

Board of Park Commissioners
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
First Floor Meeting Room, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Present: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Commissioner Robert Fiorito
Commissioner Cynthia Donovan
Commissioner Sandra Bogdanski
Commissioner Paula O'Keefe
Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros
Commissioner Robert Kalat
Council Liaison, Scott Rosado
Commissioner Malcolm Huckaby

Absent: Commissioner Robert Kalat

1) Call to order

Chairwoman Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

2) Acceptance of minutes from January 15, 2020:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Bogdanski to approve the January 15, 2020 minutes.

Seconded by: Commissioner Donovan.

All in favor; Motion carried.

3) Public Participation:

Nick Rascati and Jordan Scheiner approached the Board on behalf of Bristol Blues and they're requesting a modification to the agreement to reflect the fewer games on the schedule. They are changing leagues. Dr. Medeiros stated that it's a 5 year contract signed in 2017 and is valid until 2022. This current year they're expecting to pay \$13,005, year 4 the rate is \$13,265, year 5 the rate is \$13,530. The request for the third year is a reduction of \$2,780, the fourth year would be reduced by \$2,842 and in the fifth year a reduction of \$2,899.00. The other items in the contract will remain the same. The total reduction is \$8,521.00. The City is paying approximately \$30,000 for utilities, labor, sanitation and other operating expenses. Bristol Blues is also requesting a reduction in the concession revenue.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fiorito to refer this matter to the Budget & Finance Committee.

Seconded by: Commissioner Bodganski.

All in favor; Motion passed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Donovan to move item 7B Next Gen to the current location.

Seconded by: Commissioner Bodganski.

All in favor; Motion passed.

Mark Campbell approached the Board regarding the car club and how they really came together with the trunk or treat event back in October 2019. That inspired them to request to hold a car show in Rockwell Park by the area where the trunk or treat was located. He would like to make the event a fun free family event with games, vendors and many cars. He would like to conduct the event from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Many activities will transpire throughout the day for the families. He is willing to donate 50% of the proceeds to the welfare of children.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fioritio to approve the Next Gen car show for a date in June to be determined by staff.

Seconded by Commissioner O'Keefe.

All in favor; Motion passed.

4) Employee Recognition:

- A. Dave McConnell is qualifying for Landscape Gardener.
- B. Cody Lombardi was selected as new Park Maintainer.
- C. Steven Alvarez qualified for Skilled Utility Worker.
- D. Stephen Bynum passes probation for Youth & Community Services Supervisor.
- E. Sarah Larson passes probation for the Deputy Superintendent.
- F. Moment of silence in remembrance of James Dumont's recent passing as he was a Park Commissioner.

5) Superintendent's Report

- a. Superintendent's Report For February 2020

Dr. Medeiros explained the Superintendent's report.

- b. February Financials 2020

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fioritio to accept the report and place on file.

Seconded by: Commissioner Bogdanski.

All in favor; Motion carried.

6) Old Business

- A. FY 20-21 Budget Updates

Capital Projects for FY 20-21 have submitted in December 2019. Trust fund money is being reconciled as revenue. The goal is to reduce the trust money by \$100k a year for four (4) years and have the funds go into a dedicated Park Trust. February 27th will be the next Board of Finance meeting at 6:00 p.m. where the budget request will be presented. The Commissioners attendance is encouraged.

- B. Smoking is prohibited in the parks. The ordinance change will be effective March 1, 2020. Dr. Medeiros provided a handout regarding policy of smoke free within the Parks. Parks will install signage.

- C. New Department Logo-rebranding

Dr. Medeiros provided a handout displaying logos of how the proposed logo would look on vehicles, t-shirts, etc.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fioritio to approve the logo as presented and Dawn Nielsen will start moving forward with this so it can be used.

Seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski.

All in Favor; motion passed.

