



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

*Robert C. Antonelli, Jr. Assistant Commissioner* Phone: (508) 799-1190 Fax: (508) 799-1293

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**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting Minutes for  
Thursday, October 27, 2016 – 6:30 PM

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Administration Present:**

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

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**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Chairwoman Ms. Mulhern called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

- Ms. Mulhern went on to the acceptance of the minutes for September 15, 2016.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if there were any questions or concerns about the minutes, there were none. A motion was made by Mr. Lauring to accept the minutes, Second by Mr. Sullivan. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
- Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on the first item as follows:
- Request of First Night to use Bell Hill for the launching of fireworks and Institute Park for opening act.
  - Mr. Howard McGinn spoke on behalf of First Night Worcester, he stated that this is the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary for First Night and they are having a big event with 80 different performances and 18 different venues, in addition they continue to expand their partnerships with the non-profit providers, with the First Night buttons during the day you may go to the Ecotarium, Worcester Arts Museum, Old Sturbridge Village, Museum of Russian Icons and may other Agencies. This year's programs are also online but they can only be downloaded into iphones, the buttons are for sale for \$35.00. The opening act will be Sasha the Fire Gypsy at Institute Park on the stage for about a half hour, because her act involves fire all public will be kept far away and the Fire Dept will be present, if that day is a windy day she will not be able to perform and her act will be cancelled, at the end of her performance the Mayor will join her on Stage but if she is cancelled the Mayor will be moved to First Baptist Church, these are the only things planned for Institute Park. All other venues will be at other locations with the fireworks being shut off from Bell Hill as every year. There will be a different company for the Fireworks and First Night will make sure they get all their permits.
  - Mr. Antonelli gave Mr. McGinn a copy of the Policy for Fireworks at Bell Hill, and he specifically pointed out possible issues based on the weather and he also pointed out the fencing needed as per the Fire Marshall regulations. Mr. Antonelli added that weather related he does not know if they would be able to open a way to the stage in the event of inclement weather.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if the Parks Division would try to keep up with snow as it snows or if the snow would be removed on the day of.

- Mr. Antonelli stated that the Parks priority would be sidewalks but if time permits they will address but he could not make a promise that this would definitely done.
- Mr. Chacharone asked if it would be cleared of way of a plow or a snow blower.
- Mr. Antonelli said it would be done by way of snow blower.
- Mr. Chacharone made a motion to approved based on Mr. Antonelli's references and comments. Second by Mr. Sullivan. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
- Worcester Common Memorials – Moving two Memorials
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Budget
- City of Worcester Fall Festival Saturday October 29, 2016 - 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM
- 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 (Awarded) - \$250,000.00 – should begin work in July 2017 – entire project cost will be approximately \$1,000,000.
  - PARC & LAND Grant Program - Playgrounds
- Economic Development Initiatives – NA
- Cultural Events-NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations –
  - \$500.00 for Tivnan Field from Paul N. Johnson Senior Babe Ruth
  - \$1,400.00 for Tivnan Field from the MIAA
  - \$300.00 for Summer Park Program from Park Spirit
  - \$400.00 for Rockwood Softball Field from the MIAA
- Capital Improvement Programs
  - Apricot Street Playground - NA
  - Ball Property - NA
  - Banis Street Playground - NA
  - Beaver Brook Park - NA
  - Bell Pond – NA
  - Bennett Field – Update
  - Betty Price Playground – Grant Awarded
  - Blackstone Gateway Park – NA
  - Blithwood Park – NA
  - Boynton Park – NA
  - Burncoat Park – NA
  - Burncoat Playground – NA
  - Cascades Park – NA
  - Castle Park – Update
  - Common Master Plan Implementation – NA
    - Powers Memorial – cleaned memorial
  - Coes Knife Park –
    - Stearns Tavern – Bldg was moved
    - Playground – Moving along
  - Coes Pond – NA
  - Columbus Park – NA
  - Cookson Park – NA
  - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
  - Crompton Park – Completed
  - Dodge Park – NA
  - Elm Park –
    - Newton Hill - Renovations
  - 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 –
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if parking will be allowed on both side of the road in addition to the new parking lot?
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that at this time nothing has been restricted but it is preferred to eliminate parking on both side for the safety of the children and patrons.
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park –
  - Walkway Design – Continue to work on internal components of walkway system. Weston & Sampson has the contract for design how to make walkways accessible.
  - Salisbury Pond – There won't be enough funding for work but the final plan will be available for when funding becomes available.
    - Ms. Mulhern suggested partnering with WPI
    - Mr. Antonelli explained that the City is partnering with WPI
- 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 – Continue to design building renovations
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – Will be out to bid later this year
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – Master Plan Update
- Shore Park – Awarded moving forward – opening July 1st
- 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 pick away at it
- North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
- Art-in-the-Park – NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – **This item will not be discussed at this meeting**

- Mr. Chacharone asked if the manager would have to give a recommendation.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that the manager will be going back to the City Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> with a recommendation.
- Mr. Lauring asked if the Parks Commission has a vote to not have a dog park at a particular area.
- Mr. Antonelli explained that they are an advisory committee and they will be able to advise on the matter to make the best judgement possible.
- Rectangular Field Development – **This item will not be discussed at this meeting**
- Park Monument Review - NA
- Misc items:
  - Keep Worcester Clean
    - July 2016
    - August 2016
  - City Council Orders
    - Coes Pond Beach sailing opportunities
    - Request a Master Plan be completed for Great Brook Valley & Tacoma Street Playground
    - Use of well water for irrigation
    - Flooding on Franklin Street near Harrington Way Fields
    - Dog Park locations
  - Petitions - NA
  - Forestry Operations –
    - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) – Have not found any since January 2016
    - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) – Still finding infested trees
  - 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 – December 2, 2016 - Confirmed
  - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink – removed all tables and chairs put up the rink will be ready with Ice for December 2, tree lighting.
  - 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 Articles
    - Stearns Tavern Articles
    - StART on the Street Article
    - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Article
    - Bancroft Tower Article
    - WWI Memorial at Green Hill Article & Photo
    - Bob Mahoney Article
    - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
  - NA
- Golf Course:
  - Request for Green Hill Golf Course Maintenance Contract
  - Green Hill Golf Course Article
- Golf Course Donations: NA

- Mr. Chacharone made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Luring. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM
- Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: September 29, 2016 – 6:30 PM