



**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, September 6, 2018 – 6:30 PM

**Commissioners Present:**

Scott Cashman  
Nick Chacharone  
Eric Goldstein  
Meg Mulhern  
George Sedares

**Administration Present:**

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

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**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Ms. Mulhern called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM

- Ms. Mulhern welcomed Mr. Eric Goldstein back to the Parks Commission.
- Ms. Mulhern went on to the acceptance of minutes for April 12, 2018 & May 3, 2018 & June 21, 2018.
  - Mr. Sedares made a motion to accept the April 12, 2018 minutes. Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Minutes were approved 5 – 0
  - Mr. Chacharone made a motion to accept the minutes for May 3, 2018. Second by Mr. Cashman. All were in favor. Minutes were approved 5 – 0.
  - Mr. Sedares made a motion to accept the minutes for June 21, 2018. Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Minutes were approved 5 – 0.
- Ms. Mulhern turned the meeting to Mr. Antonelli for the Assistant Commissioners report:
- Mr. Antonelli asked to table the Policy Subcommittee to review the Alcoholic Beverage Policy
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first on the General items as follows:
  - Request of the Worcester Downtown Business Improvement District to speak on the proposed program and the Commission to vote on the proposed program.
    - Mr. Antonelli explained that there was a flyer included in the Parks Commission packages that included some information related to this program. He asked to let Julie Hillstrom, Senior Project Manager for the Worcester Business Development Corporation speak on this program.
    - Ms. Hillstrom explained that they have been working very closely with a number of downtown stakeholder, Mass Development and some of their consultants for the past year and a half putting together a business improvement district for the areas surrounding the theater and across the theater to try to compliment the developing the work that has been happening in the area. She gave some history of the program as well as a brief scope of services they would like to implement in the area of the Common. She is proposing to make the existing area a more inviting place with beautification efforts, for example hanging flower baskets, as well as marketing and PR. Once and if accepted by Council the property owners will be assessed a small percentage (.3%) of the total assessed value. Those funds would go into an account that will help pay for the scope of services provided. However, any beautification would have to be maintained by the City of Worcester. She also stated that she has another few signatures they

need before they go in front of Council with this proposal and they were hoping to start next spring.

- Mr. Antonelli explained that the City Manager is looking for the Parks Commission to vote on this since the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division owns and manages property in this district. Mr. Antonelli explained that he has contacted the department of Planning and Community Development on this and it doesn't really change much of what the Parks Division does at this property on a daily basis for maintenance and he stated that this would only benefit the Common as well as the theater district and the business district.
- Mr. Cashman as who actually enacts this is it the City Council vote or the property owners vote.
- Ms. Hillstrom answered that this is very business driven initiative and they have been working very closely with the City on the idea that there would be a board set up with and executive director and the executive director would oversee the day to day operations and would be responsible for hiring the vendors.
- Mr. Cashman asked if the property the owners are voting on this or how does it happen. He stated that at some point some legislative body has to make a vote that and announce that there will be some type of surcharge.
- Ms. Hillstrom said that ultimately it would be the City Council but that at this time they are collecting property owner petitions, because this is a statewide program they have to reach a certain threshold of property owners once they have that required number they will bring it to the City Council and once the City Council votes it's sent to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development who oversees this program and essentially the city will start adding the .3% assessment to the tax bills which would go through the city and back to this this organization for reinvestment in that area.
- Mr. Cashman asked what the total assessed value of properties in this proposed district is currently and what the rate are between commercial and residential.
- Ms. Hillstrom stated that did not that have total assessment number at this time but she did have it in her office and she would be happy to send it to the Commissioner to pass on to the parks commission. She stated that this does not include any commercial/residential units, so any residents that are in the area there's not a great deal of residential units other than apartments and there are some condos and they are exempt.
- Mr. Cashman asked residential condos would be exempt, would the colleges and universities would also be exempt as well as other non-profit organizations such as Hanover Theater and those sort of properties.
- Ms. Hillstrom stated that there are many non-profits that have actually signed up for this program.
- Mr. Cashman felt there were other unanswered questions that they need it the answers to be able to vote on this so he was opposed to it at this time.
- Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli if the City Manager is just looking for a recommendation from the Parks Commission on the Common or on if they think this is a good idea.
- Mr. Antonelli explained he just needed them to vote on the Common.
- Mr. Goldstein asked who the other Cities participating in these were.
- Ms. Hillstrom answered that some of the cities are: Amherst MA, Providence RI, Boston MA
- Ms. Mulhern asked as this is a voluntary program when they get enough signatures on their petition and it gets approved are all businesses going to get charged that .3% surcharge even if they did not volunteer.
- Ms. Hillstrom answered yes but they would first have to collect the majority of signatures at least 60% before they go to council but if approved the .3% surcharge will be mandatory.
- Colin Novick who was attended the meeting asked about who appoints the board.
- Ms. Hillstrom explained that there has been a group of about 12 people from the Theater District that have been meeting in reference to this and have been talking to property owners because they would like to solicit people who are property owners within that district.
- Colin asked if this was a legal entity someone would have to appoint them.

