

City of Concord, NH Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2025 5:30pm DRAFT

Committee Members: Althea Barton (Ward 1), Robert Kleiner (Ward 2), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), Sarah Beauregard (Ward 4), Deodonne Bhattarai (Ward 9), Kenny Edwards (Merrimack Valley School District), Barb Higgins (Concord School District), City Councilor Nate Fennessy, City Councilor Michele Horne, Brian Sartorelli (Ward 7), and Zoey Murphy (Ward 5)

Absent: Mary Miller, Chair (Ward 10), Nick Kotkowski (Ward 6),

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Acting Chair Althea Barton, minutes from July 2025 approved (no meeting in August).

New Business:

Bike Park Update: David introduced Greg and Andy, who spoke about a meeting that was held earlier in the week on Tuesday September 16th. Andy and Greg shared the maps they had put together outlining how the bike park would fit into Martin Park. The proposed plan was well received at the meeting on the 16th. Councilor Nate Fennessy asked about the existing trails if they were for walking or biking. They are walking trails however kids are already using them for biking and have built jumps in the past. Councilor Michele Horne asked about natural vs. manmade elements being used in the park. Greg indicated it would be a combination of both. Brian asked about ongoing maintenance. Andy and David Gill both let RPAC know that the majority of the ongoing maintenance would be handle by trained volunteers. Greg also shared that a coach from the Rundlett bike program attended the meeting and was very excited to have an official bike park to use for their program. Deodonne asked if all abutters were aware of the project and supportive. David indicated abutter notification letters were sent out a week prior to the meeting, was posted on social media, city's web site and included in the city managers weekly newsletter. However, David indicated he read an email just prior to meeting from one of the abutters who indicated they just received their meeting invite (two days after the meeting). He will follow up with them. Althea asked about visibility from the parking lot. RPAC also asked about parking and if what is currently there would be adequate. Greg said yes, they expect the majority of use would be community and many would ride their bikes to the park. Sarah made a motion to accept the bike park concept at Martin Park, seconded by Brian, approved.

Request to Install AED at Beaver Meadow Park Pickleball/Tennis Courts: Councilor Jeff Foote came to speak on behalf of his constituents who had asked for an AED to be installed. Over the summer there were 2 incidents one resulting in a death at the Pickleball courts at Beaver Meadow and Rolfe Parks leading Pickleball players to request that AED's be made available at these locations. RPAC discussed logistics, cost, etc. Concord Fire is responsible for all AED's across the city. Committee members talked about theft concerns and should one be installed at all parks with courts. Brian made a motion to table the topic until RPAC was able to get more information from Concord Fire Department, seconded by Sarah, approved.

White Park CIP Update: David updated RPAC on the CIP projects at White Park. Playground is currently under constructions as well as the basketball court. Should be wrapping up in the next few weeks. The

maintenance building repairs will begin next week. Sarah asked about the rink at White Park, David let her know it's currently listed in next year's budget (FY27).

Memorial Field Master Plan Update: The joint City/School sub-committee has met 7 times. Concepts have been agreed upon by the city and school district. Project update will be presented to City Council and Concord School District later this fall (TBA). The current concept will have 2 multipurpose fields, once with a track. The hope is for final design and permitting to begin this winter if funding for the next phase is approved.

CIP Timeline: David shared that the timeline for CIP's has moved so we will now review CIP projects in October and November rather than January and February.

Councilor Nate Fennessy asked about White Park Pond and Healy Park clean up. David shared he is waiting on the final quote for the White Park pond, he will be recommending the hydro rake over the full dredge as the cost is much lower with similar results. As soon as all prices are confirmed will report back to City Council. The pond project is fully permitted. Healy Park cleanup is almost complete there is still a lot of small trash to be picked up, David is hoping to work with the ward councilor to coordinate a community clean up. The brush cleanup is ongoing and so far, the city has spent 130K on the cleanup. Once clean up is complete the city will redo the walking paths, however there is concern about the homeless returning as they have already come back once.

Laura shared about a raffle being held to raise money to have a mural painted at the City-Wide Community Center by local artist Saad Hindal. Tickets can be bought at the front desk of the center.

Old Business:

David shared that the Doane Diamond sign has been updated and will be installed at Memorial Field once the city council approves it. Councilor Nate Fennessy made a motion to accept, seconded by Sarah, approved.

Motion was made by Councilor Nate Fennessy to end the meeting at 6:26pm, seconded by Brian and approved.

Next RPAC meeting scheduled for Thursday October 16th at 5:30pm.

Submitted by Laura S. Bryant, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director