

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 8:15 AM
Room 23 Upstairs, Recreation Center

Members:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Paul Bocko, Vice Chair
Steve Hooper
Ruzzel Zullo
Suzy Krautmann
Dian Mathews

Staff:

Andy Bohannon, PRF Director

Alternate:

Thomas Haynes

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Approval of March 12, 2024 Minutes
3. Finance Report
4. Report from Friends of Ashuelot River Park Arboretum
5. Budget Development
6. Project Tracking
 - a. Bird Ecology Project
 - b. Potential Public Art Installation - Take Flight
 - c. Budget Development
 - d. Master Plan Implementation Discussion
7. Upcoming Events
 - a. Ornamental Pruning Demonstration: April 15th, 2024 from 5-7pm
 - b. Kids To Parks Day - May 18th, 2024
 - c. Pollinator Palooza - June 25, 2024 from 11 am-2pm
 - d. Art in the Park - August 31-Septemebr 1, 2024
8. New, Other Business
9. Adjourn-Next Meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 8:15 AM

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 ASHUELOT RIVER PARK ADVISORY BOARD
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

8:00AM

Room 22,
Recreation Center

Members Present:

Arthur Winsor, Chair
Paul Bocko, Vice Chair
Stephen Hooper
Ruzzel Zullo
Dian Mathews
Thomas Haynes, Alternate

Staff Present:

Andy Bohannon, Director of Parks,
Recreation & Facilities

Members Not Present:

Suzy Krautmann
Councilor Bettina Chadbourne

8
9 **1) Call to Order - Roll Call**

10 Chair Winsor called the meeting to order at 8:20 AM and roll call ensued.
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12

13 **2) Approval of February 20, 2024 Minutes**

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15 Vice Chair Paul Bocko motioned to approve the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes which was
16 promptly seconded by Stephen Hooper. The motion passed unanimously.
17

18 **Ji Bird Ecology Project**

19
20 Dian Mathews motioned to move the Bird Ecology Project to agenda item three which was
21 duly seconded by Ruzzel Zullo and the motion passed unanimously.
22

23 Jennifer Hlivko, a third year master student at Antioch University, was present at the meeting
24 to introduce her Bird Ecology Project proposal. This project would be in the Rachel Marshall
25 Outdoor Learning Laboratory side of the park.
26

27 She described her goals of the project which included designing signs and QR codes, creating a
28 GIS Story Map, placing nest boxes and planting native plant species to draw in more birds.
29

30 The first sign would draw people across the bridge to the RMOLL and the second sign would
31 include a trail map and a QR code leading to a GIS Story Map, which would have a "seasons"

32 theme, talking about migratory birds and when they may visit. Her plan was to create three
33 short video and audio recordings describing birds and their calls found in the park, climate
34 impacts, and information on rare or uncommon species in the park.

35
36 Ms. Hlivko explained that she would like to place two to three bluebird-sized boxes around the
37 RMOLL side of the park to help bring in breeding pairs. She hoped to include a wood duck box
38 in the future as well.

39
40 She went on to explain the plantings she would like to place in the park, focusing on perennials
41 that would require minimal maintenance including Scarlet Beebalm and Cardinal Flower, as
42 well as different types of shrubs.

43
44 Ms. Mathews asked if Ms. Hlivko had looked into QR code signs that would not have to be
45 nailed into trees as they can become loose and would require additional maintenance, which
46 she had not considered at that time. Stephen Hooper suggested putting different sized holes in
47 the bird boxes to attract different species. Thomas Haynes asked if Ms. Hlivko had considered
48 any information for people who may not have a cell phone and, therefore, would not be able to
49 scan the QR codes. Ms. Hlivko replied that she could possibly write out links on the sign for
50 park goers to look at from a home computer. Vice Chair Bocko stated that they could
51 potentially create a brochure from the GIS Story Map as well.

52
53 **Finance Report**

54
55 Mr. Bohannon stated that there are no current updates as they were still developing the budget.

56
57 **fil Report from The Friends of Ashuelot River Park**

58
59 Ms. Mathews stated that they had four projects that they were focusing on. The first project
60 being the invasive knotweed, continuing towards the bridge as well as towards the shed. The
61 second project she discussed was the rain garden, as it was ready to have the plants moved from
62 the bridge gardens into the rain garden. The Friends were also considering the pollinator garden
63 project, in which they wanted to mark the territory, take up the saw, and lay tarps so it is ready
64 for the following spring season. The fourth project discussed was the West Street beds where
65 they would be putting in ground covers and perennial native plants.

66
67 Ms. Mathews discussed upcoming events, including the project that the Friends did with a group
68 of film class students from Keene State College. The students interviewed members of the
69 Friends and would create a five-minute video in which the Friends would receive a copy of. The
70 Friends were also still working on the passports for the Pollinator Palooza.

71
72 Ms. Mathews stated that the Friends would continue meeting Friday mornings for their summer
73 schedule, which typically begin at 9:00 AM, although they would probably end up meeting

74 earlier in the morning as the summer went on. They also moved their volunteer schedule to the
75 second Saturday of the month rather than the first.

76

77 **fil Budget Development**

78

79 Chair Winsor stated that he walked the park with Bartlett Tree in order for them to create a
80 proposal, which came to a total of approximately \$10,400.00. They also considered the 55 yards
81 of compost and leaf shredding needed, as it would cost around \$5,000.00. They expected the cost
82 of ground covers on the West Street beds to be \$1,000.00, the Bird Ecology Project to be
83 approximately \$1,069.00, and \$1,500 for the invasive plants. Chair Winsor stated they may also
84 want to plant a new tree, which would be around \$1,000.00. They anticipated their budget would
85 be around \$19,000.00. Mr. Bohannon stated he could submit the budget to the trustees to get it
86 on their agenda for the following week.

87

88 **2} Project Tracking**

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90 Chair Winsor stated that the bathroom in the park was gone, which was where they had thought
91 to place the "Take Flight" art installation. Mr. Bohannon would meet with the artist on April 2 to
92 discuss the potential placement further. He stated that the City had accepted a piece of land as a
93 donation so they would be able to develop the land behind the bank parking lot.

94

95 **fil Master Plan Implementation**

96

97 There was no discussion on this item.

98

99 **2} Upcoming Events**

100

101 Ms. Mathews stated there would be a pruning demonstration held on April 15 that would teach
102 people how to prune their plants. They had chosen different trees and shrubs for the
103 demonstration and expected it to be a great event. People could register through UNH to attend.

104

105 Kids to Parks Day, which would take place on May 25, would be an event held at different parks
106 around Keene to encourage kids to connect with nature.

107

108 Art in the Park would be held on Labor Day weekend per usual.

109

110 **10) New/Other Business**

111

112 On Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 AM, there would be a bird walk in the Goose Pond area.

113

114 Chair Winsor stated that he and Vice Chair Bocko had surpassed their term limits of three years
115 and, therefore, would need to step down from their respective positions. He urged the members
116 to consider their replacements for a potential vote at the next meeting.

117

118 **11) Adjoumment**

119

120 There being no further business, Chair Winsor adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM.

121

122 Respectfully submitted by,

123 Melissa Danneker, Minute Taker

124

125 Reviewed and edited by,

126 Andy Bohannon, Deputy City Manager