



CITY OF DOVER

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, 61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820
Cafeteria
Meeting Date: Monday, March 08, 2021
Meeting Time: **6:00pm**

Call to order at 6:05pm

Roll Call

Present: Heather Twombly (Chair), Brian Murphy, Shelley Lemelin, Alicia Rooney (Alternate), Craig Bartle, Jon-Erik Tryggstad (Alternate), Gary Bannon (Recreation Director), Shayna Sylvia, Rick Mikulis (Vice Chair), John O'Connor (City Council Liaison)

Absent: Krista Trefethen (Asst. Director of Recreation), Melanie Burger, Brandy Maas, David Beaulieu (Secretary)

Approval of Minutes for Feb 8, 2021

Amended by Shayna Sylvia to reflect proper spelling of her last name

Approved by Shayna Sylvia, Seconded by Jon-Erik Tryggstad

Citizens Forum: None

Reports:

Advisory Board:

- Snow is melting, though community trail is still icy
- Some concerns about the community trail; the stairs on the trail by Silver St were particularly icy
- Some litter has been seen under the tunnel on the community trail
- If there's ever any safety hazard at a park, please contact Gary
- Shayna suggested setting up an online form to more easily report issues

Recreation Director, Gary Bannon

- Department has ramped up the timelines on some things opening up
- More requests are now being made for events and reservations. The department is expecting more requests than last summer, though not necessarily by a lot, and will make sure that all will be done in a manageable way.
- Unlikely to have good projections for attendance at events this summer, but the department will still be prepared with plenty of backup plans in case attendance is too high.
- For Fourth of July, the city normally has about 8,000 people gather downtown, which is unworkable under current COVID guidelines. Instead, a strong backup plan option is to have fireworks shot from Garrison Hill. Dover has launched fireworks from there before and it can be visible from up to 20 miles away. The city has used many different locations over the years, so



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this shouldn't present a big problem. Money is already set aside for the fireworks, just need to get it cleared through proper channels like the Fire Department.

- In summary, we're still trying to do outdoor events in a safe way. We're optimistic we could have some degree of increased summer camp programs because camp counselors are part of vaccine group 2A.

Assistant Director of Recreation, Krista Trefethen (report given by Gary)

- Working a lot on pickleball, as many citizens are excitedly waiting for the snow to melt in order to play
- Senior center programming is seeing an increase in demand as more people in that population get vaccinated, though there are some unresolved questions about the legality of asking for proof of vaccination

Old Business:

Amanda Howard Park Project:

- The park is on a hill, so in order to install the equipment, the area needs to be terraced. All the equipment is already here and waiting; an engineer is being brought in to get the project done this summer. The department is very thankful to the neighbors in that area for being very patient with the pace of the project.
- All the city parks have some degree of signage, but it's almost all old, outdated, or otherwise in need of replacement. The city is starting a new wayfinding system, and the Recreation department will be wrapping new signage at all parks into that system, so all the signs will look similar.

Skatepark Status:

- Test pits will be dug to determine where the granite is that may need to be adjusted for, as there will be some leveling of the area done. Should be in good shape for the project, and the department is getting encouragement from the City Manager to keep pushing forward. The project is expected to break ground this calendar year, and we may even be able to install lights as part of the project.

Guppy Park Softball Field Project Wrap-up:

- Also related to Guppy Park, the softball field project is completed.



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- A downtown water main project is starting up soon and will be using half of the Guppy Park parking lot for laydown area but fortunately shouldn't be much of an impact. When the project is done, the parking lot will be re-finished.

Spring and Summer Program Potential:

- There are two main programs:
 - Playgrounds Program, which is run Monday-Friday from 8:30am-3:00pm all summer (weather dependent). Originally hosted at about a dozen locations, it is now just located at Garrison Elementary and Horne Street Elementary. The program costs \$320 per participant for the full summer
 - Camp Kool, which is a day camp program run rain or shine at the arena. This was run at a lesser amount of participants last year. The program costs \$175 per participant per week, and runs for 8 weeks
- This year the goal is to run both programs at a smaller than normal number. Additionally, because summer is going to be a transition back into a regular academic year schedule, the schools want to do some more programming over the summer. They've reached out to the Recreation Department as well as some other groups about networking together to offer some enrichment programming. A lot will depend on time, money, and staffing, though the schools do have some funding through the CARES Act. The Recreation department has been meeting weekly with the schools to get this together in time for parents to have plenty of information.

Budget Status:

- Trying to keep costs down to the extent possible, but the department is not producing the kind of revenue we needed to. It is going better than originally thought, but it's still limited by many factors. Getting concerned about whether or not programs should be taken on, given the revenue situation. The Recreation department is typically less than 1% of the city's revenue, and recovers about 75% of costs annually through self-generated revenue.
- The department's budget proposal has been submitted to the City Manager. Retirement costs went up 25% and other mandatory expenses ate up most of the budget increase, though there were a couple one-time capital costs submitted as well. The budget will be presented to the council as a whole on April 14th, and the Recreation department specifically is presenting on April 28th.

Jenny Thompson Pool Project:

- The pool was originally built in 1977 and was redone in 1992. It's held up pretty well over time, but is now due for a renovation. Funds have been built into the CIP for this project.



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- Looking to change out the 3 meter diving board and in its place, some other feature could be introduced like a waterslide.
- There is some potential for lighting the pool at night to be able to run evening events, allow swim meets to go later, etc.
- Also putting in a new storage building. The project will start in the Fall and hopefully finish the following Spring.

New Business:

Dog Park Project:

- Working on a new shelter for people to get out of the weather. Should be 14 feet by 18 feet, and we're currently getting bids for the project. Expecting to also start in the summer.
- The shelter would be in the big dog area, but the department will look into options for how to provide similar protection in the small dog area.

Community Trail Direction at Bellamy Park:

- Off Knox Marsh Rd, the community trail is supposed to connect over through the school campus, with a big part going through Bellamy Park. Unfortunately, the trail would go through the disc golf course, which is not ideal.
- One option is to take the trail over the river, but that would cost likely at least \$300 thousand to put in. Currently at a standstill for this, and evaluating options to proceed.

Future Meeting Starting Time:

- Shelley has transportation needs that require her to leave by 7:30, so the Board would prefer to stick with the 6pm starting time, rather than pushing back to 7pm.

Shayna shared information about the planning commission survey regarding aging and recreation. Info went out through the Dover Download.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Craig Bartle at 7:18pm. Seconded by Alicia Rooney. Vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
David Beaulieu