

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 09, 2021

8:00 AM

**Room 22,
Recreation Center**

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Councilor Stephen Hooper
Judy Sadoski
Ruzzel Zullo
Paul Bocko
Dian Mathews
Suzy Krautmann
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

All Present

1) Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM.

2) Acceptance of October 12, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Haynes made a motion to accept the minutes of October 12, 2021 as presented. Mr. Bocko seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3) Finance Report

Mr. Bohannon stated the finance report is up-to-date, noting the balance of \$7,224. He went on to state that he'll need to add in the last invoice from the Friends that he recently received, but they are well within their budget to end out the calendar year.

Chair Winsor asked about the Bartlett Tree work and costs. Mr. Bohannon reported that they did the planned work, plus additional ornamental under planting, which increased the overall cost, but he wanted them to get it done while they were there.

4) Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum

Ms. Mathews reported that they recently had 13 volunteers show up to help at the park, including 5 from Old Homestead Garden Club, and the other 8 being a mix of the Friends and some volunteers they gained at Art in the Park. They had leaves blown onto the beds and planted over 200 native bulbs. Ms. Mathews noted that the bill was a bit more than anticipated and totaled \$208 with shipping.

She went on to state that they have decided to hold off on cleaning the shed, noting that the group is feeling tired after a busy season of work. They will next focus on their winter meeting plans which include making a volunteer list, creating a work calendar, continued work on a cobblestone spreadsheet, and mapping out plantings of 2021. Additionally, they plan to form 2 committees based off the recommendation of Mike Kelly from the Cooperative Extension office, a committee for invasives and a committee for 2022 plantings. Ms. Mathews stated they will also work to plan events such as the May migration bird walk with Steve LaMonde.

Ms. Mathews stated that she had been collecting native seeds in jugs to overwinter and plant in the park, which will save money.

Lastly, she reported that the Bartlett Tree tags can be located away from the trees so that people do not step on plantings. Mr. Bohannon stated he will look into this with the help of the Friends.

5) Park Discussion – Master Plan Implementation

A) Leaf Collection

Mr. Bohannon reported that he discussed leaf collection with Mr. Sweeney. The plan is for his crew to hold the leaves, mix them with dirt and have a pile ready in the spring for everyone to spread into the beds.

B) Public Art

Chair Winsor reported that Ms. Krautmann had some ideas with regards to public art and invited her to share. Ms. Krautmann stated she spoke with a teacher at Franklin School who had the idea of garden stacks. The project would require purchasing a special type of clay that is weather resistant and the teacher would then have each class participate in making the stacks. Each ball could be a different size and theme and Ms. Krautmann showed examples to the board. She continued to state that it would cost approximately \$32 for a bag of clay and there are 12 classes who would each need a bag, making it approximately \$400 total including glazing. Ms. Krautmann added that the stacks would be installed with rebar cement. Chair Winsor asked if \$500 would cover the need to make this project happen and Ms. Krautmann replied that it would.

Ms. Krautmann then stated her second idea she got from a woman in Atlanta, Georgia who makes tiny doors and puts them in parks. She explained that the doors are 7 inches high and have themes, and proceeded to show a video explaining the process.

Chair Winsor stated he liked the tiny door idea as well as the garden stacks but expressed some worry with regards to vandalism. Ms. Krautmann stated if vandalism did occur the art could be taken down, repaired and then put back up. Chair Winsor added that they had some discretionary money they could potentially use to fund the garden stacks project.

Ms. Mathews made a motion that the ARPAB use discretionary funds in the amount of \$500 for a nature stacks project. Mr. Zullo seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Winsor suggested Ms. Krautmann touch base with her teacher contact and work out the details with Mr. Bohannon. He recommended they do this project first and talk about the tiny doors a little further down the road.

Ms. Krautmann asked if installation with rebar would be possible and Mr. Bohannon stated they could likely get the materials from Public Works. He added that he would touch base with Duncan Watson to coordinate that, but would need to know how much they'd need.

Ms. Sadoski asked if there was any danger to using rebar in the parks. Chair Winsor stated that the original plant names on the ground were rebar but it was a good question to consider and explore further. Mr. Bocko stated placement could potentially minimize danger, suggesting they could create guidelines around the art placement. Mr. Bocko added that he'd be happy to help with the project and expressed his appreciation to Ms. Krautmann for bringing the idea to the board, noting that it is embedded into curriculum which makes it a strong move. Chair Winsor agreed, stating it will be great for the kids to be able to show parents, family and friends what they created in the park. Mr. Bohannon thanked Ms. Krautmann as well, adding that the City strives to do more public art, and to have students participate from their most diverse school (Franklin School) will be a great project.

Steve Hooper thanked Mr. Bohannon, stating he has been very helpful with public art and mentioning the successful installation at the airport. He added that public art is a soothing thing for people and will be a great addition to Ashuelot Park.

C) JD Trail Entrance

Mr. Bohannon reported that there was some miscommunication surrounding the kiosk design timing; however, Peter Poanessa will begin working on a design for them soon. As far as kiosk placement, he stated there's an area where the current JD trail sign is located, where there are brick pavers, and they'd like to extend the pavers and put a double kiosk there. The design he asked Mr. Poanessa for will be similar to that of the kiosk out front at the corner of Fuller Park,

as well as the kiosk at the post office, which is the double version. It will hold maps and educational signage and have a nice arch on top, and possibly a bench.

Chair Winsor inquired about a contractor for the drainage issue in that area and Mr. Bohannon stated he would get in touch with one now that the construction season is slowing down.

Chair Winsor also asked about the benches near the pergola. Mr. Bohannon answered that those benches were supposed to be installed already and that he would follow up with Keene Monument to see why installation had not yet occurred.

6) New, Other Business

Mr. Haynes asked if anyone wanted to help pull or cut burning bush, stating that Bobby Williams from the Conservation Commission will be spearheading a group on November 11th at 3:00 PM. He further explained that they will be meeting at the trail head of the bike path off of Eastern Avenue to look for and remove burning bush along the bike path.

7) Adjourn – Next Meeting Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 8:00 AM

There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 8:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nicole Cullinane, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Andy Bohannon, PRF Director