



# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL



BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Brooklawn Community Center  
1997 Acushnet Ave  
New Bedford, MA 02745

May 17, 2023  
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** 6:04 PM

**ROLL CALL** Peter Boswell, Elaine Safioleas, Justin Ohlson, Diane Berube

**ABSENT** Lee Blake

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches; Christine Felaccio, Office Assistant III

### **ACCEPT PAST MINUTES**

Park Board to review & approve minutes from the April meeting. Diane Berube motioned to approve the April minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

### **NEW BUSINESS - APPEARANCES/ACTIONS**

1. ***Memorial/Dedication bench in Memory of Jose A. Gaspar @ Ashley Park***

*Invitee: Susana Gaspar*

Susana Gaspar informed the Park Board that she would like to have a memorial bench in Ashley Park as close to Goulart Square Bakery as possible. Susana & her late husband own the bakery & she would like to use this bench as a dedication to his life. Peter Boswell asked if there is an exact location for the bench. Mary Rapoza explained that Ashley Park is getting renovated and has a specific bench style picked out. Mary said we can order a bench that matches the style and find a spot close to the bakery. Justin Ohlson motioned to approve the memorial bench, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine Safioleas & approved by all. Mary Rapoza explains to Susana Gaspar that the department of Parks Recreation & Beaches will reach out too her with an invoice & further instructions.

2. **6<sup>th</sup> Annual A Walk In My Shoes @ Fort Taber/East Beach Sidewalks on Saturday 10/14/23**

*Invitee: Robert Ortiz*

Diane Berube motioned to table the A Walk In My Shoes event due to the invitee not being present, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine Safioleas & accepted by all.

3. **4<sup>th</sup> Annual CommUNITY Roll Out @ Buttonwood Park on Saturday 8/12/23**

*Invitee: Chakira Gonsalves*

Chakira Gonsalves explained to the Park Board that this event starts at Buttonwood Park. This year the Annual CommUNITY Roll Out has teamed up with New Moon Roller Disco Event. The CommUNITY Roll Out Event will end at the New Moon Roller Disco Event so folks can go from one event to the next. Chakira has discussed a change to last years route with the New Bedford Police Department for this year. Chakira made sure that the new route doesn't affect any ambulance traffic. Chakira has skated the route herself to test it out. All this event needs is a small area of the park for a table & popup tent at the beginning of the route. Chakira will have police details; she asked the police department not to send details on motorcycles because this event is for nonmotorized wheels. Diane Berube motioned to approve the event, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

4. **DATMA's 5<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration @ Custom House Square on Thursday 6/22/2023**

*Invitee: Lindsay Mis*

Lindsay Mis explained to the Park Board that this event will be a public event at Custom House Square for about two hours. A free open event with music from New Moon Dance Party but no stage will be used. Peter Boswell asked them to take care of the trash & recycling. Diane Berube asked Lindsay to please ask all vendors to try to use recyclable containers. Lindsay agrees to speak with everyone who will be at the event to ask them to be considerate of their choice in containers. Peter Boswell explained that the park space fee is \$80.00 an hour. As DATMA is a nonprofit, the Park Board may take a vote for a 50% discount of the park space fees. Elaine Safioleas motioned to approve the 50% discount, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Ohlson & approved by all. Justin Ohlson motioned to approve the event, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine Safioleas & accepted by all. Lindsay explained that DATMA would like to rent benches for this event, Mary Rapoza explains that there will be a walkthrough for this event & asked Lindsay to bring up the benches at the walkthrough.

5. **Liga Latina NB @ Renwick Field, permit review**

*Invitee: Julie Ventura*

Julie Ventura explained to the Park Board that they are trying to start a new men's soccer league at Renwick Field. Peter Boswell reviewed the rules that apply to any adult soccer leagues that play in the New Bedford parks. No cooking, no alcohol, no smoking, no pets, cleaning up after any trash that is created, coolers are to be used for water only, no fireworks, no after parties, no tailgating, no fights; if any complaints from the neighbors or the police department the Park Board will ask for security and/or suspend the permit. This is a new league, & they will be monitored to be sure nothing more is required of them & that they are following all rules/guidelines. Diane Berube motioned to approve the new league for a trial bases, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine Safioleas & accepted by all.

6. **Memorial/Dedication bench in Memory of Frank & Eunice Hamer @ Hazelwood Park**

*Invitee: Val Costa*

Val Costa explained to the Park Board that he has appeared in front of the Park Board on behalf on Marv since he lives out of town. This bench is for the bowling green area that the Park Board previously voted on. Justin Ohlson motioned to approve the bench, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Berube & accepted by all.

