

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday March 2, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

If you choose to use the WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click the “join” button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID# 2301 900 0500
- 4) Enter password: Parkscomm3-02

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2301 900 0500

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
3. Acceptance of Minutes for June 16, 2022, September 8, 2022, November 17, 2022 & January 19, 2023 (Roll Call) February 2, 2023 (Table)
4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Parks@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Parks@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
5. 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 Officer Manny Familia Way 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.

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

5. Old Business

- NA

6. New Business

- Noise Ordinance
- Handball Court Fence

7. Date of Next Meeting:

- March 23, 2023 (Revised Date)
- April 27, 2023
- May 25, 2023
- June 15, 2023

8. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION **MINUTES**

Thursday – January 19, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.

If you choose to use the WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click the “join” button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2304 545 2130
- 4) Enter password: Parkscomm1-19

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2304 545 2130

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Nick Chacharone
Brian Dardy
Eric Stratton
Erin Zamarro

Administration Present:

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Milagros Pacheco, Staff Assistant III
Scott Morin, Maintenance Director (Online)

-
1. Meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.
 2. Attendance (Roll Call) – Five (5) Commission Members were present at the January 19, 2023, meeting.
 3. Acceptance of the minutes for June 16, 2022, September 8, 2022, and November 17, 2022- (Tabled)
 4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Parks@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Parks@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
 5. 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.

6. Committee Reports

1. Golf Course Subcommittee – None
2. Policy Subcommittee – None
3. Naming & Land Use Subcommittee – None

7. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

8. Old Business

- a. Mr. Geoff Killebrew Question Review – Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to file. Second by Commissioner Zamarro. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.

9. New Business - NA

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:
 - o Review and approval of Park policies & Procedures
 - o Fireplace Requirements for Salisbury Park – Bancroft Tower – Commissioner Stratton made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - o Fireworks Requirements – Bell Pond - Commissioner Stratton made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Zamarro. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - o Facility Reservation for Beaches - Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Stratton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - o Facility Reservation for Pools - Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Dardy. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - o Facility Reservation for Splash Pads (Spray Parks) - Commissioner Stratton made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - o To Attend Recreational Program or Activities in City Park & Open Spaces - Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Zamarro. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - o Eagle Scout Projects - Commissioner Stratton made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 5 – 0.
 - o Commissioner Stratton asked if anyone has a question about any of the policies or procedures, can they be revisited.
 - o Assistant Commissioner Antonelli recommended that any items that he would like to revisit to let him know in order to add it to the agenda to then revisit.

- Grant Applications –
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Coal Mine Brook – Awarded – Should be completed around June.
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant – Tacoma St. Playground – Awarded – Going out to bid in March - April
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – University Park – Awarded – Should be out to bid and start construction sometime in July.
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant – Indian Lake Beach – Not Awarded – Not approved.
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – A couple of other grants are coming forward.
- 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 – Updated
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA
 - Burncoat Playground – NA
 - Cascades Park – NA
 - Castle Park – NA
 - Coal Mine Brook – Updated
 - Common – NA
 - Coes Park (Knife) – NA
 - 1) Stearns Tavern
 - 2) Playground
 - Coes Pond – NA
 - Columbus Park –
 - 1) NA
 - Cookson Park – NA
 - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) –
 - 1) NA
 - Crompton Park – NA
 - Dodge Park – NA
 - Elm Park – NA
 - 1) Newton Hill - NA
 - Fairmont Park – NA
 - Farber Field – NA
 - Grant Square – Under construction – Should be completed sometime in June - July

- Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
- Green Hill Park Renovation – NA
 - 1) Green Hill Farm
 - 2) Community Gardens
 - 3) 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
 - 1) Walkway Design
 - 2) 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
- South Worcester Park – Getting ready to award bid
- 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 Artwork in Elm Park - NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – NA
- Rectangular Field Development – NA
- Park Monument Review – NA
- Misc. items:
 - Keep Worcester Clean –

- 1) NA
- City Council Orders –
 - 1) NA
- City Council Petitions –
 - 1) NA
- Forestry Operations –
 - 1) Tree City USA - NA
 - 2) ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - 3) EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - 4) Arbor Day – April 28, 2023 – Working on location
- Budget – Operational & Capital - NA
 - 1) Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - 2) Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - 3) City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
 - 4) City Auditor Communications - NA
- Summer Youth Employment Program – Meeting with Human Resources to try to manage future hirings.
 - 1) Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that on a normal year there are between 40 & 50 Lifeguards. However, since Covid it has gone down, last year only 17 lifeguards were hired. This year the city will offer to pay for the training to the hire them.
- Aquatics – NA
 - 1) Christian’s Law – NA
- Recreation Worcester - NA
- Holiday Tree – Friday December 2, 2022
- Worcester Common Ice-Skating Rink – Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday’s weather permitting
- Waterfowl in Park – NA
- Out-to-Lunch – NA
- Trash – NA
- ESCo – NA
- Park Permits –
 - 1) NA
- Access/ ADA – NA
- Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
- ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
- Veterans Memorials - NA
- Misc. Information –
 - 1) NA
- Golf Course:
 - Fees & Policies - NA
- Golf Course Donations: NA
- Date of Next meeting – February 2, 2023
- Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Zamarro. All were in favor. Motion approved 5 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:
www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday – November 17, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.

If you choose to use the WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click the "join" button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2305 454 6909
- 4) Enter password: Parkscomm11-17

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2305 454 6909

Commissioners Present:

Nick Chacharone
Eric Golstein
Eric Stratton
Erin Zamarro

Administration Present:

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Milagros Pacheco, Staff Assistant III
Scott Morin, Maintenance Director (Online)

-
1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.
 2. Attendance (Roll Call) – Four (4) Commission Members were present at the November 17, 2022, meeting.
 3. Acceptance of the minutes for June 16, 2022, and September 8, 2022 - (Tabled)
 4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Parks@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Parks@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
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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.