- Ms. Hillstrom explained that it is an organization/entity that is created and they will have their own set of bylaws and articles of organization and there will be a board and an executer.
    - Mr. Chacharone made a motion to hold to the next meeting with the understanding that the Worcester Business Development Corporation provides the information on this program in specific on total assessed value of properties. Second by Mr. Sedares. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
  - Request of the Friends of Newton Hill to speak to the Commission on improvements to the Disc Golf Course at Newton Hill
    - Mr. Antonelli asked for Kevin McCormack to bring his presentation
    - Mr. McCormack spoke in reference to the Disc Golf and how positive it is for this area. He spoke regarding upgrades, grants & equipment. He also spoke regarding the US masters Disc Golf Tournaments that is coming next year and what they would like to add to the court such as: new baskets and new more visible baskets (maybe white). They would also like to do T-pads overs, and they would have to do some clearing around the area where hole 4 is at.
    - Ms. Mulhern asked what they were voting on.
    - Mr. Antonelli stated that they were looking for approval of the additions of the new baskets. He added that Administration supports the Friends of Newton Hill and their endeavor and all the work they have done with the Disc Golf Course and other things that are involved with such as the Summer Concerts.
    - Mr. Goldstein asked about the funding for these improvements.
    - Mr. McCormack informed that they had 2 grants one of them is to cover some of the cost of the improvements which are expected to be \$9,300.00.
    - Mr. Antonelli stated that the City of Worcester wants to partner with them on this and help out in what they can.
    - Mr. Cashman commended them for the great work they are doing in that area.
    - Ms. Mulhern made a motion to approve the renovations and additions to the Disc Golf Course at Newton Hill. Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
  - Request of the Main South CDC to speak to the Commission on an update of the community mural at University Park
    - Mr. Antonelli moved to file this item and if Main South CDC would like to come back he would add them to the agenda.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that the following are informational.
  - Communication on Blackstone River Bikeway Order of Taking
  - Communication on Gas Leak Detection at proposed new tree planting locations
  - Communication on a grant for installation of a Bio-filtration system
  - Communication the Master Plan for Hadwen Park
  - Mr. Antonelli asked to skip down on the Agenda to the Golf Course: Driving Range Fees & Policies:
    - Mr. Moison stated that in 2008 a Master Plan was developed for the Golf Course which included renovations to the Clubhouse building which have been completed. As well as the construction of the driving range which was bid out about a year ago, and it's almost completed hopefully about a month and a half away from being able to open the driving range, and this is the reason why he was in front of the board looking for approval on some fees and policies for the driving range as follows:
      - Instruction and how to handle instructors that will want to use the facility
        - Instructor must to be approved by Head Golf Pro
        - Instructors must have liability insurance
        - Appropriate behavior is expected from all instructors or privilege may be revoked
        - Any improved instructors/instructors who are charging people will have to pay a \$5.00 per student charge (to be used for wear and tear)
        - Improved instructors will be required to purchase the golf balls from the Green Hill Golf Course at standard rates.

