



Board of Park Commissioners

April 2, 2014 – **Minutes**

Buttonwood Community Center, 1 Oneida Street, New Bedford

A meeting of the Park Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 (Postponed from March 26, 2014) at the Buttonwood Park Community Center, New Bedford, MA.

Present: Peter Boswell, Chairman
Elaine Safioleas, Secretary
Diane Berube, Member
Charles Cotter, Member
David Peixoto, Member

Also Present: Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches, Councilors Naomi Carney and Bryan Gomes

CALLED TO ORDER

1. Mr. Boswell called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

MOTION to accept the minutes from the February 26, 2014 meeting by Mr. Peixoto. **SECONDED:** Ms. Berube. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

NEW BUSINESS – APPEARANCES/ACTIONS

2. **MOTION** by Mr. Cotter to take #12 on the agenda out of order. **SECONDED:** Mr. Peixoto. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**
3. Letter/Motion to the Park Board and Mayor Mitchell regarding the Whaling City Festival [#12].

Mr. Boswell read a letter signed by the entire City Council expressing its disappointment that more has not been done to keep the Whaling City Festival here and its support of the Whaling City Festival and all festivals. Mr. Boswell stated that there was communication among all party members, Mayor Mitchell, Chief Provencher, and Mr. Benoit. Both Chief Provencher, although he feels strongly about the 8:00 PM closing, and the Mayor said they are willing to extend the time to 9:00 PM on a trial basis and that safety and security are a priority. Mr. Boswell stated that Mayor Mitchell's expressed requirements are as follows: extra fencing to keep the crowds flowing correctly and smoothly; additional lighting to darkened spots after the 7:45-8:00 PM sundown time, to be supplied by the Whaling City Festival; extended police details present one hour after the festival closing time. This is to be done in coordination between the officer in charge of details and the Whaling City Festival. Also, the park and neighborhood is to be cleaned nightly, at the close of the festival. Mr. Boswell will act as a liaison between the neighborhood and the Whaling City Festival and that he will be present at the festival opening and closing, daily. The previous stipulations set forth by the Park Board are that no trailers would be allowed to park on Buttonwood Park property until Wednesday night. Ms. Rapoza is working on alternative parking until the festival time. Also, a copy of the entertainment schedule should be sent to the Park Board as soon as possible. Councilors expressing support of the 9:00 PM closing and stating safety and security as a priority, personally to Mr. Boswell, are as follows: Naomi R. A. Carney, Brian

K. Gomes, Steven Martins, Dana Rebeiro, and Kerry Winterson. Mr. Boswell stated the Board has always gone above and beyond to work with requests made to them. He also said that every festival would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Boswell wanted to go on record stating that he took the letter, expressing disappointment in the Board, from the City Council, personally. He said that he and the Board have always gone above and beyond to work with the Whaling City Festival and all festivals throughout the city. They make sure that they provide entertainment and that none of them are canceled and they provide safety and security for every neighborhood. Each Board member was given the opportunity to speak. Ms. Berube stated that communication is key and that the recommendations are super. Ms. Safioleas reiterated that communication is important and that everyone has to own it. Communication from the public should be listened to and as long as all stipulations are met, the two from the Board and the ones set forth by the Mayor, she supports the 9:00 PM closing. Mr. Peixoto stated the word disappointment in the letter from the city council was strong. He also said that the recommendations had come from the Board originally, last month, and that we were on that path ahead of them. He said we have to go forward and keep working. Mr. Cotter said that he had nothing further to add. He is in support of the 9:00 PM closing. Mr. Boswell stated that Mr. Cotter, as a neighbor of the Whaling City Festival, expressed his support at the last Park Board meeting. Mr. Boswell apologized for the oversight of the non-placement of the Whaling City Festival on the agenda. The Board agreed to put the Whaling City Festival on next month's agenda in order to give the Board members, neighborhood representatives, and city councilors the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. Mr. Boswell thought it would be good for us all to clear the air and have an open dialogue and keep all lines of communication open so this goes off without a hitch.

MOTION by Ms. Safioleas to approve a 9:00 PM closing of the Whaling City Festival on a one year trial basis, pending all the requirements are met, stipulated by the Board and the Mayor.

Seconded: Mr. Cotter **A Roll Call Vote** was taken. 5 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

4. Request permission to have the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride at Fort Taber Park on Sunday, October 5, 2014.

Invitee: Ms. Storey Duff not present.

MOTION to table by Mr. Peixoto. **SECONDED:** Ms. Safioleas. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

5. Request permission to put up two signs in Buttonwood Park promoting the zoo's new train.

Invitee: Ms. Kristen Gray

Ms. Gray questioned rather than having to come back every time they want to change the signs, it might be easier to approve the placement through the end of the year, as long as the size is the same as approved and they are placed in the approved spots.

