

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM PLATFORM
April 21, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.

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

Administration/Staff present: Mayor Dana Hilliard
 City Manager Bob Belmore
 Recreation Supervisor Kristen Davenport
 Director of Planning and Community Development Michelle Mears
 Director of Public Works Michael Bobinsky

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cameron at 5:30 p.m.

As Chair of the Somersworth Recreation Committee, I, Councilor Nancie Cameron find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public was asked to submit comments via email to jslaven@somersworth.com or bbelmore@somersworth.com by Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 12:00 noon.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2021

Councilor Paradis made a motion to accept the March 10, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

JULES BISSON PARK GRANT UPDATE & BASKETBALL COURT

Manager Belmore explained there is \$16,000 left in funding from the LWCF Grant for outstanding items to complete work at Jules Bisson Park. He indicated that we need to complete a survey on the property as we may be encroaching onto the nearby railroad. Belmore said the installation of benches will be the last item addressed after the construction of a 5ft wide ADA compliant paved or stone dust pathway. Belmore also mentioned that Councilor Vincent, as a local business owner, would be interested in donating a bench to this park or to the dog park.

Councilor Cameron asked about improvements to the basketball court at Jules Bisson Park. Manager Belmore replied we do not recommend crack sealing the basketball court at Jules Bisson Park this year as the CIP plan is to repave the court at Jules Bisson Park in a couple years. Councilor Cameron agreed with this plan.

MILLENNIUM PARK UPDATE & DOG PARK BENCHES

Manager Belmore informed the Committee the City has funded fixing the lights at Millennium Park and will be fixing after July 1, 2021. He also spoke about plans to install two benches at the dog park. Councilor

Cameron mentioned she spoke with a local pet supply store owner, Dominic, who expressed interest in funding a bench for the park depending on the price. Dominic also said he was willing to donate balls for dogs to take home; as well as holding an informational session to explain why water bowls are not left out at parks due to cross-contamination. Councilor Pepin stated he does not think we need anything too expensive for benches and Councilor Cameron agreed. Councilor Paradis said that if the benches were being subsidized, we may want to consider installing two at the large dog park section since it is utilized more frequently. She also asked about when the water might be turned back on at that park. Director Bobinsky replied he is planning on getting through April so the lines do not freeze. Supervisor Davenport reviewed the different types of benches and their respective prices. Manager Belmore said he would work with Ms. Davenport to get prices on three benches and pursue whether Mr. Vincent or Dominic would like to fund the benches. Mayor Hilliard added that he is aware of a Angel Dog program where benches are purchased by owners of dogs who have passed away in order to memorialize their pet and have a bench dedicated to them.

ASH STREET PARK PROJECT

Mayor Hilliard described a program the City is entering into partnering with the World Wildlife Fund to pledge the City's support for the Monarch Butterfly species and create a pollinator garden at Ash Street Park. Mayor Hilliard stated he will be working with Manager Belmore and Councilor Gerding on planting a variety of different plant species in a design. He also mentioned that the Somersworth Youth Connection Program will also be helping to partner and promote the endeavor. Mayor Hilliard said he has family members who will be assisting with networking and corporate sponsors to help with the costs, choosing plant species, and helping with the design. Councilor Pepin hopes his idea to support this project, "flies".

Councilor Pepin made a motion to support the creation of a pollinator garden at Ash Street Park. The motion was seconded by Councilor Paradis and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Belmore mentioned a plan to install additional dog waste stations at the upper side of Veterans Memorial Park and Ash Street Park. Mayor Hilliard requested consideration of the installation of one at the track at Idlehurst Elementary School.

Councilor Cameron inquired about how registrations for summer camps were going. Ms. Davenport said registrations were only about half full at the moment with no registrations at the 2-3 grade level. She has had conversations with some parents who are still weighing their options in light of the pandemic. She is confident they will fill up in the next week or two. Ms. Davenport also stated there will be two interviews for camp directors and four interviews for councilors in the next week or so.

ADJOURN

Councilor Paradis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 4-0 by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk

