

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE

February 16, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor Nancie Cameron, Chair
Councilor Richard Michaud, Vice Chairman
Councilor Martin Pepin

Committee Members Excused: Councilor Kenneth Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore
City Clerk Jonathan Slaven
Director of Planning Michelle Mears
Recreation Supervisor Kristen Davenport

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cameron at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2022

Councilor Pepin made a motion to accept the January 24, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 3-0.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY PROJECT AT ASH STREET PARK

Councilor Gerding stated his vision for the park is a place for people to walk through and sit and enjoy the garden. He mentioned having benches and building seating into raised garden beds for seating options. He asked if there was a budget for the project. Manager Belmore replied there is no funds currently set aside for the project, but that some funding could be found.

There was some discussion on a few of the desired specifics and the Committee ultimately agreed to wait until the snow melts in the Spring to do a site walk to gain a better perspective on their vision. Manager Belmore said it may be a good idea to consider what type of signage the Committee would like to use to inform park-goers on Park being used to attract the Monarch Butterfly.

Regarding the creation of the garden, Councilor Gerding stated that once the correct species of plants are in the ground, the Monarch butterflies will inhabit the garden. He said a good target date to plant would be around Memorial Day. Councilor Pepin inquired who would or should be responsible for the maintenance of the garden. Manager Belmore stated he may be able to have a member of the Public Works staff attend to watering and clearing debris as appropriate. Recreation Supervisor Davenport stated she intends to bring back the Trends Day Camp and they could potentially maintain the park as part of a community service project.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Davenport updated the Committee on a few upcoming highlights from the Recreation Office including the return of the free Egg Hunt which will take place Friday, April 15 at 4:30. She said the track and field program will be available for children ages 9-14 and will take place at the Idlehurst Elementary School; Track from May 11 – June 8 and the State Meet will be June 24th for those who qualify. Ms. Davenport stated hourly wages will be increasing this Summer, as approved by the City Manager, for Camp Directors and Counselors in order to better attract applicants. She stated the Kids Camp and Trends Camp will return with signups for residents beginning March 15th and April 15th for non-residents. She updated the Committee on a few of the camp programs and informed them of increases in the camp fees. Manager Belmore stated that Ms.

Davenport has done research into fees to other towns and Somersworth is right in the middle. He stated they are comfortable with increasing the fees as outlined in the Memorandum as well as hourly wages for the staff.

Ms. Davenport informed the Committee the benches for Jules Bisson Park have been delivered and will tentatively be receiving/inspecting the benches for the dog park tomorrow. The dog park benches will be installed in the spring since they need to be anchored to the ground.

ADJOURN

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Michaud and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk