

# WORCESTER BALLPARK COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2022 at 10:00am

Location: 100 Madison Street or Virtual

### Attendees

**Worcester Ballpark Commission (WBC)**: Chairman Moore, Commissioner Dixon, Commissioner Fisher, Commissioner Harrity, Commissioner Maloney, and Commissioner Mulhern. **Not Present**: Commissioner Perez

**City of Worcester**: Russell Adams and Luis Castillo

**WooSox**: Dr. Charles Steinberg, Robert Malone, and Hannah Butler

1. Call to Order
  - 1.1. Chairperson Moore called the meeting to order at 10:08am.
2. Approval of Minutes 3-8-2022
  - 2.1. Minutes for 3-8-2022 Ballpark Commission were approved at 10:09am.
3. WooSox Update
  - 3.1. Dr. Steinberg, Robert Malone, and Hannah Butler provided update on the WooSox. The ballpark updates included new Adirondack seats, new duck boat, ADA compliant seating, 2 new flag poles, seasonal flower beds, and 3 new 42" field gate access points.
4. City of Worcester Update
  - 4.1. Ballpark Commission Responsibilities – update provided to clarify responsibilities of the Commission, 1) Vote on any changes to the governance documents or lease, as recommended by the City following negotiations with the WooSox; 2) Capital Improvement account finances, as audited by 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Quarterly Review requested, and noted this could be adjusted as needed.
  - 4.2. Scheduling Community and Event Days – The City noted there are 8 Revenue Generating Days and 10 Community Days. Logistics were noted to be an issue. The City had discussed the idea for an RFP to manage event requests and coordination with the WooSox. The City noted DPW Parks has a permit system to manage event requests, and suggested DPF could do so as well for these requests, coordinate with the WooSox and submit for approval by the Commission. WooSox noted there is an abundance of interest in the community days, noting the challenge is how do we identify revenue generating events for the City?
  - 4.3. WooSox are going to produce concerts or multiple concerts. There are upgrades to the park that need to happen to hold these events. Egress from the field is being

completed. Risk will be taken by the WooSox. Promoters teaching WooSox that this will be seen as a good venue, once one is held. There is a possibility to be a City Revenue Generating Concert as well. Worcester Youth Symphony Orchestra's Anniversary Concert – WooSox thinking this may be interesting to host and be a revenue generating event for the City. The WooSox are in the concert business. City can do this too.

- 4.4. City questioned who would produce the event including setup, cleanup, ticketing, etc. for City events? Could WooSox do this, or should potential future event manager? Comm. Mulhern noted that the term, "Event Manager" may be incorrect. Current City employee takes on responsibility, in lieu of Event Manager. This employee would collect information in a timely manner for approval by the City and WooSox and then the Cx.
- 4.5. Comm. Harrity: Whether Community or Revenue Day, revenue is still generated for the team, and therefore they should want to support events.
- 4.6. Comm. Maloney: Could an intercity hockey tournament possible? WooSox have a great relationship with the Railers and could develop an event. A community day for skating could be possible as well. Startup costs are yet unknown, but likely substantial. WooSox requested that this be an ongoing topic. Ask Dan Rea to join Hannah in the analysis. Revenue is such that grounds were completely replaced at Fenway. Installed a sand based flat field (7 figure investment), not a crowned site to drain.
- 4.7. Only one graduation this year and not using a community day.
- 4.8. 11 Community Days last year, and one this year. Monday 9/26 WPD and Fire baseball game. Commission was not aware of this event happening as a Community Day. Shouldn't the commission be approving these days?
- 4.9. Holy Cross and HS Football games begin in the fall.
5. Adopt Commission Meeting Schedule and Agenda
  - 5.1. The third Wednesday of the month at 10am aligns with Commissioners, WooSox and City schedules.
6. WooSox added, Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> WooSox has dining on the diamond, for profit. 40 tables in the outfield, family pricing. Fans can order their dinner: Lobster Rolls to Hot Dogs. These types of events are included in the schedule. This was very popular in Pawtucket, and may be popular here.
7. Comm. Maloney asked of information on the telephone charging stations. People are learning about them currently. Comm. Mulhern confirmed she had used one successfully.
8. Rollcall vote was taken to adjourn.