



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, June 29, 2017 – 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
John Lauring
George Sedares
Lawrence Sullivan
Matthew Wally

Administration Present:

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

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Chairperson Mr. Sedares called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM

- Mr. Sedares tabled the acceptance of the minutes for the next meeting.
- Mr. Sedares asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first item as follows:
 - Request the re-naming of Coes Knife
 - Mr. Antonelli said a mailing had been sent for the meeting on the re-naming of Coes Knife, and he asked to let the public speak in reference to this.
 - Councilor Rosen spoke first, he stated that there was a lot of exiting things happening down in that area, such as: naming of the beach, sailing program, Stearns Tavern, and the new playground. Councilor Rosen explained that there had been a lot of suggestions of names but that they wanted to keep it simple and call it Coes Park and Playground, he said that the majority liked this name, there are some people who would like to call it Monkey Wrench but they prefer to go with a simple name like Coes Park and Playground.
 - Mr. Sedares asked if anyone else wanted to speak.
 - Ed McCurren member of the Coes Zone Task Force, and he wanted to propose that the playground be known Monkey Wrench Park at Coes Pond, as this area was the home to the Monkey Wrench factory.
 - Mr. Wally asked what the past practice has been on naming or renaming parks.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that in most cases it's been through a donation of some sort or a person such as Representative Binienda and the long history of his support to that side of the city and children, or it's been that an individual had done a lot for a particular sport. Mr. Antonelli suggested that the two names can be combined on the signage so it works for both groups for example something like Coes Park and Playground former home of the Monkey Wrench. Mr. Antonelli said this would be his recommendation.
 - Mr. Lauring said that the thing that strikes him about both names is that is has and playground or at Coes Pond and most of the parks with playgrounds people just call them by their name not by the playground.

- Mr. Antonelli explained that there are two designations that the City uses based on when the property was purchased or given to the city in the early 1900's the city would name particular facilities particularly small ones as a field, a park or a playground, but not ever a park and playground.
- Mr. Luring also said that it would be a fun name the Monkey Wrench but then it would probably be too long for a sign.
- Mr. Wally asked if the Parks Administration has a recommendation.
- Mr. Antonelli stated that he likes the idea of calling it the Coes Park and Playground; he also said he liked the idea of tying in the Monkey Wrench but he stated that these two names could be tied in on the signs such as Coes Park and Playground former home of the Monkey Wrench or something similar.
- Mr. McCurren said that he had a copy of the Policy of Naming and there had to be a hearing.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that the Policy is there but that he had not encountered a debate over a name before.
- Mr. Cashman commended Councilor Rosen and his determination on being involved in all these projects and meetings. He said to him it's always going to be Coes Park, and he feels the simplicity of the name that people are going to refer to it, and although Mr. McCurren made a compelling argument and history lesson on the Monkey Wrench aspect but he felt that simplicity would be Coes Park even though that was not the name of it before.
- Mr. Luring made a motion to name the park Coes Park with some other reference to Monkey Wrench on the main signs.
- Mr. Sedares stated there should be a public hearing before accepting a motion to name the park.
- Mr. Cashman asked Councilor Rosen why Park and Playground.
- Councilor explained that this is going to be a unique playground which is universally accessible it is going to be built so that able kids as well as disabled kids on wheelchairs can enjoy it and play together and this playground is going to draw people from Worcester and other areas.
- Mr. Luring responded and gave his point of view, and said he leans towards leaving it Coes Park.
- Mr. Sedares suggested getting a Commission vote tonight with a public hearing on July 19, 2017 at 6:00 PM for the Naming and Landuse Subcommittee.
- Mr. Wally stated that the board has to recognize the formality of the alliance and he understands that there will be a public hearing to go forward with it but he said that it would be better to choose one of the recommended names and go forward with the public hearing and knowing that it might change at that point as opposed to coming up with our own name.
- Mr. Sedares asked if there was a Second on Mr. Luring's motion.
- Mr. Luring withdrew his motion.
- Mr. Cashman made a motion to name it Coes Park and Playground, Second by Mr. Wally. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 - 0.
- Request of Art in the Park to allow a piece of Artwork to remain within the Park until June 30, 2018
 - Gloria Hall explained how the Art work would be transported and installed at Elm Park.
 - Mr. Luring asked if it would only be moved once.
 - Ms. Hall affirmed that.
 - Mr. Sedares asked if there was a motion.
 - Mr. Cashman asked if there was a recommendation from the Administration
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that this was a first time for this type of official request and he said that the parks division is willing to recommend to the commission to allow this on a trial basis for this time only to see what happens as it will stay there through Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter and if everything goes well then maybe in the future I may be allowed again.
 - Mr. Luring made a motion to approve, Second by Mr. Cashman. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
- Request of the Worcester Caribbean Festival to add Worcester Common to their event