6. Committee Reports
 1. Golf Course Subcommittee – None
 2. Policy Subcommittee – None
 3. Naming & Land Use Subcommittee – None
7. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)
8. Old Business
 - a. Mr. Geoff Killebrew Question Review – Tabled
 - b. Review of Permit Applications
9. New Business - NA

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:
 - o Master Plan review and approval of conceptual designs for Blithewood Park
 - o Assistant Commissioner Antonelli started a screen presentation and went through the proposal:
 - 1) 95' Basketball court
 - 2) Lighting
 - 3) Pickle ball/Tennis
 - 4) A loop asphalt walkway that goes around the park
 - 5) New adult fitness center area similar to the one at the Senior Center
 - 6) Small open pavilion with picnic tables
 - 7) Enhancement of area where the Holiday Tree goes to include electricity
 - 8) Entry access from Massasoit Road
 - 9) Repairs to wall along the property line
 - 10) Growing grass in area where Little League field was, looking to make it an open field.
 - 11) Netting to protect neighbors & cars from balls
 - 12) Sitting areas
 - 13) No changes will be made to the parking lot other than lighting
 - 14) No changes to playground
 - 15) Tree planting and removal of dead tress
 - o There were questions from the Commission, such as:
 - 1) How will the netting for tennis vs pickle ball be worked out?
 - 2) What type of material would be used for the walking paths?
 - o Councilor Russell congratulated the Parks Division staff for all the research and work done for this Master Plan. He shared information about the park's history, activity, and his

knowledge of the park, he stated that he liked the plan in general. However, he pointed out that he would like to see the field stay as the Grasseschi Field regardless of its classification, rectangular or a baseball field.

- There was a question from someone online in reference to the pathways.
- Mike Testa, President of the Grafton Hill Neighborhood Association agreed with Councilor Russell and contributed his knowledge on the use history of the park.
- Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Stratton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Request to allow alcohol on the Worcester Common for the Festival of Lights Celebration
 - Yaffa Fain was virtually present and spoke on behalf of the Festival of Lights at the Common on Friday, December 2, 2022, gave a brief description of the event, and their request to serve alcohol as part of the celebration.
 - Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Stratton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Removal of all Parks & Recreation Commission Subcommittees
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained the reason for the request.
 - Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve. Second by Commissioner Stratton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Grant Applications –
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Coal Mine Brook – Awarded
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant – Tacoma St Playground - Awarded
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – University Park - Awarded
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant – Indian Lake Beach – Submitted but not approved.
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – NA
- 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 – Updated
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA
 - Burncoat Playground – NA
 - Cascades Park – NA
 - Castle Park – NA
 - Coal Mine Brook – Updated
 - Common – NA
 - Coes Park (Knife) – NA

- 1) Stearns Tavern
 - 2) Playground
- Coes Pond – NA
- Columbus Park –
 - 1) NA
- Cookson Park – NA
- Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) –
 - 1) NA
- Crompton Park – NA
- Dodge Park – NA
- Elm Park – NA
 - 1) Newton Hill - NA
- Fairmont Park – NA
- Farber Field – NA
- Grant Square – Under construction
- Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
- Green Hill Park Renovation – NA
 - 1) Green Hill Farm
 - 2) Community Gardens
 - 3) WWI
- Greenwood Park – NA
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- 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
 - 1) Walkway Design
 - 2) 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
- South Worcester Park – Getting ready to award bid
- 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 Artwork in Elm Park - NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – NA
- Rectangular Field Development – NA
- Park Monument Review – NA
- Misc. items:
 - Keep Worcester Clean –
 - 1) NA
 - City Council Orders –
 - 1) NA
 - City Council Petitions –
 - 1) NA
 - Forestry Operations –
 - 1) Tree City USA - NA
 - 2) ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - 3) EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - 4) Arbor Day – April 28, 2023
 - Budget – Operational & Capital - NA
 - 1) Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - 2) Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - 3) City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
 - 4) City Auditor Communications - NA
 - Summer Youth Employment Program – Starting soon
 - Aquatics – NA
 - 1) Christian’s Law – NA
 - Recreation Worcester - NA
 - Holiday Tree – Friday December 2, 2022
 - Worcester Common Ice-Skating Rink – Getting ready to open
 - Waterfowl in Park – NA
 - Out-to-Lunch – NA
 - Trash – NA
 - ESCo – NA
 - Park Permits –
 - 1) Review of permit applications
 - Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve all application updates as well as fee increases. Second by Commissioner Stratton. All were in favor. Motion was approved. 4 – 0.
- See second item on the agenda
 - Access/ ADA – NA
 - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
 - ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
 - Veterans Memorials - NA

- Misc. Information –
 - 1) NA
 - Golf Course:
 - Fees & Policies Recommendations
- Fees:
- 1) Change shotgun event fees from \$75 to \$95.
 - a. Shotgun start evens close the course for approximately 9 hours. The fee of \$75 does not generate enough revenue to justify the closure for such a long period of time.
 - 2) Student Pass eliminated as part of a two year draw down of the category. Players in this age category fall under. Either the junior pass (18 & under as stated in the Information Guide) or the millennial membership (19-29).
 - 3) Weekend morning green fees increased from \$45 to \$ 47. No other weekend fee changes.
 - 4) Cart fees increased \$1 per category. In 2022 the fee was increase by \$1. This second increase is in response to the increased costs for cart operations.
 - 5) Increase season permit categories: \$50 per category. (With the exception of the millennial pass as these will absorb the eliminated student pass).
 - 6) Change of Millennial Membership (title) to a different title not yet determined.

Policies:

- 1) Tee times booking 7 days in advance via Web page. Clubhouse call in bookings taken only day of.
 - 2) Eliminate proper dress requirement
 - 3) ½ way house restrooms open within 1 hour of first tee time
- Commissioner Stratton made a motion to approve the recommendations, with the understanding that the name change on number 6 will be determined at a later date. Second by Commissioner Goldstein. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Golf Course Donations: NA
 - Date of Next meeting – December 15, 2022
 - Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Stratton. All were in favor. Motion approved 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

**A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:
www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes**



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday – September 8, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.

