

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION



**CITY OF HARTFORD
REVISED AGENDA**

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

City Hall – Green Room

550 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Commissioners in Attendance: Joyce Bosco, Jonathan Cabral, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Jeffrey Devereux, Brian Gallagher, Craig Mergins, Dave Rozza, Desmond Sinclair, Donna Swarr, Stanford Walker, Mary Rickel Pelletier, David Morin

Ex Officio: Troy Stewart

Council: John Gale

City Staff: Thomas Baptist, Frank Dellaripa, Kiley Gosselin, Petrel Maylor, Alan Strong, Grace Yi

Guests: TJ Clynch, Sam Clynch, David Kozak, Adam Sallae, Chris Sienko, Pedro Mercado, Joe Calafiore, Scott Schooley, Kim Hart, Jean King, Michael Zaleski, Andrew Long, Thomas Leravin, Nick Baistirzzi, Michael Glasson, Jose Delgado, Kathy Krackzowsky, Herb Virgo, Denise Best, Alyssa Petersen, Cryshanna Johnson, Mary Zeman, Chris Hayes

Excused absences: Charmaine Craig, Carl Williams

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Minutes of December 19, 2017 approved 8-0

Dillon Stadium Update

Hartford Sports Group reviewed their proposal for their purchase of a U.S. Soccer League team (USL). They are planning to be a major tenant in Dillon Stadium. They spoke of monies being contributed to support Dillon and Colt Park. Commissioners and the public asked questions ranging from how long is the season (April-October), number of games (22-possibly 40), where would the funding come from (State Neighborhood Bonds which CRDA manages), how will the City directly benefit from this (parking and ticketing), installation of artificial turf (yes, need to meet City Zoning regulations), is there a Lease/Community agreement (no, not yet), when will they start playing (2019), who will own the stadium (the City), who will maintain the facility (under discussion), is there any cost to the city (no). I would suggest we add in on the Dillon Stadium piece what the community is that they would assist local youth soccer leagues clinics for the kids. PRAC looks forward to be kept apprised of the process.

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Park Trust Fund Update

Tom Baptist provided an update of Park Trust projects which have been approved for 2018. Twelve projects have been approved, purchase orders have been placed for 2, security cameras and the ADA improvements at the stables in Keney Park. The remaining projects are in development; each project requires a project manager. Mary Rickel Pelletier asked if the Park River could be added to the list of Park Trust projects. There have been discussions about these areas for several years. Jeff Devereaux (chair), Joyce Bosco and Mary Rickel Pelletier volunteered to probe into this issue to find out who owns which parcels (City, DEEP, the Hartford Housing Authority), if there is an agreement between the Housing Authority, and about a grant that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator had worked on for these areas.

Hartford Parks Trust Fund Initiative

Projects Ready To Go (may be subject to municipal approvals, e.g. Planning and Zoning, NRC):

