



REVISED
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF HARTFORD

Agenda

Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 6 pm

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Park and Recreation Advisory Meeting - Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Commissioners: Colin Billings, Janier Caban-Hernandez, Charmaine Craig, Brian Gallagher (Chair), Chris Hayes, Craig Mergins, David Rozza, Donna Swarr

City Council: Marilyn Rossetti

City Staff: Frank Dellaripa, Mark Dowd, Madeleine Hykes, Mike Looney, Petrel Maylor, John Santos, Troy Stewart, Grace Yi

Public: Cheryl Antoncic, Matt Conway, Leslie Hammond, Jean C. King, Nic Willard

August 25, 2020, minutes approved, 7 in favor, 1 abstention (absent at last meeting)

Keney Disc Golf Course – Nic Willard

Mr. Willard gave a presentation on the Keney Disc Golf Course. His presentation included concerns about appropriate parking, mowing issues, and litter throughout the course. After much discussion, it was determined that it would be best for Mr. Willard to set up a meeting with Mr. Dowd and Mr. Looney from DPW. With this meeting set up, most of these concerns should be resolved.

HOPE Sculpture in Buckingham Park – Cheryl Antoncic and Matt Conway

Ms. Antoncic and Mr. Conway shared the HOPE Sculpture project with the Commission. With commissioners supporting the project, a motion was made to write a letter of support for the “Hope Sculpture in a City Park” with the caveat that any respective NRZ or Friends Group is also in support. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports:

City Engineer’s Report – Frank Dellaripa

Mr. Dellaripa gave the City Engineer’s report. Colt Park Phase 1 is complete. An additional \$500,000 has been allocated to Colt Park, and another \$500,000 has been allocated for additional work in Pope Park. Due to the lateness of the Bushnell Park contract award, the majority of the work will be done in 2021. The citywide park lighting project is nearing completion.

Questions/Concerns: A private contractor from New York is analyzing all of the ponds in the city's parks. The ponds in Goodwin Park have had the most issues, even after being dredged, and the hope is that a treatment plan will be put in place by spring.

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City Parks Report – Mark Dowd

The Parks Department continues to be proactive in park maintenance whenever possible. Tropical storm cleanup has been a significant focus for the Parks Department. A small planting has occurred at the entrance to Keney Park at Woodland. The DPW team is looking to take an Integrated Pest Management approach to maintaining the parks this fall. Leaves are being mulched into the grass to act as a natural fertilizer wherever possible. Councilwoman Rossetti provided an update on Batterson Park. The Commission agreed that moving forward, there would be a standing agenda item dedicated to Batterson Park.

Questions/Concerns: The Goodwin Park Meadow area is now being restored. At this point, the meadow area has been tilled, and soil conditioning will be occurring shortly. The seeds should be in the ground by early November. The Parks Department is purchasing additional seeds to supplement those that have been purchased by the Friends of Goodwin Park.

Litter and trash in the parks continue to be an ongoing issue. Mr. Mergins suggested that using the Youth Service Corp could be a way to help clean up the ongoing litter issues in the parks.

Recreation – Troy Stewart

Several virtual programs are being offered to the public. However, due to construction or COVID testing, three of the four Recreation Centers in the city are not currently being used for recreation.

Questions/Concerns:

Commissioners voiced frustration over the fact that the Recreation Centers were not being used for recreation programming. The Commissioners agreed that the Commission needed to advocate for helping to open other areas in the City for recreation to use for programming while these centers are not available.

Communication with City Council – Brian Gallagher

Frequent communication continues between Chair Gallagher and Council. The Council remains incredibly supportive of PRAC. Batterson Park, which an update was given earlier in the meeting, and My Rec were the most recent conversation topics. Chair Gallagher is looking to make the Board of Education facilities available to the community since the Board of Education regularly uses recreation facilities.

Love Your Park and Community HOPE Gardens – Madeleine Hykes

Ms. Hykes provided an update on the Community HOPE Gardens. She urged anyone interested in helping to reach out to their local NRZ. The bulbs will be planted in October in designated areas throughout the City.

Trees for Hartford Residents – Grace Yi

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Ms. Yi reminded the Commission that there are still trees available for city residents to plant on their property. The trees are currently being stored and cared for by Knox and A.I. Prince Technical High School.

Pope Park Tree Plan – Jean King

Due to time constraints, Ms. King offered to move her presentation of the Pope Park Tree Plan to the October meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

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