

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2010

Attendees:

Committee Members: Mary Miller, John Mercier, Glenn Mathews, Liz Odell, Lauren Fielder, Chiara Dolcino and City Councilor Amada Grady.

Staff Members: David Gill, Doug Woodward, Chris Jacques and Phil Bilodeau

Guests: City Councilor Keith Nyhan, Concord Crush Lacrosse League: Rick Fredrikson, Scott Daniels, Steve Duprey and Concord Lacrosse League: Darren Permo and Melissa.

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

Minutes from the Sept 16 meeting were approved. It was noted we did not have a formal meeting in October as RPAC members had been asked to go to the Community Center Forum at Dame School in October.

1. Lacrosse League request:

David Gill presented an overview:

This summer the Recreation Department was approached by a group of concerned parents indicating they were going to create a new non profit lacrosse league in Concord. Mary Miller and David meet the new league and the current league in the early fall to see if there are ways to have the two groups work as one league. At that time both leagues indicated they could not work together.

City Council received a letter at their October meeting from the new league asking to work out an agreement to partner with the Recreation Department with the new non profit league. David and Mary asked both leagues to come tonight to be able to answer any questions members have.

Mary Miller asked each league to review their league.

Steve Duprey highlighted why they are forming a new league:

- They feel a non profit organization is best for youth sports and is very transparent
- Increases the ability to raise money to support leagues efforts
- Board of Directors helps with communication and understanding
- This league will have a clear written scholarship process.
- They would like to work with the City Of Concord for new and better fields that can also be used by the community during summer and fall (non lacrosse times).
- Steve also praised Darren for running a great program over the years and stated he coached and his boys played under Darren. He indicated they would like to have Darren's league come into this league and it would just improve what Darren created.

Darren Permo highlighted his league that has been in Concord for the past 20 plus years.

- He is currently set up as a for profit league. The City of Concord does not price fields out based on profit vs. non profit status. Thus he create a for profit organization.
- His experience is Board of Directors come and go and he is the one that helps keep Concord Club Lacrosse going.

- All kids currently play no matter if they can afford or not. He indicated he never turns kids away due to financial hardship.
- He would also like to work with the city to improve fields and maybe have city recreation department handle registrations.

Councilor Keith Nyhan asked why both leagues can't come together. It is what's best for the kids, non profit organization makes sense to him and working with the city to improve fields is also good. He indicated he would like to see one non profit league working together.

Andrea asked to have all rules in writing from both leagues and that it would seem good to combine the strengths of both leagues and form one.

Chiara talked about what she feels should be guiding principals' to consider:

- In favor of tighter partnerships with the City of Concord
- Could increase number of kids playing and being active
- Lower league fees are good
- More transparency is good
- More involvement by parents and community is good.
- Everyone has a chance to play.

After much discussion from both leagues Mary Miller asked if they could meet again and see if they can agree to work together. Both leagues agreed to meet again and Keith Nyhan offered to help mediate the meeting if needed.

RPAC members decide they cannot make a recommendation at this time about partnering with the new Lacrosse League since both leagues have agreed to talk again. The committee agreed to meet again before the December meeting if the leagues worked out their differences.

2. Donations Needed

David Gill highlighted the status of donations that are needed for the next several months:

- Ice Maintenance Fund; Goal \$4,250, received \$1,500
- Skate House Fun: Goal \$2,500, received \$1,000
- July 4 Celebration: Goal \$13,000, received \$7,700
- Scholarships: Goal \$30,000, received \$7,500

3. Ice Skating at Rollins Park.

General Service's staff will be finishing up the skating area at Rollins Park this month. This skating area was funded entirely by the Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament (www.blackicepondhockey.com).

4. Review and agreed to the following meeting days:

Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mach 17, April 21 and May 19. Meetings will be held at 5 pm at the COMF (unless noted otherwise)

5. Mary Miller and David reminded members we are looking for members from Ward 5, 8 and 9. David will reach out to the City Councilors.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

David Gill