



THE CITY OF WORCESTER
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS
PARKS, RECREATION, & CEMETERY DIVISION
50 Skyline Drive, Worcester, MA 01605

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, September 29, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Nick Chacharone
John Lauring
Meg Mulhern
George Sedares
Lawrence Sullivan
Matthew Wally

Administration Present:

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

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Chairwoman Ms. Mulhern called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

- Ms. Mulhern turned the meeting over to Mr. Antonelli to explain the mini meeting minutes for September 15, 2016.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that those were a reference to the minutes for the Youth Parks & Recreation City council Sub-Committee meeting in which 5 of the Parks Commissioners were present making it an official meeting of the Parks Commission, therefore these mini meeting minutes were produced to reference the official Youth, Parks & Recreation City Council Sub-Committee minutes for details on the meeting. These did not have to be approved on this date.
 - Ms. Mulhern went on to the meeting minutes for July 14, 2016 & September 8, 2016. Ms. Mulhern asked if there were any questions or concerns about the minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Sedares Second by Mr. Cashman to approve the minutes for July 14, 2016 and a motion made by Mr. Lauring to accept the minutes for September 8, 2016, Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motions were approved 7 – 0.
- Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
 - Discussion on Dog Master Plan
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the Parks Division was looking to take additional comments from the public on the Dog Park before final recommendations are made. He explained that 2 weeks earlier there had been a public hearing for the dog park at the council chamber with Council Rosen who is chair of the Youth parks sub-committee. He explained that there would be a presentation by Gene Bolinger from Weston & Sampson similar to the last one, and once completed comments will be taken from the public in order to finalize the recommendations from the Parks Commission which he aimed to have by the end of October.
 - Mr. Bolinger started his presentation he indicated the presentation was approximately a 30 slide presentation of which some of the slides were just visuals that did not require him to speak, and at the end of the presentation he would be taking questions, suggestions from the public. He went on with the following:

- Key Recommendations
 - Ordinance Amendment
 - New Policies & Operation Protocols
 - Friends of Worcester Dog Parks or committee
 - Adopt the tag line “Woo Dog”
 - Install new park element
- Recommended locations:
 - Available area
 - Access & Visibility
 - Proximity to residential neighborhood
 - Parking
 - Limited Impact to sensitive receptors (homes, playgrounds, school yards, etc.)
 - Suitable terrain and least partly open
 - Geographic location within city
 - ADA & multi-generational
- Typical Dog Amenity
 - Enclosure
 - Surfacing
 - Gate System
 - Signage
 - Plastic bag receptacles
 - Trash receptacles
 - Shade & seating
 - Play elements
 - Water
- Recommended Locations:
 - 149 W. Boylston Drive
 - Tacoma St. Playground
 - Burncoat Park
 - Green Hill Park (by the old handball courts)
 - Green Hill Park (near Worcester Technical High School)
 - North Lake Ave. (by Coal Mine Brook)
 - Lake Park (adjacent to basketball court)
 - Vernon Hill Park
 - Crompton Park (by basketball court)
 - Logan Field (open area outside baseball field)
 - Beaver Brook Park
 - Boynton Park
- Keys to success at dog park:
 - Be respectful of all opinion
 - Be patient as the initiative and kinks are worked out
 - Be self-policing
 - Be diligent with dogs
 - Be vigilant
 - Be respectful of park neighbors
- Mr. Bolinger ended his presentation and turned it over to the chair women Ms. Mulhern
- Ms. Mulhern stated she was opening the floor to questions but that she wanted to hear anything Councilor Rosen or Councilor Bergman had to say, neither one stood up at this time, but the public started asking questions:

- A gentleman by the name of David spoke he stated that one of the key factors in doing this is the money and he wanted to know how much money the city has to build this, how much it would cost to continually funded and who is going to continually fund it.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the city has allocated \$100,000 in fiscal year 17 to begin the process of implementing this amenity this would be the beginning portion of it. In the end the final recommendation will list both the capital improvements side and what those cost are as well as the operational side what those cost are. Mr. Antonelli explained that there are some grants out there, so the city would be looking at that as well as some major corporation funding as well. As part of the recommendation there will be a budget cost estimate and a realistic timeline.
 - Ms. Sue Stanley stated that she is a neighbor of Hadwen Park and she felt that it was such a big facility and she asked if the parks division had considered Hadwen as an option for the dog park.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that Hadwen was one of the sites that were on the initial list however there are some issues with that facility such as; topography, dense growth and parking so it was not included in the initial recommendation.
 - Ms. Stanley asked if there were any other recommendations for that side of the city.
 - Mr. Antonelli answered that for that side of the city it would be Beaver Brook & Crompton Park.
 - Mr. Matt Toser Worcester resident he said that his was his first civic meeting as a home owner and was very excited to speak. He said that he personally would love a dog park in his back yard he said this would be such a great investment but he asked if with time the parks division was looking to open multiple dog parks in multiple areas of the city where there are people who don't have big yards but have dogs. Or is there a plan to have all areas of the city have access to a dog park.
 - Mr. Antonelli explained that the city ordinance now allows the dogs to be in public parks on a leash, they will not be able to be in the athletic fields but they will be able to be in public parks in general. So the dog park will be the balance facility that is enclosed and the dogs can run around without the leash.
 - Councilor Rosen spoke to say that the public should be educated about the dog rules such as having them on a leash at parks that are not dog parks. Councilor Rosen mentioned that at this time and day everyone wants a dog park in their district. He went over many suggested facilities for dog parks. He also said it was a pleasure to work with the public on this.
 - Mr. Rodney Carlson from Worcester went to say that he really appreciated all the work that had been done and all the research, he originally had intended to speak more but he wasn't he just wanted to add that when people go to a dog park there needs to be a sitting facility for people to sit down, maybe benches where people can chat with other dog owners as this is a very social thing.
 - Ms. Mulhern asked if there were any further questions, there wasn't. She thanked everyone for participating.
 - Mr. Antonelli asked that anyone that was interested to be added to the mailing list for the dog park issues to come up and give their email address or residential address.
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the second item:
- Request of Nancy Ortiz to speak to the Commission about handball to give an update on Crompton Park Handball courts.
 - Nancy said they had held a handball tournament the weekend prior that had been a success. She said that in the past she has seen people on bikes, skateboards, etc. so she is looking for signs to be posted. She also suggested an open area for kids to ride their bikes. Ms. Ortiz also asked if the tennis court going to be used for ice skating.
 - Mr. Antonelli answered that at this time there was no plans to use the tennis court for ice skating, he said originally Green Island had proposed having one and they did have it for one year but as of this time there were no future plans for such.
 - Ms. Ortiz also asked about getting a permit to instruct kids on playing handball courts.
 - Mr. Antonelli instructed Ms. Ortiz to complete the sports application as all other leagues that request the use of a field and submit it to the parks office.