If you choose to use the WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click the "join" button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2315 611 5638
- 4) Enter password: Parkscomm9-08

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2315 611 5638

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Nick Chacharone
Eric Golstein
Eric Stratton
Natalie Turner
Erin Zamarro

Administration Present:

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Milagros Pacheco, Staff Assistant III
Scott Morin, Maintenance Director (Online)

-
1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Commissioner Cashman acknowledged the newly appointed Commissioner Stratton and the reappointment of Nick Chacharone.
 2. Attendance (Roll Call) – Six (6) Commission Members were present at the September 8, 2022, meeting.
 3. Acceptance of the minutes for June 16, 2022. (Tabled)
 4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Parks@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Parks@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.

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5. Committee Reports

- Golf Course Subcommittee – None
- Policy Subcommittee – None
- Naming & Land Use Subcommittee – None

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

7. Old Business

8. New Business - NA

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 Health and Human Services to allow alcoholic beverages as part of an event on the Worcester Common.
 - Mr. Antonelli asked to allow Aaron to speak on behalf of this event.
 - Aaron stated he was speaking on behalf of the non-profit organization Casita Cultura Latina based in Worcester Mass regarding their event El Dia de los Muertos (Day of the dead) scheduled for the Worcester Common on October 29, 2022. They requested permission to serve alcoholic beverages as part of this event.
 - Mr. Antonelli asked for more details on the event.
 - Aaron explained that the day of the dead is a day of honoring the ancestors, they display pictures of people that have passed on. They are making sure that is culturally appropriate. Part of the exhibit will include a celebration, art exhibit, an open community dialog about equity issues in the Latin community, Latin American food, music, youth, and cultural activities including offerings to honor the collective past and addressing community health and social issues.
 - Commissioner Cashman asked if the Administration had a recommendation.
 - Mr. Antonelli recommended the event and the alcohol request be approved as this was a second-year event with no issues with the condition that all final details be worked out with Parks Administration.
 - Commissioner Cashman asked about what the attendance was last year.
 - Aaron said there was a rough estimate of maybe up to 1000.
 - Commissioner Goldstein asked if they had any vendors aligned for the alcohol serving.
 - Aaron said that they are in the process of contacting vendors.
 - Commissioner Turner asked if the vendors would have to come in front of the Parks Commission.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the Parks Commission will approve the event and the alcohol

component based on it being in a public park, the applicant will need to go to the License Commission with all the details on the alcohol portion, and the License Commission will set all the rules and regulations on the alcohol component.

- Commissioner Chacharone made a motion to approve with the condition that all details be worked out with Administration. Second by Commissioner Goldstein. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
- Mr. Antonelli welcomed the new Commissioner Eric Stratton and the return of Commission Nick Chacharone. He also stated that due to a scheduling conflict the October meeting would be moved up one week.
- Date of Next meeting – October 27, 2022
- Commissioner Stratton made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Goldstein. All were in favor. Motion approved 6 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

- **A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:**
www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday – June 16, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.

If you choose to use the WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click the "join" button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2306 429 7375
- 4) Enter password: Parkscomm6-16

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2306 429 7375

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Julie Ann Lamacchia
Bowen Lee
Erin Zamarro

Administration Present:

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
Jeffrey Tomaino, Recreation Coordinator
Milagros Pacheco, Sr. Accountant
Scott Morin (Online)

-
1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM
 2. Attendance (Roll Call) – Four (4) Commission Members were present at the June 16, 2022, meeting.
 3. Acceptance of the minutes for April 28, 2022, and May 26, 2022.
 - 3.1. Chairman Cashman asked if there were any questions on changes of the minutes. There were none. Minutes were approved.
 4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Parks@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Parks@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.

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5. Committee Reports

Golf Course Subcommittee – None

Policy Subcommittee – None

Naming & Land Use Subcommittee – None

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

7. Old Business

7.1. Mr. Geoff Killebrew Question Review

7.2. Green Hill Handball Court Commission Letter Review

8. New Business - NA

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:

- Master Plan review and approval of conceptual designs for the New Park at the former Becker College Property at 69 Sever Street.
 - Mr. Antonelli gave a presentation of 3 proposals for passive recreation at the 69 Sever St. parcel, all 3 were similar. All proposed benches, picnic tables, walkways, work out stations, artwork stations, more tree plantings and upgrades to existing drainage, pedestrian lighting, security cameras. Once the presentation was completed Commissioner Cashman asked the Parks Commission if there were any questions.
 - Ms. Lamacchia asked about the length of the walkway. Mr. Antonelli explained that it would be different based on which design it’s chosen but there would be location along the walkway that will contain the information. She also asked about bicycles. Mr. Antonelli said it wouldn’t be for bicycles since it would not be wide enough.
 - Commissioner Cashman opened the floor to question from the public.
 - Ms. Ana Santos expressed her observations and concerns.
 - There were no further questions. Commissioner Cashman asked Mr. Antonelli what was next. Mr. Antonelli explained that between people who attended the meetings as well as people who couldn’t attend but reached out via email, are all looking for a passive recreation location. Mr. Antonelli indicated that the neighbor requests and concerns will be taken into consideration and keep really try to keep the park in its current realm and enhancing that with some artwork and picnic tables.
 - Someone suggested a dog park. Mr. Antonelli explained that he thought making it a dog park would bring more parking related issues and expressed that there are a couple of dog parks in relatively close to this location.

- Ms. Santos made more statements on what she would like to see, like more trees, clay walkways instead of pavement.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that there is merit on the discussion about the trees in the interior but in reference to the walkways they would have to be pavement because of the handicap accessibility.
- Commissioner Cashman asked if there would be any other meetings.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that ideally, he was looking for a vote as long as the plan was within the ballpark of what the neighbors want, and he would bring back a more completed park in September.
- Commissioner Lamacchia suggested having a pollinator garden in place of the game tables. Mr. Antonelli said he could look at doing that maybe working with neighborhood or environmental groups that are looking for special projects.
- Mr. Lee made a motion to approve Option C with inclusion of trees within the center along with a pollinator garden component when a partner is found to assist. Second by Lammachia. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Request of Commissioner Natalie Turner for copies of all permit applications. - Tabled
- Grant Applications –
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant –
 - Coal Mine Brook – Awarded
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant –
 - Tacoma St Playground - Awarded
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant –
 - University Park - Submitted
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant –
 - Indian Lake Beach - Submitted
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – NA
- 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 – 2 Public meetings for masterplan
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA
 - Burncoat Playground – NA
 - Cascades Park – NA
 - Castle Park – NA
 - Coal Mine Brook – 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
- South Worcester Park - 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 –
 - Worcester Tree Ordinance
 - Chandler Hill (Bell Hill)
 - City Council Petitions –
 - NA
 - Forestry Operations –
 - Tree City USA - Update
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Arbor Day –
 - 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 – Update
 - 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 –
 - See second item on the agenda
 - Access/ ADA – NA
 - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
 - ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
 - Veterans Memorials - NA
 - Misc. Information – NA
- Golf Course:

