



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL



BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

Brooklawn Community Center

1997 Acushnet Ave

New Bedford, MA 02745

July 19, 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 6:02 PM

ROLL CALL Peter Boswell, Elaine Safioleas, Diane Berube, Lee Blake

ABSENT Justin Ohlson

ALSO, PRESENT: Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation & Beaches; Christine Felaccio, Office Assistant III; Valovia Costa, Asst. Project Manager; Mike Neves, Parks, and Recreation Manager

ACCEPT PAST MINUTES

Park Board to review and approve minutes from the May and June meetings.

Christine Felaccio apologized to the board and explained that June's minutes had not been completed in time for the July meeting. Diane Berube motions to approve the May minutes, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all.

NEW BUSINESS - APPEARANCES/ACTIONS

1. **Worship And Prayer Service @ Monte Park on Saturday 8/26/23**

Invitee: Pastor Martin Capeles

Pastor Martin Capeles from Pentecostal Church of God is looking to host a small worship service for about an hour in Monte Park. The church will not be setting anything up or giving anything away. The event will be a simple worship service in the park. Peter Boswell asks if they will have tents or food at the event. Pastor Martin Capeles says no tents or food. Pastor Martin Capeles is not requesting a generator or anything from the city other than park space. Peter Boswell states he can see the 501C3 form with the application to indicate the church is nonprofit. Peter Boswell goes over the fees with Pastor Martin Capeles. Pastor Martin Capeles apologizes but explained he was not aware of the fees to reserve the park space. Since it is Pastor Martin Capeles first event with the City of New Bedford Diane

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Berube motioned to wave all the park space fees for the event, 2nd by Elaine Safioleas and accepted by all. Pastor Martin Capeles expressed his gratitude and thanked the Park Board. Elaine Safioleas motioned to approve of the event, 2nd by Diane Berube and accepted by all. The Park Board asked to please keep the park clean, and Pastor Martin Capeles says they will. Christine explained that he will receive an emailed invoice for \$0.00 because the Park Board waved his fees, after which his permit will be ready for pickup in the office.

2. **Don't Lose Hope 5K for Suicide Awareness 3.0 @ Buttonwood Park Area 3 on Sunday 10/15/2023**

Invitee: Brittney Carvalho

Brittney Carvalho explained that this event is the 3rd annual event and will be the same as it was in the past. The event will need electricity from the city for a DJ. A small tent will be set up in the park. The event will have two porta potties delivered to the park location to be determined with city. Elaine Safioleas motions to wave all the fees, 2nd by Diane Berube and accepted by all. Elaine Safioleas motioned to approve of the event, 2nd by Diane Berube and accepted by all.

3. **American Cancer Society & Cisco Brewer's New Bedford Fun Run @ Fort Taber Park on Saturday 10/21/2023**

Invitee: Ellis Gamache & Skyler Patrick

Ellis Gamache was present to represent the American Cancer Society. Skyler Patrick was present to represent Cisco Brewers. Ellis explained that this fun run will start at Cisco Brewery and run through the Fort Taber Park and then back to the brewery. There will be a small water station in the park next to the walking path. The event is looking for permission to use the walking paths of the park. Elaine Safioleas motioned to approve the event, 2nd by Lee Blake and approved by all.

4. **Reggae On West Beach @ West Beach on Sunday 7/30/23 & 8/27/23**

Invitee: Chakira Gonsalves

Chakira Gonsalves came before the Park Board to express her concerns that no a-frames or signage was put out by the PRB staff and no trash barrels were delivered by DPI. There was an issue with the gate at the East Beach north parking lot and they couldn't get in on time. Christine Felaccio explained that this was a weird occasion, and they couldn't get the lock off. Val Costa confirms that this has never happened before and was a freak thing. Chakira Gonsalves expresses that the office of PRB is closed on the weekends so if things go wrong she has no one to call. Val Costa states that Chakira can call him on the weekends. Peter Boswell thanks Val for being Chakira's contact person. Peter Boswell read the letter from Councilor Ryan Pereira. Elaine Safioleas motions to receive and place on file the letter from the Councilor, 2nd by Diane Berube and accepted by all. Chakira asks for a copy of the letter and Peter Boswell states that he only has one copy but the department of PRB will get her a copy.

5. **Youth Tennis Program @ Buttonwood Park Tennis Courts**

Invitee: Jesse Gotlib

Jesse Gotlib apologized to the Park Board for miscommunication and stated he would have been in front of them 3 years earlier if he had known the proper procedure. Jesse is a middle school teacher and father who enjoys teaching tennis programs in Buttonwood Park. Jesse charges a fee for programs. Peter Boswell says he understands that Jesse has had an agreement with PRB department that has

been running smoothly. Peter appreciates Jesse offering free lessons for the recreation center. Peter Boswell thanks Jesse for coming before the Park Board. He confirmed that there was a CORI run and he has insurance. Diane Berube motions to approve the tennis program, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all.

6. **3rd Year LIT Summer Basketball League @ Buttonwood Park**

Invitee: Brian Rudolph

Brian Rudolph requested permission to run a basketball league at Buttonwood Park. Brian has been working with Mike Neves on establishing this league. Mike asked Brian to come to the Park Board meeting as he charges a fee. Elaine Safioleas motioned to approve the basketball league, 2nd by Diane Berube and accepted by all.

