

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION



CITY OF HARTFORD

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

City Hall – Green Room

550 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Commissioners in Attendance: Jonathan Cabral, Jeffrey Devereux, Brian Gallagher, Craig Mergins, David Morin, Dave Rozza,, Donna Swarr, Stanford Walker, Carl Williams

Ex Officio: Troy Stewart

Council: John Gale

City Staff: Thomas Baptist, Petrel Maylor, Alan Strong, Grace Yi

Guests: Denise Best, Kathy Kraczkowsky

Excused absences: Joyce Bosco, Charmaine Craig, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Desmond Sinclair

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Minutes of February 27, 2018 approved 8-0

Nomination and Election of Officers

Carl Williams acted as Temporary Chair for the nomination process. Craig Mergins as Chair, Brian Gallagher as Vice Chair, and Donna Swarr as Secretary were re-elected. A letter to the Mayor's Office will be sent.

Park Signage – Alan Strong

Posters of existing signage, George Day Park and Sigourney Park were displayed. The wording for the Park Rules were provided, they are in English as well as Spanish. Park logos, amenity symbols and rules were shared. Purchase Order has been written, waiting to be approved by Mayor's Office. Old signs will be removed. Each Friends Group will meet with Alan to review location of signs.

Litter Campaign – Donna Swarr

Attendees were from representatives of DPW, PRAC, OPP, City Council, Neighborhood groups MARG and Upper Albany and residents. Committees were created and attendees as well as others are asked to sign up:

Education & Communication

Clean-ups

Lack of Equipment

Enforcement

Rat Problem

There was a discussion to put out an Earth Day announcement about the clean-up effort for door to curb by residents and business owners created by DPW which will also include announcements about clean-ups across the city. Tom Baptist accepted the role of coordinator of clean ups. Outreach to Merchant Associations, NextDoor.com, NRZs, Friends Groups, Community Court is needed to help with this effort. Due to the change in the date of the meeting, many were unable to attend, we hope to have the following groups represented at the them next meeting, HPD, BOE, Knox Inc. Suggestions about theme – suggestion – Hartford Proud & Beautiful

April Vacation Recreation Event report –

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioners

Chair, Craig Mergins; Denise Best, Joyce Bosco, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Jonathan Cabral, Charmaine Craig, Jeffrey Devereux, Brian Gallagher, David Morin, Mary Rickel Pelletier, Dave Rozza, Desmond Sinclair, Donna Swarr, Stanford Walker, Carl Williams
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The Recreation Committee met twice since the last PRAC meeting. Two topics were discussed; the Open Houses and the next steps to implementing fee based recreation programming. Open Houses are being held at our Rec Centers PRAC and City Council members are invited to attend; Arroyo on April 7th, Parker on April 14th and Metzner on April 21st. All will be held between 10am -2pm. Flyer was sent out to all 3/27/18. Members of the Connecticut Park and Recreation Association were contacted via a listserv about their experiences with fees and use of MyRec.com. Many provided helpful information and several stated they would be willing to meet with us for an interview.

River Property Owners – Jeff Devereux

The committee requested that PRAC send a letter to the Mayor and City Council to review and meet with the property owners adjacent to both the North and South Park, but specifically the property owned by the Housing Authority as this area has a trail. PRAC voted to send a letter supporting this request. Tom Baptist, John Gale, Craig Mergins stated they would be willing to work on this project. Grace Yi, from the Sustainability Office was asked to consider this as a project.

Sharing events in our Parks-Donna Swarr

Passed out contact info for PRAC's Facebook Page, A View from the Parks. It includes links to that and to request that event organizers can use for assistance in promoting their events. Bike the Parks, Dog walks in our parks, the Keney Park DEEP fishing event, and the Elizabeth Park Rose Festival and Community Day were shared. Donna Swarr volunteered to organize a PRAC table at the event on June 11th.

City Architect-Alan Short

Shared several projects that are moving forward through the project process and more information would be forthcoming.

Parks-Tom Baptist

Shared the report he submitted and mentioned the Elizabeth Park Tulip Festival.

Recreation-Troy Stewart

Passed he had already been on the agenda.

Announcement- PRAC special meeting on Thursday, April 5th, 5:30 at a location to be decided to review the Dillon Stadium agreement and vote to endorse/reject, provide comments and suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commissioners

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