- NA
 - Golf Course Donations: NA
- Old Business:
 - Mr. Geoff Killebrew Question review
 - Mr. Cashman asked about the request for the question review. He understood that no questions were submitted yet.
 - Mr. Antonelli said that on the minutes it stated that Ms. Turner made a motion to table this item until administration has received detailed request in writing and has had time to put a response together.
 - At the end of the meeting Mr. Killebrew asked about the questions or who to send the questions to.
 - Mr. Cashman explained that he needed to submit the questions in writing and give administration enough time to answer the questions.
- There was a discussion between Commissioner Cashman and Mr. Antonelli regarding a letter in support of an item that was on previous agendas regarding handball court at Green Hill park and the need for a fence on the Officer Manny Familia side. Ms. Ortiz spoke to the Commission, Mr. Cashman explained that the Parks Commission agrees with her request, but funding is not available therefore the Parks Commission is going to send a letter to the City Council showing their support for this request/project. There were further discussions between the Commission, Mr. Antonelli and Ms. Ortiz.
- Clara Senior the new security person was introduced to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- Date of Next meeting – September 15, 2022
- Ms. Zamarro made the motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Lee. All were in favor. Motion approved 4 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.
 - **A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:**
www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes

City of Worcester

An Ordinance Relative to
Excessive and Unreasonable Noise

Chapter 9 § 1A

(a) Findings and Declaration of Policy

- (1) *Findings.* The city council hereby finds that excessive and unnecessary noise is a significant threat to the health, welfare, safety, and the quality of life of the public; that excessive and unnecessary noise over an extended period of time leads to hearing loss; that excessive and unnecessary noise may interfere with personal communication, cause sleep disturbances, create anxiety and distress and aggressive behavior. The city council further finds that a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive and unnecessary noise may be substantially abated.
- (2) *Declaration of Policy.* In consideration of the above findings, and recognizing that Amendment Article 97 to the Constitution of the commonwealth of Massachusetts establishes that the people have a right to be free from excessive and unnecessary noise, it is hereby declared to be the public policy of the city to reduce the ambient noise level in the city to safe and reasonable levels and to eliminate the episodic creation of excessive and unnecessary noise so as to preserve, protect and promote the public health, safety, welfare and peace and quiet of the inhabitants of the city, to prevent injury to human, plant and animal life and property, to foster the convenience and comfort of its inhabitants, and to facilitate the enjoyment of the natural attractions of the city.

(b) Definitions - For purposes of this section 1A, the following words shall have the meanings respectively set forth below:

"A" level - means the total sound level of all noise as measured with a sound level meter using the "A" weighting network. The unit of measurement is the dB(a).

Ambient - means the background level of sound immediately preceding the sound produced by the object or person under scrutiny and, when measured mechanically or electronically, is the A-weighted sound level that is exceeded 90% of the time measured during equipment operating hours.

Device - means any mechanism which actually produces sound when operated or handled.

Motorcycle - means any motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, including any bicycle with a motor or driving wheel attached, except a tractor or a motor vehicle designed for carrying golf clubs and not

more than four persons, an industrial three-wheel truck, or a motor vehicle on which the operator and passengers ride within an enclosed cab.

Motor Vehicle - means any device which is propelled by an engine, other than a motorcycle, in or upon which a person or material may be transported on the ground and which is intended to be operated upon a public highway.

Person - means any individual, partnership, company, corporation, association, firm, organization, governmental agency, administration or department, or any other group of individuals, or any officer or employee thereof.

Plainly Audible - means any sound that can be detected by a person using his or her unaided hearing faculties. (As an example, if the sound source under investigation is a portable or personal vehicular sound amplification or reproduction device, the enforcement officer need not determine the title of a song, specific words, or the artist performing the song. The detection of the rhythmic base component of the music is sufficient to constitute a plainly audible sound).

Public Place - shall include any public way, any private way open to public use and on the official map of the city or any way for vehicular travel in any city park, playground, public school property or land under the control of any city department.

Sound Level Meter - means any instrument including a microphone, amplifier, an output meter, and frequency weighting networks for the measurement of noise and sound levels in a specific manner.

Sound Reproduction Device - means any device, electronic or otherwise, which is capable of producing, reproducing or amplifying sound, including but not limited to any musical instrument, radio, television, tape recorder, compact disc or DVD player, public address ("P.A.") or other sound amplifying system.

Sound Signal - means any sound produced by an electronic sound signal device designed to transmit information.

(c) Sound Levels for Motor Vehicles

- (1) No person shall operate any motor vehicle or any sound reproduction device within any motor vehicle in such a manner that the vehicle or sound reproduction device is plainly audible in a public place at a distance of 50 feet or more in any direction from the vehicle.
- (2) Except where necessary to avoid a collision with another motor vehicle or with a pedestrian, no person shall operate a horn or warning device from any motor vehicle or motorcycle such that the sound emanating from such act is plainly audible in a public place at a distance of 125 feet or more from said vehicle or motorcycle.
- (3) No person shall operate any siren in any public place except authorized employees of public entities providing law enforcement, fire suppression,

first responder or advanced life support services in the immediate act of responding to an emergency or engaged in a training exercise.

