

Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission
March 21, 2024
Senior Community Center – Second Floor Board Room

Call to order: 6:00 PM

A quorum was present.

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Ted Boretti, Charles Griffin, Matthew Ellsworth, Anita Greenwood and Nicole Whelan.

Also, in attendance: Manager of Special Projects Kim Turner, Renee Ward, Parks Admin., Michael Hennessey, Parks Manager, Ben Iacono, Andrea Eigerman, Aiden Clark, Stacey Macmillan and Walt Thompson.

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes for February 15, 2024 were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2024. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A) BARTLET MALL SIGNAGE – CHARLES GRIFFIN

Walt Thompson requested to have the signs removed at Bartlet Mall and moved to an indoor archive where they can be kept safely. The signs are faded from outdoor exposure. He suggested a story board to tell the story of Bartlet Mall. Chuck Griffin is anxious to take down the signs as Bartlet Mall to be replaced by interpretive signs, as the Mall is an important historical part of the City. The signs were initially put up as a temporary announcement for Bartlet Mall Day six years ago.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to remove the temporary signs after Yankee Homecoming. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. So, voted with 4 in favor and one abstention (Commissioner Griffin)

B) NEWBURYPORT JUNIOR PROMENADE

Junior Promenade sought approval for use of Atkinson Common on April 5, 2024 from 4:30PM-5:30PM. The one-day use form and map were approved with no fee required.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the Promenade event. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to take the agenda out of order, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

C) BARTLET MALL FROG POND RESTORATION PROJECT – COMMISSIONER BORETTI

Commissioner Boretti proposed that a letter be sent to the City Council to show support and advocacy for the Bartlet Mall project. The draft letter was circulated clarifying the process for requesting Morrill

Foundation funds and reaffirming the use of the \$110,000 donated for the Mall restoration is a priority to the Parks Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth for Parks Commission to send letter to the City Council. Seconded by Commissioner Greenwood. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

D) BARTLET MALL BENCH FUNDRAISER SIGNAGE – PORT PARKS ALLIANCE

Andrea Eigerman is pursuing grants to help offset the cost of fundraising efforts for the four benches at Bartlett Mall. Andrea presented a two-sided banner with a request to hang at Bartlet Mall playground. The banner will have the fundraiser information and a QR code that will bring donors to the fundraising website. The banner will be hung until November 1st or at least the \$20,000 goal has been met.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve the temporary banner with the changes recommended. Seconded by Commissioner Greenwood. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

E) UPDATE FROM PARKS MANAGER – MIKE HENNESSEY

Parks Manager is requesting approval for Flag Day 5K Hines Road Race that is scheduled for June 15, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to approve event. Seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Jim McCarthy along with Friends of Newburyport Trees have donated four trees to be planted at Moseley. Paul Knowlton has donated two trees to Cashman Park.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to accept donated trees. Seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Permission requested to remove the chain link fence at Cashman Park. Park Manager will check in with the abutting homeowner to confirm they are okay with removal.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to remove chain link fence after speaking with homeowner. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Request for permanent signage to be placed at Fuller Track and Atkinson Common Tennis Courts to help reduce the ongoing amount of conflicting activities during the time students and coaches use the fields. The signs will be placed on a temporary stand and will allow for enforcement of rules and expected conduct.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve permanent signage on temporary stands. Seconded by Commissioner Greenwood. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

The harbormaster requested a water line to wash the boats down and the water department is working on getting the service line up and running. Mike Hennessey is hoping to have the water bubbler working at Cashman.

Mike Hennessey gave an update on Pioneer League- Lower Atkinson founders field. They are requesting to add 4 feet to the top of the existing chain link fence for safety.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to install additional fencing. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

A) SIGNAGE POLICY FOLLOW-UP – COMMISSIONER BORETTI

The Parks Commission has created a sign policy that will help guide requests for permanent and temporary signs within the City's parks only. The Parks Commission will publish the final draft on the Parks Commission website prior to the vote on April 18, 2024.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to publish the final draft prior to voting. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to adjourn Parks Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNED 7:43 p.m.

List of documents viewed at Parks Commission Meeting

- Minutes from February 15, 2024 Parks Commission Meeting
- Junior Promenade paperwork
- Flag Day 5K road race paperwork
- Satellite imagery for Cashman Park
- Images of Chain Link Fence at Cashman, before and after
- Pioneer League fence estimate
- Parks Commission Signage policy draft