



**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, March 2, 2017 – 6:30 PM

**Commissioners Present:**

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

**Administration Present:**

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

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**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

Chairperson Ms. Mulhern called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

- Ms. Mulhern tabled the acceptance of the minutes for January 12, 2017 & February 2, 2017.
- Ms. Mulhern asked Mr. Antonelli to go on with the report:
- Mr. Antonelli went on to the first item as follows:
  - Hadwen Park Proposed Improvements - Mr. Antonelli went over a presentation of proposed improvements to Hadwen Park he mentioned that the City was able to find a grant opportunity limited somewhat in scope for the overall project but something that would fit into the guidelines of the land and water conservation fund grant and opportunity that was due the second week of March. Part of that program includes some criteria on what to improve and how to improve it, recreational opportunities, trail head, vistas, etc. Mr. Antonelli said the he understands that there's a lot more to do then just these upgrades and that these are just a small piece of what really needs to be done at Hadwen Park for improvements, which would include baseball field improvements, building improvements and other amenities within the site. The site is relatively restricted based on its topography, location of Heard Street, how the facility is accessed and parking availability, but they felt this was a good fit for the grant opportunity. He went on to show some slides and the area that they focused on for a couple of reasons:
    - 1. The grant requirements really look at what the impact is to the area when you are talking about vistas, water access, so every year between water and land conservation funds and grant funding from the Commonwealth the Secretary of Environmental Affairs and Energy comes up with a program on what are the important requirements. The Federal Government (National Parks Service) has some goals on that as well but those are all set ahead of time. The challenge is for the City to find the right fit for the right program of each grant opportunity that comes through. Part of this opportunity talks about:
      - ADA Accessibility
      - Increased recreational opportunities

- Access to water or Vistas – the more access to water you get the more points you get on the rating scale
  - Trails
- Mr. Antonelli said that what the city is proposing as part of this round is to look at:
    - Renovating the basketball court
    - Renovating the playground - fully accessible
    - Include a small vista overlooking the pond and the water area
    - A trailhead that would then lead you down to some of the trail systems that are towards Knox Street
    - Relining of the parking lot and adding one Handicap parking spot
  - Mr. Antonelli added that this is all he is looking to do at this point with the \$300,000.00 grant and the Parks Division is looking for the city to match that with somewhere between \$400,000 and \$500,000 for an overall project of somewhere between \$750,000 and \$800,000 to build out. Looking to have a parking spot designated at the parking lot. Mr. Antonelli added that furthermore as they move into next year if funding becomes available through the Capital Budget to look to do some additional Master Planning work to see what other amenities the city can incorporate into a renovation program for Hadwen Park. Mr. Antonelli said that because of the topography of the site, it is limited the work that can be done. He said that some of the discussions in the future when trying to implement a new master plan is 1) What do you do on Knox Street? 2) Do you open or not open up Knox Street? 3) How do you gain more parking? 4) How do you gain different type of recreation amenities there?
  - Mr. Antonelli addressed the board to inform them that he had included a couple of items in the Commissioners package that were part of the City council agenda; one was the resolution to file and accept the grant through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the National Park Service and the second was the announcement of this meeting that was sent out to the neighbors of the park up to a 1000' radius. Mr. Antonelli asked to open the floor for questions of discussions on this matter.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if anyone had any questions
  - Mr. Chacharone asked how this park could be secured given the topography and how it is so low and kind of hidden.
  - Mr. Antonelli said that part of the program and what he is looking to include is lights on the basketball court, driven by funding or bidding so if the project is bid and awarded and there are enough funds to cover the lights then the goal is to put lights on the basketball court which is lower within the site. Mr. Antonelli added that if the funding is not available then at a minimum bases/conduit will be put in for future light so that in the end they don't have to go back in to rip something back out to put the bases for the lighting.
  - Mr. Cashman asked if the total cost was based on prior projects.
  - Mr. Antonelli said that it was a combination of prior experience, what's been seen for numbers at this time for different projects, the complexities of this site, the design and permitting. The site is within the buffer for conservation commission review, so based on all this that is the budgeted number.
  - Mr. Antonelli added that this is a long cycle for this grant funding. The way the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant works is that it would be sent to the Commonwealth for the beginning of March, the state reviews it and forwards it to the National Park Service, the National Park Service reviews it and approves or does not approve it and sends it back to the Commonwealth by then it will most likely be November. At that point a state contract is needed to begin the project which will take a few months, with a contract approved and signed in January. Design would be in February, March, April with approval of the plans in April by the Commonwealth and the National Park Service. Bidding would be in May and June with construction starting in July of next year (2018) if everything goes well.
  - Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Antonelli to describe what the trailhead involves.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that the city will be working with Greater Worcester Land Trust and/other partners to try to identify some of the existing trails and be able to identify parking

and signage to see where they are going and then follow through on the trails within the property. This may be work that might have to be done via a partnership or bringing in seasonal staff to mark those trails with paint or something like that.

- Mr. Sullivan asked if there was anything on the Knox Street end that could identify the trails.
- Mr. Antonelli said that there isn't anything at this point and it would not include that as part of this program.
- Ms. Mulhern asked if there is any way to secure this area once completed.
- Mr. Antonelli said that at this time there isn't, he said there's some big rocks at the entrance for now but a discussion that should occur between the users of this location. Ideally lights in the parking lot would be good, but there are other things that need to be addressed such as the building. Mr. Antonelli also said that there is also security staff that goes around.
- Ms. Mulhern asked if there were any questions.
- A City of Worcester citizen asked about how many people could park on the parking lot, because during the baseball games people have to park outside of the park.
- Mr. Antonelli answered there are approximately 30 spaces, and that he has looked at that as part of the master plan to see if there is some availability for additional parking within the site. He reiterated that because of the topography of the park it is hard to try to find additional space.
- Councilor Rosen said that he feels that Hadwen Park is one of the most important parks in the city. He added that he has been trying to file orders to the council to try to get the council and the managers attention that Hadwen Park is such a gem still, not quite the gem it was a decade ago with all the activity it use to have but recently him and Mayor Petty filed a joint order with the council asking for the City Manager and the Parks Department to pursue state conservation funding to do some work on the playground and the basketball. The Councilor said he visited the park he says it's in the middle of such great neighborhood but it needs much work, councilor went over the damaged areas and playground and what he saw at the park. He also asked Rob if there was any possibility of hopefully adding cameras to this park as a security feature.
- Mr. Antonelli responded that overall master plan would include the availability of cameras within some areas. He also added that as a standard policy with the city manager they include cameras or at least the functionality of being able to install cameras depending on funding and when the funding comes in, he said the biggest issue there is on all the locations with cameras is the backhaul of the information to Worcester Police Department so they can have real time review of that immediately, he said the cameras could go up with a DVR so the information can be later accessed. Mr. Antonelli said that yes cameras would be included to look at that and how it's laid out and that as the master plan moves forward cameras will be identified as well.
- Councilor Rosen asked if there was any idea of when the master plan process might begin.
- Mr. Antonelli stated that as of right now there is no funding for a master plan so it needs to be looked at for a funding source, probably a funding opportunity down the road even in the next capital budget or relatively quickly after that, so there is no funding identified for master plan but it would be looked at to try to do that along with the other 59 park facilities that need to be done.
- Councilor Rosen asked if there was any chance that the sledding tow could come back, he stated he did not know why it was taken out if it was vandalized or just deteriorated with the years, but that was something kids and families enjoyed.
- Mr. Antonelli answered that there is a chance but the discussion needs to be on how it gets managed, but this is a possibility but it comes down to how you fund it and how you manage it and how you make it all work.
- Councilor Rosen said he supports this part of this project 100% and he will try to encourage the city manager and the parks department to start the master plan process as soon as possible, so that the folks in the area can provide input of what they would like to see at this location.
- Colin Novick asked if there was a possibility of looking at the entrance on Knox Street and add accessibility features.

- Mr. Antonelli answered yes, that it is anticipated that these types of functionalities will be looked at on both ends to be able to have those accessible features available.
  - A concerned citizen asked about the lighting on the basketball court and how long they would stay on, concerned that players might be staying there late nights.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that standard practice for all facilities is 10:00 PM, but the lights can be managed so if the neighborhood starts seeing issues with particular days the lights can be adjusted.
  - A concerned citizen asked if the parks division monitor this park.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that there is only one person monitoring so if there are any specific concerns the neighbor can communicate to the security staff or the office the specific time and day so the concern can be addressed via Worcester Police or Parks Security.
  - Britney Legacy the President of Park Spirit wanted to thank the City Manager and the Parks Department for the work they are doing at Hadwen Park. She added that Park Spirit is looking to put a volunteer effort together to do some clean up at Hadwen Park as well and there will be meetings for anyone interested.
  - Ms. Megan Wong from Carleton Street spoke she said where she lives there are about 7 buildings and there are many children, the houses do not have back yards so it was a pleasure to be able to walk over to the park and have the kids play on the playground and enjoy the trails but from a couple years ago the playground as well as other areas of the park fell into disrepair. She added that they are really excited about the renovations/repairs to Hadwen Park.
  - Another neighbor said that she loved the idea of any improvement to Hadwen Park, but she feels like the park needs to be managed and maintained better than it has been in the past. She also added she knows that it's not anyone's fault as there is vandalism as well as just old equipment.
  - Mr. Antonelli agreed but he added that this year the parks has added a new position a playground safety inspector, he will start going around to all playgrounds and will begin to manage them the way they should be managed, checking for broken stuff and repairing what needs to be repaired. In addition the manager as well as the councilor has worked towards helping the parks division increase the staffing levels, so there will be a second person dedicated to picking up trash from the 60 park facilities so rather than having 1 person, so trash will be picked up at a quicker rate, and a person that will be going around and accessing different situations at different places to be able to better manage the facilities.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if there were any additional questions, and if there was any voting on this.
  - Mr. Antonelli stated there was no need to vote on this it was just to get any public information in case there were any other concerns.
- Proposal to Serve Alcohol on Worcester Common
    - Brew Fest (April 28, 2017)
      - Mr. Antonelli explained that Preservation Worcester/Brew Fest were there to ask permission to serve alcohol at their event at the Common on April 29, 2017. Mr. Antonelli asked to let Mr. Gray speak on their behalf.
      - Mr. Gray explained that they would be setting up on Friday, April 28, 2017, the event will be held on April 29, 2017 they are expecting a bigger turn out this year and they are looking to service alcohol.
      - Mr. Antonelli explained that this event was well attended last year, the organization submitted all proper permits and did all they needed to do so Parks administration does not see any issues with this event and recommend approval of this organization.
      - Mr. Matthew Wally excused himself from this vote as his wife is on the board for Preservation Worcester.
      - Ms. Mulhern asked if there were any other comments or concerns.
      - Mr. Lauring made a motion to approve the 2017 Brew Fest at the Common, Second by Mr. Chacharone. Six were in favor. Motion was approved 6 – 0.

- Food Truck Festival (June 3, 2017())
  - Mr. Antonelli introduced the Food Truck Festival who is also looking for approval to serve alcohol at the Common. He added that in the past they have had this event on Park Ave next to Elm Park and this year they moved the event to the Common. Mr. Antonelli asked to let them speak.
  - Ms. Paige Grinnell was there to represent Food Truck Festival she said this was their 6<sup>th</sup> year in Worcester and they were moving from Park Ave to the Common she said they are planning on coming in at 6:30 AM for set up, the event will start at 11:00 AM and will go until 5:00 PM, with clean up after they should be done by 7:00 PM. They are looking to request free roaming alcohol throughout the Common for their event.
  - Mr. Antonelli stated that in general administration is for the event and there haven't been any issues with them in the years they have been having the event at Park Ave. and Elm Park. They have outgrown their current location and are looking to expand more so that is why they are looking to use the Common. Administration recommended approval.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked about the design and the amount of trucks.
  - Ms. Paige Grinnell said there would be 18 trucks and if there's a need for more they can add them later on.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if they would have to notify the parks administration of this change.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that they would have to work with parks administration on this.
  - Mr. Chacharone made a motion to accept, Second by Mr. Sullivan. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 – 0.
- Woo Challenge (July 22, 2017)
  - Mr. Antonelli introduced Woo Challenge also there to request approval to serve alcohol as part of their event at the Common.
  - Ms. Suzanne DeGeorge, Director of Marketing & Events for the Telegram & Gazette was there to represent the Woo Challenge, she said this was the second year for the Woo Challenge she explained this is an obstacle race starting and ending at the Worcester Common, they also use Institute park and O'Connell Field. She said last year it was a success they held it over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and this year they moved it to July 22<sup>nd</sup>. She added that part of the event is a beer tent at the Common, last year they had it on the Plaza area right outside of City Hall.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked how many people they had last year.
  - Ms. DeGeorge she they had approximately 500 people racing and about 100 kids do the kiddie challenge on the Common. She added that the cool thing that because it's obstacles there are groups of about 60 people so it's not like they are all there at once, so it's a nice steady flow of people throughout the day. Last year they started setting up at 4:00 AM and they were out of the Common by like 6:00 PM
  - Mr. Sedares asked if there were any concerns with the heat for people running on this event.
  - Ms. DeGeorge explained that last year they had it on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and it was well attended but the reason they are moving it to July 22<sup>nd</sup> is because it's because they struggle to find volunteers to help out, but they are planning on starting the first group at 8:00 AM so they wish to be done before it gets really hot and they will have water stations along the route and they have EMTs, Police Officers and other volunteers in case there are any issues. She said she does not anticipate any they did not have any issues last year but just in case there are lots of volunteers.
  - Mr. Antonelli said there were no issues with this event last year and administration also recommended approval of this event.
  - Mr. Sedares made a motion to accept, Second by Mr. Luring. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 – 0.

- Request of Boom Bap Heroes for use of Institute Park for a Music Festival
  - Mr. Antonelli requested Boom Bap Heroes to be allowed to speak on behalf of this event this was a first time request for this organization.
  - Mr. Cyrus Alexander spoke on behalf of the Boom Bap Heroes he said his event would be a Music and Food Festival at Institute Park on Saturday May 20, 2017 from 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM. He said the day would entail live performances on stage as well as 8 – 10 food vendors around the premises, he added he is looking to have it fenced off, he is expecting between 400 – 500 people at this event.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if there was a fee to go to this festival.
  - Mr. Alexander said it would cost \$10 in advance or \$15 at the gate.
  - Mr. Chacharone asked about WPI and maybe Graduations or events they might be having around that time of the year.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that WPI submits their request for dates at the beginning of the year so any dates they needed were already held and did not conflict with this event.
  - Mr. Lauring asked Mr. Alexander if he had similar festivals around the state or anything he has been involved with.
  - Mr. Alexander explained that he has been involved in many indoor events, such as spring readings, lectures, and he has experience coordinating events similar to this, but this is the first time having and outside event.
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if this event was Rain or Shine.
  - Mr. Alexander said yes it is rain or shine.
  - Mr. Cashman asked if this was a reservation request.
  - Mr. Antonelli said that because he is looking to charge for access to the event and as with all of the new events the intent is to have the Commission understand what he is proposing and then approve the request based on what he is saying and administration will recommend or not.
  - Mr. Cashman asked if there are that many events where there is a charge.
  - Mr. Antonelli explained that the 3 events approved prior to this one all charge but they charge differently because it's a road race so people sign up and pay rather than pay at the entrance. He explained that this has been done in the past, but because he is new he had to come in front of the board. Mr. Antonelli explained that the Commission's approval does not guarantee him a permit; he would still have to follow through on all permit process and submit all requirements to make sure he has all proper city permits he might need to run this event.
  - Mr. Wally commended Mr. Alexander for developing this event, he said Worcester needs more festivities, and an entrepreneur such as Mr. Alexander and he is a full advocate of approving this event and wished him success.
  - Mr. Antonelli said that administration looks favorably on this event as well and recommended approval on it.
  - Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve, Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 – 0.
- Little League permit Meeting – Mr. Antonelli explained that he met with the little leagues and went over the leagues rules and regulations.
- 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
- Economic Development Initiatives – NA
- Cultural Events-
  - NA
- Park Vandalism & Graffiti – NA
- Donations –
  - NA
- 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 – Update
- Blackstone Gateway Park – Update
- 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 – Continue Work
  - Stearns Tavern
  - Playground
- Coes Pond – Coes Reservoir Drawdown
- Columbus Park – NA
- Cookson Park – NA
- Cristoforo Columbo (East Park) – NA
- Crompton Park – NA
- Dodge Park – NA
- Elm Park – Will be out to bid
  - Newton Hill
- Fairmont Park – NA
- Farber Field – NA
- Grant Square – NA
- Great Brook Valley Playground – NA
- Green Hill Park Renovation – Update
  - Green Hill Farm
  - Refectory - Complete
- Greenwood Park – NA
- Hadwen Park – NA
- Harrington Field – NA
- Harry Sherry Field (S. Worcester) - NA
- Holland Rink - NA
- Holmes Field – In final design
- Indian Hill Park – NA
- Indian Lake Beach – NA
- Institute Park – Update
  - Walkway Design - Completed
  - Salisbury Pond – Pond study – (Dredging of pond \$8 – 10,000,000)
- 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 - Update
- Oakland Heights Playground – NA

- Providence Street Playground – Final design Turf Synthetic field
- Ramshorn Island – NA
- Rockwood Field – NA
- Salisbury Park (Bancroft Tower) – NA
- Shale Street Playground – Master Plan @ City Council
- Shore Park – Bid was awarded – Should have it operational for July 1, 2017
- 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 items
- 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
    - Parking in and Around Coes Pond – Not a parks property
  - Petitions –
    - World War II Honor Roll – for Citizens of Color – Not a park item
  - Forestry Operations – Update
    - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle)
    - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer)
    - Arbor Day 2017 – at Green Hill Park
  - Budget – Operational & Capital – Working on putting the budget together
    - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
    - Capital Improvement program – NA
    - City Five Point Financial Plan - NA
  - Summer Youth Employment Program – Starting to advertise summer positions
    - Mr. Cashman asked how many lifeguards are on payroll
    - Mr. Antonelli answered between 30 - 32
  - Recreation Worcester - NA
  - Holiday Tree – NA
  - Worcester Common Ice Skating Rink – Closed for the Season
  - Waterfowl in Park – NA
  - Out-to-Lunch – NA
  - Trash – NA
  - ESCo – NA
  - Park Permits –
    - See Above
  - Access/ ADA – NA
  - Mobile Concession/ Food Truck - NA
  - ATV – Recreational Vehicle - NA
  - Misc Information –



- Blackstone Gateway Park Article
  - WPD Mounted Police Article
  - Jack Barry Little League Article
  - Hadwen Park Articles
  - Gypsy Moth Article
  - City Council Youth Parks & Recreation Sub Committee – Monday, March 6, 2017 – 6:00 PM
  - Ms. Mulhern asked if there were any updates on Parks Division getting their own Social Media.
- Golf Course:
    - NA
  - Golf Course Donations:
    - NA
    - Mr. Luring made a motion to adjourn, Second by Mr. Chacharone. All were in favor. Motion was approved 7 - 0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM
  - Next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: March 30, 2017 – 6:30 PM