(d) Sound Levels for Motorcycles

- (1) No person shall accelerate a motorcycle in such a manner as to cause any sound which is plainly audible over the ambient noise level in a public place at a distance of 50 feet or more in any direction from the vehicle.
- (2) No person shall operate a motorcycle in such a manner as to exceed 82 dB(A) when operated at a speed of 45 mph or less, or in such a manner as to exceed 86 dB(A) when operated within a speed zone of over 45 mph. The sound level shall be measured by a sound level meter at a distance of fifty-five feet or more from the center lane of travel, as provided in G.L. c. 90, § 7U.
- (3) No person shall operate a motorcycle whose exhaust system, muffler or any other equipment or element of design incorporated into the motorcycle in compliance with federal or state laws or regulations pertaining to motorcycle noise or air pollution emissions has been removed or rendered inoperative by any person.

(e) Sound Levels Generally

- (1) No person shall operate any electronic sound reproduction device so as to create sound which is plainly audible in a public place at a distance of 25 feet or more in any direction from the device or the premises containing the device, whichever is greater.
- (2) No person shall operate any self-contained, portable, hand-held sound reproduction device in such a manner as to be plainly audible in a public place at a distance of 25 feet or more in any direction from the operator.
- (3) No person shall create any sound on any street adjacent to a hospital or medical treatment facility at any time which is plainly audible at any place within 25 feet of the property of such hospital or facility or which unreasonably disturbs the comfort or repose of any person of normal sensitivities in such hospital provided a plainly visible sign has been displayed on such street indicating the presence of such hospital or medical treatment facility.
- (4) No person shall create any sound on any street adjacent to any public or private school, institution of higher learning or court whenever the same is in session which is plainly audible at any place within 25 feet of the property of such hospital or facility or which disturbs the operation of any such school or the proceedings in any such court provided a plainly visible sign has been displayed on such street indicating the presence of such school or court.
- (5) No person shall engage in persistent or repeated yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling, singing, or the making of other loud noises between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to be plainly audible in any public place at a distance of 25 feet or more in any direction or so as to annoy or disturb the reasonable quiet, comfort or repose of persons in any dwelling, hotel, hospital, or other type of

residence, or in any office, or of any persons in the vicinity of any such person in or on the public sidewalks, ways or other public places.

- (6) No person shall operate any sound reproduction device for commercial or business advertising purposes or for the purpose of attracting attention to any performance, show or sale or display of merchandise, in connection with any commercial or business enterprise in front or outside of any building, place or premises abutting on or adjacent to a public street, park or place where the sound therefrom is plainly audible on any public street, park or place, or from any stand, platform or other structure or anywhere on the public streets, parks or places.
- (7) No person shall make or cause or permit to be made or caused any music or sound originating from or in connection with the operation of any commercial establishment or enterprise when the level of sound increases the broad band sound level, when measured at the property line of the establishment, by more than 10 dB(A) above ambient, or produces a pure tone condition (a condition is created when any octave band center frequency sound pressure level exceeds the two adjacent center frequency sound pressure levels by three decibels or more).
- (8) No person shall operate any power saw, drill, grinder, lawn mower, lawn or garden tool, or similar tool at any time between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and Saturday or between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday and legal holidays, such that the sound emanating from any such activity is plainly audible in a public place at a distance of 50 feet or more.
- (9) No person shall operate any powered construction equipment or build, erect construct, demolish, alter, repair, excavate or engage in hoisting, grading, site work, including tree and brush removal, dredging or pneumatic hammering, or deliver construction equipment and/or supplies to the site on any building, road, tower, parking lot, machine, pipe, sewer, sidewalk, or any other construction project, except between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturday, and between the hours 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Sundays except for work performed by a public service or municipal utility department or "emergency work" performed with the express written permission of the commissioner of inspectional services or the commissioner of public works and parks. Emergency work shall be limited to such work that is clearly essential to response to a sudden and unexpected threat to public health or public safety. Emergency work permission may be granted to a general or sub-contractor on a blanket basis governing all persons working on a specified portion of a particular job. Emergency work permission may be granted for not more than one week at a time, and may be renewed for additional one week periods at the discretion of the commissioner who granted the initial permission.

(f) City Contracts

- (1) On any project for the construction, reconstruction, installation, demolition, maintenance or repair of any building, or public work, to be funded in whole or in part by city funds, or funds which, in accordance

with a federal or state grant, program, or otherwise, the city expends or administers, or any such project to which the city is a signatory to the contract therefor, the provisions of this section shall apply and the same shall be referenced in every invitation to bid for such project and, the following paragraphs shall be contained in every resulting contract therefrom:

"It shall be a material breach of this contract if the contractor and each subcontractor shall not at all times adhere to the provisions of § 1A(e)(9) of chapter nine of the Revised Ordinances of the city by limiting their on-site, noise producing construction and related work to the hours specified by said ordinance."

- (2) The director of purchasing, commissioner of inspectional services and the head of any department shall have the authority to adopt any rules and regulations they deem necessary to implement this subsection with respect to contracts generally and the head of the department awarding any such contract shall have the authority to adopt any rules and regulations he or she deems necessary to implement this subsection with respect to any particular project.

(g) Exemptions

This ordinance shall not apply to:

- (1) Sound from activities in the public parks, playgrounds, playing fields, or public property or buildings of the city used under the written permission of the municipal official or body charged with the care, custody and control of said facility; provided that, any amplified sound generated by such activities shall not be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet or more from said public park, playground, playing field, or public property or building.
- (2) Sound from parades, rallies, public assemblies, demonstrations, special events, sporting events or sound trucks may for brief periods reasonably exceed the sound level limits contained herein; provided, however, that no person shall increase the amplification level of the sound generated by such activities to the point where it is consistently and plainly audible in a public place at a distance of more than 50 feet from the perimeter of the property containing such activity.
- (3) Sound from bells, chimes, or carillons from a structure operated for non-commercial purposes between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:05 p.m., and during special events.
- (4) Sound from snow blowers, snowplows, and other snow removal equipment during or immediately after a snowfall, and the use of power equipment necessary for emergency repairs or debris removal due to severe weather.
- (5) Sound from trains, boats and personal watercraft operated in compliance with state law.

- (6) Sound from aircraft landing, taking-off, or taxiing at Worcester Regional Airport.
- (7) Sound from lawfully permitted fireworks displays.

