

MINUTES
PARK COMMISSION
MEETING OF THURSDAY, JULY 27TH, 2023

The Park Commission held their Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 27th, 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, Superintendent Timothy W. Carpenter and Head Clerk Rene' Brown. Commissioner Kevin Borges being absent.

Present: Gilson & Nilton Gomes – Brockton Sunday League

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Varela to accept the minutes of the June 8th, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Agenda item #3 was taken out of order by decision of the Commission.

Superintendent Carpenter reported on the Golf Pro's update including but not limited to past and upcoming tournaments. The ranger's new practice to help the pace of play seems to be going well.

Superintendent Carpenter reported on the Course's revenues. The revenue for June, 2023 was \$236,922 which is a decrease of \$14,025 from last year. This is the 2nd best June since 2001. The year to date so far is \$869,860 which is \$15, 503 decrease from last year. For the month of July at this point is, we are down about approximately \$6,000 from last year. He believes that even with this small loss, the course is still projected to end approximately \$1.5 to \$1.6 million.

As for the condition of DW Field Golf course, there were two incidences of property damage. An e-bike did extensive damage to the 3rd green that to be taken "off-line" for a day to repair the damage. Then last Tuesday during a league night, there was a torrential rain storm. Two golfers started to "slip and slide" on the 18th green and then proceeded to poke holes with the flag stick which damage the green and broke the flag stick. He has a meeting scheduled with the league organizer, Golf Superintendent and the Golf Pro to find a resolution. There has been increased spraying to battle the fungus and mold on the greens. The netting project has been completed, but the neighbors are still complaining about the errant golf balls. He ordered extra netting for the bottom of the project which will be installed in-house. Another issue is people accessing the Golf Course from the tower. He ordered "Do Not Enter" signs to be put up.

Superintendent Carpenter reported on the City's Parks and Playgrounds. The new maintenance man position is in the process of being filled. Due to being understaffed, they are behind in upkeep grooming of the fields. The fields behind Gilmore Academy has new benches, installed a new electrical outlet. The fields edged with additional infield mix.

The Cosgrove Pool bathhouse will be upgraded. The bid opening for the Cosgrove Pool was July 26, 2023. The ARPA funding of the City's Parks will be going out to bid. He reported that the Homeless in the Park is a big problem. The population moved from Perkins to Finnegan/Salisbury Plain Park and the Gateway, where Grove and Crescent Street meet.

The staff goes to Perkins Park on Monday and Friday with a police escort and only empty barrels on Wednesday at the Mayor's request. The staff has been helping with the Rox Stadium. There will be a new park coming online for Marvin Hagler on Petronelli Way.

Councilor Varela commented that the DW Field Initiative be put on the City's website with a link to Wildlands Trust. He suggests that someone should be a social media watchdog as he has found derogatory and false statements pertaining the City's parks and playgrounds such as a suggestion to dump construction debris at DW Fields Park. He went to the Movie in the park and noted that there was no police presence and there should be additional lighting for the walkways at DW. Superintendent Carpenter took note of the issues.

A discussion of Agenda item #2 was heard on the permit of Brockton Sunday League ongoing and various issues. Mr. Gilson Gomes and Mr. Nilton Gomes have stated that there still is no organized plan for the league. They claim that there are Brockton Police Officers on their teams, but nobody wants to do anything to police without getting paid. The money that the league takes in goes to referees and tournament awards. They feel that this league is great for Brockton as 300 to 400 people come out to watch them on a Sunday.

Superintendent Carpenter showed the Councilors several emails and pictures of illegal parking/blocking driveways; unruly behavior, no policing, etc. He stated that he had a meeting with the Mayor, DPW Commissioner, Chief of Police and others pertaining to this problem and feels that he had given Brockton Sunday League more than enough chances to correct these problems. Commissioner Anderson questioned their organization's plan on policing and was adamant that the neighborhood complaints of trespassing, urinating and throwing trash & liquor bottles on private property, was warranted and the behavior has to cease. Chairman Studenski stated that one portapotty is not good enough and he feels that they are not doing what was told by them in front of the Commission last year. Councilor Varela believes that the league needs take initiative to help their own cause including, but not limited to posting on Social Media. Councilor Varela would like to invite them back in two weeks at the next scheduled Park Commission Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Varela and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to invite Brockton Sunday League and revisit to evaluate the various, ongoing issues at their next Scheduled meeting on August 10th, 2023. Motion carried.

Having no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Varela to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy W. Carpenter, Superintendent of Parks