7. **Memorial/Dedication bench in Memory of William "Bud" Montigny @ Buttonwood Park**

*To be reviewed for referral to City Council*

The Park Board reviewed both memorial bench applications for item number 7 William "Bud" Montigny & item number 8 Elizabeth "Betty" Montigny. Elaine Safioleas motioned to refer both memorial bench applications item number 7 William "Bud" Montigny & item number 8 Elizabeth "Betty" Montigny to City Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Berube & accepted by all.

8. **Memorial/Dedication bench in Memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Montigny @ Buttonwood Park**

*To be reviewed for referral to City Council*

Justin Ohlson motioned to send the application to city council, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Berube & accepted by all.

9. **Play In The Park Lunch Kick-Off @ Hazelwood Park on Monday 6/26/23**

*To review the date change from 6/23 to 6/26.*

Christine Felaccio explained to the Park Board that TJ Thomas came before them last month for this events approval. Abolition Row Park Ribbon Cutting will be on Friday 6/23/23 so TJ has moved the Kick-Off event to Monday 6/26/23. Justin Ohlson motioned to approve the event, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Berube & accepted by all.

10. **Park Board to vote on the Fort Taber Gates hours of operation for July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Justin Ohlson motioned to close the East Beach parking lots on July 4<sup>th</sup>/or the rain date for the fireworks, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Berube & accepted by all. Peter Boswell expressed his concerns for locking the Fort Taber gates for the fireworks. Mary Rapoza explains that last year there were 4 brush fires because of fireworks. The president of the Military Museum was present at the meeting, he spoke up about his worry of keeping the museum safe during the fireworks. Justin Ohlson motioned to have the Fort Taber gates close at 8pm for the evening of fireworks as long as public safety is aware & is in agreement that the police department will monitor the area, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elaine Safioleas & accepted by all.

11. **Abolition Row Park ribbon cutting** scheduled for June 23, 2023, at 1pm.

*Invitee: Mary Rapoza*

Mary Rapoza invites the Park Board to the ribbon cutting of Abolition Row Park. Peter Boswell asked how long ago the board approved this park. Mary says this Park has been in the works since 2017, due to covid it took longer than expected.

**OTHER**

Kristie Brown came before the Park Board to seek permission to have a fundraising event at the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center on Memorial Day. She owns KLB Event planning & is working with 2xfitness to put together a Memorial Day "open gym" fundraiser. They would like to raise money to go to the local family of John Almeida Jr. The hope of this event is to raise money for this local family as well as bring some local small businesses together. So far Leap Of Faith has offered to donate their time to

teach a Zumba class & Certified Nutrition has donated some pre work out to give as samples. In addition, 2xFitness will be hosting an open work out for the duration of the event. We are hopeful this can become an annual event for the community. This event would be open to all public. They will be extending an invite to the local fire department to come work out with them that day. The concept would be for people to come in give a donation of any monetary amount at the door then enjoy a workout & a Zumba class. Peter Boswell informs Christine & Mary that he would like the Parks, Recreation & Beaches department Facebook page to post a flyer for this event. Elaine Safioleas motioned to approve the event, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Berube & accepted by all.

Christine Felaccio received an application from the US Coast Guard requesting to use Fort Taber Park on 5/5/23. The US Coast Guard asked if any discounts could be applied to the rental so Christine informed them that she would ask the Park Board on their behalf. Peter Boswell read the application to the Board members, explaining the date requested is 5/5/23 & the time is 10AM-1:30PM. The Park Board discussed a 50% discount to the US Coast Guard rental request. Diane Berube motioned to approve the rental at a discounted rate of 50%, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### REPORT DIRECTOR OF PARKS RECREATION & BEACHES

Mary Rapoza brought a copy of the Standard of Appearance For the public realm report to the Park Board. Mary Rapoza went over the report with the Park Board. Diane Berube motioned to receive the Standard of Appearance For the public realm report & place on file, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Ohlson & accepted by all.

Mary Rapoza also informed the Park Board that the Buttonwood Park Zoo is hosting their annual Red, White & Brew event on 5/19/2023. Gary Lunsford the Director of the Zoo reached out to Christina Connelly of the Mayor's Office to ask if there are any objections to having staff park on the lawn adjacent to the maintenance building. Gary explained there is no rain in the forecast, so the ground will be solid. He asked if there is anyone else from whom he should seek their blessing for parking. Christina brought the email to Mary's attention.

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### NEXT MEETING

6/21/2023 @ 6pm @ Brooklawn Community Center

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

A true record attests  
Respectfully submitted,



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
181 HILLMAN STREET, BLDG. #3  
NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740  
PHONE 508-961-3015

MAILING ADDRESS  
181 HILLMAN STREET  
BOX #9, NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740  
FAX 508-991-6175

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.***

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