(h) Enforcement and Penalties

The penalty for each violation of this section 1A shall be fifty (\$50.00) dollars. The provisions of this section 1A shall be enforced using the noncriminal disposition process as provided in General Laws, chapter 40, § 21D by the chief of police and every city police officer and official and any other individual listed as an “enforcing person” under the relevant provision of chapter 15 of the Revised Ordinances.



The City of
WORCESTER
Department of Public Works & Parks

Department of Public Works & Parks
Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division
50 Officer Manny Familia Way, Worcester, MA 01605
P | 508-799-1190 F | 508-799-1293
parks@worcesterma.gov

June 23, 2022

Mr. Eric D. Batista
Acting City Manager
City Hall Room 306
455 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

Dear Mr. Batista

I am writing on behalf of and as Chairman of the City of Worcester Parks and Recreation Commission concerning the lack of appropriate fencing at the handball courts on Officer Manny Familia Way.

At the Commission meeting on May 26, 2022 we reviewed extensive documents concerning the history behind the construction of the hand ball courts. In addition, we heard from Ms. Nancy Ortiz of the New England Hand Ballers Association, Inc. (NEHA). In prior meetings we heard comments from other members of the NEHA concerning their concerns about the lack of fencing.

The lack of appropriate fencing on the Skyline Drive side of one of the two courts inhibits its functionality and the flow of play as well as potentially being a safety hazard. A motion was made and approved 4-0 to "encourage the City Administration to find appropriate funding to resurface the handball courts on Skyline Drive, install appropriate fencing and make other improvements to make the courts accessible for all users."

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Cashman
Chairman City of Worcester
Parks and Recreation Commission

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:1. General:

- Community Preservation Act Memo to the City Council 1-24-23
- 149 West Boylston Drive Master Plan Meeting Invite
- Grant Applications –
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Coal Mine Brook – Awarded
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant – Tacoma St Playground - Awarded
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – University Park - Awarded
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Great Brook Valley - Submitted
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program – Sever Street - 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
 - Coal Mine Brook – Update
 - 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 – Update
- 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 - Update
- 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
- South Worcester Park - 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

- 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 –
 - Tree City USA - NA
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Arbor Day – April 28, 2023
 - 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 – Update
 - Aquatics – NA
 - Christian’s Law – NA
 - Recreation Worcester - NA
 - Holiday Tree – NA
 - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink - Update
 - Waterfowl in Park – NA
 - Out-to-Lunch – NA
 - Trash – NA
 - ESCo – NA
 - Park Permits –
 - NA
 - Access/ ADA – NA
 - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
 - ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
 - Veterans Memorials - NA
 - Misc. Information –
 - NA
- Golf Course:
 - Fees & Policies - NA
 - Golf Course Donations - NA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday March 2, 2023 – 6:30 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

Virtual with WebEx

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

GENERAL



Eric D. Batista
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

cm2023jan18045050

Attachment for Item #

9.4 C

January 24, 2023

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I write to provide an informational communication relative to implementation steps for the Community Preservation Act, and respectfully request your review and consideration of adopting the enclosed organizational ordinance establishing the Community Preservation Fund and Community Preservation Committee, as received from Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer. In accordance with Sections 5 and 7 of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, both the fund and the committee are required to be established. The review and adoption of this organizational ordinance will help us prepare for the upcoming fiscal year.

We have recommended the maximum allowed nine (9) members for the composition of the Community Preservation Committee. This includes the five (5) statutorily required members – a delegate from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Worcester Housing Authority Board, as well as our recommendation to have four (4) additional at-large members. The five (5) required members would be designated by their respective boards, whereas candidates for the remaining four (4) at-large seats would follow the normal procedure with the Citizen's Advisory Council for my consideration of appointment and confirmed by your Honorable Body. We hope to start advertising nominations for this new, exciting committee as soon as possible following the Council's review, deliberation, and adoption of the organizational ordinance establishing the committee. The committee will need considerable time to develop the required Community Preservation Plan, so our goal is to have a committee in place around the start of the upcoming fiscal year.

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER, CITY HALL, WORCESTER, MA 01608

TELEPHONE (508) 799-1175 | FAX (508) 799-1208

EMAIL: citymanager@worcesterma.gov

I am also recommending that the Executive Office of Economic Development be the department to serve as the administrative staff and support to the Community Preservation Committee. As such, in the upcoming budget, the department's table of organization will reflect a new position commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the role. This position is eligible to be funded through the CPA funds that will be collected. Eligible administrative and operating costs cannot exceed 5% of the annual budget for CPA funds.

We look forward to implementing this important initiative, and the positive outcomes that we expect to see from these new resources coming available to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric D. Batista". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



TO: Eric D. Batista, City Manager

FROM: Peter Dunn, Chief Development Officer

DATE: January 24, 2023

RE: Community Preservation Act – Informational Communication and Recommend Adoption of an Organizational Ordinance

In November 2022, the Worcester voters passed Question 5 on the ballot, adopting Sections 3 through 7 of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B (MGL Ch. 44B) – also known as the Community Preservation Act (CPA).

The purpose of this communication is focused on implementation steps, not background information or financial implications to taxpayers. For additional information on background and financial implications, I recommend readers refer to the report published on August 2, 2022 by the Worcester Regional Research Bureau at www.wrrb.org; the May 25, 2021 report of City Auditor Robert Stearns submitted to the City Council; and the Massachusetts Community Preservation Coalition's website at www.communitypreservation.org.

To best prepare for the upcoming fiscal year when CPA funds will start to be collected, one of the first steps recommended is enacting an organizational ordinance to create the Community Preservation Committee and the Community Preservation Fund. Enclosed please find the recommended organizational ordinance that our office developed in consultation with the City Solicitor.

Community Preservation Committee

Adoption of the CPA requires the creation, by ordinance, of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The CPC must be comprised of no fewer than five (5) members, and no more than nine (9) members. Furthermore, the composition **must include** delegates from the following, existing boards/commissions of the city:

- 1.) one delegate of the city's conservation commission, as designated by the commission.
- 2.) one delegate of the city's historical commission, as designated by the commission.
- 3.) one delegate of the city's planning board, as designated by the board.
- 4.) one delegate of the city's parks and recreation commission, as designated by the commission.
- 5.) one delegate of the board of directors of the Worcester Housing Authority, as designated by the Authority.

