

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 20-66
COUNCIL MTG OF: June 16, 2020
FROM: David Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: To Implement Phase I of the Recreation Facilities Plan

PURPOSE

Staff is requesting authorization to begin implementation of Phase I as discussed with the Town Council at the June 9 workshop.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Please see comments within this staff report.

BACKGROUND

The Town Council approved a \$1.8M bond in January 2019 for improvements to the Town's recreation facilities. Prior to approval, the Recreation Division reached out to various groups seeking input on the original proposal to invest in the Carr-Park Lodge, erection of lights at a baseball diamond at Don Ball Park, and installation/replacement of playground/exercise equipment. Subsequent to the affirmative Council vote, groups expressed interest in seeking improvements to a variety of town recreation facilities. Recognizing that the demand for improvements would exceed available funding, the Council authorized the completion of a needs assessment by UNH Recreation Management and Policy Department. The report has been received and was presented to the Council on June 9.

DISCUSSION

The Council reviewed the report and other information, as took testimony as well, on the needs, resources and priorities of the Town regarding recreation facilities. As a result of those discussions, the following Phase I Implementation Plan received approval to proceed by the Town Council:

1. Revitalize Hood Park – Staff may proceed to apply for an AARP Grant to fund a charette and planning process to convene all stakeholders to develop a Master Plan for the redevelopment of Hood Park.
2. Derry Rail Trail
 - a. Phase I to authorize staff to advertise for bid enhancements to the dam and completion of this section of the rail trail from Manning Street to North High Street.
 - b. Phase II to authorize conversations with property owner regarding acquisition.
3. Multi-Purpose Rectangular Field – Engage with the School District to concur with the completion of a rectangular field with lights and complete cost estimates.
4. Carr-Park – Inventory exterior amenities to develop repair/expansion plan; investigate potential uses of lodge to support outside activities; investigate funding options with legal counsel for the use of Trust funds.
5. Multi-generational Community Center – No action at this time pending availability of existing school or other facility for repurpose.

FISCAL IMPACT

The following fiscal impacts are anticipated:

1. Hood - No cost estimates at this juncture, with bond, NHDOT TAC funds and DCC TIF as available funding sources.
2. Rail Trail
 - a. Based upon previous bid, \$250K overage with bond and DCC TIF as available funding sources.
 - b. No fiscal impact at this point; Gateway TIF and NHDOT TAC funds are available funding sources.
3. Multi-Purpose Rectangular Field - \$400K from bond.
4. Carr Park – No cost estimate at this point; Carr-Park Trust under investigation for use.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Please see Resolution #2020-031.



RESOLUTION

Number 2020-031

To Authorize Implementation of Phase I of the Recreation Facilities Plan

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 of the Town Charter designates the Town Council as the governing and legislative body of the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council issued a multi-purpose bond in January 2019 which includes \$1.8M for Recreation Facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Town has assembled information and secured the assistance of UNH Recreation Management and Policy Department to complete a Needs Assessment of Facilities and report back to the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council received the Assessment and convened in workshop session to prioritize investments in Town recreation facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL that the Town Administrator is hereby authorized to implement Phase I of the Recreation Facilities Plan as attached.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted: June 16, 2020

Attest:

X _____

Charles Foote, Council Chair

Date: _____

X _____

Daniel Healey, Town Clerk

Date: _____