



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, May 25, 2017 – 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Nick Chacharone
John Luring
Meg Mulhern, Chair
George Sedares, Vice Chair
Lawrence Sullivan
Matthew Wally

Administration Present:

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

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Chairperson Ms. Mulhern called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

- Ms. Mulhern tabled the acceptance of the minutes for the next meeting.
- Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first item as follows:
 - Recognition of Working Foreman Hermes Rivera in receiving the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that Mr. Rivera works at the Common and that he received this award for his hard work. Mr. Antonelli stated this is a very prestigious award and wanted to give him recognition in front of the Commission.
 - Request of Art in the Park to allow a piece of Artwork to remain within the Park until June 30, 2018
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that there is a piece of Art work at Elm Park that Art in the Park would like to leave at the park over the Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter until June 2018.
 - Ms. Mulhern thought the art was beautiful but she had two concerns with safety, she asked if it was cement, and standing at 15' high it concerned her that kids might climb on it and she feels that it entices paint for those people who graffiti.
 - Mr. Wally stated that maybe 5 – 7 years ago there was a year when all the art was vandalized. So he asked since that time has there been vandalism to the art.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that there had been some vandalism throughout pieces, not as extensive as it was in the time mentioned.
 - Mr. Cashman stated that the cover letter referenced another piece of art called Fisher boy that sits in the immediate area so he asked if Mr. Antonelli knew where that was.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the Fisher boy is a statue on a huge granite base with a bronze boy on top and it bubbles up from underneath it fills with water and then it drains and it sits on the corner of Elm and Park Ave.
 - Mr. Cashman asked what the size and measurements of that are.
 - Mr. Antonelli estimated that is probably about 7' – 8' tall and the width is about 4'.
 - Mr. Luring asked if the art was to get vandalized who would be responsible to clean it.

- Mr. Antonelli stated we would make Art in the Park responsible for any graffiti removal.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that based on the discussion about this Art work he felt he needed more information on how it's going to be secured, how much it weights, and there was nobody present to be able to discuss it. He suggested to table the item until someone either showed up or the next meeting when a representative could come and explain further. Everyone agreed the item was tabled.
 - Approval of a revised Policy & Procedure for Gifts, Plaques, Benches & Monuments
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that this Policy & Procedure was not changed only some of the wording was revised and asked to get approval on it.
 - Motion was made by Mr. Chacharone to approve this Policy & Procedure for Gifts, Plaques, Benches and Monuments, Second by Mr. Lauring. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 – 0.
 - Informational communication for immediate remediation of flooding on Franklin Street in the vicinity of Harrington Way Field
 - This is as an informational piece.
 - Informational communication on the status of the City of Worcester drought.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that the drought was officially over.
- Grant Applications –
 - TD Green Streets Grant - Awarded
 - National Fish & Wild Life – Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program Grant
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Betty Price Awarded
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Hadwen Park - Filed
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – Playgrounds Awarded
- Economic Development Initiatives – NA
- Cultural Events-
 - Update on Out to Lunch Summer Concert Series on Thursdays
- 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 – NA
 - Betty Price Playground – Going out to bid
 - Blackstone Gateway Park – Bid has been awarded
 - Blithwood Park – NA
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA
 - Burncoat Playground – NA
 - Cascades Park – NA
 - Castle Park –
 - Common Master Plan Implementation – NA
 - Coes Knife Park – Moving Forward
 - Stearns Tavern – Behind on schedule
 - Playground – Coming along will complete middle of July
 - Coes Pond – Coes Reservoir Drawdown
 - Columbus Park – NA
 - Cookson Park – NA
 - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
 - Crompton Park – NA

