

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission  
November 16, 2017**

Call to order: 6:02 p.m.

A quorum was present

In attendance: Kim Turner, Ann Lagasse, Karen Popken, Steven Sawyer

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Mike Hennessey, Charles Tontar, Heather Shand, Jack Shea, Sharif Zeid, John Tsagirgis (see sign-in sheet for additional attendees)

*Joppa Park Boat Ramp Renovation Proposal*

Commissioner Turner provided a brief summary of the history of proposals and discussions about replacing the boat ramp at Joppa Park. **Motion to approve the new proposal by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Office of Fishing and Boating Access in which construction will match the width, length and slope of the existing ramp by Commissioner Popken, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*License Agreement with West Row Cafe*

Commissioners considered a license agreement with West Rowe Café, LLC for use of a portion of Inn Street park space as outdoor restaurant seating and discussed concerns including the owner's property lease status, number of outdoor seats, hours of operation, other public-private partnership agreements, City Council policy on sidewalk usage, and donated facility improvements. A comment by resident Jeannette Isabella raised a concern about the City giving away public park space. The item was continued pending further research into license details.

*Changes to Pioneer Fields at Lower Atkinson*

Commissioners listened to comments from Pioneer League representative Mary Ann Abbott about facility maintenance and renovation projects planned by the league at the ball field facility at Lower Atkinson Common.

**Motion to approve maintenance work at Lower Atkinson Common including painting & repairs of bleachers but to deny renovation work to the "clubhouse" building until approval is sought through formal proposal by Commissioner Lagasse, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Cushing Park*

Commissioners listened to Ben Ioccoco request that book bins be allowed to remain at Cushing Park. No action was taken.

### *Permit Requests*

Commissioners considered a request to hold a cultural festival at Cashman Park by the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on Labor Day weekend 2018. Commissioners raised concerns that it was the same weekend as Riverfront Fest, which draws an excessive amount of traffic to the city. The item was continued pending further research by Director Reid into public safety and traffic issues.

### Meeting Minutes

**Motion to approve meeting minutes of March 27, April 24, May 15 and October 15, 2017 by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

[illegible]