



**CITY OF DOVER**

## RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, 61 Locust Street, Dover, NH 03820  
Senior Center Activity Room  
Meeting Date: Monday, January 13, 2020  
Meeting Time: **6:00pm**

Call to order at 6:00pm

### Roll Call

**Present:** Craig Bartle, David Beaulieu, William Burr (Chair), John O'Connor (Vice Chair) City Council Liaison, Rick Schnable (Alternate), Shayna Sylvia, Aaron Wozmak (Secretary), Gary Bannon (Director of Recreation)

**Absent:** Heather Twombly (Alternate), \* Brandy Maas (Alternate), \*Aimee Sanderson (\*=Excused)

Introduction of new board members:

Melanie Burger

Alicia Rooney

Both Melanie and Alicia became aware of the positions via the Leadership Council

### Approval of Minutes for December 9, 2019

Approved by David Beaulieu; Seconded by Melanie Burger

### Election of Officers:

Motions for board positions:

William Burr – re-elected as Board Chair

Heather Twombly – elected as Vice-Chair

David Beaulieu – elected as Secretary

**Citizens Forum:** No one in attendance

### Reports:

**Advisory Board:** John mentioned he had received a few calls regarding signage. Gary provided further update: We've agreed to the style of the Park Street Sign. We currently have 3 parks with similar signage. With the new CIP budget approved, we can now go out to bid for new signs.

Community Trail update from: Shayna Sylvia

- With 2 grants in place and funded, the new focus is to complete the trail from Fisher Street to Central Ave. Go out to bid in Feb to begin work in the spring.
- The crosswalk across Washington Street is also under review for safety improvements.
- They hope to provide better direction as the trail exits the Transportation Center lot and picks back up on Fourth Street. The decline from Fourth Street is slated for improvements for the addition of stairs as well.



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### **Recreation Director, Gary Bannon**

- Indoor programs are in full swing such as basketball. Nice to have all schools & gyms available for use. Moved some programs to the new High School Gym. Numbers in the programs both youth and adult are strong. Leagues will continue through Feb & March. There is an increased activity at the fitness center & pools with the turn of the New Year.
- Landuse Board 'Meet & Greet' is tomorrow night 1/14. The Rec master plan will be a highlighted item at that time.
- Winter sledding at Garrison Hill has been a challenge. Lot of future potential especially Garrison Hill where invasive vegetation is a problem. Volunteer groups asking to assist. There is sledding at Shaws Lane as an alternative.
- Senior Center trips filling up for Summer/Fall 2020. Current trips are potentially impacted by the weather. Participation is strong typically filling the 50-seat busses to capacity.
- Some improvements to the stage area of the McConnell gym were undertaken. The existing curtains were noted for not meeting today's fire safety rating. It was not cost effective to treat them so they have been removed. The stage area was cleaned including the removal of the outdated lighting.
- John O'Conner provided an update on the master plan: Reviewed recommendations from 2009 plan and will match with recommendations to formulate a new plan. Other items of interest were Public Art, Murals, and Theater Arts and Concerts.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Guppy Park Project Status:**

- Work at Guppy Park continues.
- Martineau Electric working with the City to complete the power installation.
- Scorers booth to remain for now but will have a separate electric feed from the lights as it eventually be replaced.
- Project is still on-budget & is slated to open mid to late May.

#### **Amanda Howard Park Project Update:**

- Site layout adjustments in progress.
- Ready to move on putting the playground equipment out to bid.
- Gazebo remains at the Mast Road Recycling Center waiting to determine how to transport it to the park without dismantling.

#### **Skate park Design RFP and Funding:**

- Did a CIP for total cost of the project & received the lower level of funding. Have \$221K.
- Having Nashua Park build details in helpful to work off their proposal & cost levels.
- Skate park design company will aid to have ours in the 15,000 sq. ft. range. The Nashua park was 22,000 sq. ft. Once we have our design and cost that fits the budget we can solicit donors.



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- Optimistically we can award the bid in the spring and have the park functional by spring 2021 which is approximately the timeframe for Cathartes to begin work at River Street.

### **New Business:**

#### **Awards Program:**

- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet is coming up.
- 13 different organizations submit nominations for Volunteer of the year, & Business of the year awards.
- We solicit donations of \$50 each to raise the \$1,000 each year to cover the cost of the actual awards.
- Advisory Board will have a special meeting soon. We'll discuss preparing for the banquet in greater detail at the next meeting.
- Donations for the banquet can be made to the city as a tax deductible gift if so desired.
- The Friends of Dover Recreation 501 © 3 is no longer in existence as it was closed about a year ago.

**Garrison Hill:** Covered earlier

Rick Schnable asked about trees that could possibly replace given the trees being removed as part of work at the parks. The City doesn't have an Arborist on staff. We try to design with conservation in mind when reviewing parks. City planted 6 trees at part of the Henry Law project. There is also a Forest Management Committee. The Waterfront development will have some tree removal & replacement.

Final Comment by: Shayna Sylvia

An article said the healthiest places to live have access to public recreation.

She passed around a handout detailing a new webpage called Pathways to Play. The page aims to decrease childhood obesity for children under 5 by mapping public recreation spaces.

### **Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Heather Twombly. Motion was 2nd by John O'Connor. Vote was unanimous to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Beaulieu