

Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission

March 17, 2022

Newburyport Senior Community Center

Call to order: 6:02 p.m.

A quorum was present

In attendance: Ted Boretti, Matthew Ellsworth, Charles Griffin

Also in attendance: Michael Hennessey, Lisë Reid, Kimberly Turner, Wellington Augusto, John Santaniello, James and Diane Murphy, Geordie Vining, Eli Bailin

ELECTION OF PARKS COMMISSION CHAIR

Motion to elect Ted Boretti as Parks Commission Chair by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve February meeting minutes by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Brown Square Outdoor Dining License

Commissioners listened to Wellington Augusto's request to use Brown Square for outdoor restaurant dining for the 2022 season. Commissioners made a recommendation to City Council that an alternative be established by creating an outdoor dining parklet in the loading zone on Green Street.

Motion to "allow Mission Oak Grill to continue using the platform at Brown Square from May 15 through November 15, 2022 with the understanding that this permission will be discontinued at the end of the season and is not renewable in future years for a fee of \$7.50 per square foot, the exact measurement to be confirmed on site by Parks Department staff, allowing for the potential of bartering a portion or all of the fee with the platform being removed at the end of the season by Mission Oak Grill and the land restored," by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to "amend the last motion to be contingent upon the commission's standard license agreement" by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Inn Street outdoor dining license renewal

Vera Ristorante owner John Santaniello said he is concerned about a branch hanging over the outdoor dining area on Inn Street. Parks Manager Hennessey said he would investigate to see if it's a public safety hazard.

Motion to “allow Vera Ristorante to continue using the outdoor dining area on Inn Street for a fee of \$7.50 per square foot, the exact measurement to be confirmed on site by Parks Department staff, contingent upon the commission’s standard license agreement” by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Guinea Bridge Interpretive Panel on Clipper City Rail Trail

Geordie Vining presented a black history initiative aimed at black history education through the installation of interpretive panels throughout Newburyport. He proposed one identifying the “Guinea Bridge” that will be installed on the Clipper City Rail Trail near Low Street. There was a discussion about the use of the term “Guinea” being interpreted as a racial slur.

Motion to “approve installation of ‘Guinea Bridge’ interpretive panel on the Clipper City Rail Trail” by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Adjourned 7:27 p.m.