



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL



BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Buttonwood Community Center

1 Oneida Street

New Bedford, MA 02740

July 27, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Please Note: All special events are subject to the MA COVID-19 restrictions in place on the date of the event.

CALL TO ORDER 6:01 PM

ROLL CALL Elaine Safioleas, Justin Ohlson, Lee Blake

ABSENT Peter Boswell, Diane Berube

ALSO, PRESENT: Mary Rapoza Director of Parks, Rec & Beaches; Bernadette Barreira, Admin Coordinator; Christine Felaccio, Office Assistant III

NEW BUSINESS - APPEARANCES/ACTIONS

1. **Low Tide Yacht Club** Beach grass @ the Fort Taber boat ramp and approval of boating needs

Invitee: Joseph Pacheco

Joseph Pacheco explained his concerns about the beach grass and boat ramp, he brought in photos to better show his concerns. He explained that he has shown this to Chance Perks from the City of New Bedford's Environmental Department. Elaine Safioleas explained to Joseph Pacheco that unfortunately this fall under the conservation committee and the park board has no authority over the beach grass. Justin Ohlson explained to Joseph Pacheco that DPI will have to research and reach out to the conservation committee before any cleanup is done so no violations are committed. Justin will reach out to the conservation committee. Elaine Safioleas explains that Mary Rapoza and Justin Ohlson will do their best to investigate this and help get this ball rolling. Joseph Pacheco also questioned the closing of the gates at Fort Taber at 8:00 PM in the summer. Mary Rapoza and Bernadette Barreira explained that the Fort Taber Park gates have been closing at 8:00 PM for over a decade. This was a directive

given to the department for them to follow this was not created by the Park Board of the Parks department.

2. **Bishop Stang Athletics** To review field maintenance expenditures against field permit fees

Invitee: Dennis Golden

Jennifer Golden was present in Dennis's absence. Jennifer Golden explained that Dennis couldn't make it but wrote everything down for Jennifer to explain to the park board. Jennifer had a printout of the expenses that Dennis had paid towards the field maintenance and equipment. Justin Ohlson explained that he has seen them out at the field working on the field. Justin Ohlson motioned to reduce fee by 50%, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all. Lee Bake made a motion to receive and place on file the report that Jennifer brought to the meeting, 2nd by Justin Ohlson and accepted by all.

3. **New Bedford Post 1 Junior Legion Program** To review field maintenance expenditures against field permit fees

Invitee: Scott Ryley

Scott Ryley was not present, Justin Ohlson made a motion to table until we hear back from Scott, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all

4. **Greater New Bedford Youth Baseball Association** To discuss league play at Dias Field Diamonds

Invitee: Ligia Freitas

Bernadette and Christine explain that Ligia Freitas has been asked to attend the last two park board meetings only to be told that Liga cannot attend. There has been a lack of communication and Liga still has not turned in any Cori checks, rosters, or insurance. Justin Ohlson makes a motion to change all locks on any fields and/or buildings that this league uses to expedite their appearance at the next park board meeting, 2nd by Lee Blake with the condition added that a letter is sent to the league informing them of the lock changes and accepted by all

5. **Free Bird Jewelry** Looking for permission to vender accessories @ Serenity Gardens

Invitee: Rachida

Rachida was not present, motion to table by Lee Blake and 2nd by Justin Ohlson accepted by all

6. **Reggae @ West Beach** on Sunday 7/31/22, & Sunday 8/28/22

Invitee: Fitz LaMarre

Fitz LaMarre and Chakira Gonsalves Elkhoury explained that they need more garbage cans, it was explained that they need to reach out to DPI for more trash bins. The Parks, Recreation and Beaches department will reach out to DPI on behalf of Reggae about the trash bins. Bernadette sent an email to DPI during the meeting about the trash barrels. Fitz LaMarre and Chakira Gonsalves Elkhoury would like to add more vehicles and vendors to the event. The board and the department explain why safety is a huge concern with people crossing the street. The park board and department agree that this year the event must stay within the guidelines already voted on. Next year if this event wants to be a larger event a different location would need to be considered, such as East Beach. Motion to approve the event the way it has always been with the addition of the coastal foodshed vehicle by Justin Ohlson, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all.

