



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

Thursday November 18, 2021 – 6:30 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605

Or

If you choose to use the WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
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- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2314 689 6819
- 4) Enter password: Parkscomm11-18

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
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Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Eric Goldstein
Bowen Lee
Natalie Turner
Erin Zamarro

Administration Present:

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Jeffrey Tomaino, Recreation Coordinator
Milagros Pacheco, Sr. Accountant

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM
2. Attendance (Roll Call) – Five (5) Commission Members were present at the November 18, 2021 meeting.
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the April 15, 2021, May 20, 2021, June 24, 2021, July 8, 2021 & September 30, 2021 (Roll Call)
 - 3.1. Minutes for April 15, 2021 – Tabled – Commissioners Cashman & Lee abstained as they were not present at the April 15 meeting. Motion made by Ms. Turner, Second by Mr. Goldstein

- 3.2. Minutes for May 20, 2021 – Tabled – Commissioner Goldstein & Turner abstained as they were not present at the May 20 meeting. Motion made by Mr. Lee, Second by Ms. Turner
 - 3.3. Minutes for June 24, 2021 – Approved - Mr. Goldstein abstained as he wasn't at that meeting - Motion made by Ms. Turner, Second by Mr. Lee. Motion was approved 4 – 0
 - 3.4. Minutes for July 8, 2021 – Approved – Mr. Lee abstained as he wasn't at that meeting – Motion made by Ms. Zamarro, Second by Ms. Turner. Motion was approved 4 – 0
 - 3.5. Minutes for September 30, 2021 – Approved – Mr. Goldstein abstained as he wasn't at that meeting – Motion made by Ms. Turner, Second by Mr. Lee. Motion was approved 4 - 0
4. Public Participation – Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in person and remote participation at the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings. To partake in the “Public Participation” section of this meeting, you may join us directly within the 50 Skyline Drive Meeting Room A, follow the information above to join via the WebEx application or dial the direct line as indicated. If you would like to raise your hand when in the meeting as a call-in user you may dial *3.
5. Committee Reports
 - 5.1. Golf Course Subcommittee – None
 - 5.2. Policy Subcommittee – None
 - 5.3. Naming & Land Use Subcommittee – None
 6. Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

1. Referral to Policy Subcommittee: NA
2. Referral to Naming/ Land Usage Subcommittee: NA
3. Referral to Golf Course Subcommittee: NA
4. General:
 - Request of Eric D. Wells & Family to install a flag pole at Institute Park with all costs associated with the purchase & install to be supplied by the Wells Family.
 - Mr. Eric D. Wells spoke on behalf of the above request. He explained that for many decades he has attended many concerts at Institute Park and they feel that it's missing a flag pole/flag for the when the National Anthem is being performed. The Wells Family is willing to pay all cost for the flag pole and flags as long as the City waives the building permit fees.
 - The Commission had questions regarding the lifting and lowering of the flag, plaque, lighting and who will do perform the work.
 - The Commission also felt that a plaque should be placed acknowledging the generosity of the Wells Family.
 - Mr. Goldstein made a motion to approve/accept the donation from the Wells Family. Second by Ms. Turner. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - Request of the City of Worcester to allow alcoholic beverages as part of the Festival of Lights Special Event at the Worcester Common on Friday December 3, 2021.
 - Yaffa Fain from Cultural Development Office spoke on behalf of the Festival of Lights. She explained that the Festival is the annual winter celebration in the Common, this year it will be

held on December 3rd and they are looking to have a beer garden 30 x 30 fenced in tent located at the grass area adjacent to Front Street.

- Mr. Antonelli asked if the License Commission had approved them based on the Parks & Recreation Commission approval. Ms. Fain said that the License Commission did approve them.
- Ms. Turner made a motion to approve, Second by Ms. Goldstein. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 - 0
- Request of Mr. & Mrs. Ortiz to speak in front of the Commission
 - Ms. Nancy Ortiz explained that there were other people waiting to call in on behalf of their request to put up a fence around the handball court at Green Hill Park. She explained that in some cases the ball may go out on to the street, also that skateboarders sometimes cross in a middle of a game and in some occasions there has been hostility. She also pointed out that the court is also used by tennis and racket-ball players. Mr. Cashman asked Mr. Antonelli if this was the first request for the fence.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that this request has been an ongoing communication between the Handball Association and the Administration, he explained that partial fencing was already installed at this location but that the location is mostly ledge so in order to install more fence it would be a lot of work and costly and that enclosing the entire court would not make it friendly. Mr. Antonelli stated additional fencing with gates that are open, still allows access to skateboarders. Mr. Antonelli expressed that spending a considerable amount of money to put up fencing that will not solve the problem they are having with the skateboards, may not be the answer. He suggested they call park security when they are having those issues. He also stated that there is no funding currently assigned to pay for this work.
 - There were callers such as Jared Folks, Carlos Stanza as well as William Ortiz were all in favor of the fence.
 - Chairman Cashman as well as other Commissioners had questions regarding feasibility, costs, geological issues, other handball courts and maintenance.
 - Ms. Turner made a motion to submit a proposal to look into Green Hill Park handball court fencing and maintenance, and the feasibility and cost of be added to the proposal. Second by Mr. Lee. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 - 0
- Grant Applications –
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Columbus Park- Awarded
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Coal Mine Brook – City was awarded \$750,000.00
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant – Tacoma St Playground - Awarded
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – Coes Pond Beach – Awarded
 - 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 – NA
 - Blackstone Gateway Park – NA
 - Blithwood Park – NA
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA

