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Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission

October 17, 2023

City Hall, Mayor's Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Call to order: 6:00 PM

A quorum was present

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

Also, in attendance: Manager of Special Projects Kim Turner, Diane Wise, Parks Admin.; Michael Hennessey, Parks Manager; Keith Eddings, David Keery, Sarah Motzkin, Kathleen Melanson, Ben Iacono, John Mortimer, Andrea Eigermen, Stacey MacMillan.

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes for August 17, 2023 were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2023. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A) XFINITY HALF MARATHON AND RELAY – JOHN MORTIMER

Reoccurring event, 10th year. First year that Xfinity has run the event. Ian Balin is Co-director. Event time 7:30-1:00 with actual race time from 9:30-12:30; starting at Cashman Park and finishing at Cashman Park. Signage will be up starting on Tuesday, October 24th, 22 signs in all. There will be a beer tent. Team will clean up, trash will be taken care of and a dumpster will be on site. Donation will be made to the local Track and Field team.

Appropriate fee will be invoiced.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to approve the application. Seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

B) PROPOSAL FOR A SCULPTURE INSTALLATION AT GARRISON GARDEN PARK – KEITH EDDINGS

A presentation of sculpture designs was presented. Sculptors were asked to represent themes of freedom and liberation, and to size the sculpture appropriately for the park. Cost under 50K. The work of four artists was presented; Jeff Bridges, Pablo Eduardo, Andrew Richardson and Ryan Kelly. Fundraising for the installation will be needed. After discussion, the commission thanks Mr. Eddings for his presentation and but could not prioritize funding for the statute in this year's CPC submissions. The commission asked Mr. Eddings to return with more specific information about cost and size.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to support the installation of a sculpture in Garrison Garden Park which will need to be chosen with appropriate committee oversight. Second by Commissioner Griffin. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

C) PROPOSAL FOR CHESS TABLES; INN ST OR PATRICK TRACY SQUARE – DAVID KEERY

To illustrate the interest in the game, Mr. Kerry presented a video of over 250 Newburyport school students watching a game of chess. After discussion with the commission, it was suggested that a removable roll out carpet chess board might be used for special occasions to gauge the interest in have public chess games. A suitable site on Inn Street was suggested for pilot event.

No Action Taken.

D) SANTA’S WORKSHOP – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – SARAH MOTZKIN

This is a three-weekend event that will take place in Patrick Tracy Square, it is a reoccurring event.

Appropriate fee will be invoiced.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth for Santa’s Workshop to be held at Patrick Tracy Square for a fee. Seconded by Commissioner Griffin, So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

E) BLESSING OF THE PETS – KATHLEEN MELANSON

This is a reoccurring event. After Mass is celebrated the congregation goes outside where the pets are waiting to be blessed. The event is an hour in duration.

Appropriate fee will be invoiced.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to allow the Blessing of the Pets in Brown Square. Second by Commissioner Griffin, So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

F) CPC APPLICATIONS THE COMMISSION WANTS TO REQUEST – KIM TURNER

There are four proposals for which the Commission will request CPC funding:

- Bartlett Mall – Swan Fountain cost between 100K and 150K.
- Rock Tower, phase II 350K, or complete the whole project which would be 750K.
- Woodman basketball court restoration 55K.
- Inn Street, Byron Court, 270K.

Deadline for submissions, December 15th.

Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to present 4 proposals to the CPC. Seconded by Commissioner Greenwood, So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

G) PORT PARKS ALLIANCE – ANDREA EIGERMAN

Ms. Eigerman described a funded project to identify invasive plant species, and educate the public about them. Discussion suggestions included (1) signage on stakes that can be moved to different plants, (2) QR code available that will lead to information regarding these plants on the PPA website. The budget for this project is approximately \$2,250.00. Final goal is to educate the public as to why invasive plants are a

problem. Plan a talk regarding the invasive plants through Adult Education.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to authorize the PPA to create QR codes, movable stakes and appropriate posters, working in conjunction with the Parks Manager. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

H) MOVE FOOD WASTE CONTAINER FROM CUSHING PARK @ WASHINGTON AND BUCK TO CC RT 1 @ WASHINGTON. - MIKE HENNESSEY

Need to move the food waste containers from Cushing Park to Rail Trail Washington St; move out of neighborhood.

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to approve the moving of the food waste container as requested. Seconded by Commissioner Whelan. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

I). MOSELEY WOODS – PAVILION, TRASH OVERFLOW AFTER PARTIES – NICOLE WHELAN

One of the most used parks for parties. Trash is left behind and overflowing, the animals get into it. Trash is not picked up on the weekends. Take the trash barrel out or charge an extra \$50 for removal of trash. Carry In Carry Out policy can be implemented with signage

Motion by Commissioner Greenwood to add \$50.00 option to remove trash on the reservation request if approved by City Counsel. Seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So, voted on a unanimous voice vote.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Motion to adjourn voted on a unanimous voice vote

ADJOURNED 8:05 p.m.

List of documents viewed at Parks Commission Meeting

- Minutes from August 17, 2023 Parks Commission Meeting
- PowerPoint for Sculpture installation at Garrison Gardens Park – Keith Eddings.
- Parks Master Plan: CPC & Morrill candidates – Kim Turner