

## Draft Minutes of the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee, March 1, 2021 (Meeting was conducted virtually)

### In Attendance:

Jeff Hannigan, chair  
Paula Lochhead, vice chair  
Greg Andruskevich  
Dick Gillespie  
Pam Anderson  
Doug Gagne

for the City of Nashua:

Jason Puopolo, Parks and Recreation Dept. Superintendent  
Cecilia Ulibarri

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Minutes from the February meeting were accepted.

### New Business:

1. Park events: Jason has provided a list of authorized events to take place at the Park during 2021, which will be shared with the Committee. Although an individual member may request login access to the P&R's event calendar, it was determined that any future events would be included on the monthly meeting agenda for all to see.
2. Bridge inspections: the City Engineering Dept. has not conducted an inspection of bridges within the Park. They will reach out to possible contractors to have this work performed.
3. 2021 Trail Days have been set. They are (subject to change): April 17 (general Park cleanup, "triangle"; May 15 (Painting, Red Trail sculpture hill; June 19 (cleanup); Aug. 14; Sept. 25; and Oct. 16.
4. Financial report: Jeff has received the latest from Jason and it will be attached to these minutes.
5. Boardwalk treatments: the P&R Dept. will inspect the boardwalk once the weather is suitable and will recommend an approach to treating it to help protect the wood. Jeff asked Jason that he be sure any work that is carried out on it follow the wood treatment guidelines reviewed in the January MFPAC meeting.
6. Trail inspections: Jeff wondered if we as a committee should walk the Park together to note problems that should be addressed (wash-outs/erosion, dangerous trees, condition of bridges, brush removal along trails, etc. Doug has already inventoried status of location markers, a list of which is appended to these minutes.) This information will be useful for planning future Trail Day projects as well as to note areas of concern to be addressed by P&R Dept. It was agreed that this be done individually, and the following

volunteered to make the following inspections and report to the Committee at the April meeting:

Jeff: Yellow trail and bridges on east side of highway

Paula: Blue trail

Greg: Boat launch, Stellos and Orange trails

Dick: Red Trail

Doug: Purple trail from highway to end, then Spine Rd. to dam

7. Banners announcing 2021 Trail Days need to be composed and ordered; Jeff will send info to Jason after having Committee review for accuracy.
8. Jeff would like to install some 4" by 4" posts on which to hang Trail Day banners. These could also be used for other park signage.
9. The City has no plans at this time to resume in-person meetings. It follows guidance from the State; face-to-face meetings will resume once guidance allows.
10. Doug wondered why the responsibility for cleaning the "triangle" falls on the MFPAC, since it is off property. Paula explained that overflow from the drainage can spill into the canal, and that the area is unsightly from the perspective of park users. Greg said that the State has previously expressed no interest in cleaning the drain.

#### Old business:

1. Dog waste problem: There was discussion of how the MFPAC and P&R Dept. should inform and educate the dog-walking public who may believe that the collection bags are "biodegradable" and leave them along the trail. Cecilia reported that the newly-formed Animal and Dog Park Committee has created a video discussing dog waste in general, which may be of use to us. This issue is also a problem at other City parks. Paula wondered if the Mutt Mitt company (bag vendor) might have some supporting information. There was further discussion about the use of signage to remind people to pick up after their pets. Jason indicated he wouldn't be in favor of the P&R Dept providing waste receptacles, due to the need for regular maintenance. They would likely need to be removed in the winter, as Park access for a maintenance crew isn't as easy, and they may lead to other problems. There should be public awareness that this is a "Carry In, Carry Out" park. Doug suggested that there should be an effort within the Park as well as through social media, and perhaps a few "Carry In/Carry Out" signs could be installed at some of the busier entrances stating, which may also help with littering. Solutions to this problem will be an ongoing discussion.
2. Jeff will update the current list of projects resulting from deferred maintenance, damage, etc. that the P&R Dept. will need to address, as they are beyond the scope and ability of volunteers participating in a Trail Day event. Jason will review and determine budgeting needs and priority.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Doug Gagne