Beyond these five (5) required members, our recommendation is to have four (4) additional, at-large members, such that the total composition of the CPC would be nine

(9) members. Candidates for the additional, at-large seats would follow the normal course of procedure with our boards and commissions through the Citizen's Advisory Council. Those members would be appointed by the City Manager, and confirmed by the City Council. Furthermore, in terms of classification, this would be an executive board of the City of Worcester. We have also recommended staggering the initial appointment terms, which is typical, so that we maintain continuity on the CPC as terms expire.

The Executive Office of Economic Development will be the programmatic liaison and staff support to the CPC. As such, in the FY24 budget, the table of organization for Economic Development will reflect a new position, which will carry out the administration and operational activities of the CPC. This position is eligible to be funded out of the CPA funds collected.

The **duties and responsibilities** of the CPC included in our recommended ordinance are based on Section 5(b) of the CPA – MGL Ch. 44B. The primary role of the CPC is to develop and update a **Community Preservation Plan** that will guide its funding recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council.

Before making any funding recommendations, Section 5(b) states the CPC “must study the needs, possibilities and resources of the city or town regarding community preservation, including the consideration of regional projects for community preservation.” This process requires consultation with existing municipal boards and one or more public hearings. The process culminates with publishing a Community Preservation Plan, which will guide the priorities and funding recommendations of the CPC. The plan should be updated periodically to reflect the changing needs, possibilities, and resources of the city.

It should be noted that many communities have taken a **year or more** to develop their initial Community Preservation Plan. For example, recently in the Town of Shrewsbury, the CPC was appointed in April 2021 and the Community Preservation Plan was published in June 2022. In some cases for Towns, this process is even longer since the organizational by-law establishing the CPC requires town meeting approval and then Attorney General's office approval. For example, the Town of Berlin voters adopted the CPA in 2018, but the CPC was not formed until 2020. This first-year timeframe for creating the plan does not necessarily slow down the deployment of any CPA funds because the CPC will not know the total amount of the first-year collections until the end of the first fiscal year anyway. Furthermore, the state matching funds are typically distributed in November following the fiscal year.

Community Preservation Fund

Section 7 of the CPA – MGL Ch. 44B – requires that the City establish a separate account, to be known as the Community Preservation Fund (CPF). The City's Treasurer is the custodian of the account, and the authority to approve appropriations from the account rests with the City Council. As stated, the CPC will make funding recommendations to the City Manager and then to the City Council. The CPC may recommend CPA funds for purposes of acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of: **open space and recreation; historic resources; and community housing**. In addition the CPC may recommend CPA funds for eligible administrative and operating expenses, provided that those expenses do not exceed 5% of the annual budget. The CPC will recommend an annual budget including an allocation of at least 10% for each of the three CPA purposes. The CPC can also recommend setting aside funds for later spending.

Another best practice identified from other communities that we expect for Worcester would be the CPC's annual allocation for community housing being disbursed to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. CPA funds are the most common source for the continued capitalization of municipal Affordable Housing Trust Funds across the state, and we have already been having conversations about what strategies we will need to consider when the initial funds from the American Rescue Plan Act are exhausted or expire.

In terms of accepting funding proposals for the CPC's consideration, most communities have a cyclical process. That allows the CPC to review the relative merits of all proposals seeking CPA funds in a given year, and consider those proposals in alignment with the annual budget as well as the current Community Preservation Plan. The specific process and timelines associated with any Request for Proposals (RFP) will ultimately be deliberated and decided on by the CPC.

Estimated Implementation Timeline

Based upon the information provided in this report and the enclosed, recommended organizational ordinance, the following schedule is the best estimate we can offer for an implementation timeline:

Late Winter / Early Spring 2023: Open Nominations for CPC Candidates
Late Spring / Early Summer 2023: Appoint Members of the CPC
Summer 2023: Initial Meetings of the CPC / Initiation of Community Preservation Plan
2023-2024: Community Preservation Plan Development
June 2024: First fiscal year of CPA collections concludes
Summer / Fall 2024: Community Preservation Plan published
November 2024: Distribution of state matching funds for first year
Late 2024 / Early 2025: Initial RFP for project proposals

This schedule is subject to change as we proceed with implementation and start to work with the committee; however, we believed providing this initial estimate for the implementation timeline was helpful to set preliminary expectations for key milestones.

Sincerely,



Peter Dunn
Chief Development Officer

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER**

Whereas, in 2015, the City Council, acting pursuant to the recommendation of the City Manager made under Article VI of the Home Rule Charter, adopted a Comprehensive Reorganization Plan containing a new Revised Ordinances of 2015, Part Two, Organization of City Agencies; and,

Whereas, in the 2022 local election, Worcester voters passed Question 5, adopting sections 3 through 7 of chapter 44B of the General Laws; and

Whereas, pursuant to section 5(a) of chapter 44B of the General Laws, the city has a statutory obligation to create a community preservation committee; and,

Whereas, pursuant to section 7 of chapter 44B of the General Laws, the city has a statutory obligation to create a community preservation fund; and

Whereas, the city council and city manager desire to fulfill said sections 5(a) and 7 by creating a community preservation committee who shall be responsible for the planning, stewardship and recommendations for appropriation of proceeds from the community preservation fund; and

Now, Therefore, Be it Ordained by the City Council of the city of Worcester, as follows:

§ 1. The Revised Ordinances of 2015, Part Two, Organization of City Agencies, are hereby amended by inserting at the conclusion of Article III thereof a new section 19 as follows:

§ 19. Community Preservation Committee

(a) *Establishment of the Community Preservation Fund.* By virtue of the Worcester voters adopting sections 3 through 7 of chapter 44B of the General Laws, the city of Worcester hereby establishes on the books of the city an appropriations account known as the "Community Preservation Fund" for the deposit of collections, gifts, grants, appropriations, and other funds qualifying under section 7 of chapter 44B of the General Laws.

(b) *Establishment of the Community Preservation Committee.* Under authority of section 5(a) of chapter 44B of the General Laws, there is hereby established under the jurisdiction of the city manager an executive board of the city to be known as the "Community Preservation Committee."

