



Newburyport City Hall 60 Pleasant Street, PO Box 550

Newburyport, MA 01950

978.465.4462

FAX 978.465.4452

parks@cityofnewburyport.com

Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission
Special Meeting regarding Strategic Visioning: Session 3
November 15, 2022
Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall

Call to order: 5:30 p.m.

A quorum was present

In attendance: Chair Ted Boretti, Charles Griffin, Matt Ellsworth, Paul Swindlehurst, Nicole Whelan

Also in attendance: Parks Manager Mike Hennessey, Manager of Special Projects Kim Turner, Chief of Staff Andrew Levine, Ben Iacono, Leslie Eckholdt, Bob Watts, Veronica Carleo, Stacey MacMillan, Judy Mouradian

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Visioning Session—(Full Parks Commission & Kim Turner)

Ted Boretti asked if the group could agree on a set of core values and then work to identify what is working well, not working well, and what the Commission would like to see in 10 years related to each core value.

1. Social Connectivity, Equity & Inclusiveness
2. Environmental & Historical Conservation
3. Community Engagement, Communication & Transparency
4. Health & Wellness
5. Economic Vitality, Planning & Stability

Social Connectivity, Equity & Inclusiveness:

1. Working well:
 - Universally accessible playgrounds
 - Cultural events and celebrations
 - Amenities
2. Not working well:
 - All playgrounds to be accessible
 - Lack of amenities
3. In 10 years:
 - Widen the view of history
 - Evaluation & equitable distribution of priorities
 - Universal accessibility for all parks
 - Maps of each park

Environmental & Historical Conservation:

1. Working well:
 - No use of chemicals, only organic materials/compost
 - Bartlet Mall restoration
 - Permeable surfaces
 - Identify and share historical assets
 - Implementing pollinators and native species
2. Not working well:
 - Too much asphalt
 - Need to define and capture 'open space'
3. In 10 years:
 - Climate resiliency at Cashman and Rail Trail (coordinate with City agencies)
 - Identify tree species that are well-suited to climate changes
 - Drought/water use, use of grey water
 - Historic documentation of parks per a 'know your parks' program
 - Atkinson Common Rock Tower restoration
 - Renewable energy sources

Community Engagement, Communication & Transparency:

1. Working well:
 - Fee schedule
 - Volunteer help (high school, etc.)
2. Not working well:
 - Website accessibility and content
 - Maps & signage
 - No serious volunteer programs, cultivation and recognition
 - Master calendar
 - No social media presence
3. In 10 years:
 - Historic documentation of parks, Know your parks
 - Coordination of master plan
 - Foreign language inclusivity
 - Maps of each park

Health & Wellness:

1. Working well:
 - Rail trail
 - NYSA/Pioneer League/Pickleball Friends
 - Dog owner heaven
 - Access to opportunities
2. Not working well:
 - Multi-use courts
 - Lack of adult planned recreation
 - Dog poop
3. In 10 years:
 - Commuting with e-bikes

- Multi-use courts
- Fitness circuit location
- Pool

Economic Vitality, Planning & Stability:

4. Working well:
 - Public art in parks/policy
5. Not working well:
6. In 10 years:
 - Orphaned parcels potential input into parks use, process
 - Commuting/e-bikes

No action was taken.

Adjourned 7:03 p.m.