



AGENDA ITEMS #: 21-146 & 21-149  
COUNCIL MTG OF: December 14, 2021  
FROM: David Caron, Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Administration  
PREPARED BY: Kim Walsh, Parks and Recreation Director  
SUBJECT: Status Report on Alexander-Carr Skateboard Park.

## STAFF REPORT

**PURPOSE:** To receive Town Council authorization to expend funds to renovate and expand the skateboard park at Alexander Carr Park.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:** Please see comments within this staff report.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Town was approached by a group of citizens and skateboard enthusiasts who were advocating for an enhanced skateboard facility at Alexander-Carr Park. The group met with some Councilors and staff on site on July 17, 2021 and later appeared before the Council at the July 20 meeting. Subsequently the Council discussed this matter and the results of the proposals on November 16 and directed that Resolutions be prepared for Council consideration to invest \$500K into this project.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Town did solicit proposals and received three responses; design and construction of a skateboard facility is a customized process, evident by the proposal costs ranging from \$249K - \$1.02M, depending upon size, design, lights, etc. The current park is 5,000 square feet, and the current thought is to expand the area to be used for the park. The three proposals offer various sizing (5,000 s.f.; 7,500 s.f.; 10,000 s.f.)

Subsequent to the November 16 meeting, Town staff and the volunteer group further reviewed the proposals and recommended to the Director of Public Works to continue negotiations with Dreamland Skateparks, L.L.C. based upon conceptual design and relative experience.

#### **Dreamland Skateparks, LLC**

- Over 21 years skate design/build experience.
- Can design and build a 10,000 s.f. for just under \$500,000.
- Designed and built more than 150 skateparks world-wide.
- Over 85% of Dreamland's skateparks have been designed and constructed in contract with City Parks and Recreation or City Public Works.
- Dreamland is currently open and ready at a moment's notice to start this project.
- Project Timeline: Approximately 7 months from start (feasibility study) to finish (skatepark construction completion).
- Assistant Skatepark Design/Construction Supervisor is from Nashua, NH
- Proposal includes 1 year warranty

It is planned to expand the footprint of the present park, landscaping and lighting.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are two sources of revenue available for this project:

- 1) Alexander-Carr Park Trust – This trust was developed many years ago for the care and maintenance of the facility. Today, the Trust has grown the principal to approximately \$3.6M, which generates income averaging \$90K annually. Any expenditure from the principal would require approval of Superior Court.

Of the average annual income (\$90K), the Town incurs investment fees of \$25K, which leaves a balance of \$65K which can be drawn for the care and maintenance of the park. Typically, the Town may withdraw approximately \$40K annually. Since the Town customarily does not draw down the annual net earnings, there is a surplus in the income fund of approximately \$400K. These funds, per the review of Town Counsel, are available for this project.

- 2) Recreation Bond – The Council in 2019 approved a multi-purpose bond, including \$1.8M for recreation improvements. Currently, \$1.16M remains unobligated after Council Resolutions for improvements at Don Ball, Vet’s/O’Hara and Rider Fields and WRB engineering. The Council could earmark \$200K from this source for the skateboard project.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Recognizing that a portion of the project is care and maintenance which includes landscaping, fencing, and replacement of current structures, staff recommends passage of Resolution #2021-079 after the Council’s January 4, 2022 public hearing which would utilize \$300,000 in accumulated interest from the Alexander-Carr Trust.

The remaining portion of the project is an expansion of the existing park and is more appropriately funded with a \$200,000 allocation from the Recreation Bond previously appropriated by the Council. Action on this segment can take place under Resolution #2021-080 on December 14, 2021.

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