



Recreation & Arena Advisory Commission Meeting
April 12, 2021
Microsoft Teams



Roll Call

Chris Bowlen, Steve Trepanier, Lauren Krans, Dale Bickford, Kevin Barry, Paul Roberts, Joan Strogon, Dick Clough, Dave Colson, Sheila Colson, Dave Camire

2) Accept March Minutes

Dale Bickford motion to accept. Dick Clough motion to second.

3) Review Revenue & Expense Reports

- Dale Bickford asked about Arena Revenues. Director Bowlen explained that the finance report was printed prior to several ice contract payments being collected. Currently the department has collected all ice bills for the season.
- Kevin Barry asked how revenues would be predicted for the upcoming year given COVID-19 implications. Director Bowlen explained that revenues would be predicted as normal.
- Kevin Barry motion to accept finance reports, Trey Scott motion to second.

4) COVID Facility Operations Update

Interest in indoor programs in the gym and Arena fitness room are hit or miss- Staff has observed several cancellations or no shows during indoor programs recently due to ongoing pandemic anxieties.

Supporting greater community facility needs continues to be a priority. Recently the department hosted Rochester Youth Hockey Board meeting and a Strafford County Regional Health Network Vaccine Clinic.

Front doors are still closed during the day, but doorbell and phones are monitored during office hours. Front doors will gradually be used for program. Cautious but optimistic approach.

Facility rental requests have been few and far but are reviewed as they come in. Each request is reviewed on a case by case basis based on ability and knowledge of organizations to meet COVID guidelines.

The Commission supported this approach to facility operations.

5) Pool & Swim Programs 2021

Recreation Supervisor Art created a tentative program plan for this summer. Aquatics offerings will include camp swim, swim lessons and the return of Family Swim. Traditional Public Swim model will be extremely challenging with COVID best practices.

The Commission supported the proposed aquatics programs.



6) Summer Camp Update

Assistant Director Lauren explained the Preliminary Registration Process that was new this year to eliminate crowds in the Rec Office. Parents have been complimentary of how organized the process is. Staff will continue to implement registration in phases to best manage interactions and information with customers.

Camp Aid Application process went smoothly and has reached its deadline. Requests for aid that have extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

NH Re-Opening Task Force recommended the Governor support larger groups of campers at day camps. Assistant Director Krans explained that the department intended to continue with their current pod model, as it has been a source of assurance for many families who signed up for camp.

The Commission supported the above approach to camp planning.

7) Spring Use of Arena Update

Week 4 of rentals with Cocheco Lacrosse. Going very well. Another established organization has connected with us on an indoor lacrosse program this spring.

8) Arena CIP Update

Money has been allocated to repaint the building. Last year due to COVID and use of the building, we could not start the project. Department may be requesting supplemental funds with anticipated increase of costs of the project.

Looking to increase CIP ask for the turf floor. When we received the product last year it was the incorrect product and staff recognized that even with the correct product that brand was not going to be the quality fit we desired.

Some of our CIP projects as a department fall under Public Works. We will have a list next meeting to bring you all up to speed.

9) Other

D. Camire asked about Hanson Pines Harvesting project. Director Bowlen informed them that the pieces are all in place, scheduled for last week of April.

We had planned to invite Community Development Commitment to our April meeting. Let's explore pushing to May.

Next meeting is Monday, May 10th

Motion to Adjourn:

Sheila Colson, Joan Strogon second