

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
February 5, 2020 @ 4:30 pm

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

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
 Deputy City Clerk, Kelly Gagne
 Recreation Supervisor, Kristen Davenport
 Dir. of Planning and Community Dev, Shanna Saunders
 Highway General Foreman, Gerry Vachon
 Director of Public Works & Utilities, Mike Bobinsky

Other: Mayor, Dana Hilliard
 Jenne Holmes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cameron at 4:30 pm.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion made by Councilor Michaud seconded by Councilor Paradis, made a motion to accept the August 14, 2019 minutes as presented. Motion Passed 4-0.

DOG PARK PLAN DETAILS

Manager Belmore updated the Committee that there is a memo in the packet regarding research done by Supervisor Davenport and Highway Foreman Vachon. The research was done to see where within the City the park would work best. They both came to the conclusion that Millennium Park is the best option. Manager Belmore went over the requirements to complete a dog park to include fencing, shade and water were a few things mentioned. The fencing will be at a height of 6' around the perimeter and a 4' section around the small dog section to allow for interaction between dog owners. He spoke of the signage needed to separate large/small dog areas, a dog waste sign, as well as a sign with rules to be posted. A barrel will also be needed to collect the dog waste bags. The small dog area would be approx. 5,850 sq. ft. and the large dog area would be approx. 17,500 sq. ft. Millennium Park will continue to stay closed during the winter.

Councilor Paradis asked about adding an interior sign to remind owners to properly pick-up and dispose dog waste. There was discussion regarding the two types of fencing galvanized versus black vinyl coated fencing; which included pricing, life expectancy and height.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion that the Committee is in favor of using galvanized fencing. Motion passed 4-0.

Councilor Pepin stated that he didn't like the water bowls that were pictured in the handout and asked what some other options are. Highway Foreman Vachon stated that we can get larger stainless trough type steel bowl.

Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Michaud made a motion to accept the recommendations for the dog park as presented and discussed at an amount not to exceed \$45,000 (forty five thousand dollars). Motion Passed 4-0.

Manager Belmore stated that the Finance Committee has endorsed using the Cable Fund to fund the dog park. Committee members discussed a possible fund-raising campaign.

Mayor Hilliard stated that the Committee should sponsor a Resolution and then let the Resolution be presented during a Council meeting. Once the Resolution is passed then you would move forward with capital campaign fundraising similar to the way Veteran's Park is being funded.

Councilor Michaud, seconded by Councilor Paradis made a motion that the Recreation Committee sponsor a Resolution to move forward with the dog park. Motion passed 4-0.

Manager Belmore stated that in regards to the dog park fundraising timeline. We need to know whether it is going to be a 30, 45 or 60 days' worth of fundraising. There is a section to the fence that needs replacing and he doesn't want to replace that with the height we currently have, if it is going to be replaced with a different height for the dog park. Councilor Paradis asked when the project would start. City staff would like to start in April. Committee members supported a short timeline for fund raising efforts.

SOMERSWORTH PARKS PATHWAYS TO PLAY SRPC GRANT REPORT

Manager Belmore stated that we were not able to get the final document before this meeting. Director Saunders gave a brief summary of the program; Pathways to Play involved SRPC staff visiting certain parks as well as reaching out to residents, they then issued recommendations after their walks. There is a robust list of recommendations that are park specific; some items we can tackle pretty easily while others will need to be added to the CIP or be budgeted for. We hope to have the list within the next two weeks.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Manager Belmore updated that in the packet there is a memo regarding new events such as the Mother/Son special event and to paint the tennis courts on Memorial Drive to add pickle ball on the tennis courts; and he had approved moving forward with both items. Supervisor Davenport explained that pickle ball is a mix between ping pong, tennis and badminton and has become very popular.

Supervisor Davenport updated the Committee regarding Rec Youth and Bidy Basketball, as well as Granite State Track & Field. She also stated that summer camp registration will be open on March 2nd. We are currently advertising for Camp Councilors. Davenport also spoke of past

events such as Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt, Senior Tea with SYC, and the upcoming Father-Daughter Valentine Dance; which is a very popular event. She then spoke of Recreation events coming up such as the Senior Luau Party, Mother/Son Mad Science Event, and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Councilor Cameron stated that she is excited to see a Mother/Son event happening.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Belmore updated the Committee regarding the light post that fell over and damaged the pavilion roof at Millennium Park; he stated that the insurance company will replace the light post and the pavilion roof. Manager Belmore stated that he will work with Civil Consultants out of South Berwick to assess the condition the light posts are in in order to allow for a short term and long-term plan.

Manager Belmore stated that Foreman Vachon has come up with an idea to keep up with the knotweed located at the Noble Pines. Foreman Vachon stated that he is going to use the milling from the streets to lay 6" down to help smother the knotweed to stop the growing. They use milling now at the DPW in the backyard to help with weeds and it has been successful.

Councilor Pepin, moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Paradis, motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:11 pm. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk