



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, December 20, 2018 – 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present:

Nick Chacharone
Eric Goldstein
John Luring
Meg Mulhern

Administration Present:

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., 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 went on to table the acceptance of the minutes for November 15 to the next meeting.
- Ms. Mulhern turned the meeting to Mr. Antonelli for the Assistant Commissioners report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first item on the Assistant Commissioners report:
 - Request of the City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee to discuss a skate park at Crompton Park
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the original approved Crompton Park Master Plan from 2011 includes a 6,000 square foot skate park. On the map of that original Master Plan it shows a smaller version of the skate park that is being proposed now. The plan is to build what would finally be a 32,000 sq. ft. skate park but in phases. Phase I would be to build a 14,600 sq. ft. skate park if and when funding becomes available. Also, there are 2 Softball fields and the Rectangular field that would need to be realigned to gain space and distance. Mr. Antonelli explained that Crompton Park is heavily used on a daily basis from April to November for Softball, Soccer & Football (also Rugby and Kickball). Once those fields are realigned at that point Phase II can be implemented to enlarge the skate park to a 32,000 sq. ft. park. Mr. Antonelli stated that there were two points he wanted to make about this layout:
 - He pointed out that there would be issues with foul balls going into the skate park until the fields are re-aligned, and it wouldn't make sense proposing to put up nets because they would have to be eventually taken down when the fields are re-aligned.
 - Also if approved a review will have to be done for Conservation Commission as this is a flood zone/area. So it needs to be discussed with Conservation Commission about the flooding potential and whether revisions needs to be made based on that. He added that there is a grant application that was submitted for Crompton Park and are currently waiting for the grant funds

however these funds are for repairs to fencing, basketball courts and new lighting.

- Parks Commission had various questions which were answered by Mr. Antonelli.
 - Mr. Michael Quinlavin spoke on behalf of the skateboarding community. He stated that there was a need for a larger facility.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Quinlavin if he had an idea of how many people use these facilities.
 - Mr. Quinlavin stated that he did not have a number of users as this was not a structured sport nor was it tracked. He gave his opinion about the skate park at Green Hill having some really steep drops as well as how it's all directed to the center of the park which may cause a mess in the center if there are various users at the same time.
 - Mr. Luring asked if the bikers can co-exist with the skateboarders at the stake park.
 - Mr. Quinlavin said that yes at Green Hill Park he has seen them both use the park.
 - Mr. Goldstein stated that Mr. Quinlavins opinion about the way the structure is would be a design issue.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the skate park at Green Hill was built 18 years ago and that the city worked with a consulting agency as well as a skateboarding company to build it, and that was the design that was best suited at that time.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli if he would have public meetings to before designing the next skate park.
 - Mr. Antonelli said that he wants to work with the skate boarder groups and the public to come up with different ideas that can be implemented in the design.
 - Ms. Mulhern recommended a Friends of the skate park to raise funds and work with the Parks Division to put up a net over the skate park until the re-aligning of the fields is done.
 - Mr. Antonelli added that he had reached out to Ron Charette at the Green Island Neighborhood Center as well as Loraine Laurie who is also involved with Crompton Park, they were not able to attend but they had no issues and Mr. Antonelli would bring them the plan later on.
 - Mr. Mulhern asked if the Softball lights would be enough to light the skate park.
 - Mr. Antonelli said no it would not and the skate park would not have lights it would have to be used within daylight hours.
 - Motion was made by Mr. Goldstein to accept and approve the skate park plan design as per code requirements and pending funding and proper phasing. Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Mulcahy Field Master Plan Schedule
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the Parks Division is going to revisit the Mulcahy Field Master Plan based on the information that Tom Ash Little League has folded and the children that played for will be joining Lou Gehrig Little League and Jack Barry Little League. The original plan called for 2 diamonds but since the league is not there only one diamond will be implemented and there is a possibility of moving around the playground and the basketball court leaving enough space for other sports/amenities. He stated that the public hearings already begun, one was held on December 13, 2018, another two to follow on January 24, 2019 & February 7, 2019. Mr. Antonelli hopes to have a revision by the February 28th meeting. Mr. Antonelli also informed that the building project went out to bid 3 times, the 1st time there were no bids, the 2nd time it was awarded and the contractor left the bid and the 3rd time it was bided out to Antonelli Construction (no relation to Mr. Robert C. Antonelli) for \$299,000.00.

- Mr. Lauring asked if we have a number of kids that would use the field for baseball/softball, supposing there might be to build a rectangular field.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that the City had already invested \$70,000.00 in brand new dugouts at this location so it would be a waste not to put a diamond there. So a diamond will be added which little league baseball and Worcester East Middle will use.
- Grant Applications –
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Hadwen Park – Awarded
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 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – South Worcester Playground
Awarded
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – Crompton Park – Filed
- Economic Development Initiatives – NA
- Cultural Events-
 - NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations –
 - Skyhawks donation of \$525.00
- Capital Improvement Programs – In Winter Shut down
 - Apricot Street Playground - NA
 - Ball Property - NA
 - Banis Street Playground - NA
 - Beaver Brook Park - NA
 - Bell Pond – NA
 - Bennett Field – NA
 - Betty Price Playground – will finish in the Spring of 2019
 - Blackstone Gateway Park – NA
 - Blithwood Park – Update
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA
 - Burncoat Playground – NA
 - Cascades Park – NA
 - Castle Park – NA
 - Common Master Plan Implementation – NA
 - Coes Park (Knife)
 - Stearns Tavern - Awarded
 - Playground
 - Coes Pond – NA
 - Columbus Park – NA
 - Cookson Park – NA
 - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – Moving forward
 - 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
 - WWI – Working with bond Company
 - Greenwood Park – NA
 - Hadwen Park – Under construction – basketball court & playground
 - Harrington Field – NA
 - Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) – Under construction
 - Holland Rink - NA
 - Holmes Field – Still closed but very close to being done
 - Indian Hill Park – NA
 - Indian Lake Beach – NA
 - Institute Park – Update
 - Walkway Design – Lit Board walk system with cameras to tie in with Fire Dept. Memorial & Phil O’Connell Field leading down to Park Ave.
 - Salisbury Pond
 - 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 – Did a try out
 - Ramshorn Island – NA
 - Rockwood Field – NA
 - Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
 - Shale Street Playground – NA
 - 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 – NA
 - North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
 - Art-in-the-Park – NA
 - Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – NA
 - Rectangular Field Development – NA
 - Park Monument Review – NA
 - Misc. items:

- Keep Worcester Clean –
 - NA
- City Council Orders –
 - NA
- Petitions –
 - NA
- Forestry Operations – NA
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Arbor Day - NA
- Budget – Operational & Capital - Update
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – Update
 - Capital Improvement Program – Update
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
 - City Auditor Communications - NA
- Summer Youth Employment Program – NA
 - Aquatics – NA
 - Christian’s Law – NA
- Recreation Worcester - NA
- Holiday Tree – NA
- Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink - Open
- Waterfowl in Park – NA
- Out-to-Lunch – NA
- Trash – NA
- ESCo – NA
- Park Permits –
 - NA
- Access/ ADA – NA
- Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
- ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
- Misc Information –
 - Article on Festival of Lights
 - Article on Neighborhood route
 - Article on North Lake Ave Funding
 - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
- NA
- Golf Course:
 - Food and Beverage RFP approval
- Golf Course Donations: -
 - NA
- Mr. Chacharone made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Goldstein. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM
- Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: January 31, 2019 – 6:30 PM