D. Parks And Recreation Master Plan

By Commissioners:

Commissioner Fiorito is concerned about the previous meeting as to approving a bench within Wilson Field. Dr. Medeiros will check the requirements for naming a tree, bench or park. The Commission will revisit the bench request in the summer and the required duration.

Council Liaison Scott Rosado is concerned about the street name change to Wozenski Way. The Board conceptually approved the name change. This item now needs to go to the Police Commission.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fiorito to send this to the Police Commission street to rename a portion of East Street to Wozenski Way.

Seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski.

All in Favor; Motion passed.

MOTION: Commssioner Bogdanski to move item 7D to the current location.

Seconded by Commissioner Fiorito.

All in Favor; Motion passed

Mary Rydingsward approached the Commission. She's looking to apply for a grant to do bio improvements in Kern Park. She has partnered with Marina Environmental and they will be excavating the pavement and fencing. She would like to remove the post and the jersey barriers on Primrose Lane in order to access the tennis courts without using the school property. She would like to re-route the water and infiltrate it into a rain garden. She's going to complete one (1) grant application for the two (2) projects. The cost of these projects totals \$367,000. She will be working with Raymond Rogozinski on engineering. Dr. Medeiros confirmed that the City will not be matching the funds.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fiorito to approve and endorse the grant application from the Pequabuck River Water Association for the Kern Park Bio-Infiltration Project. The Park Board will supply a letter of support of this project. This topic will also be referred to Building and Maintenance and they will work closely with the group to maintain communication and have information about what is happening with the project.

Seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski.

All in Favor; Motion passed.

7) New Business

A. Presentation of all heart pop-up parks from the Mayor's Youth Cabinet.

B. Approval of car show event at Muzzy Field
a. NEXGEN Facility Use Request Form.

C. Approval of the partial closure of Memorial Boulevard on March 18, 2020 the night before until noon for a monument tour at 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. with French exchange students from BCHS.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fiorito to approve the partial closure of Memorial Boulevard on March 18th from 8 a.m. until noon.

Seconded by: Commissioner Donovan.

All in favor; Motion passed.

- D. Presentation from Mary Rydingsward, Pequabuck River Watershed Association on Kern Park bio-infiltration project.
- E. Consider a request from the Aquatics Supervisor to reduce non-resident day pass rates to the outdoor pools.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fiorito to refer to the Budget & Finance Committee which allows the staff time to collect additional research and come back next month with statewide pricing in other communities. If approved by the sub-committee authorization is provided to move forward with the brochure.

Seconded by: Commissioner Bogdanski.

All in favor; Motion passed.

F. By Commissioners

Commissioner Fiorito indicated that the Board of Education recently changed their fee structure for field usage and wants to monitor the fees.

Commissioner Fiorito stated that Memorial Boulevard is being taking off online and he would like the backstops. Dr. Medeiros will check with the BOE if they're available.

8) Committee Reports:

A. Events Committee

- a. Discussion on reconvening the planning of the 100th anniversary of Memorial Boulevard.

Dr. Medeiros indicated that the Event Committee will reconvene during late summer. The 100th anniversary is tentatively planned for October of 2021.

B. Building & Maintenance Committee

No Report

C. Budget & Finance Committee

No report

D. City Council Liaison updates.

- a. Report and discussion of Memorial Boulevard Repaving / one lane project.

Mayor stated that there's no traffic study or data for the Memorial Boulevard to reduce to one lane and create a bike lane. There will be a lot of construction projects transpiring on the Boulevard next year which includes the bridges, school and parking lot. The construction will take place from April 2021 to November 2021.

The State owns the land behind the plaza on East Main Street in Forestville. There's a possibility that a bike path can come to fruition with the help of the Connectivity Grant.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Fiorito to forward the Frederick Street Parking lot topic to Building & Maintenance Committee.

Seconded by Commissioner Bogdanski.

All in favor; Motion passed.

9) **Other Business**

10) **Adjourn**

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Fiorito to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.
Seconded by: Commissioner Bogdanski
All in favor; Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wilson, Recording Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

DRAFT