



**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

---

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting Minutes for  
Thursday, December 15, 2016 – 6:30 PM

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Administration Present:**

Robert C. Antonelli Jr, Assistant Commissioner  
Jeff Tomaino, Park & Recreation Coordinator  
Gary Rosen, City Councilor

---

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Mr. Sedares called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

- Mr. Sedares went on to the acceptance of the minutes for November 17, 2016.
  - Mr. Sedares asked if there were any questions or concerns about the minutes for November 17, 2016, there were none. A motion was made by Mr. Chacharone to accept the minutes, Second by Mr. Wally. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.
- Mr. Sedares asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first item as follows:
  - Rectangular Shaped Sports Fields Feasibility Study & Master Plan Initiative
    - There was a presentation to go over some of the highlights of what was looked at and why these functions were looked at. Mr. Antonelli mentioned that it's not only about having a field but its maintenance. He went over areas in each District that were identified as areas that could be used for a Rectangular field, these areas are all conceptual therefore fields would only be built as funding became available, the locations identified were as follows:
      - District 1
        - Farber Field
        - Great Brook Valley
        - Indian Hill Park
        - Kendrick Field – Existing standard overlay
        - Tacoma Street – this would be a brand new facility in the area of the old pool
      - District 2
        - Bell Hill – Existing facility looking to improve the access road and probably build a parking lot.
        - Burncoat Park – Renovate existing field, accessible route to add field
        - Green Hill Park – Renovate existing field, additional parking
        - Holland Rink – 2 open grass areas for a small rectangular field
        - Holmes field – Expansion of multipurpose field

- Lake Park State Facility- existing rectangular field (managed by the State)
  - Coburn Ave. - identified a couple of small areas for a rectangular field
  - Phil O'Connell Field – additional work to include lights
- District 3
  - Blithewood Park – Removal of tennis courts and renovate to add a small rectangular field
  - Glodis – Existing field being renovated to add synthetic turf – to reopen Spring of 2018
  - Greenwood Park – existing field renovations to add lighting.
  - Vernon Hill Park – an area on Stockton Street has been identified as a small area for a rectangular field.
- District 4
  - Crompton Park – existing overlay (master plan already approved)
  - South Worcester – master plan has been approved looking to build a rectangular field
- District 5
  - Apricot Street Playground
  - Beaver Brook
  - Bennett Field – existing Softball field, might be changed to a rectangular field with a parking lot
  - Boynton Park – could fit a rectangular field
  - Knights of Columbus – existing rectangular field already in use
  - Farber Field – good location to build a synthetic field with lights
  - Rockwood Field – open spaces for a U-10, parking would have to be managed
- School Department Fields
  - Chandler Magnet – accessibility would be a challenge
  - Elm Park Community School
- Rectangular field use and maintenance.
  - Ideal utilization – Industry Standards and Turf Professional recommend natural turf fields:
    - Event scheduling 25 – 50 events or 100 – 250 hours per year
    - Soil Testing
    - Turf coverage
    - Each field needs 8 weeks of rest each season
    - Turf should receive the same amount of attention in and out of season
    - Field should receive one full year of rest every 4 years
    - Aeration
    - Field should be rolled
    - Each field should be placed on a minimum of 5. Fertilization plan and should receive a minimum of 1 inch of water every week
    - IPM program to eliminate diseases
    - Mowing twice a week
    - Seeding should be done late Summer early Fall
  - Soccer – main wear areas are in and around goal mouths and the center areas – 26.5% of the field impacted
  - Rugby – main wear areas are all over the field – 49 % of the field is impacted
  - Football – main wear areas is within the half marks – 31% of the field gets impacted
  - Lacrosse – in the center and goal mouths
  - Field Hockey – center of the fields and goal mouths
  - Multipurpose – 62% of the field gets impacted
- Recommendations:
  - Allocate to \$20,000 to \$25,000 per field per year to update maintenance programs
  - Identify other facilities in Worcester that might be suitable for fields.

- Provide a minimum of one Synthetic field per district but not in flood prone areas
- Improve turf quality by installing fencing and sports lighting
- Resting and rotation field use
- Building of an indoor facility

▪ Questions and Comments were made by:

- Mr. George Cortes – from Belmont Street – commended the Parks Commission and Rob Antonelli for the effort and initiative in moving forward on this. He suggested the city prioritize which fields will be done first, he also suggested looking for a company or a bank to adopt a field that would sponsor the field and pay for maintenance and renovations.
- Joe Sanchez – from Maywood Street – Had a question regarding having a partnership with the City to take care of the City.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that this is the type of relationship the city has with the little leagues where they do the general maintenance to the field as approved by the Parks Commission. He also said that the city will be happy to work with other leagues
- Jonathan Hardy-Lavoie – Dawson Road – Mr. Hardy Lavoie said he volunteers for a Soccer organization, he commended the Parks Commission as well as Mr. Antonelli for coming up with such an ambitious and comprehensive plan for the future recreation of the city. He wanted to know which fields will be prioritized and he also asked if there would be any soccer specific field that would be prioritized.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that all facilities on this master plan were identified as possibilities for rectangular field space. Mr. Antonelli explained that it all depends on what's next on the overall city agenda for capital. He explained that there may be an opportunity for the city to move forward with a combination facility at Tacoma where there would be a dog park and a rectangular field. Further, Mr. Antonelli explained that most of the new upcoming facilities would be multipurpose because of the need for a larger contingent of rectangular sports. Whereas the city already has Glodis which is a soccer field and will always be a soccer field as well as Farber field.
- Mr. Wally asked how much of a negative impact will any of those facilities have on the neighborhoods because of parking.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that there is a recommendation on the majority of the facilities to have parking included to try to alleviate these concerns.
- Mr. Lauring asked Mr. Antonelli that based on the recommendations in the study, how many fields would the City of Worcester would actually have to construct to be able to meet the earlier mentioned recommendations.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that at a minimum use the city will need at least another 3 new fields in order to allow 3 of the existing fields to rest for the fall.

- Mr. Sedares asked if there were any further questions or comments from any of the public or the Parks Commission. There were none.

A motion was made by Mr. Lauring to approve the Rectangular Shaped Sports Fields Feasibility Study & Master Plan Initiative. Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.

➤ Mr. Antonelli went on the following item on the Agenda -Parks & Recreation Commission Policy and Procedure for Gifts, Plaques, Benches and Monuments.

- A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan to approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Policy and Procedure for Gifts, Plaques, Benches and Monuments. Second by Mr. Wally. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.

➤ 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
- PARC & LAND Grant Program – Playgrounds Awarded a \$400,000.00

- Mass Housing & Economic Development Massworks Infrastructure Grant Program \$100,000.00
- Economic Development Initiatives – NA
- Cultural Events-
  - NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations –
  - \$8.22 for Recreational Programs from Skyhawk’s Sports Academy, Inc.
  - \$41,000.00 for Recreation Worcester from the Worcester Rotary Club
  - \$3,075.00 for Public Service Announcements from Charter TV3
- Capital Improvement Programs
  - Apricot Street Playground - NA
  - Ball Property - NA
  - Banis Street Playground - NA
  - Beaver Brook Park - NA
  - Bell Pond – NA
  - Bennett Field – NA
  - 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
  - Coes Knife Park – Update
    - Stearns Tavern
    - Playground
  - Coes Pond – NA
  - Columbus Park – NA
  - Cookson Park – NA
  - Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
  - Crompton Park – NA
  - Dodge Park – NA
  - Elm Park – Update
    - Newton Hill
  - Fairmont Park – NA
  - Farber Field – NA
  - Grant Square – NA
  - Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
  - Green Hill Park Renovation – NA
    - Green Hill Farm
    - Refectory
  - Greenwood Park – NA
  - Hadwen Park – NA
  - Harrington Field – NA
  - Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
  - Holland Rink - NA
  - Holmes Field – Getting ready to bid mid January
  - Indian Hill Park – Up and operational
  - Indian Lake Beach – NA
  - Institute Park – Update

- Walkway Design
  - Salisbury Pond
- 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 -
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA
- Providence Street Playground – Glodis will be going out to bid soon
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – Master Plan Update
- Shore Park – Awarded the second piece (connector)
- 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 – Update
- North Lake Ave Linear Park – NA
- Community Development Block Grant – NA
- Art-in-the-Park – NA
- Dog Park, Licensing & Control of Dogs – Articles
- Rectangular Field Development – **See first item on the agenda**
- Park Monument Review - NA
- Misc. items:
  - Keep Worcester Clean
    - NA
  - City Council Orders
    - NA
  - Petitions - NA
  - Forestry Operations – Update
    - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
    - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
  - 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
    - Mr. Antonelli said the tree lighting was a success.
    - Mr. Sedares said that this was one of the best nights there has been for the tree lighting, there was a great turnout lots of people and it was a really good time.

- Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink –
  - Mr. Sedares explained that the ice rink is operating well, there would be a change of hours starting December 24, 2016 - Saturdays and Sundays will be 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
- Waterfowl in Park – Article
- Out-to-Lunch – NA
- Trash – NA
- ESCo – NA
- Park Permits –
  - NA
- Access/ ADA – Update
- Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
- ATV – Recreational Vehicle - Article
- Misc. Information –
  - Mounted Patrol Article
  - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee
- NA
- Golf Course:
  - NA
- Golf Course Donations: NA
- Mr. Chacharone made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Cashman. All were in favor. Motion was approved 6 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM
- Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: January 12, 2017 – 6:30 PM