



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

*Robert C. Antonelli, Jr. Assistant Commissioner* Phone: (508) 799-1190 Fax: (508) 799-1293

---

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting Minutes for  
Thursday, June 30, 2016 – 6:30 PM

**Commissioners Present:**

Scott Cashman  
John Lauring  
Meg Mulhern - Chair  
Lawrence Sullivan  
Matthew Wally

**Administration Present:**

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

---

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Chairwoman Ms. Mulhern called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM

- Mr. Mulhern went on to the acceptance of the minutes for May 26, 2016, and June 9, 2016.
- Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
- Mr. Antonelli explained that he wanted to give an update on this item as well as go over issues that have been encountered as part of this plan.
  - Rectangular Field Master Plan Update
    - Mr. Antonelli explained that one of the things being done as part of this plan is they are compiling a list of all rectangular fields within the city to include City property, private properties, school property, etc. this list is not completed but will be completed and will be part of the final Master Plan. Mr. Antonelli gave a presentation of areas that are available, and existing facilities that may be converted to a multipurpose facility, however multipurpose facilities would only be available as a rectangular field only in the fall time, as the facility would be used for other sports in spring and summer. Turf professionals recommend that fields be only used between 25 and 50 times a year for approximately from 100 – 250 hours, they also recommend that fields should receive 8 weeks of rest per year with no use to maintain the turf. Mr. Antonelli explained that city facilities cannot rest for all that time due to the demand of field time by Worcester Youth Soccer and other Worcester Youth leagues that need a rectangular field. Mr. Antonelli talked about synthetic fields as an option and he informed that at some point Providence St. Glodis would become a synthetic field with lights, however not all fields can be synthetic. Mr. Antonelli went on to show currently owned spaces that have been looked at that there was some field space that might be utilized for example in:
      - District 1 –
        - Duffy Field
        - Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli if softball and baseball fields were being looked at for overlaying.
        - Mr. Antonelli answered that there are locations that are being looked at for overlays but that the fields would not be available year round they would only be available in the fall.

- Great Brook Valley has a softball field but there is an area that can be used.
- Indian Hill – small overlay
- Kendrick – already has an overlay
- Tacoma – proposing a full new field where the pool used to be
- District 2
  - Bell Hill – possibly off Merrifield
  - Burncoat Park – already has an approved Master plan with an overlay
  - Green Hill Park – renovation of existing area
  - Holmes Field – looking to put permanent goals with an overlay
  - Lake Park – State Facility – renovations will go a long way
  - Coburn Ave Softball Field – possibility of an overlay
  - Phil O’Connell – existing rectangular field needs minor improvements
- District 3
  - Blithewood Park - it’s a possibility if tennis court is removed
  - Glodis – Will be the first synthetic turf field
  - Greenwood Park – Field is open Softball and rectangular field
  - Vernon Hill – regrading of an open area
- District 4
  - Crompton Park – an overlay
  - So. Worcester – small area
- District 5
  - Apricot Street – small field
  - Beaver Brook – existing open space in the area where the pool was
  - Bennett Field – possibility of a rectangular field
  - Boynton Park – availability of a field and dog component
  - Knights of Columbus – existing rectangular field
  - Farber Field – renovations to field
  - Rockwood – Open area
  - Chandler Magnet – School Department facility
- Mr. Antonelli said he anticipates this document to be finalized and put together in a month or so. Mr. Antonelli also added that thanks to the Council the City Manager has put in 1.2 million dollars toward the parks Capital Budget to renovate Glodis Field and add synthetic turf and lighting.
  - There were different discussions and questions from meeting attendees, Councilor Rosen and Parks Commissioners regarding, nets, possibly getting a sponsor for the fields, possibly having leagues maintain the fields, facility permitting, and funding for maintenance. Mr. Antonelli answered all questions and recommendations will be in the final document once completed.
- Request from Worcester State University for a sound system at Rockwood Field:
  - Mr. Antonelli asked the Parks Commission to allow Coach Dirk Baker to speak on behalf of Worcester State University and their request.
    - Dr. Dirk Baker said that the Rockwood Park Lyons Diamond won a national award field of the year. He said they are doing little things, they did the fence, the dug outs, benches, bull pen cage and this year with the fence being done they have a new sound system deck in a cross 90 degree angle. They have a sound person ready to go with the speakers up on both ends of the backstop. Worcester State baseball fundraising will be paying for everything, from wiring and conduit to the sound system and the work needed.
    - Ms. Mulhern asked if the cross 90 degree angle is so it doesn’t go out and bother the neighbors. She also asked Mr. Antonelli if there were any neighbor complaints or concerns.
    - Mr. Antonelli explained that the only neighbor complaints are coming in because of the Softball field and the football field noise, and he believes that this design will not cause

any issues. He also asked for the commission to set a maximum capacity that it can be used at.