7. **Riverside Beats @ Riverside Park on Sunday's 8/14/2022 & 9/4/2022**

Invitee: Andrew Anello

Andrew Anello would like to use yard signs in the park on the day of the events for advertisement of the event. The park board and Andrew went over the types of signs that would be allowed and locations of the signs. Andrew brought photos of the locations and types of signs. Justin Ohlson reminded Andrew that he is responsible for removal and if they are stolen and Andrew agreed and understood Motion to approve additional signage for the event by Lee Blake 2nd by Justin Ohlson and accepted by all

8. **West End Neighborhood Association: Summer Fun Day @ Dr. Jibreel Khazan Park on Saturday 8/6/2022**

Invitee: Geovanny Sequeria

Marcelina Pina-Christian was present in Geovanny's absence and explained what this city sponsored event entails. Community Services received a grant from United Way for this event. The event will offer covid vaccines, resources for families about housing, and fun family activities. Motion to approve the event by Lee Blake 2nd by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

9. **Southcoast Outdoor Worship Service @ Hazelwood Park Sunday 8/21/22**

Invitee: Jason Poliarco

Jason Poliarco explained that his church is looking to expand to the New Bedford area, and this is a great opportunity to explore the area. As far as setup they will have two speakers for this event and some chairs. Jason discussed the different options for having a restroom at his event. The event can rent the Hazelwood Community Center or hire a porta potty service. If porta potty is chosen Jason must schedule a walk through with the Parks, Recreation and Beaches department. They can bring their own generator if allowed. Jason will work with the Parks, Recreation and Beaches department who will need to contact the fire department for approval of the generator. Motion to approve the event with the stipulations that the fire department approves the generator and the porta potty walk through is scheduled by Lee Blake, 2nd by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

10. **Overdose Awareness Day @ Custom House Square on Wednesday 8/31/22**

Invitee: Gioia Persuitt & Stephanie Harrington Sloan

Gioia Persuitt with the New Bedford health department explained that this event will run the same as last year. They are working with the health department to be able to have food at the event. The mayor will be speaking at this city sponsor event. If they choose to have a paint the rock table Justin Ohlson asked to please keep the rocks off the lawn to protect the city lawn cutting equipment. Lee Blake asked if flyers will be multilingual, Gioia wasn't sure but agreed that multilingual is a good idea and will bring the idea back to her department. Motion to approve the event by Lee Blake, 2nd by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

11. **16th Annual Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride @ Fort Taber Park on Sunday 10/2/2022**

Invitee: Jonah Guerin

Jonah explained the event will run the same as it has in the past. The same route for the bicycle ride, with a water stop set up in Fort Taber. Motion to approve the event by Justin Ohlson 2nd by Lee Blake & accepted by all.

12. **5th Annual A Walk In My Shoes @ Fort Taber Park on Saturday 10/8/2022**

Invitee: Robert Ortiz & Ronald Grillo

Ronald was present to explain the event will function as it has in the past. The walking route will be the same as the past events. Ronald explained that he would like to add the bathrooms in Fort Taber if possible. For a rental of the bathrooms for 3 hours the cost will be \$120.00. A motion to approve the event and give a 75% discount on park space fees and a 50% discount on parking lots fees motioned by Justin Ohlson, 2nd by Lee Blake & accepted by all.

13. **Fall 2022 Hunger Heroes Food Drop @ Buttonwood Community Center on Saturday 11/12/2022**

Invitee: Kasey Silvia

Kasey explains that United Way of Greater New Bedford will be partnering with fun 107 for this event. The event will run the same as the past events and they have no problem sharing the building with the farmer's market. Motion to approve the event with a 50% discount and the department will ask DFFM to waive the other 50% of the fees by Lee Blake, 2nd by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

OTHER

Motion to take out of order and hear the CCT, Centro Comunitario De Trabajadores Inc. explain their event after number 13 on the agenda by Justin Ohlson, 2nd by Lee Blake & accepted by all. Adrian Ventura and E Ventura explained that they have been having this event in secret for years for fear or racism. They explained that they feel excluded since when they try to have events like this, they seem to have a lot of hurdles to jump over. The Ventura's would love to have this event on September 17th at Riverside Park. They felt rejected when they attempted to fill out the application. Justin asked who told them "No" and the Ventura's explained DPI said no because of the timeline. The park board explained that the application needs to be filed 3 months prior to the date of the event and therefore DPI said no. The Park Board apologized for any inconvenience and misunderstanding. The Ventura's brought their Special Event Application and map with them to the park board meeting the only thing missing is the insurance. The Ventura's will make sure DPI receives the insurance. The Parks, Recreation and Beaches department asked to view the application. It was agreed that this event could be a possibility. The Department and Board explained that the Ventura's can apply for the event a year in advance. The Ventura's explained they waited so long for fear of backlash and racist comments. The Board and Department explained all the different events that the city parks have had run in them from all different ethnic backgrounds. Motion to approve the event with a 75% discount on park space by Justin Ohlson, 2nd by Lee Blake & accepted by all.

