



PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA

**May 7, 2019, 5:30 PM
Berlin Town Hall Conference Room**

1. Approval of Minutes of April 2, 2019
2. New Business
 - a) Worcester Recreation & Park After-school tennis program
3. Events Review
 - a) Spring Celebration
 - b) Clean-Up Day/Backyard Buffer
 - c) Spring Just Walk
4. Berlin Falls Park – Bruce Hyder
5. Berlin Youth Program
6. Other

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Save-the-Date:

Fall Just Walk – Saturday, November 2, 2019

**TOWN HALL
10 WILLIAM STREET
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES – PARKS COMMISSION
April 2, 2019

The meeting of the Parks Commission for Tuesday, April 2, 2019 was called to order at 5:30 PM. Parks Commission members present were Chair Mike Wiley, Loretta Briddell, Patricia Dufendach, Sarah Hooper and Bruce Hyder, as well as Administrative Services Director Mary Bohlen. Myro Small of Worcester County Recreation and Parks and Karen Clayland of Comcast and Worcester Youth and Family Counseling Board were also present.

Ms. Dufendach moved to approve the Minutes of the March 5, 2019 meeting as written and approval was unanimous.

Mr. Myro Small of Worcester County Recreation and Parks presented a proposal to hold basketball programming at Henry Park on Saturdays from June 8 to July 27, 2019. Mr. Small noted that the standard registration was \$35.00 for the entire period, however a reduced rate - made possible by a local foundation - of \$14.00 would be available for qualifying youth. Brief discussion followed, and Mr. Small was asked to make sure that the program flyer reflected the availability of the reduced rate. Mr. Wiley moved to approve support of the program and approval was unanimous. Ms. Bohlen noted that this would go before the Mayor and Council for official approval on Monday, April 8, 2019. She also noted that she would order yard signs to be posted to advertise the program. Ms. Dufendach indicated how pleased she was that Worcester County was reaching out more to local communities.

Ms. Bohlen noted that Ms. Clayland was present to discuss Clean-Up Day. Ms. Clayland discussed Comcast Cares Day, which was incorporated into this year's Clean-Up Day. She noted that online sign-up was encouraged but understood that sign-up would also occur at the three parks. Discussion regarding the location of availability for the t-shirts followed. Ms. Bohlen and Ms. Clayland agreed that one more logistics meeting before the event would be in order.

Ms. Bohlen reviewed the draft budget which had been presented to the Mayor and Council during their Budget Worksession the previous evening. She noted that to meet the requested 10% reduction, association memberships had been eliminated and supplies and operations had been reduced. She also suggested that the Parks Commission consider elimination of the parks' movie nights for the coming summer; based on somewhat low attendance, the cost was prohibitive; over the last several years cost per date had ranged from approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 depending on licensing and hosting costs, but attendance tended to be 50-60 people. Brief discussion followed. Mr. Wiley moved to eliminate the movie nights for 2019 and adjust the draft budget accordingly; approval was unanimous.

Ms. Bohlen asked if the Parks Commission wished to continue participating in Spring Celebration and National Night Out. Without formal motion or vote, consensus was to continue as the costs were relatively low.

Ms. Bohlen indicated that she already had the craft for Spring Celebration which was coming up on Saturday, April 20, 2019 and that the Parks Commission would have a new canopy for the event.

Discussion regarding Clean-Up Day followed. Ms. Dufendach suggested the installation of a raingarden near the Tot-Lot in Stephen Decatur Park and Ms. Bohlen suggested that that idea be considered for 2020. Discussion of cleaning up around the planting areas, assessment of the trees planted in recent years, cleaning out the fitness stations and cleaning under the watershed sign by the pond followed. Taking an inventory of bat boxes and noting the trees most impacted by ivy, assessing the bridges around the pond and mulching the trees was discussed. Mulching and weeding the flower beds and checking on recently planted trees in Henry Parks should also be completed.

Ms. Bohlen noted that Spring Just Walk was scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2019; she would email further information closer to that date.

Mr. Hyder discussed Clean-Up Day plans for Berlin Falls Park noting that the committee was planning on providing tours, planting pollinator gardens and placing bee boxes. A map of proposed location for future amenities was passed around the group. He noted that demolition of buildings was planned to begin the following week and expected to take approximately three weeks. The committee was discussing making the former lab building into a public restroom and would be conducting a survey regarding a name. Discussion about noted concerns regarding the safety of the ponds followed. Ms. Dufendach inquired as to whether there are plans for improving the aesthetic of the front of the park and Mr. Hyder indicated that there were potential projects being discussed. The need for volunteers to care for planting areas followed.

Ms. Bohlen noted that Tiffany Scott of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling had provided an update on recent programs, which was included in the meeting packet.

Ms. Bohlen asked the Parks Commission for their input on a recent issue raised by Councilmember Brittingham regarding use of the tennis courts for activities other than tennis. The Commission members agreed that signs which state "Courts are for tennis only" or similar wording would be the best option.

Mr. Hyder moved to adjourn the meeting and approval was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary T. Bohlen
Administrative Services Director
Liaison to the Parks Commission