



THE CITY OF WORCESTER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS
PARKS, RECREATION, & CEMETERY DIVISION
50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA 01605

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, January 28, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Nick Chacharone
Eric Goldstein
Meg Mulhern
George Sedares
Lawrence Sullivan

Administration Present:

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Jeff Tomaino, Park & Recreation Coordinator

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

- ❖ **Meeting scheduled for January 7, 2016 was cancelled due to inability to obtain a quorum.**

Chairman Goldstein called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

- Mr. Goldstein moved to the Assistant Commissioners Report.
- Mr. Antonelli went on with his report the first item on his agenda was:
 - Sports Leagues & Events Presentation, the following were all items and policies discussed in meeting:
 - Permits: www.worcesterma.gov/dpw/parks-rec.
 - Event Permits
 - Sports Permits
 - Stage Permits
 - Field Use/ Closed Facilities
 - Re-permitting of Fields
 - Facility Cleanup & Trash
 - Parking
 - Electric
 - Food
 - Alcoholic Beverages - (Prohibited in All Parks except Worcester Common if approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission & the License Commission)
 - Portable Restrooms
 - Tents (No Stake Allowed)
 - Inflatable's (No Stakes Allowed)
 - Event Setup & Break Down
 - Accessible Routes
 - Organization/ League Information
 - Vehicles on Park Land
 - Rosters, Game Schedule & Executive Board
 - Lighted Fields

- Locking of Fields
- Facility Improvements
- Soft Toss
- Water Supply Alert
- Parks Irrigation Systems
- Stage - 24'(L) x 24'(D) x 4'(H)
- Worcester Sound Ordinance
- Balances
- Fees
- Rules & Regulations
- Rain & Wet Conditions
- Cancellation Policy
- ADA Accommodation Notice
 - ADA Coordinator Contact 508-799-8483
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Permit Application Address
- Park Security
 - 508-612-1121 or parkssecurity@worcesterma.gov
- Sports meeting ended – 5 minute recess
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the second item on the Agenda
 - Coes Zone Group request to speak to the Commission - Grant Application Request
 - Mr. Antonelli asked the Parks Commission to allow a representative from the Coes Zone Group to speak.
 - Mr. John Reed from the Coes Zone Group stated that they see a need for a beach handicap accessible wheel chair for Coes Pond and through the Blackstone Headwater Coalition as a 501C3 they would like submit a Grant Application Request for funding to purchase this chair.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked Mr. Reed if he was just looking for an approval from the Parks Commission to move forward with the grant request.
 - Mr. Reed confirmed he was looking for approval to submit the request.
 - Mr. Cashman asked what the wheelchair would look like.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that what they tend to look like a chair with big wheels that allow the chair to roll through the sand and even go in the water. People would transfer from their original chair to the beach chair and will be able to access the water with it, the chair is not electric so there would have to be someone pushing the chair.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the idea is to have more than one but this facility will be the test facility to see how it works and if there are any hiccups and if anything needs to be done differently they can gather that information from this trial.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked if this would work on a first come first serve basis. The answer to that was yes.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked if there were any questions. There were no further questions or concerns.
 - Ms. Mulhern made a motion to accept, Seconded by Mr. Sedares. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
 - Mr. Antonelli moved the following item;
 - Worcester Rugby Club Request to speak to the Commission:
 - Mr. Antonelli asked to allow Worcester Rugby to speak.
 - Mr. James Gniadek spoke on behalf of the Rugby and requested some changes be made to the existing Permit Priority Tier to add Youth Rugby to the following sections: (1) The City of Worcester Public School Department use, (2) The Youth Sports Organization and to (3) The Priority will be given to the traditional Sport in season.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked if the reason they were requesting this was because the MIAA accepts Rugby as high school.

- Mr. Chris Monahan also from the Rugby League explained that Rugby is growing rapidly and that there are 34 high school teams in Massachusetts, there are Girls and Boys Rugby teams, the MIAA has accepted it as a varsity sport and it will be included in the Olympics.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked in what season the high schools would play the sports as Rugby is played in 3 different seasons.
 - Mr. Monahan answered that the high schools would play it in the spring.
 - Mr. Sedares asked what size field they would need.
 - Mr. Gniadek said the maximum measurement of the field would be 120 x 70 and the minimum is 110 x 65.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked if there would be a motion made for this.
 - Mr. Antonelli requested the changes be submitted, than brought back to the Commission for approval.
 - Mr. Antonelli noticed there were 2 people still in the audience and asked if there were any particular items they were there for.
 - Ms. Deb Carey said there was nothing in particular she wanted to discuss she was just sitting in.
 - Mr. Colin Novick asked for an update on the Dog Park and Steans Tavern.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the City if working with some proposed recommendation with Weston & Sampson, nothing has been set in stone, there are possibly 4 different types of options; (1) Allowing dogs on leash in public parks, (2) Dog run – smaller areas where dogs can be on leash within a fenced in area,(3) Free range – certain locations in certain parks where at sometimes you may be able to have your dog off the leash but with no fences and, (4) Dog Park fenced in, double entry, small dog large dog.
 - Ms. Carey asked if the city will be making any recommendations with regards to location.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that there would be recommendations made of certain facilities that are considered appropriate for each one of the proposed and there will be also a recommendation of a Phase and approach, because there are funding issues.
 - Ms. Carey made a comment that there should be some type of friends group that should be assigned to this.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that it will be a recommendation made to have a group or some type of organization or board for future dog park items. Mr. Antonelli did not expect anything to happen immediately with the dog park because there would be an ordinance change which involves the Law Department, and it also has to go through the City Manager. He anticipated another public meeting sometime in March 2016.
 - On Stearns Tavern Mr. Antonelli explained that he did not have a big update, but that the building is coming. The Law Department is working on developing something on the use of the building as different organizations want to use it. He also, informed that there is a plan to have a Coes Pond/Coes Knife Planning update on February 22, 2016. Mr. Antonelli explained that Weston & Sampson has taken information on the past two meetings and they have worked to combine the two and come out with a recommendation of what people want.
 - Fireworks Requirements Bell Pond Policy – Revisions
 - Mr. Antonelli went over changes for Bell Pond fireworks requirements.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Chacharone, Seconded by Mr. Sedares. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
 - Water Supply Alert
 - Mr. Antonelli informed that the City’s water supply was at 55% as of 1-13-16.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked what it was supposed to be at.
 - Mr. Novick explained that it should be at 88% right now and it was 61% as of 1-25-16. He also stated that the city is below average.
 - Wayfinding Project Council Item 1-12-16
 - Grant Applications –
 - Coes Knife - Awarded
 - Providence Street Playground Rectangular Field – Not Awarded

