

MINUTES
PARK COMMISSION
MEETING OF THURSDAY, JUNE 8TH, 2023

The Park Commission held their Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 8th, 2023 in their office, 45 Meadow Lane, Brockton, MA and VIA VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING. There being a proper quorum, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Charles Studenski. Present were Commissioner Ulisses Varela, Commissioner Billy Anderson, Commissioner Kevin Borges and Superintendent Timothy W. Carpenter.

Present: Pastor Samuel Appiah – Oak Street Seventh Day Adventist Church
Chris Vail – Associate for Attorney John McClusky
Scott Faria – J.K. Holmgren Engineering
Councilor Shirley Asack – Ward 7 City Councilor

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Varela to accept the minutes of the May 18th, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

A discussion was heard of the permit for Servants of Hope Food Pantry at James Edgar Playground concerning their request for cooking food at their event on July 2nd, 2023. Superintendent forwarded a letter from Ms. Karlene Palmer who took out the application and a copy of the permit stating “Prepared Food Only”. Chairman Studenski stated that past issues including policing and health department complaints of illegally selling food; rules were enacted specifically for Edgars and Bent Playground stating “No Grilling”. Chairman Studenski and the Park Commission declined the request.

A discussion and presentation was heard for the proposed development at 627 Pleasant Street. The party is looking for the Commission’s support for relief from the required vegetative buffer from D.W. Field Park. Agreed during the discussion were the stipulations as follows:

- The proposed location of the dumpster enclosure will be moved from the western side of the property to the eastern most side.
- The dumpster enclosure will be comprised of mini-mesh fencing fabric with opening no larger than one- and one-half inch in size.
- Proposed vegetative screen will consist of primarily evergreen species of trees.
- Proprietor agrees to place cameras on the western side of the building and further agrees to allow access to any camera footage that may aid the City with any and all investigations into illegal activity in the proximity of D.W. Field Park.
- Proprietor also agrees to keep and maintain property in a neat, clean and orderly fashion and further agrees to remove any and all trash or liter in proximity of the property, even if that trash or litter is located within D. W. Field Park and in close proximity of property located at 627 Pleasant Street.

Councilor Asack spoke for this project and urge the Commission to support it.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borges and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to write a letter of Support from the Park Commission for a waiver of the vegetative buffer. Motion carried.

Superintendent Carpenter reported on the Golf Pro's update including but not limited to past and upcoming tournaments. June 23rd is the City's Four Ball. The rangers have a new practice to help the pace of play. They have flags and if they wave a yellow one, that lets the golfers know to speed it up. A red flag is a warning and a second red flag would be ejection from the golf course.

Superintendent Carpenter reported on the Course's revenues. The revenue for May, 2023 was \$225,907 which is a decrease of \$8,302 from last year. This is the 2nd best May since 2001. The year to date so far is \$470,548 which is \$771 decrease than last year. For the month of May 2023, we are down about \$5,700 from last year.

As for the condition of DW Field Golf course, two temporary positions were filled, one left after 10 days. A person who is in tax work off program, which is offered through Veteran Services, has been helping out by picking up garbage and trash around the golf course. He spoke on capital requests including the replacement of 24 carts this year by trading and buying them out or by leasing the fleet. The lease would cost approximately \$130,000 a year. Also requested was a Mini Excavator and New Triplex Mower, which went in on November 2022 and will not be available until April, 2024.

Superintendent Carpenter reported on the City's Parks and Playgrounds. Due to sickness, vacations and Memorial Day preparations on the Cemetery side, the Park Department has been grossly understaffed and significantly behind on the maintenance of the parks and fields. Various ARPA projects should be going out to bid in July. Perkins Park still have on-going, various issues. There have been hostile interactions between the homeless and the Park employees. D.W. Field Park has some exciting designs in the works with the Conway students to prepare a Master Plan. Councilor Varela spoke upon working with Wildlands Trust and Avon's partnership. The return of "Learn to Fish" in collaboration with Mass Wildlife is scheduled again.

Superintendent Carpenter reported on the City's Pools. The Cosgrove Pool will be closed this summer due to construction which is scheduled to start in August. The Manning Pool will open on June 23rd. A pump blew a seal and is only running on one pump. The Park Department Pool's line items have been transferred to Public Property. He is talking to the Board of Health to increase the capacity of the Manning Pool, which will include extra lifeguards. The splash pad will be opened soon. The grant for the restoration of Snow Clock was declined, but he feels that the cost can be absorbed in the Park Department's budget.

Having no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Varela and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy W. Carpenter, Superintendent of Parks