City of Concord, NH Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2026 5:30pm

Committee Members: Althea Barton (Ward 1), Sarah Beauregard (Ward 4), Nick Kotkowski (Ward 6), Deodonne Bhattarai (Ward 9), Mary Miller, Chair (Ward 10), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), and City Councilor Nate Fennessy, Kenny Edwards (Merrimack Valley School District),

Excused Absent: Robert Kleiner (Ward 2), Zoey Murphy (Ward 5), Brian Sartorelli (Ward 7), Dhan Timsina (Ward 8) Barb Higgins (Concord School District), City Councilor Michele Horne and Matt Walsh Deputy City Manager

Staff Members: David Gill Parks & Recreation Director and Laura Bryant Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Guests: Cyrus Perron

Meeting was called to order at 5:33pm by Chair Mary Miller, minutes from February 2026 approved. Mary made motion to approve agenda with last minute addition of item #3, seconded by Nate Fennessy and approved.

***New Business*:**

1. **Concord Crew Water Line Request:** David Gill explained that a water line was part of the original master plan but when the boat house was built the funds weren't available. The project would require them to tap into the hydrant that is already there. Cyrus Perron a representative of Concord Crew is seeking support from RPAC and City Council to move forward with the project and completing the required permits. Nate Fennessy asked if this would have any impact on the Kiwanis Park plan and if it would be worth installing electricity at this time as well. David indicating Crew is only looking at the water line however is aware of crews plans to add power to the site when city moves forward with Parks Master Plan, currently the building is solar powered. The project only requires about 85ft of water line be installed. Mr Perron also pointed out the City as the land owner will need to review and sign the shoreland application, one of the conditions of the application is no new shoreland application for this site for 5 years. David indicated if RPAC is in favor of Concord Crew installing the water line it will be contingent on City reviewing and approving the conditions of the application. If the City cannot agree to the conditions that will be reflected in staffs report to City Council. Nate Fennessy made a motion for City Council to approve Concord Crews request to add water line to their building and have staff review and sign the application is able, seconded by Sarah Beauregard, and approved.

2. **William Thompson Black Heritage Trail Marker:** David Gill and the Mayor have been working with the Black Heritage Trail of NH to install a marker at White Park to honor William Thompson and the role he played in baseball in Concord. The marker would be placed in White Park near the Sunset League State Historic Marker. The cost of the marker is 5K however the Black Heritage Trail will cover half the cost and the Mayor has a plan to fundraise the remaining amount. A ceremony will be held in July to dedicate the marker. Althea share some additional history about William Thomas she had researched. David indicated in 1961 the City names Thompson Playlot in memory of Mr. Thompson. Nate Fennessy made a motion to approve and send to City Council, seconded by Sarah Beauregard and approved.

3. **Legal Review of AED Sign out Process for Users Beaver Meadow Courts:** David shared with RPAC that John Conforti the City Solicitor is not in favor of the city lending out an AED for public use. The City has a requirement under RSA 153-A:30 to train "anticipated users" of the AED. David indicated he will contact Mr. Michlovitz to let him know the city is not recommending moving forward with a sign in/out process for the AED as the department does not have the resources to train all potential users.

4. **Memorial Field Bleacher Report:** David Gill shared a copy of the inspection report of the football bleachers as well as a portion of the baseball bleachers going to City Council in April to request 385K to remove all those bleachers. It is anticipated there is lead paint under the main football bleachers so in addition to taking down the bleachers the soil may need to be removed (couple of feet) with new soil and grass seed planted. The committee had a decision on the status of City Council approving the Master Plan and funding 50% of the design and permitting phase. David indicated Concord School District approved Master Plan concept and funding their 50% share at their Dec 2025 meeting. Nick Kotkowski made a motion to support the demolition, seconded by Sarah Beauregard, and approved.

5. **Aquatics Overview Report:** David Gill shared his report 555K annually to operate the pools – this includes Parks and Recreation, General Services Department – Public Properties Expenses and annual bond payments. There are still 2 pools Garrison and Rollins that need to be renovated. David reminded the committee two years ago there was a public meeting with the Garrison Pool neighborhood to review options to convert to splash pond or keep as a pool. At the time all those present wanted to keep it as a pool. Garrison Pool was open during the 2024 pool season however was not open in 2025 due to staffing levels. Council has yet to decide about how to proceed with Garrison, renovate the pool, new splash pad or close it. Staff is waiting on City Council to provide guidance

6. **Spring Field and Court Opening:** David Gill reminded RPAC members that all athletic fields and courts remain closed at this time. The ground is still very soft and playing on it can create lots of damage. Many courts still have snow. He expects the courts should begin to open with the next two weeks however it will be several more weeks for fields. Information on opening/closing fields and maintenance practices is online at: https://concordnh.gov/755/Rental-Information

Old Business:

- Skate Park design has been approved by the Planning Board, City will now work with VHB on final design documents needed for construction. The nonprofit group needs to raise 500K to match the LWCF grant, David indicated he meets with them monthly to help guide their fundraising efforts. Information on the new Skate Park and options to donate is listed on our web site for the project: https://www.concordnh.gov/1920/Kiwanis-Park-and-Skate-Park

- Snowmaking plans in partnership with SkitheBeav was successful, staff will have a debrief meeting this week with members of SkitheBeav. The SkitheBeav group will be donating 57K to the Clubhouse project to install the water and power line for snowmaking.

- Memorial Field Updates – Mary brought up the study done by the school district regarding the safety of the track. Mary made a motion for David to share the report with City Council, seconded by Sarah Beauregard, and approved. David indicated the CSD Track report is on our web page for the project: https://www.concordnh.gov/1943/Memorial-Field-Master-Planning

- Bike Park Planning – City Councilor Schlosser held a Ward meeting and the Bike Park was discussed. Councilor Schlosser and David Gill will review projects next steps. City Council will need make the final decision about how to proceed with the project.

Mary Miller asked RPAC members about including public input at the end of the agenda, all agreed. This is for people to come and discuss items not listed on the agenda. In event the event an item is brought up that requires a vote, or additional information the committee agreed the topic will need to be added to a future agenda so all members of the community have opportunity to weigh in.

Motion was made by Mary Miller to end the meeting at 6:35pm, seconded by Jim Figueira and approved. **Next RPAC meeting scheduled for Thursday April 16, 2026 at 5:30pm.** Submitted by Laura S. Bryant, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director