- Instructors must schedule time through the scheduling software to avoid conflicts
- General Rules & Regulations for Driving Range
  - Grass T area is exclusively instruction
  - No use of the driving range outside of the normal golf course operating hours
  - Lesson T will be closed to public use
  - Walking on to the driving range will be strictly prohibited
  - Players must stay within the marked areas of the driving range
  - Range balls must remain at the golf course
  - Players waiting will have a designated area for waiting
  - Golf carts are not permitted onto the driving range
- Fees
  - Bucket of Golf Course at normal price 3 different sizes
    - Small bucket with 25 golf balls \$4.00
    - Medium bucket with 75 golf ball for \$10.00
    - Jumbo bucket with 120 golf ball for \$15.00
  - Pre-Paid certificates as follows:
    - \$100.00 Pre-paid driving range certificate/card it will have a value of \$125.00
    - \$200.00 Pre-paid driving range certificate/card it will have a value of \$250.00
    - \$500.00 Pre-paid driving range certificate/card it will have a value of \$625.00
  - An addendum to memberships will be done for those interested in using the driving range for an additional \$300.00 will give them a \$500.00 value.
- Mr. Chacharone made a motion to accept the Driving Ranges fees and Policies. Second by Mr. Sedares. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
- Grant Applications –
  - MassPort Community Charitable Grant Program – Awarded
  - and & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Betty Price - Awarded
  - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Hadwen Park – Awarded
  - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Hadwen Park – Filed – Have not heard back
  - PARC & LAND Grant Program – South Worcester Playground - Awarded
  - PARC & LAND Grant Program – Crompton Park – Filed – Have not heard back
- 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 - NA
  - Bell Pond – NA
  - Bennett Field – NA
  - Betty Price Playground – In process
  - Blackstone Gateway Park – In process
  - Blithwood Park – Update
  - Boynton Park – NA
  - Burncoat Park – NA
  - Burncoat Playground – NA

- Cascades Park – NA
- Castle Park – Update
- Common Master Plan Implementation – NA
- Coes Park (Knife) – Update
  - Stearns Tavern – Majority of outside completed
  - Playground – Looking into an additional parking lot
- Coes Pond – NA
- Columbus Park – NA
- Cookson Park – NA
- Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – Allocated \$75,000.00 to put some picnic tables funded by CSX
- Crompton Park – NA
- Dodge Park – NA
- Elm Park – NA
  - Newton Hill – New building completed and open 3 restrooms and storage area
- Fairmont Park – NA
- Farber Field – Fully designed
- Grant Square – Completed
- Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
- Green Hill Park Renovation – Update
  - Green Hill Farm
  - Community Gardens
  - WWI – In process
- Greenwood Park – NA
- Hadwen Park – Update
- Harrington Field – NA
- Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) – Under construction
- Holland Rink - NA
- Holmes Field – Under construction
- Indian Hill Park – NA
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park – Update
  - Walkway Design – Almost completed
  - Salisbury Pond – \$2 million authorized for dredging total cost \$9 million
- 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 – In process almost complete
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – Changed the hours of operation
- 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 – Meetings will restart in the Spring
- 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 – Update
- Misc. items:
  - Keep Worcester Clean –
    - January – June 2018
  - City Council Orders –
    - Request tree planting @ 416 & 420 Hamilton Street
    - Request to have Green Hill Pond cleaned and treated
    - Request for information on tree death due to gypsy moth infestation
    - Request to find a solution to prevent future drownings at Bell Pond
    - Request the closing of Salisbury Park @ 8:00 PM
  - Petitions –
    - Request outdoor recycling bins be placed at City Hall & the Common
  - Forestry Operations – Update
    - 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 – MA
  - Aquatics – Program was a success
    - Christian’s Law – NA
  - Recreation Worcester – Program was a success
  - Holiday Tree – November 30, 2018
  - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink - NA
  - Waterfowl in Park – NA
  - Out-to-Lunch – NA
  - Trash – NA
  - ESCo – NA
  - Park Permits –
    - See Above
  - Access/ ADA – NA
  - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
  - ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
  - Misc Information –
    - Article on ALB
    - Article on Accessible Beaches
    - Article on CPA

- Article on Summer Activities
- Article on Shore Park
- Article on Indian Lake
- Article on the Worcester AUD
- Article on Bell Pond Tragedy
- Article on Drowning and Lifeguards
- Article on Stearns Tavern
- Article on Monument Program
- Article on Latin American Festival
- Article on Park Steward Program
- Article on Mass Symphony Orchestra
- Article on Parks without borders
- Article on Neighborhood Nature
- Article on Out to Lunch Concerts
- Article on Summer Concert Series
- Article on Skate Park Issue
- Article on Highlights from City Hall
- City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
  - Thursday September 13, 2018 @ 5:30 PM
- Golf Course:
  - Driving Range Fees & Policies – moved up on the agenda
- Golf Course Donations: -
  - NA
- Mr. Sedares made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM
- Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: September 27, 2018 – 6:30 PM