7. **Adult Soccer League Liga Maya @ Morton Ave Field**

Invitee: Anibal Lucas

Peter Boswell asked Anibal Lucas what is happening at Morton Ave Field. Anibal stated that his security guard called 911 and shouldn't have. Anibal states that there was no fight and no reason to call the cops. Peter Boswell states that if players start fights, they must be removed from the league. Anibal says he spoke to the New Bedford Police Department and told NBPD there was no fight. Peter Boswell explains that the Park Board received a police report from the captain of the north end precinct stating there was a fight. Peter Boswell asks Anibal if he would like to continue using the same security he has now. Anibal says he would like a police detail. The Park Board explains that getting a police detail isn't easy. The Park Board does not want to receive police reports about Liga Maya. Safety is a top priority. Elaine Safioleas asked Anibal what he considers a fight, she explains that maybe he didn't see it but that doesn't mean a fight didn't happen and that things can escalate. Elaine asked who fought, players, spectators? Anibal explained that it was two coaches. Elaine Safioleas and Diane Berube think that Anibal should suspend the coaches to show them that this is a serious matter. The Park Board doesn't want to shut down the league but will do so if safety is in jeopardy. Diane Berube motions to allow the league to continue on a probationary period for the rest of the season if any more complaints come in from the NBPD the league will be shut down, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all. Mary Rapoza explained that Parks, Recreation and Beaches will need a copy of the contract with the security firm if the league will be changing their security team.

OLD BUSINESS

REPORT DIRECTOR OF PARKS RECREATION & BEACHES

Mary informed the Park Board the Red Cross is working with the City of New Bedford to use the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center as an emergency center. This will require some updates to the Rec Center including for air-conditioning. Brian Nobrega is working to find funds for this improvement.

The North Trail project at Buttonwood Park has been funded and will start moving forward.

Brooklawn Park Pond stormwater retrofit has been funded and construction will start moving forward.

NB Swims a program to expand free swimming lessons and has been funded. We are expanding the lifeguard led swim lessons and added WSI training and swim lessons. Regarding Reggae on West Beach: Mary Rapoza

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checked with lifeguard staff and parking staff about the event. They informed her that A-frames and signage were put out and garbage barrels were delivered. Mary will be asking the lifeguard staff and parking staff to take pictures of the signs and barrels in place going forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

OTHER

Peter Boswell read an email to the board from Sgt. Samuel Ortega of the New Bedford Police Department. The email is about an event the NBPD would like to have for community outreach. This event will be in Riverside Park on August 10th 2023. Christine Felaccio explained that this event is one of the series of events the Park Board has been approving with electronic votes. Elaine Safioleas motioned to approve the August 10th event, 2nd by Diane Berube and accepted by all.

Peter Boswell read the following electronic votes for the record.

- Fantasy Island Redux at Marine Park on Wednesday 7/19/23. Diane Berube motions to receive and place on file the electronic vote, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all.
- NBPD community outreach events on June 15th and July 13th. Diane Berube motions to receive and place on file the electronic votes for June 15th and July 13th, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all.

Christine Felaccio explained that Grace Harbor Church sent two flyers through Facebook messenger to the PRB about events they are having in Harrington Park. The events have not been approved by the Park Board and applications have not been filed for park space. Grace Harbor Church does have a permit for the basketball courts from Mike Neves. Morgan Proudfoot and Luke Callender of Grace Harbor Church appeared before the Park Board to explain that they did not realize having an event in a city park was an application process. Christine Felaccio explained that for an event like this that is less than 75 people an exclusive park space permit would be a great option. Mary Rapoza explained to Morgan and Luke that Christine would be their best point of contact for events. The Board wished them the best of luck with their event. They asked Morgan and Luke to please contact PRB for any other events.

Peter Boswell explains to the Park Board that Whaling City Triathlon set up a trailer and storage box on the Great Lawn in Fort Taber Park that was not approved by the Park Board. Mary Rapoza explains that a trailer was never brought up at the walk through for the event. Peter suggested that the city use Whaling City Triathlon's insurance to have them pay for the damage. Diane Berube motioned to use Whaling City Triathlon's insurance to fix the damages, 2nd by Lee Blake and accepted by all.

Peter Boswell explains to the Park Board that the Whaling City Festival left behind a lot of damage to the lawn of Buttonwood Park. Lee Blake motions to use Whaling City Festival's insurance to fix the damages, 2nd by Diane Berube & accepted by all.

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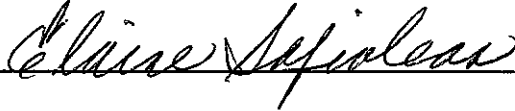
NEXT MEETING

9/20/2023 @ 6pm @ Brooklawn Community Center

MOTION TO ADJOURN 7:28 PM

Elaine Safioleas motions to adjourn, 2nd by Diane Berube and accepted by all.

A true record attests
Respectfully submitted,
Christine Felaccio



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elaine Safioleas", is written over a horizontal line.

***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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