

City of Concord, NH Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2026 5:30pm DRAFT

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), Dhan Timsina (Ward 8), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), and Zoey Murphy (Ward 5)

Excused Absent: Althea Barton (Ward 1), City Councilor Nate Fennessy, Barb Higgins (Concord School District), Kenny Edwards (Merrimack Valley School District), City Councilor Michele Horne and Matt Walsh Deputy City Manager

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

Guests: Renee West

Meeting was called to order at 5:32pm by Chair Mary Miller, minutes from January 2026 approved. Mary introduced RPAC's newest member Dhan Tinsima from Ward 8, introductions all around.

New Business:

Follow up on fees and charges: David reviewed the discussion from last meeting regarding the approval of updates to the fees and charges. However, those updates did not include athletic lights. Currently we charge \$116.00 per hour for light use at Memorial Field for baseball and softball. Football pays \$97.00 per hour and they bring in their own light towers. If we were to charge the cover the cost of the lights the actual hourly costs (based in 2025 used and Unital bills) are as follows: baseball \$377.00, softball \$255.00 (based on 2024 bills as no one used the softball lights in 2025). Currently 21% of the field lights on football stadium do not currently work and 20% of softball field lights do not work. David said for 16 hours of field light use for the baseball field in 2025 the electrical bill was just under \$6,000.

Keach Parks new athletic field lights (youth soccer field) will be \$20.00 per hour for first year as they are LED lights with MUSCO controls. The field lights at Memorial Field Complex are outdated, expensive to run and will be replaced during the renovation of the park. This information was presented to FPAC earlier this month. At this time, FPAC decided not to make any changes in the light use fees. Goal in the future would be to have the user's groups cover the cost of the light use. Currently the athletic field lights aren't used much because the cost is so prohibitive.

Request from Concord School District for Additional Field Use: Concord School District has requested additional park use for the middle school teams starting this spring once construction of Rundlett Middle school begins. They will lose their field space (8 acres +/-) for the next 4 to 5 years. So far, we have been able to accommodate most of the requests however will be a year to year review as some fields with significant additional use may become unplayable.

One of the biggest challenges will be for track at Memorial Field, CSD will not be using the track at Memorial Field for NHIAA events due to the poor condition and safety concerns for their athletes. Additional soccer field use in the fall will be hard for the city to fully accommodate. The middle school currently has a no cut policy for middle school fall soccer team and typically has 8 soccer teams in the fall. CSD is also working with the National Guard Turf Field, the State Hospital and NHTI for use of fields. It will be a community effort but David is confident all needs will be met as long as everyone can be flexible. He stated his main concern will be the condition of the city's fields after 4 – 5 years of extra use by the School District. Any potential work on the new Memorial Field Master Plan will also negatively affect ability to accommodate all users. However, the poor condition of many areas of the Memorial Field Complex is becoming a liability issue for the City of Concord.

Spring Brochure: Laura shared the Spring Brochure is out and has been delivered to schools. This brochure advertised spring sports, youth and adult classes as well as our 3 traditional summer camps. Registration for the summer camps begins on Monday March 2nd. Brochure is also on our web site: www.concordparksandrec.com

Summer Employment: Laura let RPAC know all summer temp positions have been posted online. The department is currently hiring lifeguards, Water Safety Instructors, Camp Counselors, Parks & Cemetery Laborer's and Splash Pad Attendants. Laura reminded everyone to share the news about employment opportunities, especially lifeguards. Anyone interested can apply online at www.coconcordnh.gov interviews will begin in late March.

Old Business:

Bike Park: David shared some information that was shared with him regarding the bike park. In early March there will be Ward Community meeting hosted by Councilor Schlosser. Brian Sartorelli said he was at last public meeting (as a resident, not a member of RPAC) and he said at the meeting he thought the idea of a Bike Park at Martin Park was excellent and a great idea.

Memorial Field Master Plan: Concord School District at their December 2025 meeting approved the recommended Master Plan and funding for their 50% of the design and permitting phase. City Council has not yet discussed the recommended master plan and funding for the design. David indicated it has been on the Council agenda since their December meeting and he is hopeful it will be voted on soon. The project for design and permitting was approved in the FY27 budget however not funded pending the final master plan recommendation.

Trees at Memorial Field: Concord Monitor wrote an article about the trees coming down at Memorial Field. 65 White Pine trees were removed, they were removed due to the potential danger to neighboring buildings/property. Prior to the trees coming down David indicated he wrote a report to City Council letting them know of the tree work.

AED at Beaver Meadow Courts: Mary asked for an update about the AED at Beaver Meadow. David said the request will go to Council this spring.

Rene West came to RPAC to asked about adding Dog Waste stations and a Community Bulletin Board to Rollins Park. Brian addressed the bulletin board siting concerns of vandalism and also who would monitor what is posted, etc. Deodonne shared that dog wastes stations had been discussed in the past and David added that it becomes an issue of having staff available to maintain, empty the trash cans, refill dog bags and most of the city parks are carry in/carry out parks. David indicated all of the city parks are heavily used by dog owners and is best if we continue to try to have dog owners pick up their dog waste and discard when they get home.

Motion was made by Mary Miller to end the meeting at 6:41pm, seconded by Jim Figueira and approved.

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

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