

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
July 10, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Councilor Nancie Cameron, Chairman
 Councilor Richard Michaud, Vice Chairman
 Councilor Martin Pepin
 Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
 Finance Director, Scott Smith
 Director of Public Works, Michael Bobinsky
 Recreation Supervisor, Kristen Davenport
 City Clerk, Kristen LaPanne

Chairman Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Michaud made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 3-0-1. Councilor Vincent abstained.

MAST POINT DAM RECREATIONAL AREA PARK – BENCH DONATION

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a letter from Kimberly A. Mazzitelli expressing her interest in gifting a granite bench to the City's Mast Point Dam Recreation Park. Ms. Mazzitelli went on to state that she has been diagnosed with a terminal illness and wishes to place the bench in an area where she has taken her dogs for walks and wishes to donate the granite bench for all to enjoy. Ms. Mazzitelli has contracted with Vermont Stone Sculpturing, Inc. out of Barrington, NH to create a barre grey granite bench that will measure 48" in length, 6" thick slab seat, and 6" thick slab legs. There will be an inscription that reads "Gifted from Kimberly A Mazzitelli" as well as her date of birth and passing date and two sprays of lilac flowers on either side of the inscription. Vermont Stone Sculpturing, Inc. would be directed to place the memorial bench, with the City's direction, approximately 6 months after her passing.

Manager Belmore stated that, if the donation were to be accepted, he would work with the Department of Public Works and Recreation Supervisor, Kristen Davenport for placement of the granite bench. A hand drawn map was provided to the Committee that offers placement for consideration along the Salmon Falls River within the Mast Point Dam Park area. The Committee agreed to graciously accept the donation of the granite bench.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to recommend acceptance of the donation of a memorial granite bench from Kimberly A. Mazzitelli and place it within the Mast Point Dam Park. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0.

HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION GRANT – ASH STREET BUTTERFLY PARK

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a memorandum informing the City that they were approved to receive a Grant in the amount of \$3,590.44 from the Home Depot Foundation. Without objection, Manager Belmore has added the request to accept the Grant pending this Committee's support. He added that Home Depot offered to have a team of volunteers to assist with Public Works staff on the proposed design of the Ash Street Park and to incorporate as much of the design as possible.

Director Bobinsky commented that the overall project cost is estimated at just under \$35,000. He added mention of the Grant from AARP in the amount of \$4,000 and the City's budgeted amount of \$10,000 for the project. Director Bobinsky provided an initial timeline of the Ash Street Monarch Butterfly Park improvements and construction schedule subject to weather, availability of materials and emergencies. He added that Department of Public Works staff are going to lead the park project and is pleased to be partnering with the Home Depot volunteers.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to recommend the acceptance of the Home Depot Foundation Grant in the amount \$3,590.44. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 4-0.

COMMUNITY GARDENS GRASS ROOTS GRANT

City Manager reported that the Chief Community Garden Steward, Jenne Holmes, received a letter of acceptance regarding a Grant in the amount of \$1,000 from the Grass Roots Funds. The Grant funds will be utilized to provide gardening workshops/lectures during the winter months at the Somersworth Public Library or in the Council Chambers in City Hall, as well as to increase outreach to the Community.

The Committee was in favor of accepting the Grass Roots Funds Grant.

MISCELLANEOUS

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a memorandum outlining the launch of the New Hilltoppers Walking/Hiking Program for adults ages 50+. Recreation Supervisor, Kristen Davenport, summarized that the program is free and targets active seniors throughout the Community. The program is scheduled for each Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. beginning September 7th through Thursday, October 12th weather permitting. It is Ms. Davenport's hope, that there will be enough interest and feedback gathered from the walks, that she will be able to offer both Spring and Fall walking programs in the future.

Ms. Davenport reported that the Tiny Toppers Play Program is accepting registrations. This free program will run Wednesday mornings from September 6th through September 27th from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Noble Pines Park. The Summer Camp program is in its third week, she gave a shoutout to her Camp staff and noted that all is going well despite the rainy weather challenges.

Ms. Davenport stated that the Recreation Clerk, Mona Potter, is retiring after eight years of dedicated work to the Recreation Division. The City is currently seeking to fill the part-time clerk position and is accepting applications until the position has been filled. Ms. Davenport reported that the RecDesk software went live on June 1st and has so far received 30 out of 32 total registrations received via the

RecDesk. Lastly, Ms. Davenport confirmed that Seacoast Softball has rented the softball field at Malley Farm and will be hosting two softball tournaments.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk