

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
March 31, 2017, 4:00pm.

Committee Members present: Councilor Martin Pepin, Chair
 Councilor Martin Dumont, Vice Chair
 Councilor Nancy Cameron
 Councilor Jonathan McCallion

Administration/Staff present: Recreation Director, Kristen Ducharme
 City Manager, Bob Belmore
 City Planner, Shanna Saunders
 Assessing/Code Clerk, Christien DuBois

Others: Mayor Dana S. Hilliard

Councilor Pepin called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor McCallion, seconded by Councilor Dumont, to accept the minutes of the January 25th Recreation Committee meeting, the motion passed unanimously 4-0.

PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Ducharme stated that registration was open for the 2017 summer camp program and discussed the registration period deadline. Ducharme also discussed the different programs that the City offers and the fee schedule that is included with each program.

Saunders stated that the City may want to revisit pricing and outlined several other camps that are more expensive than what the City offers that are comparable to what Somersworth offers.

Ducharme noted that there were several events coming up in the next two months, including the Easter Egg hunt, SYC Spirt Up Event, and coordinating an event with the Somersworth Basketball Boosters.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ducharme stated that the Recreation Division is seeking counselors for the summer camp programs. Presently, the City has two, but the total needed was nine summer counselors. Ducharme stated that reimbursement from the Department of Resources & Economic Development has been received for work done on Mast Point. In addition, Millennium Park is being renovated. The work being done includes renovations to the bathrooms and new playground equipment, which has been ordered.

Belmore stated that highway crews helped with the renovations of the bathrooms and that Joe Falzone donated \$2,000 for cost of materials to install a new water line which staff will complete.

STEIN PARK-REFERRED BY MAYOR HILLIARD

Mayor Hilliard stated that the preliminary plan for design was open for discussion. Hilliard stated that the City was desperate for a specific City center. Hilliard gave an overview of the reasons why the City ought to expand and renovate Stein Park and that he was looking for committee endorsement and corporate partners for the project.

Belmore offered the idea of getting committee feedback about the project before additional ideas are put forward. Belmore mentioned that Councilor Witham offered the idea of expanding the park by closing Fair Court to make it part of the park. Belmore asked for what the committee's vision would be for the project and asked for suggestions for what the project's process would be going forward. Belmore asked for a complete history of the park including is any organization was responsible for the installation of the veteran's monument in the park. There was agreement that it was important to have something specific to unveil whenever the City presents this idea to the Chamber of Commerce or any potential corporate partners.

Councilor McCallion stated that he was in favor of renovating and expanding the park. McCallion also mentioned the potential benefits of expansion alongside the proposed TIF District, if implemented. He also mentioned the potential of the Housing Authority's involvement and perhaps the use of experts (through the Plan NH Grant).

Councilor McCallion motioned for committee support of renovations and expansion of Stein Park, seconded by Councilor Dumont, the vote carried unanimously 4-0.

Dumont expressed concern if the vision for Stein Park was too small in scope and whether we should be developing a plan for the entire Main Street area.

Hilliard stated that he agrees with the City Manager that it is important to have something concrete to present. There are many pieces to this project and having a specific concept and vision is important. Hilliard expressed concern over the scope of the project becoming too big to manage.

Councilor Dumont suggested creating ideas that can be expanded on and revised.

Belmore stated that the project could have multiple phases and the City could implement target dates for each phase. In addition Belmore suggested that the creation of a draft letter to send to corporations could be created.

Dumont agreed with Belmore about the use of phases for the project and used similar projects in Meredith as an example of how phases have worked in the past. Dumont also posed the idea of using 3D visual aides to communicate different potential ideas for the project.

Saunders and Ducharme provided a few possible concepts for the project using satellite photography of the area and using photographs with layovers of the current ideas for the renovations. The use of the CTC students to assist in developing some conceptals and a 3D display was mentioned a potential great collaboration with the School on this project.

Belmore stated that potential upkeep costs and sustainable maintenance considerations will be very important to the planning process of this project.

Dumont asked if the City could be eligible for certain grants from State or Federal agencies. City staff answered that it was possible, but because there was no land preservation being done, the amount of grants will be limited.

Saunders cautioned about the restrictions imposed by the requirements of many federal grants.

Hilliard iterated the need for the City to be flexible with the ideas and concepts for the project.

Pepin suggested that City staff continue developing their proposals and ideas and asked the City Manager for a date to reconvene and continue discussion on the project.

Councilor Dumont asked about any update regarding a City dog park. Chairman Pepin stated that this topic would be placed on the next meeting agenda.

It was agreed upon that the Committee and City staff would meet on May 5th.

ADJOURNMENT

Dumont motioned to adjourn, Councilor Cameron seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christien DuBois Assessing/Code Clerk