City of Concord, NH Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2026 5:30pm

Committee Members:), Robert Kleiner (Ward 2), Zoey Murphy (Ward 5), Dhan Timsina, (8), Nick Kotkowski (Ward 6), Mary Miller, Chair (Ward 10), Jim Figueira (Ward 3), Kenny Edwards (Merrimack Valley School District), and City Councilor Michele Horne, Sarah Beauregard (Ward 4), Barb Higgins (Concord School District), Deodonne Bhattarai (Ward 9),

Absent: City Councilor Nate Fennessy, and Althea Barton (Ward 1), Brian Sartorelli (Ward 7),

Staff Members: David Gill Parks & Recreation Director, Laura Bryant Assistant Parks & Recreation Director and Kelli Caron City Planner

Guests: Sam Pike and two other residents.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Mary Miller. The minutes from April 2026 were approved. Mary then introduce Kelli Caron the new City Planner, all RPAC members introduced themselves.

***New Business*:**

1. **City Council Referral; Dog Waste Station & Bulletin Board at Rollins Park:** David Gill gave a recapped of the request and explained since April he has contacted other municipalities and the City Solicitor in regards to use of open community bulletin boards in City Parks. Due to first amendment concerns legal does not approve of the use of community bulletin boards in City Parks, he indicated we could not remove offensive material if posted. This is same reason given by other NH Parks and Recreation Departments that David Gill spoke to. Committee members agreed with the first amendment concerns.

   Trash cans and trash collection in city parks is another issue that David Gill has been looking into. The largest constraint is staff time and additional resources needed. As part of this month's RPAC packet was information given to City Council as part of the FY27 budget review. Was a handout estimating the cost to have trash cans with twice a week pick up for the 18 main city parks. David Gill also indicated he is looking into alternative such as Big Belly Trash receptacles which alert staff when they need to be emptied. Would need to be consider in a budget year. Barb Higgins brought up that State Parks are carry-in/carry out and was curious about other municipal parks in New Hampshire. David Gill shared that many municipal parks are also carry in/carry out, some have limited number of trash cans in their busier parks. David is still collecting data about the best way to move forward when it comes to trash in parks. Mary Miller mentioned that trash is not an issue at Merrill Park and the carry in/carry out method seems to be working. Deodonne Bhattarai suggested about getting the carry in/carry out since in multiple languages at Keach Park, David Gill said that is already in the works and Overcomers helped with the languages for the new signs. Dog waste stations are another component of the trash in parks issue. Again, staffing is a major constraint, knowing what bags to provide, signage, how often to replace and picking up dog waster bags, etc. Both issues will come down to funding in a future budget year.

2. **City Council Referral; Fees for Use at Rollins Park**: Julie Freeman-Woolpert who made the request for City Council to looking into fees for park use was unable to attend tonight as David Gill invited her with short notice as he was not sure there would be a quorum for the July RPAC meeting. This item will be moved to next meeting (September 2026).

3. **Keach Park Soccer Field:** David Gill wanted to make RPAC aware that the soccer field and lights will be closed for 2-3 weeks beginning the end of July (July 27 until week of August 15 - based on weather) for annual maintenance (aeration and slice seeding of the youth soccer field) and during this time the field lights will be off. Dhan Timsina asked will the lights on the basketball court and soccer mini pitch still be on during this time. David Gill indicated yes.

4. **July is National Parks & Recreation Month:** David Gill explained that the National Parks & Recreation Association has deemed July Parks & Recreation month. In addition to the national recognition the Mayor of Concord has made a proclamation to recognize July as Parks & Recreation Month in July. Throughout the month the department will have regular social media posts on the value of Parks and Recreation and highlighting July is National parks and Recreation month.

5. **Memorial Field Bleacher Removal:** David Gill shared that the City Council approved the removal of the bleachers at the football field. They also approved the removal of baseball bleachers, the baseball bleachers will be saved and reused in the rebuild. The removal will take up to 5 weeks. Mary asked about replacement bleachers. David Gill and Barb Higgins shared that the school district is looking into renting portable bleachers to possibly still host football game there this fall.

5 minutes public input:

Sam Pike in the audience further discussed the concept of a bulletin board in Rollins Park. They want to crowd fund to pay for a bulletin board as well as installation. He is hoping to develop more volunteer-based involvement. Sarah asked if they had an official group such as Friends of White Park. Sam said they have a few groups that communicate through online chats and social media. Sarah suggested becoming more formal and in turn forming a formal relationship with the City. David Gill offered to meet if there was a group from the South End interested in forming something like a Friends of Rollins Park. He indicated does not need to be a formal 5-1c3 group. Michele Horne asked if legal gave a hard no on community bulletin boards in city parks, David Gill said yes. That being said RPAC members shared many ideas of how to share information with a bulletin board (social media, email etc.), Deodonne suggested finding a neighbor adjacent to the park who would be willing to have it on their property.

Another audience member asked about the fees for renting park space. David Gill ran through the rental process and the rental fees that are reviewed and approved annually by City Council. Barb Higgins also brought up the use of mini bikes in the parks, David Gill stated that city ordinance 6.1 prohibits the use of vehicles in the park.

6. **Review RPAC manuals:** David Gill handed out binders to all present RPAC members the binders contain, information about the department, national Parks & Recreation standards, helpful City information, member contact information, all things that will assist RPAC members in fulfilling their duties while serving on the committee

Old Business: David Gill gave quick update on the following:

- Skate Park group continues their fundraising efforts.
- Ski the Beav snowmaking group plans to complete their $100,00.00 donation this fall.
- Report on the Bike Park will likely go to Council this fall as City Council will have to decide to move forward or not.

Mary Miller asked about how pools are going, Laura reported other than a couple small hiccups it has been a smooth season so far. The main issue to date has been the pump failed at Rollins Pool that resulted in the pool being closed for several days – as replacement pump was found and has been installed.

Motion was made by Mary Miller to end the meeting at 6:42pm, seconded by Sarah Beauregard and approved.

Next RPAC meeting scheduled for Wednesday September 17, 2026 at 5:30pm.
Submitted by Laura S. Bryant, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director