MUNICIPAL SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
Council Chambers B, Keene City Hall
October 27, 2021
6:00 PM

A. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Rebecca Lancaster - Designation of a Site for a Community Dog Park
2. Robert Johnson - Proposal to Build a 9 Hole Disc Golf Course at Former Wheelock Park Campground
3. Monica Marshall - Request that Main Street be Designated as a Smoke-Free Zone

B. MORE TIME ITEMS

1. Maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam - City Manager

NON PUBLIC SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.1.

Meeting Date:	October 27, 2021
To:	Mayor and Keene City Council
From:	Rebecca Lancaster
Through:	Patricia Little, City Clerk
Subject:	**Rebecca Lancaster - Designation of a Site for a Community Dog Park**

Council Action:
In City Council October 7, 2021.
Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Recommendation:

Attachments:
1. Communication_Lancaster

Background:
Rebecca Lancaster is representing a collective group of Keene citizens who wish to advocate for the City of Keene to designate the former Wheelock Park campground as the site for a community dog park.

October 4, 2021

Mayor George Hansel
Keene City Council
City of Keene
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

Dear Mayor Hansel & Keene City Council,

I write on behalf of a collective of Keene citizens who would like to advocate for the City of Keene to designate a site for a community dog park. We have worked with Andy Bohannon from Parks and Recreation over the fast few years to evaluate possible sites and believe we have found an ideal location in the old Wheelock Park Campground.

The campground site is unique in that while it is private and secluded, it is also easily accessible and located within one of Keene's most trafficked public parks. The existing "loop" path creates a natural perimeter of approximately 1.5 acres in area. This is an ideal size space with pre-existing parking adjacent to the tennis courts. The existing pines provide shade and also an excellent ground cover source. The dead/unhealthy trees that would need to be removed can be chipped on-site to create a low maintenance ground cover.

Our largest anticipated expenses are tree removal and fencing. We will need to cut and chip approximately 50 trees and install approximately 1,100-1,200 feet of 5' fencing, including a double gated entry. Approximately $10,000 have already been raised thanks to earlier fundraising efforts. We have secured an additional $10,000 thanks to a corporate sponsor in the pet industry. Once the site is secured, we plan to continue fundraising efforts both locally and nationally. Understanding that the City's resources cannot support regular maintenance of the park, dog park visitors will be expected to work together to maintain the space, through both individual efforts and group clean up and work days.

A dog park would become an added draw to young people and families who may be considering moving to our area. In an effort to illustrate the amount of interest and support for this project, we have secured close to 400 signatures in support of this project in under a week. We also have an online following of more than 1,700 individuals who would love to see this project happen. We look forward to discussing this project further in hopes it can be realized in 2022.

Sincerely yours,

Rebecca Lancaster

10 Wildwood Road, Keene, NH 03431

CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting Date: October 27, 2021

To: Mayor and Keene City Council

From: Robert Johnson
Keene Disc Golf Club

Through: Patricia Little, City Clerk

Subject: **Robert Johnson - Proposal to Build a 9 Hole Disc Golf Course at Former Wheelock Park Campground**

Council Action:

In City Council October 21, 2021.
Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. Johnson Communication

Background:

The Keene Disc Golf Club would like to propose the building of a 9-hole disc golf course at the former Wheelock Park Campground location.

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

The Keene Disc Golf Club (KDGC) would like to propose the building of a 9 hole disc golf course at Wheelock Park. This course would align with the current uses at Wheelock and support the Keene Rec Departments stated mission to " … inspire and support active lifestyles for all ages." This course would utilize the currently unused former Wheelock Campground Location.

Why?

Disc Golf is an increasingly popular recreational activity both locally and nationally. Its low cost of equipment and fast learning curve makes this a very accessible sport for anyone to play. Our club currently has members ranging from 17 to 65 years of age and skill levels that range from casual "for fun" players to regional pros.

Also KDGC in conjunction with The US Army Corp of Engineers (ACoE) has built one of NH's nicest free to play 18 hole courses, located at Otter Brook. This means that players that learn at Wheelock have a course to "graduate to" as their skills improve. KDGC also has a weekly league, and sponsors multiple tournaments over the year, so again new players can play more competitively if they so choose. Wheelock will be an ideal introductory course to any new player while still providing a fun challenge to veteran players. Having a 9 hole course also ensures there is a short enough course for those who may not be physically able to play a full 18 hole round, but still want to enjoy the sport.

Experienced players will use it as a practice course or just for fun when you may not have the time to go to Otter Brook for 18 holes.

Disc golf is a great way to stay active while exploring the outdoors. It is a low intensity sport, combining the relaxing nature of golf and the thrill of watching a disc fly, all while enjoying a hike through the woods.

And lastly, If you build it, they will come! People travel to play new courses and they *will* come. Morning round at Otter Brook, get some lunch in town and play a quick round at Wheelock before you head home.

How?

While building a new course can be quite an undertaking, luckily the former Wheelock Campground is the perfect spot and 90% ready to go as is. Its flat topography, compact layout and easy road access not only makes this very accessible to all ages and fitness levels, but it also makes this a very easy build out. Further, the equipment and related items needed to make this happen are very inexpensive in comparison to other forms of recreation at approx $8000.00. And KDGC is ready to help!

