



## ***PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION*** **CITY OF HARTFORD**

**Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Meeting - Hybrid Meeting, Webex & 50 Jennings Rd., 2nd fl., KC'S Conference Room, Hartford, CT 06120

### **Attendees**

#### **Commissioners**

Brian Gallagher, Donna Swarr, Chris Hayes, Craig Mergins, Kathy Krackowsky, Janine McMahon, Miriam Roane, Hyacinth Yennie, Nyesha McCauley

#### **City staff and guests**

Daria Ayers, Petrel Maylor, Mary Falvey, Jessica Mercier, Mark Dowd, Julia Jack, Kristina Baldwin, Ohemeng Kyeremateng, Jean King, Jesse Harris, Jim Giuliano, John Santos, Joshua Markowitz, Kent McCoy, Michael Looney, Eli Garcia, David Quisenberr, Leslie Hammond, Allison Connors, Phil Barlow

Chair Chris Hayes called the meeting to order. The minutes of the Tuesday, March 28, 2023 were approved.

### **Good News and Announcements - Chris Hayes**

Commissioners and attendees shared news and updates, happenings in the parks.

### **Chair Report - Chris Hayes**

Chair Chris Hayes thanked the individuals and commissioners who made comments on the initial concept for Batterson Park at the April 4 special meeting. There will be a presentation on Batterson Park later in the meeting. Chair Chris Hayes shared news about a new community engagement initiative by the town clerk's office tasked under the new city charter. They will be informing groups and organizations on how materials will be posted to the new website and other pertinent procedures.

### **Department reports**

#### **Julia Jack shared updates from city engineering.**

- Bushnell Park pond dredging presentation going to city evening, estimate of costs will come afterward, sidewalk construction is ongoing estimated completion in a couple of weeks.

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- Designers on the Pope Park bankside grove are meeting with corp of engineers, Pope Park West designer in is purchase order process, there will be a community meeting set up in May,
- Batterson Park on target for summer opening, passive opening, no swimming abatement complete demo should start shortly, waiting for demo permit, more info can be found at [Batterson Park \(wordpress.com\)](http://Batterson Park (wordpress.com)).
- Swimming pools bids came in way over budget so focus will remain on Colt and Goodwin, some updates will be made to Keney's pool, just essentials, pools will be opening in June,
- Elizabeth Park basketball court design complete, that will be getting started, master plan for east lawn in the contract process, design will be done soon,
- Goodwin Park drainage and cart paths design underway
- Forrester Park contract signed, scheduling kick off meeting middle of May, will know the schedule then park will be closed, will give PRAC a heads up,
- Keney Park entrance project has started.

Mark Dowd reported on the Parks.

- Turf fields cleaned, groomed and magnetic sweep,
- Started cleaning playscapes,
- Golf courses off to strong start
- Rolling fields this week and beginning season maintenance, all going well

Daria Ayers reported on recreation.

- Good attendance at centers and activities
- Wrapped up April school break events
- Focus now on summer annual block party

### **Meeting Minutes Discussion - Chair Chris Hayes**

Chris Hayes shared he had received instruction from the city on the recording of meeting minutes. It is advised to adhere to Robert's Rules. The good news section of the meeting can be maintained as a separate note and a point of reference if needed.

### **Batterson Park Discussion**

Representatives from park consultants, BSC Group, FHI, QA&M presented the latest design ideas. They visually shared the designs and talked through design choices and conversations that are ongoing with New Britain and Farmington stakeholders. Highlights of the design include: Multi-use trails around entire parcel, meeting with NB mayor on design, proposing

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improvement to boat launch area, small satellite parking area proposed, two points of access recommended by Farmington police department, one way into the park only, 100 parking spaces, drop off zone buses, renovated beach, event lawn, bathhouse, all with unique design features.

Meeting adjourned 7:34 p.m.

Nyesha McCauley, Secretary

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