



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, March 31, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Eric Goldstein
John Luring
Meg Mulhern
George Sedares
Lawrence Sullivan

Administration Present:

Jeff Tomaino, Park & Recreation Coordinator

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Chairman Mr. Goldstein called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

- Mr. Goldstein went on to the acceptance of the minutes for February 25, 2016 and March 10, 2016. No questions or concerns. All were in favor. Minutes were approved. 6 – 0.
- Mr. Goldstein asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first item:
 - Request of Brazilian Festival for use of Institute Park
 - Mr. Antonelli asked to let the representative from this event to speak.
 - Ms. Suely Dibara spoke on behalf of the Brazilian Festival she explained that she had held this event in September 2015 but this year she wanted to change the date to June 2016, she explained that it was an event for families that there would be entertainment for kids like bouncy house, a train, there would be food, and music.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked if there were any issues from the 2015 event.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained there were a couple of issues from the previous year and informed her that they would have to work on keeping the noise level down, and that she would have to get additional parking to provide for the event.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked if there would be any alcohol.
 - Ms. Dibara stated that there would be no alcohol.
 - Mr. James Atty was present and he suggested additional trash barrels to be put along Humdbolt Street as there was an issue with garbage in 2015.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked if there were any additional questions there wasn't any.
 - Ms. Mulhern made a motion to approve the event with the understanding that Ms. Dibara had to work on addressing issues of trash, noise and parking, Second by Mr. Sedares. All were in favor. Motion approved 6 – 0.
 - Mr. Antonelli went on to the following item which was South Side Babe Ruth using the field before opening date.
 - Ms. Jennifer Cesar the president of the South Side Babe Ruth explained that she had been at the field on that day cleaning and lining the field and when she left there was nobody on the field. She said she had spoken to all her coaches and had giving them the opening date and had told

them that nobody was to be on the field until after opening date. She then received a call from the Parks Department telling her someone had been playing on the field, she called all her coaches to find out it was one of her coaches that felt that it was ok to use the field because it was really nice out. She apologized on behalf of her coach.

- Mr. Goldstein gave her the opening date, and informed her that the fields were previously scheduled to open on April 1st but because of the rain and weather the fields were not in good condition for use.
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the following item: Cricket at Crompton - Use of Field before opening
 - Vivek Murugesan spoke on behalf of the Worcester Cricket Club. There was a picture of a group of people playing Cricket at Crompton Park before opening day and Mr. Murugesan explained that there are a few Cricket teams in Worcester and not all of them were under his league. He said he would try to find out who the people were and get back to the Parks Division with the information.
- Parks & Recreation Commission Reappointments
 - Mr. Antonelli congratulated Mr. Sedares and Ms. Mulhern for signing up for an additional years of serving on the Parks Commission board.
- Grant Applications –
 - Coes Knife - Awarded
 - TD Green Streets Grant – Arbor Day - Awarded
 - National Fish & Wild Life – Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program Grant
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Betty Price – Under review
- Economic Development Initiatives - 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 – Shut down field for the safety of residents and users of the field, as there is a wall that is deteriorating.
 - 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 – Brought on BSC Group to design Phase I
 - Common Master Plan Implementation – Update
 - WWII & Civil War – Will be beginning work at the beginning in April
 - Coes Knife Park – Continues to move forward
 - Stearns Tavern
 - Playground
 - Coes Pond – Update
 - Columbus Park – NA
 - Cookson Park – NA
 - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
 - Crompton Park – Under construction expected completion is sometime at the end of June
 - Dodge Park – NA
 - Elm Park – Doing misc. work
 - 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 – Work will be done to the Pavilion and bathrooms buildings are almost finalized
 - Greenwood Park – NA
 - Hadwen Park – NA
 - Harrington Field – NA
 - Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
 - Holland Rink - NA
 - Holmes Field - NA
 - Indian Hill Park – Moving along
 - Indian Lake Beach – NA
 - Institute Park
 - Restroom Facility & Gazebo – Moving along.- Brought on consultant to do a study on the walkways
 - Salisbury Pond - Doing a study on the pond to find out what’s in it, in the event the funding becomes available to do the dredging.
 - 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 – Doing some work on the building
 - Oakland Heights Playground – NA
 - Providence Street Playground – NA
 - Ramshorn Island – NA
 - Rockwood Field – NA
 - Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
 - Shale Street Playground – Master Plan – waiting for the final draft
 - Shore Park – Designing new building
 - 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 – in the process of identifying recommendations

- Rectangular Field Development – In process of identifying recommendations. Looking to get a survey out to all leagues and organizations that use rectangular fields to get input from them.
- Misc. items:
 - Keep Worcester Clean –
 - NA
 - City Council Orders
 - Shade Tree Regulations
 - Petitions
 - NA
 - Forestry Operations – Arbor Day April 29, 2016
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Budget Update – Operational & Capital -
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – In discussion with City Manager
 - Capital Improvement program – In discussion with City Manager
 - City Five Point Financial Plan - NA
 - Summer Youth Employment Program – Hiring will start soon
 - Ms. Mulhern asked about lifeguard classes
 - Mr. Antonelli explained the process
 - Wheels to Water – Now “Recreation Worcester” - NA
 - Holiday Tree – NA
 - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink - NA
 - Waterfowl in Park – NA
 - Out-to-Lunch – Starting in June
 - Trash – NA
 - ESCo – NA
 - Park Permits – Scheduled to open April 2nd
 - Access/ ADA – NA
 - Mobile Concession – item included in package as an FYI
 - Misc. Information –
 - Food Truck Article
 - Blackstone Gateway Park Article
 - Elm Park Photo
 - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
 - New Business:
 - Mr. Phil Bolduc spoke to the Parks Commission to give them an update on the fitness course at Newton Hill, he informed them that it was a full success and it is now part of the park. He also introduced a new idea he has of creating a new Winter Recreation Course at the Green Hill Golf Course. He said he visited other places that have recreation courses and interviewed the people that are running it, to figure out how to set it up, where the funding came from and how to maintain it. He also met with Brian McCarthy from Green Hill Park Coalition and he was in support of the idea. Mr. Bolduc was looking for a preliminary approval from the Parks Commission prior to him starting the righting of the grants.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked how he would manage to keep people away from the greens and tees.
 - Mr. Bolduc explained that they would mark out a group tracks, he explained there isn’t a way to prevent people from going of the track and going into the greens and the tees, but by providing a group track that avoids the greens and tees people would most likely stay on the tracks. Mr. Bolduc said there weren’t many Winter Sports in Worcester so he wanted to add this for a better quality of life.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked Mr. Antonelli if he had spoken to Matt Moison the Golf Pro on this.
 - Mr. Antonelli said that there have been some initial conversations on it but the problems are in how to work it out so the greens and tees don’t get damaged, but he feels like it can be worked through.

- Mr. Antonelli said that if there weren't any further concerns he would continue working with Mr. Bolduc and later on he can come back in front of the board and have the Commission bless that.
 - Mr. Sullivan asked what he anticipated the need for funding would be.
 - Mr. Bolduc said that he had written up a budget that is the best case scenario so if he was to buy the best equipment it would be about \$30,000.00.
 - Mr. Goldstein asked if this needed to be voted on.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that at this time it was just to bring the idea and that at a later time when the proposal is formal then it could be voted on.
- NA
 - Golf Course:
 - NA
 - Golf Course Donations
 - NA
 - Tabled Items: - Smoking in Public Parks – NA
 - Ms. Mulhern made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Sedares. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM
 - Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: May 5, 2016 – 6:30 PM