Jan. 1, 2018

Project Name	Location	Est. Cost	Council Authorization	Readiness	Tentative Start Date - Approval Process	Expected Duration of Construction	Benefit
Park Signage	All Parks	\$1,400,000	\$2,000,000	Fabrication plans completed. Substantial constituency-support.	Jan. 2018	One year	Consistent branding, all parks. Increase park attendance. Define permitted uses in parks
Sidewalks	Elizabeth, Colt, Sigourney, approx. 6,000 linear feet (~\$50/foot)	\$300,000	\$300,000	Constituency-supported at Elizabeth and Colt. Sigourney constituent review pending.	Jan. 2018	Four months	Increase safety Reduce liability Enable access by auth. vehicles
Sidewalks and Lighting	Bushnell (east and west)	\$900,000- (\$100,000 grant from Bushnell Park Foundation)	\$1,000,000	Designed and budget estimate prepared. Substantial constituency-support.	Jan. 2018	Six months	Increase safety/security Reduce liability
New Athletic Facility	Pope Park little league baseball field w/lights	\$750,000	\$750,000	Designed and budget estimate prepared. Constituency supported.	Jan. 2018	18 months (Incl. grow-in period)	Replace existing facility Reduce liability
New Athletic Facility	Goodwin Park tennis courts (4) and Fustal Line Painting	\$200,000	\$200,000	Designed and budget estimate prepared. Constituency-supported	Jan. 2018	Four months	Replace existing facility Reduce liability
ADA Improvements	Keney Park - Equestrian Center	\$270,000	\$250,000	Keney ready to commence construction.	Oct.2017	Three months	Education opportunity Social service Reduce liability/ADA exposure
Pond Dredging	Goodwin Park Pond Only, Not Pope and Bushnell	\$1,300,000	\$2,500,000	Design complete, permits issued by DEEP and ACOE	Jan. 2018	Three months	Improves aquatic habit aesthetic enhancement, reduces maintenance c
Park gates, fencing	Keney Park	\$100,000	\$100,000	No design necessary.	Oct. 2017	One month	Increase safety/security Reduce liability, litterin and illegal dumping
Security Cameras	Keney, Colt, Elizabeth, Pope, Bushnell, Goodwin, Hyland	\$600,000	\$600,000	Designed and constituency supported.	Jan. 2018	Three months	Reduce illegal dumping vandalism and repairs. Increase safety/security
Lighting	South Green	\$100,000	\$100,000	Minimal design required.	Jan. 2018	Three months	Increase safety/security Reduce liability.
Lighting	Colt, Elizabeth, Goodwin, Keney Woodland (Not Pope)	\$407,948	\$1,000,000	Not designed or constituency reviewed	Jan. 2018	Six months	Increase safety/security Reduce liability.

Licensing Agreements Update

Tom Baptist provided an overview of the purpose for legal agreements between the City and the Friends Groups, as well as organizations who reside in our parks. DPW is responsible for working out the terms of these agreements. There are several organizations that have completed the process in the past 2-3 years, the Chanel 3 Kids Camp (use of Goodwin for Festival of Lights), Little League in Keney Park (concession stand), Ebony Horsewomen (Barn in Keney Park), Goodwin and Keney Golf Courses. Most Friends Groups do not have a

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current agreement and there are a few more organizations that are using park property which would benefit from an agreement. Donna Swarr, commissioner, asked what were the benefits? Tom Baptist stated that the agreements clearly defined who is responsible for what and that appropriate insurance is provided for the organization which will protect both the City and the organization.

NRZ briefings re: PRAC Goals/Objectives 2018

Donna Swarr contacted several commissioners to attend their local NRZ meeting to share PRAC's 2017/2018 Objectives. There were still a couple of NRZs that did not have anyone signed up for as yet. She will be contacting commissioners for follow up and to seek additional commissioners to assist.

Recreation Fees for Nonresidents – Update

Donna Swarr shared that PRAC's Recreation Committee was composed of Troy Stewart, Brian Gallagher, Craig Mergin, Desmond Sinclair, Donna Swarr, and Carl Williams. After review of the numbers of non-residents at each recreation center, it was deemed that instituting a policy of collecting fees for non-residential use was not cost effective. Most recreation centers use a Cost Recovery Model, which means that some programming is provided at cost plus, some at cost value and some with minimal cost. Kim Oliver, Director of DCYFR, requested that PRAC seek out "low hanging fruit". Relationships with other recreational organizations in Hartford was explored with success; Wadsworth Atheneum, CT Science Center, BiciCo, Hartford Audubon, Bushnell Foundation for the Arts. Sharing youth and adult league sign ups and other recreational programming which is provided by reputable organizations will be done via MyRec.com. A spring event in the recreation centers this spring is planned to announce the new programming and rollout the resident registration in MyRec.com. Volunteers are needed to help organize this event. The first meeting will be held February 6th, 5:30 at Metzner Center on Franklin Avenue.

Department Reports:

- City Architect – Included in the discussion of the Parks Trust Fund Update
- Parks – Included in the Park Trust Fund Update
- Recreation – They are in the process to hire a General Clerk and Life Guard. Parent / Infant Swim lessons ages 6 months to 2 years of age begins Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 1pm. The class will meet every Saturday for 30 minutes followed by 15 minutes allowed for water exploration. Space is limited. First come, first serve. Please call (860) 757-4880.

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