

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

8:15 AM

**Room 22,
Recreation Center**

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Paul Bocko, Vice Chair
Stephen Hooper
Ruzzel Zullo
Suzanne Krautmann
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Dian Mathews

1) Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

2) Approval of April 9, 2024 Minutes

Vice Chair Paul Bocko noted that on page 3, line 100, Kids to Parks Day should state that it is held on May 18, 2024. Suzanne Krautmann noted that the minutes stated her name is Susan instead of Suzanne. On line 28, Lee should be spelled Leigh and Cam should be spelled Kamm. With the aforementioned amendments, Ms. Krautmann motioned to approve the meeting minutes which was promptly seconded by Stephen Hooper. The motion passed unanimously.

3) Finance Report

Mr. Bohannon stated that the Trustees had approved the budget.

4) Report from the Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum

Leslie Casey from the Friends was present at the meeting.

She stated that the pruning demonstration went well. She said that a small group attended the demonstration which gave the demonstrator a better opportunity to walk around the park to do an assessment. Ms. Casey stated that there are a number of shrubs around the park that are in need of pruning.

5) **Project Tracking**

A. Public Art Installation

Mr. Bohannon stated that the “Take Flight” sculpture had been scheduled to be move to the park sometime in June 2024. It will be placed towards the back of the park near the Jonathan Daniels Trail.

B. Budget Development

Mr. Bohannon stated that the budget development had been completed.

C. Master Plan Implementation

Chair Winsor stated that he spoke with Peter Poanessa regarding the timeline on the sign and Mr. Poanessa gave suggestions on the design. Chair Winsor would rework some components of the timeline and Vice Chair Bocko had completed a rewrite of the narrative. Chair Winsor stated that they would need photographs for the sign as well. Discussion ensued on whether or not they would put a land acknowledgement on the sign.

D. Bird Ecology Project

Jen Hlivko was present at the meeting to discuss the Bird Ecology Project she had been working on with Chair Winsor and Vice Chair Bocko. The goal of the project was to design educational tools to place in the outdoor learning lab area of the park. Ms. Hlivko stated that they made a trail map, designed two physical signs to place on each side of the footbridge to help encourage traffic to the other side of the bridge, and made a story map with audio recordings linked to QR Codes. Ms. Hlivko stated that she had decided on scarlet bee balm, elderberry, and lowbush blueberry as potential plants to place around the outdoor learning lab. She would like to put two to three small bird boxes in the park as well. Discussion ensued on the size of the bird boxes as well as potential materials that could be used to build them.

Ms. Krautmann suggested taking some of the book walk signs out of that area and moving them to another location. Mr. Bohannon stated they should work with the Keene Public Library on rearranging the book walk.

6) **Upcoming Events**

A. Kids to Parks Day - May 18th, 2024

Mr. Bohannon stated that Kids to Parks Day would be happening soon and they would have fun art-related events for the kids.

B. Pollinator Palooza - June 25, 2024 from 11 am-2pm

The Pollinator Palooza was expected to be a big event with around 30 tables with different vendors.

C. Art in the Park - August 31-September 1, 2024

7) **New/Other Business**

Mr. Bohannon stated that he was working with the Monadnock Conservancy to have an event later in the fall.

8) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 9:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Melissa Danneker, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Andrew Bohannon, Deputy City Manager