OLD BUSINESS

Anibal Lucas wrote a letter to the park board explaining that the Liga Maya has been leaving by 4:00 PM like they are supposed to however due to the heatwave and taking water breaks they left at 5:00 PM one weekend and the police showed up. Anibal would like to be able to let the players finish the games safely during the hot weather. Justin Ohlson made a motion to extend the time frame to 5:00 PM if Anibal Lucas reaches out to the Parks, Recreation and Beaches staff to request an extension due to weather conditions, 2nd by Lee Blake & accepted by all. Liga Maya is working with the school department trying to secure one of their fields for their tournaments.

REPORT DIRECTOR OF PARKS RECREATION & BEACHES

Abolition Row Park ceremony tomorrow Thursday, July 28, at 2 pm for the grant announcement for Abolition Row Park. We received a Mass Office of Travel and Tourism grant for the park construction. The state Lieutenant Governor's Office will be present for the statewide awards announcement at the park.

The Parks, Recreation and Beaches department received a million dollars to put towards the west beach bath house. The exterior will not change but the interior will be completely gutted and remodeled

CORRESPONDENCE

Elaine Safioleas read the flyer about the Friends of Hazelwood Park having a Sunset cruise benefit August 4th. Justin Ohlson motion to receive and place on file, 2nd by Lee Blake & accepted by all.

Elaine Safioleas read an email from Kelly Miranda, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. Cesspool Inc. into record. "I received your message, that unit at Brooklawn may have already been cleaned today but in any event, it is on schedule for today. We have been dealing with some very unfortunate scenarios with the units at certain locations. For the last 2 weeks, someone (or may be multiples), have been defecating on the floors of the units as well as closing the toilet seats and defecating on the top of the toilet seat covers several times per week, when the toilet itself is fully usable. It is a form of vandalism and disgusting. I know you, nor us, have any control over this, it's awful. I just wanted to make you aware of what has been transpiring, this has been at Brooklawn and Hazelwood Park, and last week, they broke the door at the unit at Riverside by pushing the door completely inside the unit. And this week, ripped the spring off the inside of the door casing. I just don't understand people. but I can assure you, they are all being serviced on the days they are scheduled to be cleaned. Thank You, Kelly Miranda" Lee Blake motioned to have the Parks Recreation and Beaches department send this email with the city councilor's, 2nd by Justin Ohlson 2nd & accepted by all.

Anibal Lucas submitted a letter to the park board about why the league was at the field late Lee Blake motion to receive and place on file, 2nd Justin Ohlson by & accepted by all.

Marcelina Pina-Christian submitted a letter about Liga Maya staying late on the field with permission from the Parks department. Justin Ohlson motion to receive and place on file, 2nd Lee Blake & accepted by all.

Motion to receive and place on file the annual EWorkstyle Report from Paula Deare by Justin Ohlson, 2nd by Lee Blake & accepted by all.

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OTHER

The Park Boards discussed guidelines for inflatables in all city parks. The guidelines agreed upon for having an inflatable at an event are as follows. No bounce houses are allowed in any city parks. An exact photo/diagram of the exact inflatable that will be used during the event must be submitted to the department for approval. The company providing the inflatable must have liability insurance, a copy of their insurance must be submitted to the department. The event holder must have property damage insurance, a copy of their insurance must be submitted to the department. The inflatable must be secured properly to the ground. Depending on location of the event a walk-through must be scheduled with our department/DPI. A map of the location of the obstacle course must be submitted. Motion to allow inflatables in the city parks if all guidelines discussed are followed by Justin Ohlson, 2nd Lee Blake & accepted by all.

NEXT MEETING

9/21/2022 @ 6pm @ Buttonwood Community Center

MOTION TO ADJOURN 7:56 Justin Ohlson motioned to adjourn 2nd Lee Blake & accepted by all.

A true record attests
Respectfully submitted,
Christine Felaccio



***In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),
if any accommodations are needed,
please contact the Dept. of Parks Recreation & Beaches at 508-961-3015.
Requests should be made as soon as possible
but at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.***