

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
April 10, 2019, 5:00 pm

Committee Members present: Councilor Nancie Cameron, Chair
Councilor Richard R. Michaud, Vice Chair
Councilor Martin P. Dumont, Sr.
Councilor Donald Austin

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
City Clerk, Trish Harris
Kristen Davenport, Recreation Supervisor
Shanna Saunders, Dir. of Planning and Community Dev.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cameron at 5:00 pm

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion made by Councilor Michaud seconded by Councilor Austin, made a motion to accept the March 6, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion Passed 4-0.

CITY ORDINANCE, CH. 30, CONDUCT IN PUBLIC PARKS, SECTION 3. PARK HOURS

City Manager Belmore stated that City Ordinance Chapter 30, Section 3, speaks to the current park hours:

- (a.) Unless otherwise noted, the City parks and trails are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. from April 1 to Sept. 30 and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from October 1 to March 31. Park closing hours may be extended until 11 p.m. in the case of private rentals at Millennium Park upon obtaining written consent from the City Manager or his/her designee.

City Manager Belmore stated that he had gathered information from other communities:

- Dover parks are open 7am to 9:30pm from April to September, and 7am to 7pm from October to March.
- Rochester parks are open 12:01am to midnight, unless restricted by signs.
- Concord parks are open 6am - 11pm.
- Portsmouth park hours are based on the individual parks.

There was discussion about changing the park hours to dawn to dusk but the incremental changes and Day Light Savings times could cause some confusion.

There was discussion about vandalism at the parks, and consideration of more lighting at the Pines. There is a utility pole near the concession stand; a light could be installed there. There is also a motion-sensor light on the summer camp building that is not working correctly. The City Electrical inspector needs to look at this. Additional cameras and signage were also discussed.

The consensus of the Committee is to keep the park hours as they are and have Staff look into additional lighting and cameras in the Pines.

MISCELLANEOUS

Recreation Supervisor Davenport gave report for the Recreation Department.

- Summer Camp – June 24-August 16
 - Register before May 31, 2019
 - Need more Camp Councilors
- Granite State Track & Field
- Events Updates:
 - Easter Egg-Stravaganza Egg Hunt, Friday, April 19th at 4:30. Held at Millennium Park
 - April Vacation Spring Fling, Thursday, April 25th, 11:30-1:00 at the Somersworth Library.
 - Spirit-up Somersworth Clean-up Day, Saturday, May 4th.
- Parks:
 - Updating Millennium Park License Agreement
 - Green Shadow Landscaping will begin working on the infield at Millennium Park; work will begin on April 22nd and will take approximately 14 days to complete, weather permitting.
 - Interviewing for seasonal Park Maintenance Worker.

Kristen mentioned the need for more summer camp staff as recruitment has been slow. City Manager Belmore stated that they are also in need of Camera Operators for Ch. 22 recording of meetings. They usually have students from the High School or CTC fill these positions, but it has been difficult to fill.

Councilor Dumont asked about the Splash Pad at the Pines. Davenport said it busy in the summer; it is always full of people and summer camp uses it too. This draws people from outside of Somersworth too.

Councilor Dumont said the basketball courts down by Crest Drive is also busy place. It is in need of repair. City Manager Belmore stated that this is part of the superfund site and he will need to check with EPA and NH DES before any repairs are done.

Councilor Austin moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Dumont, motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk