



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF HARTFORD

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

City Hall – Green Room

550 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Attendees:

Commissioners: Craig Mergins, Denise Best, Chris Hayes, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Jeffrey Devereaux, Brian Gallagher, Chris Hayes, Dave Rozza, Desmond Sinclair, Carl Williams

Excused Absences: Charmaine Craig

Ex Officios: Walter Vesselka (DPW Director), Troy Stewart (Assistant Director DFYFR), John Gale (City Councilman)

Staff: Joan Barere (Director of Grants and Strategic Partnership), Elisa Hobbs (Dev Services), Michael Looney (DPW Deputy Director), Petrel Maylor

Public: Colin Billings, Mary Falvey, David Grant, Jean King, Kathy Krackowsky, Jim Raymer, Mike Zaleski

January 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes Approved 10-0

I. Dillon Community Use Policy – Elisa Hobbs, Development Services Dept.

A taskforce was created to create a Community Use Policy. A draft of the policy and new fee structure was reviewed. Both draft documents are included as Attachment A and B.

Reservation management will depend on the number of anticipated attendees at athletic events; less than 500 will be by managed by DPW and over 500 will be managed by Special Events. Both will use the MyRec.com software to reserve the stadium. The same insurance and indemnification will be required as previously. The same tier system will be used as for the park's athletic fields. The same qualification, 80% of the team, is required to be included as a community group. Adult Leagues will be need to include photo images of their players driver's license. Commissioner Jeff Devereaux said the thought that would be a challenge and intimidate some people without drivers licenses Commissioner Donna Swarr responded that they were receiving a steep discount as a result and that with the identification services at City Hall, it wasn't an onerous request.

Hartford Sports Group will have 1st priority in selecting dates including the day before is blocked out to prepare the stadium. April 2nd to May 30th, Tier 1 will be able to sign up for dates between July 1st through December 31st. Next year signup will begin in February. The last soccer game is scheduled for mid-October, but if they get into the playoffs, they can bounce a community or other group who had booked the stadium.

Football lines will be put down once the soccer season has ended and removed at the beginning of the soccer team's spring season.

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Concessions are limited to the stadium's services, with the exception of retail prepackaged food, no sales of alcohol is allowed.

The Fee schedule is attached, it was reviewed in detail. The community fund breakdown is still a work in process and not ready to be shared.

II. Historic Preservation Alliance – Mary Falvey

Commissioner Donna Swarr met with Ms. Falvey to discuss preservation of the parks and if registering our parks as historic spaces would be an effective tool. A chart of all the parks and monument was provided including; park name, street address, PID (assessor id), volume and page in the assessor records, notes and if it is listed on a City, State or Federal Historic Register. Ms. Falvey noted that discussion occurred at a good time as the Alliance just recently worked on their mission and are seeking strategic partnerships. We discussed what would warrant the necessity of the City's Historic Commission review. Any building permit required from the Planning and Zoning in a historic area or of a historic building goes through the Historic Commission. State and Federal designated landscape changes or redesign goes through a similar process. Pope Park and Elizabeth Park representatives had several specific questions about work that was or to be done in their parks. Replacement of same or similar does not usually have to go through this process. Funds received from the State or Federal Historic grants also need review.

The next step is to review the Philadelphia and other city park preservation ordinances and determine what is the best way to protect our parks.

III. Charter Oak Landing – Chris Hayes, Riverfront Recapture

A 2 page drawing and image of the location was shared with the group. KaBoom was selected by Travelers Insurance (the funder) for design and provision of materials. An additional, considerable cost, is required for soil preparation. Funding for the fill is being covered by Riverfront Recapture. The playscape will have twice the footprint of the current playscape. This will necessitate moving 2 picnic tables to another area. The design includes Inclusive play areas and is ADA compliant. There was a discussion amongst commissioners about documenting which playscapes had Inclusive Play Features and that going forward that would be a feature to consider. The build date is for Friday, May 15th. Riverfront Recapture will be going before Planning and Zoning next month and would like a letter of support for the design from PRAC.

A vote to support the design of the Riverfront Recapture playscape passed 9-0-1 (Commissioner Chris Hayes abstained from voting)

IV. Legislative Updates

- a. Court of Common Council, February 13th - Item 11 Acceptance of the donation from Hartford Foundation for Public Giving of \$500K for Colt Park Improvements was sent to

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committee. It passed at the February 25th OMBG committee meeting and will be on the next Court of Common Council Meeting on March 11th. DPW and Development Services will meet to determine how the monies will be used.

- b. Court of Common Council Item #23 reallocation of \$1.2M from the Park Trust Fund to support continuance of construction at Dillon Stadium. Passed 6-0
PRAC voted 10-0 to state that we expect that these funds be reimbursement to the Park Trust Fund within the year from when it is released.

V. Department Reports:

- a. Parks – Michael Looney, Deputy Director DPW
Athletic Reservation meeting was held on Feb 21st. Each season will have separate sign up periods.
Soil sample of all the fields are taking place and will be tested.
DPW is reviewing their supplies and equipment.
Question about doing some repairs to Columbus and Elizabeth park's fields. Pope Park's Little League field and Colt Park's Baseball Field #9 will be offline.
- b. Recreation – Troy Stewart, Assistant Director, DFYFR
Flyers for programming in the upcoming months was shared via the PRAC email dist list. Life Guard training classes has 30 participants. Hopefully all will successfully complete the training. There has been no decision about whether the summer extended hours program will be run this year. A PRAC Recreation committee meeting will be held in the next 2 weeks. There will be 2 Open Houses at the Recreation Centers in March. Parker Memorial's will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 12 to 3pm. Arroyo's will be held the following Saturday, March 30th from 12 – 3 pm. Organizations that provide youth programming for Hartford youth have been invited to have a table to showcase their offerings.

VI. Happenings in Our Parks

MAR 6

EPIC Workshop

Wed 8:45 AM · by Riverfront Recapture

Riverfront Boathouse

Interested in learning how to utilize the skills needed for positive and powerful outcomes in a classroom and other group environments? Register for our EPIC (Experiential Process in Classrooms) workshop, a one day introduction to the experiential process and you will.

MAR 7

Victoria Johnson Lecture, Lunch and Book Signing

Thu 11 AM · by Elizabeth Park, Hartford CT

Pond House Cafe

This illustrated lecture by historian Victoria Johnson features her new book, "American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic," which both the Wall Street Journal and Ron Chernow (Alexander Hamilton) have called "captivating."

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MAR 17

O'Hartford 5K & Wee Mile

Sun 1 PM · Shared to Friends of Colt Park

Hartford, Connecticut

Hartford, CT

MAR 23

2019 Spring Bulb and Plant Sale

Sat 10 AM ·

Elizabeth Park, Hartford CT

West Hartford, CT

MAR 27

A Coltsville Conversation with Scholars

Wed 9 AM ·

Church of the Good Shepherd and Parish House

When new national parks are created, scholars conduct independent research and have discussions to provide information for the NPS to consider as we develop the interpretive themes and narrative of the park. This is one step in a long journey of how the park will learn to tell the Coltsville story.

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