



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, February 15, 2018 – 6:30 PM

Commissioners Present:

Scott Cashman
Nick Chacharone
John Luring
Meg Mulhern
George Sedares
Lawrence Sullivan

Administration Present:

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

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

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

- Ms. Mulhern went on to the acceptance of minutes. Mr. Chacharone made a motion to accept the minutes for January 25, 2018. Second by Mr. Sullivan. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
- Ms. Mulhern went on to the Assistant Commissioners report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first item as follows:
 - Mr. Antonelli called former Parks Commission member and now City Councilor Matthew Wally to come forward to accept a small token of their appreciation from the City and the Parks Department for serving in the Parks and Recreation Commission Board.
 - Councilor Wally thanked the Commission and staff for the gift and the Parks Commission.
 - Hadwen Park Master Plan
 - Mr. Antonelli introduced Mr. Dave LaPointe from Beals & Thomas who was there to give the presentation for the Hadwen Park Master Plan draft.
 - Mr. LaPointe gave his presentation he said the following were suggested for this location:
 - Replace Basketball Court
 - New Playground
 - Active & Passive Recreation
 - Vista Overlook
 - Additional Parking (accessible parking spots)
 - Concession building improvements
 - Tree Plantings
 - Picnic Areas
 - Community gardens on the Knox Street end
 - Upgrades to lighting at the sledding hill
 - Improvement to existing sports lighting
 - Regrading to make accessible on steeper sections
 - Signage improvement
 - Better and accessible walkways

- Trail improvements throughout the park
- Mr. Antonelli explained that by today's dollar the cost of all the mentioned upgrades would be between 4.75 – 5.25 million dollars. He also added that there is a \$300,000 grant opportunity that was submitted and approved by council and they are waiting for a response from the National Park Service to assist the city in rebuilding the playground and the basketball court. He mentioned this is the top priority but this is not a definite it is promising but they are still waiting for an answer. He also mentioned that they looking to add the community gardens but they are looking for a partner that will be able to maintain these gardens.
- Ms. Mulhern opened the floor for questions: different citizens had these questions:
 - Will the trails be accessible - Yes
 - How many handicap parking spaces will there be – At least 2
 - Can Worcester Tech help – Yes but it's a time sensitive
 - Will the court be entirely done if the grant is awarded – Yes
 - Councilor Wally asked consideration be given for cameras in the parking lots, and asked if there was any consideration on changing the top of the walkways for something that's more conducive to the environment. – Yes there will be cameras throughout the park. No it would be very costly to remove tar from walkways.
 - Will there be any other plans for the Knox Street end other than Community Gardens – Only a couple of parking spaces
 - Will there be a shelter with picnic tables – Yes
- A Motion was made by Mr. Sullivan to approve the Hadwen Park Master Plan. Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
- Tacoma Street & Great Brook Valley Master Plan
 - Gene Bolinger from Weston & Sampson gave a presentation on the Tacoma Street Playground & Great Brook Valley Master Plan.
 - The suggested new plans for Tacoma Street Playground calls for:
 - New Dog Park – Small and large dog areas
 - New Playground
 - New Picnic Areas
 - New Full size lit rectangle synthetic field
 - New Parking area with ADA spaces
 - Tree Planting and Shrubberies
 - A new basketball court
 - Public seating
 - Storage Facility
 - The approximate cost of the upgrades at Tacoma is \$6,420,000.00
 - The suggested new plans for Great Brook Valley Master Plan calls for:
 - 2 Basketball Courts
 - 2 Handball Courts
 - 1 Rectangular Field
 - Area with shade shelters
 - New Softball field
 - New bleachers
 - New Parking lot with ADA parking
 - New Parking for Food Vendors
 - Access improvements from Great Brook Valley to the fields
 - There's a possibility for a restroom building if the city can partner with an organization that will manage it.
 - The approximate cost of the upgrades to Great Brook Valley is \$6,350,000.00.
 - A motion was made by Mr. Chacharone to approve the Tacoma Street & Great Brook Valley Master Plan. Second by Mr. Lauring. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
- Request of Cy Global for use of the Worcester Common for a Family/ Youth Event

- Dodge Park – NA
- Elm Park – NA
 - Newton Hill
- Fairmont Park – NA
- Farber Field – Update
- Grant Square – Update
- Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
- Green Hill Park Renovation
 - 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 – Winter shut down
- Indian Hill Park – NA
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park
 - Walkway Design
 - Salisbury Pond
- Kendrick Field – NA
- Knights of Columbus – NA
- Korean War Memorial – NA
- Lake Park – NA
- Lake Park State - NA
- Lake View Playground – NA
- Logan Field – NA
- Morgan Landing – NA
- Mulcahy Field - NA
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – Winter shut down
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – NA
- Shore Park – Completed will be working on punch list items
- Spillane Field – NA
- Tacoma Street Playground – NA
- TY Cobb – NA
- University Park – NA
- Vernon Hill – NA
- Wetherall Estates (Duffy Field) – NA
- 149 West Boylston Drive - NA
- Winslow & Pleasant - NA
- Aquatic Master Plan – NA
- Open Space and Recreation Plan
- North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
- Art-in-the-Park – NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – NA
- Rectangular Field Development – NA

- Park Monument Review – NA
- Misc. items:
 - Keep Worcester Clean - NA
 - City Council Orders –
 - Request to replace trees on Franklin St
 - Installation of Lights @ Grant Square Park
 - Petitions –
 - Beaver Brook Dog Park
 - Forestry Operations – NA
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
 - Arbor Day April 27, 2018
 - Budget – Operational & Capital - Update
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division
 - Capital Improvement Program
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
 - City Auditor Communications - NA
 - Summer Youth Employment Program
 - 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 –
 - NA
 - Access/ ADA – NA
 - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
 - ATV – Recreational Vehicle – NA
 - Misc. Information –
 - Article on Neighborhood Renaissance
 - Article on Dog Leash Regs for Mass Wildlife Land
 - Article on Mass Considers Leash Law for Dogs in Wildlife Areas
 - Article on DPW& Parks clerical Workers Agree on Pay Raise
 - Article on PawSox Stadium Deal in RI Dead
 - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
- Golf Course:
 - NA
- Mr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM
- Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: March 29, 2017 – 6:30 PM