



**Recreation & Arena Advisory Commission Meeting
May 8, 2023
Conference Room 1, Recreation Department**



Attendance: Dale Bickford, Dick Clough, Dave Colson, Dana Berlin, Joan Strogon,

1. Accept April Minutes

Member Dave Colson motioned to accept. Unanimous support.

2. Review Revenue & expense Reports

Member Dale Bickford questioned the end of season projections for the Ice Arena and Director Krans noted that the Arena had a good year!

Member Joan Strogon questioned RYH snack bar lease payment not showing up. Director Krans stated that the payment was received and that it was deposited into a different line in the account.

Director Krans brought to the commissions attention that Recreation revenues have increased over the fiscal year.

Member Joanne Strogon motioned to accept. Unanimous support

3. Director Krans gave the commission an update on Squamanagonic Rec Area/Disc Golf. The Squamanagonic Disc Golf Club has been certified by the State of NH as a 501c3 nonprofit. Director Krans will be meeting with Annie Cannon the unofficial representative of the disc golf club to sign an MOU with the city. Director Krans also informed the commission that this MOU shows the importance of collaboration, they will be our eyes and ears on the ground and will communicate any issues they encounter. Director Krans will be revisiting the MOU at the end of October to see how the partnership worked and if there is a continuation, what tweaks may need to be made to the MOU.

Director Krans also updated commission on the new baskets being installed. Gave thanks to staff and volunteer for getting them done in a timely fashion. Director Krans also gave recognition to Serve with Liberty volunteers who helped clean up the course of debris from winter. Director Krans also informed commission about the walkthrough with the city's wetland consultant in regards to guidance in dealing with replacement of footbridges and conditions of the walking paths throughout the property. More information will be forthcoming once consultant gives advice. Director Krans also informed commission that more signage will be going up inform users to be cautious while out in the park.

School Board rep Dave Camire asked if the school reached out about repurposing the old baskets and Director Krans said that 9 baskets were being held for the school and that once request letter from Athletic Director is received it will be brought before the Commission for their review.

4 Director Krans gave an update about an issue at the Hanson Pines Playground. Director Krans observed a dog that was brought into the fenced in portion of the playground and not on leashes. Current signage at the playground does not state "no dogs allowed". Only service dogs would be permitted. Director Krans asked the commission to support adding the "no dogs allowed" line to the current rules of the park. Commission gave full support.



5 Director Krans gave a brief overview of summer camp hiring noting that department staff will have a presence at the Spaulding High School job Fair. Camp staff is looking healthy with many returnees from last year. Big focus is on lifeguards. Assistant Director Trepanier added that the department had secured indoor lifeguard training at Portsmouth Rec Department in order to recruit more guards. 5 are signed up for the class 2 are re-certifications and 3 new guards. Next round of training will take place in June at the East Rochester pool.

6. Director Krans also briefed the commission on the May 5th budget retreat workshop and focused on the Issues and Options as well as the capital improvement portions of the budget. In the issues and options, Director Krans noted that our department re-org seems to have good traction. The fact that several components of the re-org are included in the city managers budget is an uplifting sign to the department. Director Krans also brought to the Council's attention the need for a part time senior services coordinator which was excluded from city managers budget proposal. Several council members were in support of this position. City council could include it in this year's proposed budget.

7. Director Krans asked to commission to see if they would like to keep the same schedule of meeting and take July and August off or if they would like to add meetings so that a decision can be made at the June meeting when setting dates. Rec staff will be bringing information gathering results for CDBG pickleball courts to review.

Next Meeting: June 12, 2023 at 6:00pm at Arena Conference Room