- Burncoat Playground – NA
- Cascades Park – NA
- Castle Park – NA
- Common – NA
- Coes Park (Knife) – NA
- Stearns Tavern
- Playground
- Coes Pond – NA
- Columbus Park –
 - NA
- Cookson Park – NA
- Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
- 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 – NA
- Green Hill Farm
- Community Gardens
- WWI
- Greenwood Park – NA
- Hadwen Park – NA
- Harrington Field – NA
- Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
- Holland Rink - NA
- Holmes Field - NA
- Indian Hill Park – NA
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park – NA
- Walkway Design
- Salisbury Pond
- Kendrick Field – NA
- Knights of Columbus – NA
- Korean War Memorial – NA
- Lake Park – NA
- Lake View Playground – NA
- Logan Field – NA
- Morgan Landing – NA
- Mulcahy Field – NA
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – NA
- 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 – Request to keep Art Work in Elm 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
- City Council Petitions – NA
- Forestry Operations – NA
- ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
- EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
- Arbor Day – NA
- Budget – Operational & Capital - NA
- Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
- Capital Improvement Program – NA
- 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 - NA
- Waterfowl in Park – NA
- Out-to-Lunch – NA
- Trash – NA
- ESCo – NA
- Park Permits – Changes to applications were discussed.
 - Ms. Turner made a motion to approve the changes on the applications with No changes to the fees, Second by Mr. Goldstein. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 - 0
- Review of the Park fees, policies, rules & regulations for 2022
- Access/ ADA – NA
- Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
- ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
- Veterans Memorials - NA
- Misc. Information –

- Article on Parks Security Guard
- Article on New Lighting at Blackstone Gateway Park
- Articles on Farber Field
- Articles on Tacoma Street Playground
- Articles on Institute Park Firefighter Memorial
- Articles on Urban Forestry Commission
- Articles on Indian Hill Park
- Article on Crompton Park Skate Park
- Articles on Doherty Memorial High School Groundbreaking
- Articles on Lake Quinsigamond Invasive Plant Treatment
- Article on the City of Worcester as the fastest growing major city in New England
- Golf Course:
- Review the fees & policy's for the 2022 Golf Season
 - Mr. Antonelli and Mr. Moison went over the following fees and Policy changes for 2022:
 - **Student Pass** – This pass was created several years ago to extend the golfing benefits to junior golfers that have aged out of the junior category, yet were still in college at the time. We have added in recent years the millennial pass and the monthly pass. These two new passes fill that void. Change rate from \$350 to \$650 and add a non-resident version at \$750. This is year 1 of a 2 year phase out of this category.
 - **Expand Millennial Pass** – Start pass at age 19.
 - Post as policy that the course does not allow spectator carts or ride along carts. Cart rentals are for golfers only.
 - Any rainchecks to expire after 30 days from issue.
 - **Inclement weather Policy** – Golfers assume all risk related to the playing of golf during their time at Green Hill. This includes inclement weather. At no time will the course be responsible for removing players during inclement weather events nor any refunds will be given for inclement weather.
 - **Golf Leagues** – Golf leagues pre-pay for 18 weeks of golf. Green Hill Members pay \$115 while non-members pay \$350. The \$350 fee represents 16 weeks with 2 free weeks. Golf leagues will be granted no more than 2 additional rounds as make ups for the lost play during the season. New fee \$400 will eliminate the two free weeks.
 - **Golf Outings** – Present golf outing fee is \$70 per player. This includes the round of golf, cart, driving range and \$10 pro shop credit per player. Increase outing fee to \$75.00 per player.
 - **Golf USGA handicaps** – Will no longer be provided at the course. They will only be available through Mass Golf Association or the USGA. This program is part of the new handicapping services of the MGA/USGA, by 2023 all handicaps will go through these organizations.
 - Ms. Turner made a motion to accept the Golf Course Fees and Policy changes. Second by Mr. Lee. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - Golf Course Donations: NA

7. Old Business - NA

8. New Business

8.1. Beaver Brook Park – Music & Parking – Mr. Antonelli brought a map with a residents guide to private streets. He indicated that Mayfield Street is half private and that it would not be feasible for the City to put

a parking lot there because they the City does not own the entire street. He also explained that the City has an agreement with Antonio's and that parking area was built out on the park side which is used by the little league and when not used by the little league, Antonio's uses it as overflow parking. Mr. Antonelli suggested putting up some signage indicating where parking lots are available.

9. Date of Next Meeting:

- December 16, 2021
- January 13, 2022
- January 27, 2022 (Sports & Events Meeting)
- February 17, 2022
- March 3, 2022
- March 31, 2022
- April 28, 2022
- May 12, 2022
- June 16, 2022

10. Meeting Adjourned

- Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Turner, Second by Mr. Goldstein. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

A copy of this meeting is not yet available but once it is you will be able to view and listen to full meeting discussions at: www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes