



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF HARTFORD

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

City Hall – Green Room

550 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Attendees

Commissioners: Denise Best, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Jeff Devereaux, Brian Gallagher, Chris Hayes, Craig Mergins (Chair), David Morin, David Rozza, Desmond Sinclair, Donna Swarr

Excused Absences: Colin Billings, Carl Williams

City Staff: Mark Dowd, Rachel Hiskes, Petrel Maylor, Eli Mercado, Almado Perez

City Council: Councilman John Gale, Councilman Nick Lebron

Public: Jean C. King, Kathy Krackzowsky, Eric Ott

Minutes of January 28, 2020 Approved 5- 0- 2 abstained

Park Friends/Support Groups – Donna Swarr

City-wide Cleanup – Parks will hold cleanups on Saturday, May 2nd. Reminder to contact Knox about use of tools well in advance.

Licensing agreements – will ask for Council support to assist Heaven and Pope Park Friends Groups with working out agreements with City.

Kids to Parks Day May 16th - Park Bingo Card will have columns for each area of city. Cards can be turned in all summer at HPL locations. Several cards will be drawn for a prize. Question asked if each location could have a number assigned for participants to write down to ensure participation. Jackie Mandyke will be asked if this is possible. iQuilt is supplying the bingo cards. They will be handed out to commissioners, recreation centers and other locations in April.

Selected (4) Park Trust Fund Projects – Mark Dowd

Mark Dowd stated that none of these projects were underway. But he didn't have a description of the projects. This item was tabled for next month's meeting. PRAC asked about 4 specific PTF projects; description, if RFP has been issued, if yes, what % of funding has been expended and work completed. We asked for a better description of these projects for the meeting in March.

MyRec Issues/Status - Brian Gallagher/Mark Dowd

Rough start opening up MyRec for spring. Will get update on MyRec at PWPR&E Committee meeting on March 11.

Nominations for PRAC Chair, Vice Chair & Secretary

Brian Gallagher nominated as Chair

Craig Mergins nominated as Vice Chair

Chris Hayes nominated as Secretary

New Business

Legislative Updates CC Agenda 2/24/2020

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioners

Chair, Craig Mergins, Denise Best, Colin Billings, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Jonathan Cabral, Charmaine Craig, Jeffrey Devereux, Brian Gallagher, Chris Hayes, David Morin, Dave Rozza, Desmond Sinclair, Donna Swarr, Stanford Walker, Carl Williams

Ex Officio Members: Mayor Luke Bronin, Treasurer Adam Cloud, DPW Director Walter Vasselka, Troy Stewart



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Item 5. MAYOR BRONIN, with accompanying resolution that would authorize the execution of an extended license agreement between the City of Hartford ("City") and The Hartford Athletic ("HA") for the use of a parking lot during events at the stadium.

RE: License Agreement-Hartford Athletic - Chase Lot

Friends of Colt Park had not met to discuss this item. PRAC tabled discussion, they will wait for FOCP's decision before voting on it.

Item #6 Greater Hartford Flood Commission Annual Report

N. Armory & Pope Park Pump Station, Bushnell Park & Keney Lane Pump Station are mentioned in the report. The Friends representatives were alerted to this report.

The City Forester's annual Tree Report was rec'd by Council. David Morin advised commissioners to read the report.

Other:

David Morin, Friends of Pope Park, voiced concerns regarding the city construction projects which impact our parks. He stated that the work being done to develop properties adjacent to Pope Park are damaging the park. He wants these issues addressed and answers regarding the restoration of these areas in Pope Park.

Department Reports:

City Engineer - none

Parks, Mark Dowd – winter cleanup is continuing. Report provided via email.

Recreation, Almadro Perez – update of recreational programming. Questions about communicating happenings in centers to include all programming, not limited to city recreation. Discussion about recommendations for 2020/2021 budget to include another FTE to support programming, increasing funding for programming, inside centers as well as outdoor activities in the parks and extending hours of operation between “seasons” (weeks of shutdown of centers) and weekend hours.

Announcements:

Elizabeth Park is holding the following events: Mar 6 - Mar 13 2020 Spring Greenhouse Show, MAR 11 Greenhouse Show Tours & Reception, Wed 9 AM, MAR 11 The Nature of Gardening at NYBG by Todd Forrest | A Lecture Wed 11 AM, MAR 14 Greenhouse Bulb & Plant Sale Sat 10 AM

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