



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, February 13, 2023
Meeting Time: **6:00pm**

Draft

Call to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call

Present: David Beaulieu (Secretary), Gary Bannon (Director of Recreation), Rick Mikulis (Vice-Chair), Shellie Lemelin, Elizabeth Fischer, John O'Connor, Melanie Burger

Absent: Alicia Rooney, Brian Murphy, Dennis Shanahan (City Council Liaison), Heather Twombly (Chair)

Approval of Minutes for January 9, 2023

Approved by Rick Melanie Burger; Seconded by John O'Connor

Public Forum:

None

Reports:

Advisory Board:

- Beth provided an update on the boat ramp at Hilton Park. Senator David Waters submitted a Legislative Service Request (LSR) for a study committee. The City could possibly apply for federal funding; Gary to meet with Chris Parker. An improved ramp would benefit first responders needing water access. Rick requested a motion to explore the issue – Beth responded yes, & John seconded.
- Gravel was added to low spots on the community trail.
- Beth noted gardeners had complained about dog owners not cleaning up after themselves at Joe Parks Garden & the Community trail. The Community Trail Committee to discuss and see if Community Services would support a refuse container.

Recreation Director, Gary Bannon

- As we approach late February some winter leagues & programs are beginning to wind down. Spring league sign-ups now filling up.
- The city has been fortunate to maintain staffing through the winter. Competing with local companies on wages can be a challenge.
- There were a few rubber roof issues specifically at the Arena & McConnell Center and also some power outage occurrences.
- Several parks sustained damage during the last storm as trees and branches came down under the weight of the snow. Some fencing now needs repair. Urban Tree Service helping with cleanup.
- Gary met with the Children's Museum & Library regarding the timeline to apply for a grant funding a *Story Book Walk*. This would be a ½ mile walk along the Riverwalk if completed.



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- The picnic shelters at Henry Law Park need the roofs replaced. Funding is available and currently working to secure a contractor.
- Reviewing an upgrade to add shade-sails to the Rotary Pavilion. To move ahead, the Pavilion would need to siding repairs especially to the points where the sails would anchor to the structure.

Old Business:

Skate Park Project Update:

- Site contractor has installed the light pole bases.
- Martineau Electric can proceed to install the poles & lights.
- The skate park contractor reached out regarding their return in the spring.

Jenny Thompson Pool Project Update:

- Project options and cost still under review.
- Initial project to include a new liner & some level of gutter replacement pending overall budget.

Community Pavilion Design Status:

- CJ Architects won the bid for design.
- City officials & committees to meet with them to discuss design which can hopefully be available by June.

Budget Decision Timeline:

- The City Manager will begin presentations this week prior to discussion near the first of March. Recreation will see an approximate 3.3% increase from 2022.
- May budget for future solar project at the Arena after roof repairs are made.

New Business:

Cold Weather Impacts:

- Several trees came down amongst the city parks during recent storms.
- McConnell Center boiler went off-line during recent cold snap and thankfully a sensor alerted so the boiler room could be monitored. Boilers are due for replacement in coming years.

Spring Programming:

- Transitioning from winter to spring programming. All of the staff have helped carry our programs to a new level and Rick Conway has been a big help with all programs.
- Focus turns to field conditions as spring approaches. A transition to organic fertilizer has been challenging on the baseball fields where the grass is maintained at a shorter height. Organics perform better with taller grass.



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Dover 400th Program Preparations:

- New Year's Eve festivities went well.
- Committee preparing a time capsule

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by David Beaulieu. Motion was 2nd by Melanie Burger.
Vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Next Meeting will be March 13th.

Respectfully submitted,
David Beaulieu