- Dodge Park – NA
- Elm Park – Update
 - Newton Hill – Bid and awarded bid for building
- Fairmont Park – NA
- Farber Field – NA
- Grant Square – NA
- Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
- Green Hill Park Renovation
 - Green Hill Farm
 - Community Gardens – continue to do updates
- Greenwood Park – NA
- Hadwen Park – NA
- Harrington Field – NA
- Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
- Holland Rink - NA
- Holmes Field – Out to bid
- Indian Hill Park – NA
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park
 - Walkway Design – Completed design
 - Salisbury Pond – Completed study
- Kendrick Field – NA
- Knights of Columbus – NA
- Korean War Memorial – NA
- Lake Park – NA
- Lake Park State - NA
- Lake View Playground – NA
- Logan Field – NA
- Morgan Landing – NA
- Mulcahy Field - Update
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – Out to bid
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – Master Plan @ City Council
- Shore Park – Moving along
- 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 – Will revisit in a year and a half
- North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
- Art-in-the-Park – NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – Master Plan @ City Council
 - Beaver Brook and Vernon Hill to open in the Summer
- Rectangular Field Development – Master Plan @ City Council

- Master Plan was approved
- Park Monument Review - NA
- Misc items:
 - Keep Worcester Clean
 - NA
 - City Council Orders
 - Repairs to the Green Island Neighborhood Center
 - Mann Street Parking lot
 - Tree Planting on Kilby St
 - AED in Parks
 - WWI Memorial in Green Hill Park
 - Providence Street Playground
 - Petitions –
 - Bike Rack @ City Hall – Looking to install 2 bike racks by the end of July
 - Forestry Operations
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Arbor Day - Celebrated Arbor Day in April at Green Hill Park
 - Budget – Operational & Capital – Attached Operating budget
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division
 - Capital Improvement program
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
 - City Auditor Communications - NA
 - Summer Youth Employment Program – Aquatics, Maintenance, Island Program, Park Steward Program
 - Aquatics
 - Christian’s Law – New Law – Municipalities are required to have available life jackets as part of youth programs.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that because the City of Worcester does not offer a program that brings kids to the beaches or pools we do not have to provide lifejackets but to organizations such as Friendly House and places like that who bring kids to the beaches or pools they would have to provide these kids with lifejackets.
 - Recreation Worcester - NA
 - Holiday Tree – Donation - NA
 - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink - NA
 - Waterfowl in Park – NA
 - Out-to-Lunch – See Above
 - Trash – NA
 - ESCo – NA
 - Park Permits –
 - See Above
 - Access/ ADA – NA
 - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
 - ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
 - Misc Information –
 - Article on Kettle Brook
 - Article on Regatta Point @ Coes Pond
 - Article on signage
 - Article on ALB & Tree Planting
 - Article on East West Trail
 - Article on the fight for \$15
 - Article on Green Hill Golf Course
 - Article on a Tax Policy
 - Article on All American City Designation

- Article on Worcester's Budget
 - Article on First Night Worcester
 - Article on Auburn Dog Park
 - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
- Ms. Mulhern asked if there are any updates on the Social Media for the Parks Department.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that there is a new person at the City Manager's Office and she will be looking for positive stuff happening with the parks programs and golf course and she will be putting that out there. Mr. Antonelli said it's not a Parks page but at least the information is getting out there.
- Mr. Antonelli called on to a resident that attended the meeting and he asked if she had anything she wanted to speak about.
- Margaret Cappabianca a member of the Grafton Hill Association said that the Parks Department had installed a new playground in their neighborhood and they love it. It is full of children and their parents on a daily basis. She also wanted to thank Mr. Antonelli for some work that was done to remove some old leaves.
- Mr. Antonelli expressed that he appreciates the thanks but that the thanks goes to the parks staff, particularly our new playground manager a new position that was put in the budget last year and has been filled, he is dedicated to playgrounds only. Mr. Antonelli also said that Ms. Cappabianca has done a great job, she is the woman behind the Grafton Hill Association, and she has done great stuff and Mr. Antonelli thanked her for her dedication.
- Golf Course:
 - NA
- Golf Course Donations:
- Mr. Chacharone made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Luring. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM
- Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: June 15, 2017 – 6:30 PM