MOTION to approve putting up signs starting tomorrow through the December holidays by Mr. Cotter. **SECONDED:** Mr. Peixoto. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

6. Request permission to have the Annual Easter Sunrise Service at Fort Taber Park on Sunday, April 20, 2014.

Invitee: Ms. Libby Davenport, St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Ms. Davenport stated that the gates need to be unlocked at 5:30 AM.

MOTION to approve by Mr. Cotter. **SECONDED:** Mr. Peixoto. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

7. At this time, Mr. Boswell took the three applications to waive green fees at the Whale Golf Course together, numbers 5, 6, and 7. He explained that only two waivers of fees would be allowed and a vote would have to be taken.

Invitees: *Ms. Melissa Kucharski, Hetland Youth Hockey Association [5]*
Mr. Michael Riley, President, Mike LaHale Memorial Tournament [6]
Mr. Kevin Pellisier, Civic Support [7]

Each invitee gave a brief description of what their organization does. Hetland Youth Hockey helps with tuition and provides scholarships to youths from low-income families. Mike LaHale Memorial Tournament gives DYAA a \$500 flat fee yearly. They support those with ALS, other health issues, and Christmas support to needy families. Civic Support works with UMA individuals within the area employment, works one on one with non-profits, and provides an increase in support of local businesses. Their 501C is pending. Each Board member voted for two fee waivers by ballot. The results were as follows:

[5] Hetland 4 votes Received fee waiver.
[6] DYAA 4 votes Received fee waiver.
[7] Civic Support 2 votes

8. Request permission to begin a recycling campaign at Bay State Girls Softball League.

INVITEE: *Ms. Jenna Hebert*

Ms. Hebert would like to paint the backs of two dugouts at Brooklawn Park. Mr. Boswell requested that she come back and share the design with the Board and that the city is on board. Ms. Hebert explained that the completion of this project would enable her to earn her Girl Scout Silver Award.

MOTION to approve by Mr. Peixoto. **Seconded:** Ms. Berube. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**
MOTION CARRIES.

9. Request permission to have the 35th Annual Hazelwood Women's 5k Run/Walk at Hazelwood Park on Sunday, May 18, 2014.

Invitee: *Mr. Richard Flood*

MOTION to approve by Ms. Safioleas. **Seconded:** Mr. Cotter. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**
MOTION CARRIES.

10. Request permission to have the 36th Annual Spooner 10k Spooky Spooner Run/Walk at Buttonwood Park on Sunday, October 26, 2014.

Invitee: *Mr. Richard Flood*

MOTION to approve by Mr. Cotter. **Seconded:** Ms. Safioleas. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**
MOTION CARRIES.

OLD BUSINESS

11. Request permission to have a 9/11 Victims and Veterans Memorial and Fair at Fort Taber on September 11, 2014 through September 13, 2014.

Invitee: *Mr. Cecil Hickman, Dog Tag Navigators*

Mr. Hickman explained that he needs another month to finish planning. Mr. Boswell invited him back to the April Park Board meeting. Leave on table.

12. Request permission to have the Latino Beach Festival of New Bedford at Fort Taber Park on August 9, & 10, 2014.

Invitee: Ms. Mariangeli Vargas not present.

MOTION to table until the April meeting by Ms. Safioleas. **SECONDED:** Mr. Cotter. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

13. Presentation of plan to place a new temporary structure at Pope's Island.

Invitee: Ms. Janice Foley not present

MOTION to table by Mr. Cotter. **SECONDED:** Mr. Peixoto. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

CORRESPONDENCE

14. Written Motion, Councilor Winterson regarding a Memorial Stone at Harrington Playground.

MOTION to receive and place on file and look over at next meeting by Mr. Peixoto. **SECONDED:** Mr. Cotter. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

15. Letter from City Council regarding Peace Poles.

MOTION to receive and place on file and get more information on it by Mr. Peixoto. **SECONDED:** Ms. Berube. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

OTHER

16. Information for Park Board regarding the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition.

The March conference was discussed last month.

17. (Not on Agenda) Mr. Corey Pittsley, an Eagle Scout, was in attendance. He showed the Board the handicap bench design.

MOTION to approve any specs and share any changes with specs and placement with Mary Rapoza by Mr. Peixoto. **SECONDED:** Mr. Cotter. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Boswell informed the Board that Mr. Ross Moran, Asst. Director of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches, is leaving for another job. Mr. Boswell stated that Mr. Moran has been a consummate professional. The Board wished him the best of luck.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

18. The next meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 6:00 PM, at the Buttonwood Park Community Center.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

19. **MOTION** to adjourn by Mr. Peixoto. **SECONDED:** Ms. Berube. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. MOTION CARRIES.**

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:45 PM

A true record attests _____

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Safioleas