



CITY OF DOVER

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, 61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820,
Room 224
Meeting Date: Monday, November 08, 2021
Meeting Time: **6:00pm**

Call to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call

Present: David Beaulieu(Secretary), Gary Bannon (Director of Recreation), Rick Mikulis(vice-chair), Elizabeth Fisher,(Alternate); Heather Twombly(Chair), John O'Connor (City Council Liaison), Shayna Sylvia, Jon-Erik Tryggstad (Alternate), Shellie Lemelin

Absent: Brandy Maas, Craig Bartle (excused) Melanie Burger (excused), Alicia Rooney(Alternate) (excused), Brian Murphy (excused)

Approval of Minutes for Oct 11, 2021

Approved by Rick Mikulis; Seconded by Shayna Sylvia

Citizens Forum: None

Reports:

Advisory Board:

- John ~ Amanda Howard Park looks great. New fence is up.
~ Had a request for Pickle ball at Horne Street School
- Rick ~ Anti-Graffiti committee has not begun yet.
- Beth~ Joe Parks Garden was surprising clean at last inspection. No Graffiti. Better lighting under the bridge has increased foot traffic beyond that point.
- Shayna~ Asked if Rec Department rented out sporting equipment. Ans: Not currently.
- Eric ~ Asked if there was progress on community trail through Bellamy Disc Golf Park.
A: currently reviewing funding for a bridge. Infrastructure bill could help.

Recreation Director, Gary Bannon

- Willand Pond Homeless Camp move began today, 11/8. Tri-cities working on housing for those that remain. There had been activity from houseless camp in & around the city park property. The park posted with hours of operation, which is enforced, and posted no-camping signs. The camp could shift to adjacent areas such as the Stackpole property if not monitored.
- There has been camping issues policed at other sites such as the Park & Ride, Train Station, Ice Arena, wooded area behind the Moose Hall, & below Chestnut Street bridge.
- Budget season is beginning. The budget development process is November & December which is then submitted to the City Manager for review through Feb, & finally onto Council approval in March.
- An update to the Strategic Plan will be prepared in the next few months.
- The newly elected city councilors will begin service as we move to 2022.



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- The Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on December 3rd at 6 p.m. The tree has been located & is in the planning stage to transport & install. The event will be in person along with the festival of trees & caroling. Santa will not be in attendance to minimize close contact. There will also be no parade this year.
- The Paddle sport dock was removed for the season on November 4th

Old Business:

Amanda Howard Park Project Update:

- Coordinating with SUR to bring the gazebo at the same time they plan to move the Santa house.
- Fencing installed this week at the lower end of the property, which aids in safety keeping kids from moving toward the street.

Skate Park Update:

- Base site-prep is complete for the year, which give a better perspective on the shape & size of the overall park.
- The Rotary Club is reviewing their ability to help with future costs
- A family donated remembrance bench to be relocated to the site.
- Urban tree plans to follow-up on work Eversource is doing along the Oak Street side of the park. They will trim and thin out trees along Oak Street.

Olympian Recognition Signs Discussion:

- Overall board consensus was there is very loose criteria for inclusion either by other states, or the International Olympic Committee.
- There is no common standard or set precedence.
- Beth suggested perhaps a banner would be a good way to start & also maybe the Dover 400th Committee would be interested in creating one as part of the 400th Celebration events. She is going to discuss the idea with their team.

Waterfront Park/Paddle Sports and Public Access Status:

- Work continues to incorporate public space & boathouse into developers design. The next meeting of the CWDAC Park Sub-Committee is on Dec 1st & all are encouraged to attend to speak at Citizens Forum.
- It was discussed that if all rowing programs, Great Bay Rowing, UNH Crew, Berwick Academy, and Northeast Passage, need storage space for shells the proposed Building F might not have sufficient space for that need. Also, the currently proposed picnic pavilion in the park will not really be a year-round useful facility. That structure should be redesigned to improve functionality and add inside areas for meetings on the main level and equipment storage on the



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lower level. The area adjacent to the building needs to also be redesigned for use as a setup area supporting the park and dock uses.

- Ideally a new structure, or multiple structures, can be incorporated into the park development plans to support the future needs of the clubs and members of the community wanting to utilize the waterfront.
- Discussion should include the short-term while the site is under construction, & long-term solutions.
- Current park design needs reconsideration for overall future waterfront activities.

New Business:

Annual Awards Program Discussion:

- It has been a few years since the last awards program.
- Need to consider if this something that is brought back again? Program was begun in 1994 and historically draws approximately 75-100 attendees to an event, which recognizes sports volunteers and large & small businesses for their contributions the previous year.
- The discussion will continue at the December meeting and a decision made on whether we should run that program.

Athletic Complex Status Discussion:

- Considering how to engage in a public/private partnership with sports complex developer.
- Reviewing all sites in town which could be feasible for a new facility along with a state of the art competition pool.
- Potential project is in the early discussion phase to answer questions on overall demand, viable locations, and impact to the city if surrounding towns construct a multi-sport facility as well.
- Maglaras Park has adequate space but ready access to the highway is not ideal.
- Reviewing all possibilities as to what could be built to best support the Dover area.
- Gary wrote a narrative regarding Dover's needs and concluded the project would need to be a facility approximately 112,000 sq. feet in size to include the courts and field space in the needs list. Overall Dover struggles with enough indoor space as existing available space in school gymnasiums is prioritized for the School Departments uses.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by David Beaulieu. Motion was 2nd by Heather Twombly. Vote was unanimous to adjourn.

The next meeting will be December 13th at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Beaulieu