- Dr. Baker agreed with Mr. Antonelli about the noise level and he stated that the goal was to have someone from Worcester State to program that system so nobody messes with it; he said they do not need the music or noise blasting. He met with an IT person and he did say there could be an adjusted knob so the sound does not go to high decibels. The speakers will be secured so nobody can remove them, they will be weather proof.
- Ms. Mulhern asked if this would be for Worcester State use only.
- Dr. Baker said that people would have been trained or they would have to pay someone to come in to manage the system.
- Mr. Wally asked if at some point Dr. Baker leaves and the neighbors complaint will the city have the ability to limit the use.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that it is a city field the city has the right to create the governing rules.
- Ms. Mulhern stated that a motion can be made as long as there was a decibel level that can be agreed on.
- Mr. Antonelli said that it needs to meet the City of Worcester sound ordinance.
- Mr. Lauring made a motion to approve the installation of the sound system with the understanding that the system has to be used at a level to comply with the City of Worcester Sound Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Wally. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
- Grant Applications –
  - Coes Knife - Awarded
  - TD Green Streets Grant - Awarded
  - National Fish & Wild Life – Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program Grant
  - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Betty Price
  - PARC & LAND Grant Program
  - Massachusetts Port Authority Grant for Park Steward Program
- Economic Development Initiatives - NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations –
  - Worcester County Senior Athletic Association
- Capital Improvement Programs
  - Apricot Street Playground - NA
  - Ball Property - NA
  - Banis Street Playground - NA
  - Beaver Brook Park - NA
  - Bell Pond – NA
  - Bennett Field
  - Betty Price Playground – Grant Application Submitted
  - Blackstone Gateway Park – NA
  - Blithwood Park – NA
  - Boynton Park – NA
  - Burncoat Park – NA
  - Burncoat Playground – NA
  - Cascades Park – NA
  - Castle Park – N/A
  - Common Master Plan Implementation
    - WWII
    - Civil War – Event July 16, 2016
  - Coes Knife Park
    - Stearns Tavern

- Playground
- Coes Pond
- Columbus Park – NA
- Cookson Park – NA
- Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
- Crompton Park
- Dodge Park – NA
- Elm Park
  - 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
- Greenwood Park – NA
- Hadwen Park – NA
- Harrington Field – NA
- Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
- Holland Rink - NA
- Holmes Field - NA
- Indian Hill Park
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park
  - Restroom Facility & Gazebo
  - 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 - Update
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – NA
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – Master Plan
- Shore Park
- 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
  - North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
- Art-in-the-Park – NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – Master Plan
- Rectangular Field Development – Master Plan
- Misc. items:
  - Keep Worcester Clean –
    - April 2016
  - City Council Orders
    - NA
  - Petitions
    - NA
  - Forestry Operations –
    - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
    - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
  - Budget Update – Operational & Capital -
    - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division
    - Capital Improvement program
    - City Five Point Financial Plan - NA
  - Summer Youth Employment Program – now hiring
  - Recreation Worcester - Started
  - Holiday Tree – NA
  - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink - NA
  - Waterfowl in Park – NA
  - Out-to-Lunch – Started
  - Trash – NA
  - ESCo – NA
  - Park Permits – NA
  - Access/ ADA – NA
  - Mobile Concession - NA
  - Misc. Information –
    - ATV, Dirt Bike Article
    - Spray Park photo
    - Coes Knife Stearns Tavern
    - Out to Lunch
  - NA
- Golf Course:
  - NA
- Golf Course Donations
  - NA
- Tabled Items: - Smoking in Public Parks – NA
- A motion was made to adjourn, Seconded. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM

➤ Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: July 14, 2016 – 6:30 PM