

City of Concord, NH Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2025 5:30pm

Committee Members: Althea Barton (Ward 1), Robert Kleiner (Ward 2), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), Sarah Beauregard (Ward 4), Zoey Murphy (Ward 5), Nick Kotkowski (Ward 6), Brian Sartorelli (Ward 7), Paula Bowers (Ward 8), Deodonne Bhattarai (Ward 9), Chair Mary Miller (Ward 10), Kenny Edwards (Merrimack Valley School District), Barb Higgins (Concord School District).

Absent: Councilor Michele Horne, Councilor Nate Fennessy and Anne Marie Skinner, City Planner

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Mary Miller

Minutes approved as written from the March 2025 meeting.

Althea and Mary recognize RPAC's new member, Ward 9 rep Deodonne Bhattarai and introductions were made.

New Business:

City Council Referral regarding Beaver Meadow Golf Course: Mary addressed RPAC stating she thought the referral was out of RPAC's scope. Althea asked David to review the history of BMGC and the Parks & Recreation Department. David explained how the golf course operates as a special revenue fund and is responsible for covering all its cost. He also reminded members approx. 6 years ago the golf course was under the department but isn't currently, other than Parks & Recreation handles the winter activities such as XC skiing and pond maintenance for ice skating. Althea questioned the transparency of the Golf Course finance, David said he thought they were transparent just like all city departments additionally being under Parks & Recreation would not change the way the budget is managed. Guest Mark Cohen thanked RPAC for all their thoughtful conversation and their great work for the community. Is one of the best committees and it has a member from each City Ward. He also agreed with their determination that the referral was not something they consider.

Review Pending CIP Projects: David highlighted the upcoming larger CIP Parks and Recreation projects (over \$500,000) and their status. He noted these are just the larger ones that have been talked about for past couple of years and does not include the regular smaller CIP projects to support existing parks, cemeteries and maintenance equipment. First two projects are shovel ready as they are fully designed and permitted, while the third one is currently in final design/permitting.

- A. Terrill Park – *fully designed and permitted*: \$5 - \$8 million. 10 years ago, the city began working with Concord Crush Lacrosse and others to find a location for a turf field, in 2014 +/- the city council agreed and Phase 1 of moving the dog park began. Permits are valid for another 2 years.
- B. White Park Pond Restoration - *fully design and permitted*. Working estimate is: \$500,000 - \$1 million. This project is to remove the lotus plant and clean up the pond. Last pond restoration project was in the 1980s and like all man-made ponds will fill in without regular clean out. Mary asked about how it has been maintained year to year. For the last several years, we cut back the growth but it is costly roughly \$30,000.00 per year.

- C. Kiwanis Riverfront Park – *currently in final design and permitting*: \$8 – \$10 million
 - a. Skate Park Construction: Received \$500,000 LWCF Grant, group raising the match (\$500,000)
- D. Memorial Field Complex – Draft Master Plan – project cost up to \$28.5 million. There is currently a sub-committee of city and school district staff/ board members working to move the project forward. In FY 27 there is \$1.5 million for design and permitting of phase 1. After this year the track will no longer be in use due to safety concerns, additionally the main bleachers are in very poor shape.
- E. Blossom Cemetery Buildings – in process of being addressed. \$5 million +/- In the FY 26 budget there is \$250,000.00 to renovate staff area and shop.
- F. City Wide Community Center: Expanded the Canterbury Road parking lot to support operations at the Center and of Keach Park: Construction cost estimated at \$1.5 - 2 million. Nearly every weekend and several days/evenings a week the parking lot at the community center is at capacity.
- G. Buy new park and cemetery land – unknown cost. Ward 2 does not have public park with lots of new housing being built. Ward 8 has Terrill Park (undeveloped) and Kiwanis Park also mostly underdeveloped. A lot of new housing being planned and built in Ward 8 with no new park land. The current cemetery space is projected to be enough for the next 25 years. Ideally, we need another 15 to 20 acres for a future cemetery location. Unfortunately, cemetery and park land often have the same qualities as land good for building.
- H. Playgrounds replacement - next 4 - 6 years: (Reed Park, West Street Playlot, Fletcher/Murphy, Thompson, Rollins, Keach, Merrill, Rolfe, Garrison and Kimball) - \$300,000 - \$500,000+ per playground. Mary asked about regular inspections. David let RPAC know that all playgrounds are inspected monthly.
- I. Pool Renovations (Garrison and Rollins): \$600,000 – \$900,000 per pool. This CIP coordinated by the General Services Department.
- J. Install irrigation at Rolfe and Rollins Park: cost TBA. Keach Park was the first to have irrigation installed in 2004. Only other park with irrigation is White Park.

FY 26 Budget Overview: Public hearing from Parks & Recreation operating budget and CIP's is on Thursday May 22, 2025. All are welcome to attend and speak as an individual resident, meeting starts at 5:30 pm at City Council Chambers.

Zoey asked about clothing recycle bins as discussed at previous meeting, David said he hasn't heard anything yet.

Mary asked about the youth scholarship meeting David and Laura has with RPAC members Sarah and Brian. David shared we did have a meeting and the takeaway was making sure the public clearly understands who is eligible. Mary offered to help make connections with the schools. Sarah shared about somehow allowing scholarship requests online so parents don't always have to come in.

Motion was made by Mary to end the meeting at 6:35pm, seconded by Althea and approved.

Next RPAC meeting TBD as Thursday June 19th is a city holiday. Submitted by Laura S Bryant