the School District in late October.
- Ken should have the business plan completed mid November.
- Develop final cost estimates for building construction.
- Develop options for the possible re-use the existing community centers.
- Final report is due to City Council in December or January.
- Continue to build partnerships with agencies that will support and compliment the mission of a new multi generational community center.

Matt indicated all RPAC members will be invited when the Community Forum is scheduled with the School District – sometime in late October.

All RPAC members indicated they liked the plan and feel it is long overdue

Pond Hockey Tournament at White Park

David gave an update on a new group who will be working with the City to sponsor a pond hockey tournament this winter at White Park. At the City Council meeting this week, Council agreed to allow the event to take place at White Park and Rollins Park if needed. The event is scheduled to take place the last weekend in January (1/28 – 30/2011) with the majority of the proceeds coming back to support city outdoor skating areas. The event will be held on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Everyone indicated they are excited about this event. Glen asked if this would mean the City can bring Skating back to Rollins Park – David indicated yes. This event could attract up to 60 teams from all over New England. Amanda also pointed out the weekend before is the annual winter carnival. Mary asked that David keeps the group updated as the planning proceeds and he agreed.