

City of Concord, NH Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2026 5:30pm

Committee Members: Robert Kleiner (Ward 2), Sarah Beauregard (Ward 4), Nick Kotkowski (Ward 6), Brian Sartorelli (Ward 7), Deodonne Bhattarai (Ward 9), Mary Miller, Chair (Ward 10), Kenny Edwards (Merrimack Valley School District), City Councilor Michele Horne, and Zoey Murphy (Ward 5)

Excused Absent: Althea Barton (Ward 1), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), City Councilor Nate Fennessy, Barb Higgins (Concord School District), Dhan Timsina (Ward 8)

Staff Members: David Gill Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Bryant Assistant Parks & Recreation Director and Matt Walsh Deputy City Manager

Guests: Steve Michlovitz, Mike Vlacich, and Dan Poirier

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm by Chair Mary Miller, minutes from November 2025 (no December meeting) approved, with a change to new business.

New Business:

City Council Referral, AED Request at Beaver Meadow Tennis/Pickleball Courts: The City has received requests from a group of Pickleball players to provide an AED at the courts at Beaver Meadow Park. RPAC previously discussed the topic at the October 2025 meeting and had suggested providing free CPR courses to participants rather than buying and maintaining AEDs as there was a concern with keeping units outside, regular inspections and where to store the units. Steve Michlovitz came to RPAC to appeal his request to have an AED available on site and share that he had made a request to the school district to store the AED at Beaver Meadow school. Steve also showed his research shows the cost of the AED without having to store outside would be \$850.00 plus roughly \$83.00 per year in maintenance. He suggested volunteers could be responsible for picking up the AED from the school and bringing it to the courts on Pickleball days as well as assisting with maintenance. Mary suggested having legal weigh in on having the AED stored at the school as well as having volunteers be responsible to monthly maintenance. Brian asked about the group purchasing their own and Steve stated he was hoping that the Parks & recreation Department would purchase it. RPAC discusses who would have access to it if it's paid for with tax dollars and the best place to store the device. Laura Bryant mentioned another option would be to keep at the City-Wide Community Center and have someone from pickleball group sign the unit out each day. Mary made a motion for David Gill to get more information from the Fire Chief and Legal seconded by Zoey Murphy, approved without decent.

City Council Referral, Request to combine softball league leases for Sanel, Martin and Dillion Fields: David gave a brief overview and history of softball in Concord and the various leagues. Mike Vlacich and Dan Poirier spoke about combining the two remaining leagues and transforming the baseball field at Sanel to a softball field. Rob asked if this would cause issues for any other leagues, it would not. Mike Vlacich also indicated he would support having Dillion Field under the management of little league as that would allow it to become part of Grappone Park. There was a brief discussion about all softball fields use in Concord and how the travel league use leased fields (NH Comets and NH Lightning) and should they pay for use of the fields. Mary made a motion to support the merger as long as the wording of the agreement is correct and allows Dillion Field to be part of the Little League based at Grappone Park, seconded by Brian approved without decent.

FY 27 Fees and Charges Review: David reviewed City Staff recommendations to increase some fees for FY 27. In the handout was also information on when the fees were last changed by City Council. If the recommended increases were approved it would bring in additional \$8,000.00 annually. RPAC asked about including athletic field lights. David will update and bring back additional recommendations for athletic field lights. Michele made a motion to accept current suggestions seconded by Mary approved without dissent.

Information on other NH Municipal Pool Operations: David Gill shared the findings from a survey Laura Bryant sent out to other communities around New Hampshire who operate seasonal outdoor pools. Overall the information told us what we already know – we have most community pools in NH, our pay rates are at market and our length of season is similar to other NH communities. Based on the number of pools Concord hires the most lifeguards. David will present these findings to City Council in March. Mary asked if the our annually operating cost (Parks and Rec and General Services) can also be provided as part of the report to City Council. David said for Concord, however the other communities declined from sharing their financials.

Possible additional grant funding for Skate Park: We received found out there was a possibility to apply for additional LWCF grant funds for the new skateboard park. The turnaround for application was short and working with the City Manager and updated request for an additional \$280,000 was submitted. David will present this information to City Council next month; if success the grant would be a match dollar for dollars (\$280,000). If received it would be combined with the \$500,000 LWCF already received for total of \$780,000. We would need to continue to fundraise the match as required by the grant award (\$780,000 match would be required).

Update on Memorial Field Master Planning and possible next phase: Concord School District has approved the recommended master plan and their share of the funding. It is now up to the City Council in partnership with Concord School District to decide on the next steps. David shared his concerns over the safety of equipment at Memorial Field such as the track and the bleachers.

Brian asked about the status of the bike park. David said it is still in the works for Martin Park however there is not yet a consensus with the neighborhood to bring it forward. The councilor in that ward is working with residents to hold another community meeting in hopes of finding a way forward.

Motion was made by Mary Miller to end the meeting at 6:59pm, seconded by Sarah Beauregard and approved.

Next RPAC meeting scheduled for Thursday February 19, 2026 at 5:30pm.

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