



MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
November 23, 2021
5:30 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Repurposing of Wheelock Park Campground - Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director
 - Designation of a Site for a Community Dog Park
 - Proposal to Build a 9 Hole Disc Golf Course
2. Authorization to Acquire Easements - Beaver Brook - Russell Park - Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

1. Monica Marshall – Request that Main Street be Designated as a Smoke-Free Zone
2. Maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam - City Manager

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT



CITY OF KEENE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting Date: November 23, 2021

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Andrew Bohannon, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director

Through: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: Repurposing of Wheelock Park Campground - Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director

- Designation of a Site for a Community Dog Park
- Proposal to Build a 9 Hole Disc Golf Course

Recommendation:

Attachments:

None

Background:

In 2018, the City closed the campground in Wheelock Park and created a Capital Improvement Program to repurpose the space. In 2019, the removal of the administration building occurred to begin the process of removing the infrastructure. The additional electrical and water hook-ups were left in place before the future of the space was determined, which has allowed the Keene Horseshoe Club to continue to rent the space for their tournaments outside of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Advocates for a dog park in Keene met with City staff in 2019 to re-explore Wheelock Park as a possible location; however, the efforts never materialized and the pandemic interrupted the process. In the summer of 2021, a group from the Keene Disc Golf Club approached the City to explore the possibility of building a nine-hole course in the campground. At the October 27, 2021 MSFI Committee meeting, both aforementioned groups presented the desire to utilize the space for a specific purpose and each request was placed on more time.

Since then, staff has met with both groups to learn more and explore potential approaches to the park space. At this time, utilizing CIP project funding will enable the City to lead the project by hiring a consultant with expertise in landscape design and the ability to understand the combined needs of the City, dog park and disc golf. This will open up an opportunity for public input and potential project cost estimates, and ensure that the space will accommodate one or both projects. Additionally, this will set the City up for adequate use of these facilities for public purposes for decades to come.



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Meeting Date: November 23, 2021

To: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

From: Andrew Bohannon, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director

Through: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager

Subject: **Authorization to Acquire Easements - Beaver Brook - Russell Park - Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director**

Recommendation:

Move that the MSFI Committee recommends that the City Manager do all things necessary to negotiate and acquire property rights for the Russell Park project.

Attachments:

None

Background:

Patricia T. Russell Park is nearing completion of the design phase as final permitting is underway with the NH Department of Environmental Services. In order to complete the project as designed, the City needs to acquire property rights along Beaver Brook in the vicinity of the park that includes properties between Harrison Street and Water Street. The purpose of these property rights is to provide invasive species management control and monitoring related to permit requirements.

The park design gave strong consideration to climate resiliency and sustainability, ADA compatibility, improved parking, and large rectangle field sports. The design met all criteria highlighted for necessary infrastructure improvements in the Active and Passive Recreation Management Plan.

Upon completion of the environmental review and approvals, the City will issue a RFP for construction services to begin the next phase of the project in the spring of 2022.