- TD Green Streets Grant
- Economic Development Initiatives - NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations – NA
- Capital Improvement Programs
 - Apricot Street Playground - NA
 - Ball Property - NA
 - Banis Street Playground - NA
 - Beaver Brook Park - NA
 - Bell Pond – NA
 - Bennett Field – Update
 - Betty Price Playground – Master Plan Update @ CC
 - Blackstone Gateway Park – NA
 - Blithewood Park – NA
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – Master Plan Update @ CC
 - Burncoat Playground – NA
 - Cascades Park – NA
 - Castle Park – Master Plan Update @ CC
 - Common Master Plan Implementation – NA
 - WWII & Civil War
 - Coes Knife Park
 - Stearns Tavern
 - Playground
 - Coes Pond – NA
 - Columbus Park – NA
 - Cookson Park – NA
 - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
 - Crompton Park – Under construction moving along
 - Dodge Park – NA
 - Elm Park – NA
 - Task Force
 - Bridge
 - Newton Hill
 - Fairmont Park – NA
 - Farber Field – NA
 - Grant Square – NA
 - Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
 - Green Hill Park Renovation
 - Green Hill Farm – Two buildings almost up, will start third one soon
 - Greenwood Park – Master Plan Update @ CC
 - Hadwen Park – NA
 - Harrington Field – NA
 - Harry Sherry Field (South Worcester) - Master Plan Update @ CC
 - Holland Rink - Master Plan Update @ CC
 - Holmes Field - Master Plan Update @ CC
 - Indian Hill Park
 - Indian Lake Beach – NA
 - Institute Park – Update
 - Restroom Facility & Gazebo – putting the roof up
 - Salisbury Pond
 - Kendrick Field – NA
 - Knights of Columbus – NA

- Korean War Memorial – NA
- Lake Park – NA
- Lake Park State (possible Synthetic Field) - NA
- Lake View Playground – NA
- Logan Field – NA
- Morgan Landing – NA
- Mulcahy Field - Master Plan Update @ CC
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – NA
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – Master Plan Update
- Shore Park – NA
- Spillane Field – NA
- Tacoma Street Playground – NA
- TY Cobb – NA
- University Park – NA
- Vernon Hill – NA
- Wetherall Estates (Duffy Field) – NA
- 149 West Boylston Drive - NA
- Winslow & Pleasant - NA
- Aquatic Master Plan – NA
- Open Space and Recreation Plan – Update
- North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
- Art-in-the-Park – NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – Master Plan Update
- Rectangular Field Development – Master Plan Update
- Misc. items:
 - Keep Worcester Clean –
 - October 2015
- City Council Orders
 - Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda & Minutes
 - Councilor Economou requested the Minutes be posted online after Parks Commission approval
 - Holmes Field Master Plan
 - Councilor Carlson asked for information on when the Holmes Field renovation would begin.
- Petitions
 - NA
- Forestry Operations – Update
 - ALB (Asian Longhorn Beetle) – found a couple at the Gateway Park off McKeon Road, a full survey was done at Green Hill Park and it is clear of the bug.
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) – DCR has advised that City that there are EAB in the area and they go after Ash trees, the city is working on coming up with a plan as the state will not be involved this time around.
- Budget Update – Operational & Capital -
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – Working on capital and operating budget for fiscal 17
 - Capital Improvement program – Update
 - City Five Point Financial Plan - NA
- Summer Youth Employment Program – Reached out to staff from previous summer
- Wheels to Water – Now “Recreation Worcester” - NA

- Holiday Tree – NA
- Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink
 - Mr. Sedares said that skating has been going good.
- Waterfowl in Park – NA
- Out-to-Lunch – NA
- Trash – NA
- ESCo – NA
- Park Permits – NA
- Access/ ADA – NA
- Mobile Concession - NA
- Misc. Information –
 - Emerald Ash Borer Article
 - Oread Castle Article
 - Elm Park Bridge Articles
 - Blackstone National Park Article
 - Dog Park Article
 - Festival of Lights Article
 - Civil War Memorial Article
 - WWI Article
 - Coes Knife Accessible Playground Article
 - Worcester Common Oval Article
 - Worcesteria in Review Article
 - Blue Space Article
 - Election Commission Moving Polling Location Article
 - Worcester Common Article
 - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
- Golf Course:
 - Concession Lease Article
 - Warm Weather Extends the Golf Season Article
- Golf Course Donations
 - NA
- Tabled Items: - Smoking in Public Parks – NA
- Mr. Chacharone made a motion to adjourn, Seconded by Mr. Sedares. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

➤ Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: February 25, 2015 – 6:30 PM