(c) *Membership.* The Community Preservation Committee shall consist of nine members appointed under the provisions of section 5(a) of chapter 44B of the General Laws as follows:

- (1) one delegate of the city's conservation commission, as designated by the commission.
- (2) one delegate of the city's historical commission, as designated by the commission.
- (3) one delegate of the city's planning board, as designated by the board.
- (4) one delegate of the city's parks and recreation commission, as designated by the commission.
- (5) one delegate of the board of directors of the Worcester Housing Authority, as designated by the Authority.
- (6) four at-large members of the community appointed by the city manager.

(d) *Term – Initial Appointments.* The initial appointments of the members shall be staggered such that the first city manager appointee shall serve a term of one year; the second and third city manager appointees shall serve for terms of two years; the fourth city manager appointee shall serve a term of three years; the conservation commission appointee shall serve a term of one year; the historical commission appointee shall serve a term of two years; the planning board appointee shall serve a term of three years; the parks and recreation commission appointee shall serve a term of one year; and the Housing Authority appointee shall serve a term of two years. Thereafter, the terms of such members shall be three years. Every appointee shall serve as a member of the Community Preservation Committee until the appointment and confirmation of their successor. In the event of the death, disability, resignation, or removal of any member prior to the expiration of the term for which they were appointed, the city manager shall appoint a replacement member who shall serve for the balance of the unexpired term of the member for which they are replacing. All members may be reappointed in accordance with the provisions and limitations of the city charter. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the city manager except that no member shall be removed from office solely on account of any vote or position taken on any matter pending before or decided by the Community Preservation Committee. The chair of the Community Preservation Committee shall be designated by the city manager.

(e) *Function of the Community Preservation Committee.* It shall be the function of the Community Preservation Committee to advise and assist the city manager and the city administration in efforts relating to community preservation, including open space, historic resources, and community housing. The Community Preservation Committee shall make recommendations to the city manager for appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund for said purposes, as well as eligible administrative and operating expenses, and the city manager may then make a recommendation to the city council for final appropriation.

(f) *Duties and Responsibilities.* In accordance with section 5(b) of chapter 44B of the General Laws, the duties and responsibilities of the Community Preservation Committee are as follows:

- (1) The Community Preservation Committee shall study the needs, possibilities, and resources of the city regarding community preservation, including the consideration of regional projects for community preservation. The Community Preservation Committee shall consult with existing municipal boards, including the conservation commission, the historical commission, the planning board, the board of parks and recreation commissioners and the housing authority, or persons acting in those capacities or performing like duties, in conducting such studies. As part of its study, the Community Preservation Committee shall hold one or more public informational hearings on the needs, possibilities, and resources of the city regarding community preservation possibilities and resources, notice of which shall be posted publicly and published for each of two weeks preceding a hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the city.
- (2) The Community Preservation Committee shall make recommendations for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for recreational use; for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in this section; provided, however, that funds expended pursuant to this ordinance shall not be used for maintenance. With respect to community housing, the Community Preservation Committee shall recommend, whenever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites. With respect to recreational use, the acquisition of artificial turf for athletic fields shall be prohibited.
- (3) The Community Preservation Committee may include in its recommendations to set aside for later spending, funds for specific purposes that are consistent with community preservation but for which sufficient revenues are not then available in the Community Preservation Fund to accomplish that specific purpose or to set aside for later spending, funds for general purposes that are consistent with community preservation.
- (4) The Community Preservation Committee may recommend, and the city council may approve, appropriations from the fund to acquire land, or real property interests therein, held for railroad purposes to be used by the city for recreational use as a rail trail as defined in section 35A of chapter 82 of the General Laws. Notwithstanding subsection section 12(a) of chapter 44B of the General Laws, land, or real property interests therein, acquired pursuant to this paragraph shall remain subject to any property interest, including restrictions or reversionary interests, required to be held by the grantor or the United States pursuant to the federal National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended. Notwithstanding the definition of real property

interest in section 2 of chapter 44 of the General Laws, land, or real property interests therein, acquired pursuant to this paragraph shall be considered a real property interest for purposes of this ordinance, and a conservation restriction that meets the requirements of sections 31 to 33, inclusive, of chapter 184 of the General Laws shall be required.

- (5) The Community Preservation Committee shall not meet or conduct business without the presence of a quorum. A majority of the members of the community preservation committee shall constitute a quorum. The community preservation committee shall approve its actions by majority vote. Recommendations for appropriation shall include their anticipated costs.

(g) The chief development officer of the city, or his or her designee, shall administer the business and public affairs of the Community Preservation Committee and serve as the clerk and keeper of its official records.

Effective Date

§ 2. In accordance with Article Six of the city charter, this ordinance shall take effect on the earlier of the date of approval or, in the absence of a vote of approval by the city council, ninety (90) days after the date it is received by the city council.

PUBLIC MEETING #3 INVITATION

149 W. BOYLSTON DRIVE MASTER PLAN



The City of
WORCESTER

City of Worcester DPW & Parks

Place:

**Unitarian Universalist Church
Fellowship Hall
90 Holden Street
Worcester, MA 01606
Monday, March 03, 2023
6:00 PM**

Date:

Time:

Topics to include:

The presentation of the **DRAFT** Conceptual Master Plan based on the six (6) conceptual designs by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP) Studio V class, that were developed to meet the needs, wants and desires of the neighbors, citizens and organizations of the City of Worcester. The hearing will also include a public question and comment forum. All presented information and subsequent public comments will be synthesized to develop the Final Preferred Master Plan, to guide future community and neighborhood endorsed improvements.

All are Invited and Encouraged to Attend.

Phone: (508) 799-1190

Fax: (508) 799-1293

E-Mail: parks@worcesterma.gov

Call (508) 799-1294 in the event of severe weather, for up-to-date meeting status.

The City of Worcester does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon advance request. Please contact the Parks Division at parks@worcesterma.gov or phone (508) 799-1190 or the City ADA Coordinator at humanrights@worcesterma.gov.

**City Of Worcester, DPW and Parks
Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division
50 Officer Manny Familia Way
Worcester, Massachusetts 01605-2898**

PLEASE
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