

**City of Concord, NH Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2025 5:30pm DRAFT**

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

Absent: City Councilor Nate Fennessy, City Councilor Michele Horne, Brian Sartorelli (Ward 7), Zoey Murphy (Ward 5)

Staff Members: David Gill,

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Mary Miller, minutes from June 2025 approved.

New Business:

Aquatic Operations Review: David gave an update on City Councils request to have RPAC review the City Pool Operations. He distributed a survey for committee members to review, the survey will be sent to other NH Communities who operate outdoor pools. One question added: Do you feel the number of municipal pools is adequate to serve your community? David indicated the survey will go out at the end of the pool season and will report back by the October meeting.

Keach Park Athletic Field Light CIP Update: David informed the committee the FAA responded and have no issues with the project. David is in the process on issuing all the purchase orders for the project. Work will begin after the fall soccer season and lights will be functional late spring 2026. David also reminded the group no additional operating costs associated with the project was included in the FY26 budget. Nick asked David what will the projected new operating expenses be and is City Council aware of the new annual expenses. David indicated projected operating expenses will be around \$14,000 a year and City Council is aware of this new expense as it was included in his report on the project. David reminded the committee this might be a low number as it all depends how the grass field responds to the additional usage and the actual cost of operating the athletic field lights 7 days a week.

Trash Cans in City Parks: David informed the committee he removed the two trash cans at Keach as the cans were overflowing almost daily and included household trash. Prior to removal parks staff taped a poster on the cans asking parks users to take trash home if can is full. However, had no effect on the amount of trash. Mary asked what other parks do not have trash cans. David indicated for at least the past five years only Rollins, White, Keach and Rolfe Parks have had a limited number of trash cans, all other parks have signs “the park is carry in/out and have no trash cans”. He indicated they have had no trash issues at the parks without trash cans.

White Park Playground Project: The project is scheduled to start mid-July and should be finished late September. Everyone was excited after 10+ years of planning and fundraising this project will actually happen.

David also reminded the committee the department is working with Skate Board Park group to raise the match required for the LWCF grant and SkiTheBeav to have snow making at the Beaver Meadow Golf Course this winter.

Barb indicated she thought would be a good idea if the committee was invited to a School Boards Community Relations Committee meeting. Barb indicated until she was on RPAC that she was not aware of the work of RPAC nor the full scope of the duties under the Parks and Recreation Department and feels it is important to educate the School Board. Overall RPAC members were supportive of request as long as there clear understanding on what information should be presented.

Motion was made by Mary to end the meeting at 6:30pm, seconded by Jim and approved.

Next RPAC meeting scheduled for Thursday September 18th at 5:30pm.

Submitted by David Gill, Director