The Keene Disc Golf Club is uniquely qualified to work with the City of Keene to make this happen. While ACoE made the property we currently lease available to us, KDGC raised all the funds needed, designed, built, and now maintains Otter Brook. We have a very engaged local membership and a strong balance sheet. KDGC has been a club for almost 10 years and a NH non profit corporation for 6 years. We are prepared to provide both the funds and labor required to make this happen.

When?

KDGC is ready to roll. We already have a preliminary layout in mind and a very excited group of members. If you were to decide to give us the green light on this project, we could start installing baskets as soon as the ground thaws in Spring 2022.

In summary

We believe Wheelock Disc Golf Course would be a low cost, high use addition to Keene's recreation mix. It fits in perfectly with what is already available at Wheelock Park. We envision kids at Symonds using it as part of their gym class. Summer day campers could walk over to play. Older citizens can also utilize the course due to its flat, easy terrain, and central location. Plus, its proximity to the bike path makes this course accessible for many people throughout the area. It really will be a recreational offering that just about anyone can enjoy.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions and thank you for your consideration.

Robert Johnson
Keene Disc Golf Club
Otter Brook DGC
47 Sesame St
Keene, NH 03431

603-499-1999
knhdgc@gmail.com
www.keenediscgolf.club

Wheelock Disc Golf Course preliminary budget.

Tees	quantity		cost	shipping
MVP AM Launchpads Turf		9	$900.00	$200.00
2x4x10 PT		27	$200.00	
Hardware		9	$100.00	
Surpak	truck		$250.00	
Sand	sm truck		$125.00	
Sub Total			$1,575.00	
Baskets				
Innova DISCatcher Pro28		9	$2,925.00	$450.00
Concrete		9	$50.00	
Locks (#M115KALF)		10	$120.00	
Sub Total			$3,095.00	
Singage				
Tee Signs		9	$900.00	
Directional		9	$225.00	
Rules		1	$125.00	
Kiosk		1	$500.00	
Sub Total			$1,750.00	
Misc		1	$750.00	
Sub Total			$750.00	
Total			$7,170.00	$650.00
Grand Total			$7,820.00	

CITY OF KEENE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

ITEM #A.3.

Meeting Date: October 27, 2021

To: Mayor and Keene City Council

From: Monica Marshall

Through: Patricia Little, City Clerk

Subject: **Monica Marshall - Request that Main Street be Designated as a Smoke-Free Zone**

Council Action:

In City Council October 21, 2021.

Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Recommendation:

Attachments:

1. Marshall Communication

Background:

Ms. Marshall is requesting the City Council consider prohibiting smoking on Main Street by designating it as a Smoke-Free Zone.

Dear Mayor Hansel and the Members of the City Council,

I have been meaning to write you for a while, but I received feedback from some summer guests that pushed me to finally write a letter. Three sets of visitors noticed how many smokers we have downtown, and how many cigarette butts litter our streets. One evening we were having dinner outside at Lucca's with some of our guests, and a man came out of his apartment building three times during our meal to smoke, and while it was great he wasn't smoking inside his apartment, his smoke was blowing our way and affected our experience of dining outside.

I am writing to ask you to consider making Main St. a smoke-free zone. Other towns, in other states, have done it quite successfully, with no economic repercussions. There are three reasons I am asking you to look seriously at this proposition. The first is cosmetic. There are an enormous number of butts on our streets. Before you think my adjective is over-the-top, let me say that a few years ago one of my school groups decided to pick up butts on Main St. as a community service project. For two years they came through once a month in the autumn and spring and never picked up fewer than a few thousand butts. They started at Bagel Works and cleaned Main St., Railroad Square, around the traffic circle, down the other side of Main, and then also cleaned the alleys off of the main street on the west side. They did not have any idea how many there would be when they came up with their plan, but they persevered for two years. That was a few years ago, and I can't say the streets are any cleaner now.

The second reason to consider this plan has to do with health and providing a good model for young people. We know the health risks associated with breathing secondhand smoke, and it is impossible for a non-smoker to sit in railroad square at most times of the day and not breathe cigarette smoke. It is impossible to enjoy a meal outside in Keene without having smokers pass by. As a teacher I had to move my class on numerous occasions from places on Main St. because smokers were sharing the space. When my daughter was young, I often felt uncomfortable sitting on benches downtown with her and her friends because of all the smokers. In school we teach our children about the dangers of smoking, all the illnesses that are caused by smoking, and about the dangers of secondhand smoke, yet we allow our children to be around the many people smoking on our streets.

The third reason is economic. Keene was a leader in our state, the first city to make inside spaces smoke-free. At that time there was an outcry from business owners, saying they would lose their businesses, that the town would shrivel and die. We saw that didn't happen; in fact the opposite occurred. I think if Keene became known as a town with a healthy, family friendly downtown it would actually make us more of a destination than we already are.

The last point I want to make has to do with NH's creed in relation to living free, because I can hear people being concerned that this change would take away people's freedom. I would like you to look at that another way. The majority of people in our town are non-smokers, so basically a minority of people have been given the freedom to continue their habits in the public sphere, to the detriment of the majority of people. It is time for non-smokers to have their rights recognized. Adding in the health risks, the littering, and the poor modeling for our children, it seems like the right time to take up the idea of making our main streets smoke-free.

I look forward to hearing back from the Council, and hopefully, hearing what next steps I should take to move this idea forward.

Sincerely,
Monica Marshall
81 Terrace St.
Keene, NH
603 762 7423