

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEO  
CONFERENCE  
CITY STAFF PARTICIPATED FROM THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
June 23, 2020 @ 4:00 pm

Committee Members present: Councilor Nancie Cameron, Chair  
Councilor Richard Michaud, Vice Chair  
Councilor Martin Pepin  
Councilor Crystal Paradis

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore  
Recreation Supervisor, Kristen Davenport  
Director of Planning and Community Dev, Shanna Saunders  
Director of Public Works & Utilities, Michael Bobinsky  
City Engineer, Gary Lemay

---

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cameron at 4:02 pm.

Roll call vote was done Councilors Michaud, Pepin, Paradis and Cameron were present and by themselves.

Manager Belmore noted who was present in the Council Chambers which is noted above.

APPROVE MINUTES

***Motion made by Councilor Michaud, seconded by Councilor Pepin, made a motion to accept the May 6, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion Passed by unanimous vote.***

DOG PARK PROJECT UPDATE

Manager Belmore mentioned Chapter 30 and proposed to add section d as follows:

13. (d.) Dog Park Rules. The City Council has established a City Dog Park at Millennium Park. The City Manager is authorized to promulgate Dog Park Regulations for this park. These Regulations shall be subject to the enforcement section as provided herein Chapter 30, Conduct in Public Parks.

The drafted rules and regulations were discussed. The time that the park is open is closed is consist with what is in the ordinance now. A change could happen via ordinance change. An abutter had concerns about noise. Concerns with 7 AM opening and noise on weekend. Councilor Cameron spoke to abutter and visited the Dover Dog Park. They also have 7 AM to 9 PM as their hours.

Councilor Pepin questioned if most dogs bark at the Park.

Councilor Paradis stated it's tough to guarantee but unusual. They run around and play with each other.

Councilor Pepin stated that within the noise Ordinance, construction starts at 7am. Most Councilors don't think it will be an issue. Councilor Michaud agrees.

***Councilor Pepin moves and Councilor Paradis seconds to sponsor the Ordinance change as proposed. Motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote.***

#### BALLFIELD ADVERTISING POLICY

Manager Belmore explains this is also a Chapter 30 ordinance change as follows:

ADD 8.a:

8. a. City Park Sponsorship Advertising Program. The City Manager is authorized to implement an Advertising Program for certain City Parks to include Noble Pines (outfield fence), Millennium Park (outfield fence & Dog Park fencing), and Jules Bisson Park (River Street fence). The City Manager is further authorized to set the terms, conditions, and sponsorship costs for said Advertising Program.

The drafted rules and regulations were discussed.

Councilor Paradis asked if we should extend the advertising program later than mid-September.

Director Saunders stated that we chose September because the highest use of the parks is between April and September but we can certainly extend the dates.

Councilor Cameron mentioned October 1 and Manager Belmore agrees.

Councilor Cameron says she met Dominic at the new store Pet Supply, in the Plaza at his Grand Opening and has already interested in advertising and he has offered to help with donations, disposable bowls and tennis balls. He's also interested in helping with maintenance.

Councilor Paradis questioned the timeframe for opening the dog park and asked if we will prorate advertising signs this year to get some up?

Manager Belmore states that we possibly could do this year. We're also working on pavilion and lights being repaired too. Yes, he believes that under the rules as proposed he would be allowed to prorate.

***Councilor Pepin made motion and Councilor Paradis seconded to sponsor the Ordinance change as proposed. Motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote.***

#### MILLENNIUM PARK FIELD LIGHTS

Manager Belmore stated he has permission from the Finance Committee to replace the light pole, remove the leaning pole and make repairs to the other poles. The leaning pole will be removed and all remaining lights will be retrofitted for structural stability.

Councilor Pepin, as member of the Finance Committee, said they discussed that since it is a park with lights, it would be a draw for rentals which ties nicely to the advertising.

Councilor Paradis indicated the dog park will bring more visibility. The current park sign is set back. Perhaps we can/should add a dog park sign.

Manager Belmore indicates yes, we'll look at new signage. He explained Liberty Mutual is still using the field but their numbers are down.

Councilor Paradis spoke to her experience moving indoor spaces outside during the pandemic. Parks may be even more important. Outdoor movie space was discussed.

Councilors Cameron and Pepin agree that the lights open that field up to greater use and perhaps Little League or other groups can use, not just Liberty Mutual.

### MALLEY FARM

The current League that has leased the field for years, SBR is not renewing lease this year. They maintained the area well. Other teams are interested. Manager Belmore said he would check with the school department to see if they could use the ball fields.

Councilor Pepin asked about ROSO soccer.

Councilor Cameron indicated that working with the school is great as their softball field needs work and this might be a better option.

### PROGRAM UPDATES

Recreation Supervisor Davenport gave an update on the alternative summer programming.

RECspiration is a weekly activity newsletter and staff have provided 13 newsletters to date with over 80 activity ideas in the areas of fitness, mindfulness, science, creative fun, outdoor, and music. These are located on the Rec website and the Rec Facebook page.

Davenport explained the Hilltopper Fitness Frenzy Challenge that will run July 5- July 31 and is open to all Somersworth residents. The goal is to get 30 minutes of physical activity at least 3 days per week during the challenge. There's a challenge log sheet that residents can use to track daily fitness and there's a calendar with sample activities listed or they can come up with their own. Participants can send in their completed log sheets by August 7<sup>th</sup> for a chance to win a raffle prize.

Davenport explained the Rec Chalk Obstacle Course Challenge that will be open to all Somersworth residents July 20- August 31. The challenge is for residents to design and draw their own sidewalk chalk obstacle courses using a series of chalk lines, shapes, and pictures that connect from the start point to the finish and provides activity instructions as you move to each different part. Davenport mentioned the Rec office will provide chalk and sample obstacle course ideas to residents that need it. If residents email the Rec office a photo of their obstacle course, they will be entered into a raffle drawing. Photos will be used on the Rec Facebook Page to promote the challenge.

Davenport stated that staff will be sharing other virtual resources throughout the summer as they become available.

Councilors Paradis and Cameron love it. Is so good and creative to do with social distancing. Kudos. Where will it be advertised?

Davenport states it will be advertised on Recreation Facebook page, SYC and City webpage.

*Councilors Pepin made a motion to adjourn at  
Motion, Paradis second passed 4-0 by roll call vote.*

*Meeting adjourned at 5:02*

Respectfully submitted,  
Shanna B. Saunders

---