- Jennifer Gaskin the President of the Worcester Caribbean Festival stated that after discussions with the City Manager's office it had been determined to change the parade route to start at the Common turn onto Franklin Street to Main Street to Institute Park and as part of that she said she is working in collaboration with the City they want to do an event at the Common on a small scale, one food vendor, some music for ambiance, one vendor to sell t-shirts from 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM.
 - Mr. Cashman asked if the beginning of the parade was no longer Foley Stadium.
 - Ms. Gaskin said the parade would start on Franklin Street and go down Main Street to Institute.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that for the Parks Division this was a good move as well as for the Caribbean Festival and he recommended approval of the request.
 - Mr. Lauring made a motion to approve the request, Second by Mr. Cashman. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - Request of Cure JM Foundation to have an event (Charity Walk) in Green Hill Park
 - Mr. Antonelli stated this organization would come to the September meeting.
 - Request of the Brazilian Festival to have an event at Institute Park
 - Ms. Suely Debara stated that this was the 3rd year for this event, that it was a family event they have activities for kids, music, and food.
 - Mr. Antonelli recommended approval with final details to be worked out with the administration.
 - Motion was made by Mr. Lauring to approve as per Mr. Antonelli's recommendation, Second by Mr. Cashman. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - Request of Erick Denky to speak to the Commission on Soccer Fields in Worcester
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that Mr. Erick Denky was not present he wanted to talk to the Commission in reference to soccer fields in Worcester. Mr. Antonelli included the permit priority tier in the commission package for their information as well as pieces of the rectangular field master plan, and a second information package that shows other rectangular fields not under the city jurisdiction.
- 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
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – South Worcester Playground
- Economic Development Initiatives – NA
- Cultural Events-
 - NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations –
 - NA
- Capital Improvement Programs
 - Apricot Street Playground - NA
 - Ball Property - NA
 - Banis Street Playground - NA
 - Beaver Brook Park – Started construction of dog park to be completed by the end of July
 - Bell Pond – NA
 - Bennett Field – NA
 - Betty Price Playground – Starting construction late summer
 - Blackstone Gateway Park – Moving along
 - Blithwood Park – NA
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA
 - Burncoat Playground – NA

- Cascades Park – NA
- Castle Park – Update
- Common Master Plan Implementation – NA
- Coes Knife Park
 - Stearns Tavern – Goal to complete outside, work in interior needs during the winter
 - Playground – trying to complete soon with a month and a half
- Coes Pond – Beach was named after Rep. Bienienda
- Columbus Park – NA
- Cookson Park – NA
- Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
- Crompton Park – NA
- Dodge Park – NA
- Elm Park – NA
 - Newton Hill - NA
- Fairmont Park – NA
- Farber Field – NA
- Grant Square – NA
- Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
- Green Hill Park Renovation
 - Green Hill Farm
 - Community Gardens – moving along
- Greenwood Park – NA
- Hadwen Park – NA
- Harrington Field – NA
- Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
- Holland Rink - NA
- Holmes Field – Bid awarded
- Indian Hill Park – NA
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park
 - Walkway Design – Included a pathway plan that includes all pathway designs
 - Salisbury Pond – Included Historical photos of what the pond use to look like
 - Hydraulic dredge of the full pond was estimated at 9 million dollars based on the characteristics of the sediment that is there and where we need to ship it. There’s a good portion of that sediment that cannot stay in Massachusetts because our laws don’t allow it to so the closest area where it can be disposed of would be New Hampshire or upstate western New York. This was also broken down into South Pond and North Pond and it still ranges over 4 million dollars each.
- 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 - NA
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – Has been bid and awarded for a synthetic turf field
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – Master Plan @ City Council

- Shore Park – Still under construction
- Spillane Field – NA
- Tacoma Street Playground – NA
- TY Cobb – NA
- University Park – NA
- Vernon Hill – Dog Park under construction due to open late July
- Wetherall Estates (Duffy Field) – NA
- 149 West Boylston Drive - NA
- Winslow & Pleasant - NA
- Aquatic Master Plan – NA
- Open Space and Recreation Plan – Working of it
- North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
- Art-in-the-Park – All the art is in
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – Master Plan @ City Council
- Rectangular Field Development – Master Plan @ City Council
- Park Monument Review - NA
- Misc items:
 - Keep Worcester Clean
 - NA
 - City Council Orders
 - Advertisements on Public Trees
 - Illegal Dumping
 - Petitions –
 - The number of jobs for youth during the summer of 2017
 - Forestry Operations – NA
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Arbor Day
 - Budget – Operational & Capital
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – Available online
 - Capital Improvement program – Available online
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
 - City Auditor Communications - NA
 - Summer Youth Employment Program – Will hire approximately 120 summer youth
 - Aquatics – All beaches open July 1st
 - Christian’s Law – NA
 - Recreation Worcester - NA
 - Holiday Tree – Donation - NA
 - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink - NA
 - Waterfowl in Park – NA
 - Out-to-Lunch – Great atmosphere lots of fun
 - Trash – NA
 - ESCo – NA
 - Park Permits –
 - See Above
 - Access/ ADA – NA
 - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
 - ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
 - Misc Information –
 - Article on signs on City Property
 - Article on Make Music Worcester
 - Article on Trash in Worcester

- Article on Summer Food Service Program
 - Article on Worcester Mounted Police
 - Article on City Council to Rate the City Manager
 - Article on Indian Lake Algae Treatment
 - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
 - Mr. Antonelli informed the commission that Knights of Columbus field would be shut down for the summer to allow it to rehab, to reseed, irrigate it and allow it to rest, on that note the gate will be closed however the playground will be available.
 - Mr. James Athy asked if there was a timeline, is there funding for this.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the final funding is still being worked on therefore there is no set timeline for this project to begin.
- Golf Course:
 - NA
 - Golf Course Donations:
 - NA
 - Mr. Luring made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Cashman. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM
 - Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: September 28, 2017 – 6:30 PM