

Memorandum

August 4, 2020

TO: Portsmouth Town Council

CC: Town Clerk

FR: Daniela Abbott, Town Council Member

RE: Revised grant application for the Van Buren Charitable Foundation

In January 2020, we submitted an application for a grant from the Van Buren Charitable Foundation (VBCF) to support the design development of a *Multi-Use Community Recreation Center* for Portsmouth. As we all know, the Coronavirus pandemic has changed how we run our town, our priorities, and the needs of our residents. Now, more than ever, our residents are relying on our facilities and outdoor recreational spaces to provide options for healthy lifestyles and to maintain their quality of life during difficult times.

I believe we need to combine the work that has been completed to date – namely Facility Assessment and Community Needs Assessment – and undertake a robust planning and prioritization process to help inform our ~~capital~~ CAPITAL improvement efforts as they relate to our recreational and outdoor facilities. This would also comply with our draft Comprehensive Plan which states:

GOAL R - 1

Organize a system of high quality well-maintained active recreational facilities and passive recreation areas sufficient to meet the ongoing needs of present and future citizens of Portsmouth...

Action R - 1.1a – Develop a comprehensive recreation master plan to identify long and short-term needs for recreational programs and facilities.

In this light, I would like to request your support to revise our grant application to VBCF and request funding for an *Open Space and Recreation Master Plan*. The revised application will be submitted to the VBCF in September.

I would also like to request that up to \$25k in funding be allocated to this effort, to be used as a match to our funding request. This will be a financial commitment to the project. This effort will also require the support of our Town Administrator and Planning Department in order to be completed successfully.