- Ms. Ortiz also stated that Spaulding fence had donated some fence material and asked if the parks division would put it up at Camp St.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that he would have to look at the structural integrity of the area to see if that could be done. Until that is done the city would not allow anything to be placed on top of the structure and if it was structurally ok to do the city would hire someone to put it up it would not be installed by the city.
- Ms. Ortiz asked if there is a possibility to do a mural on both sides of the So. Worcester handball courts only on the outside.
- Mr. Antonelli said this was a possibility but they need to submit a proposal of what they want to do and what would happen if there's vandalism.
- Ms. Ortiz also asked for a fence to be placed around the handball court at Green Hill Park.
- Mr. Antonelli stated that it would not be possible as the area around the courts is all ledge.
- Worcester Parks Fountains
 - Informational piece – This was sent to City Council regarding 2 fountains, Fisher Boy and Turtle Boy
- Economic Development - Informational
- Cultural Events Update - Informational
- Grant Applications –
 - TD Green Streets Grant - Awarded
 - National Fish & Wild Life – Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program Grant
 - Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant – Betty Price
 - PARC & LAND Grant Program - Playgrounds
- Economic Development Initiatives - NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations –
 - NA
- Capital Improvement Programs
 - Apricot Street Playground - NA
 - Ball Property - NA
 - Banis Street Playground - NA
 - Beaver Brook Park - NA
 - Bell Pond – NA
 - Bennett Field – Working on wall design
 - Betty Price Playground – Grant Application Submitted
 - Blackstone Gateway Park – NA
 - Blithwood Park – NA
 - Boynton Park – NA
 - Burncoat Park – NA
 - Burncoat Playground – NA
 - Cascades Park – NA
 - Castle Park - NA
 - Common Master Plan Implementation – NA
 - WWII
 - Civil War
 - Coes Knife Park – Foundations are in
 - Stearns Tavern
 - Playground
 - Coes Pond – NA
 - Columbus Park – NA
 - Cookson Park – NA
 - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
 - Crompton Park – Update
 - Dodge Park – NA
 - Elm Park – Moving forward

- Task Force
 - Bridge
 - Newton Hill
 - Fairmont Park – NA
 - Farber Field – NA
 - Grant Square – NA
 - Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
 - Green Hill Park Renovation – NA
 - Green Hill Farm
 - Greenwood Park – NA
 - Hadwen Park – NA
 - Harrington Field – NA
 - Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
 - Holland Rink - NA
 - Holmes Field - NA
 - Indian Hill Park – Punch list items
 - Indian Lake Beach – NA
 - Institute Park
 - Walkway Design – 95% completed overall plan/designs
 - Salisbury Pond – Study on dredging
 - Kendrick Field – NA
 - Knights of Columbus – NA
 - Korean War Memorial – NA
 - Lake Park – NA
 - Lake Park State (possible Synthetic Field) - NA
 - Lake View Playground – NA
 - Logan Field – NA
 - Morgan Landing – NA
 - Mulcahy Field – Building rehab
 - Oakland Heights Playground – NA
 - Providence Street Playground – NA
 - Ramshorn Island – NA
 - Rockwood Field – NA
 - Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
 - Shale Street Playground – Master Plan Update
 - Shore Park – Awarded bid for new building
 - Spillane Field – NA
 - Tacoma Street Playground – NA
 - TY Cobb – NA
 - University Park – NA
 - Vernon Hill – NA
 - Wetherall Estates (Duffy Field) – NA
 - 149 West Boylston Drive - NA
 - Winslow & Pleasant - NA
 - Aquatic Master Plan – NA
 - Open Space and Recreation Plan – Continue to look at plan
 - North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
 - Art-in-the-Park – NA
 - Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – **See Item #1**
 - Rectangular Field Development – Master Plan Update – in final design will have recommendation next meeting
 - Park Monument Review

➤ Misc items:

- Keep Worcester Clean – NA
- City Council Orders
 - Bike Rack Install
 - Rockwood Field Parking
 - Dog Park Main South
- Petitions - NA
- Forestry Operations – Update
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)- Have not been found since January 2016
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) – found in Worcester
- Budget Update – Operational & Capital -
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - Capital Improvement program – NA
 - City Five Point Financial Plan - NA
- Summer Youth Employment Program – NA
- Recreation Worcester - NA
- Holiday Tree – Confirmed - December 2, 2016
- Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink – Removal of tables and chairs October 19, 2016, rink should be ready for skating on December 2, 2016
- 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
- Misc Information –
 - Dog Park Article
 - Homeless Camp Articles
 - StART on the Street Article
 - Worcester Pride Article
 - Coes Family Day Article
 - City Council Meeting Article
 - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
- NA

➤ Golf Course: Green Hill Golf Course Article

➤ Golf Course Donations: - NA

➤ Mr. Luring made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

➤ Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: October 27, 2016 – 6:30 PM