



**TOWN OF HUDSON
PARK COMMISSION
Division of Recreation**
Town Hall
78 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-9642

**PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 10 2019
Town Hall – Selectmen’s Room at 8:30 pm**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Bowen called the meeting to order at 8:33pm. Members present were, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Wood and Mr. Chaves. Also present: Mr. Santos and Mr. Hannon

2. Minutes to Approve:

A. Public Session –March 28, 2019

Mr. Chaves motioned to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried...

Vote: 3-0, in favor

3. Citizens Issues / Special Interest Groups:

A. None

4. Personnel:

A. None

5. Director’s Report:

A. None

6. New Business:

A. None

7. Old Business:

A. Park Commission to discuss and consider potential recreation specific facility uses for the Hudson Armory

Mr. Bowen stated that he toured the facility earlier in the day; that he felt there was more space than he expected and we needed; and that it would require a large financial investment with no sure plan as to what should be done to improve the facility.

Mr. Wood stated that he does not know much about this potential project other than what he has heard through Commission meetings and the conversations he has had with Mr. Santos; that the Commission does not know the true costs associated with acquisition and improvements; that given our upcoming projects as well as our future facility improvement needs and wants, any town or tax payers funds contributed for recreation purposes, perhaps be applied elsewhere.

Mr. Chaves stated that moving forward with this project at this time, could negatively impact the work the Recreation Department has completed in its recent community outreach and input sessions; that it doesn’t fall in line with their upcoming request for the Recreation Master Planning effort; further that once that process is complete, this project may not be the Commissions number one priority and/or that building and location may not be the best fit for our ultimate needs.

Mr. Bowen stated that if funds were currently available to purchase and make improvements to the armory, he may feel differently but the reality is that the funds are not available at this time.

Mr. Santos stated that per his experience when the Town has considered investing in large scale projects; a feasibility study has been completed to assess current conditions, identify program goals/uses, alternatives and cost estimates. Further that this process had not been completed for the armory site. Therefore, it may not be advisable to move forward with this project until such time that a study is completed and more information is available to ensure any financial implications to both the Park Commission/Recreation Department and tax payers are fully understood and supported by the Park Commission.

Mr. Chaves stated that he supports a community based recreation space and wanted to see such a space in Hudson but at this time he was not sure this facility is the right fit.

Mr. Bowen recognized Mr. Goldberg who stated the following:

- That he was Chairman to the armory committee, group of local business leaders, looking to acquire the armory to be used as a regional arts center for the community and that his group was in the process of organizing a proposal to be presented to the Board of Selectmen in the near future.

- That they had been holding meetings with others interested in the property, including Mr. Santos, to determine how space at the facility could be used to meet the varying needs of all.

- That the purchase price would be determined by the anticipated and agreed upon future use of the facility; that if used for municipal purposes, the cost to the town would be reduced; that the National Guard would also retain some of the profits generated when the property is sold.

- That the most recent cost estimates they've received for renovation of basic utilities was much higher than the group originally anticipated.

Mr. Chaves asked Mr. Goldberg what he and his committee members were ultimately seeking from the Park Commission. Mr. Goldberg replied that his group was looking to find out if the Recreation Department/Park Commission had any interest in the facility and more specifically the large gymnasium/auditorium space in the main building; as their vision for a performing arts center was based on the primary use of that particular space; further that although they have explored ways to share the use of the gymnasium/auditorium space, it was determined that shared use would not meet the needs of the group and would significantly impact their vision for a community arts center.

Mr. Chaves asked Mr. Santos why the Commission was being asked to vote on this topic, when the Board of Selectmen had not formally requested this of the Commission.

Mr. Wood stated that a vote did not seem appropriate.

Mr. Santos explained that although the Board of Selectmen did not formally approach the Commission, the Town of Hudson had informed that state that they were interested in potentially purchasing the armory. And as a result, the Town would need to determine what the facility would be used for and report back to the state by August 1, 2019 with those details. As such, Mr. Santos had attended meetings hosted by the armory committee and provided all the information he had obtained to date to the Park Commission for their review, so that they could provide the Board of Selectmen with an opinion on the matter. Stating further that since Mr. Santos had himself expressed interest in use of the Armory to various town officials, it was his hope that the response from the Park Commission would provide the Board of Selectmen with some knowledge as to the level of interest the Commission has in the Town acquiring the building for municipal recreation purposes.

Mr. Wood stated that he felt Mr. Santos had kept the Commission informed as best he could and did not want to be the one stand in the way of the armory committee moving forward with their proposal.

Mr. Goldberg stated that the group has a lot of work ahead of them, with limited time and needs to garner full support from all those working with them in order to move forward with their proposal.

Mr. Bowen made a motion to inform the Board of Selectmen that the Park Commission does not have interest in the Hudson Armory facility at this time and requested further that Mr. Santos draft a letter on behalf of the Park Commission explaining their decision, to be submitted to the Board of Selectmen upon approval by the Park Commission at a future meeting. Seconded by Mr. Wood and carried...

Vote: 3-0, in favor

8. Communications and/or Correspondence to be noted by Commissioners:

A. None

Announcements/Adjournment

Mr. Santos stated that he and his staff would soon be placing the pickle ball nets out for public use and that they would monitor the use of the courts; reporting back the Commission with any issues or concerns at their next meeting prior to the Commission finalizing rules on this newly added facility feature.

Mr. Santos encouraged the Commission to continue to review Park Commission Policies, Rules and Regs for further discussion in the near future.

Mr. Santos stated that the Beach project will be reviewed by the planning board on April 16th at 7:00pm and that the Conservation Commission Hearing from April 4th had been continued to April 18th at 7:00pm.

Mr. Santos stated that the Morgan Bowl Track & Wall Project was underway and asked that Mr. Bowen be the Commissions representative on the project.

Mr. Wood informed the Commission that, effective immediately, he would be stepping down from the Park Commission due to conflicts he had that would negatively impact his ability to effectively participate as a Commissioner. Mr. Bowen thanked Mr. Wood for his time and service. Mr. Chaves stated that he understood Mr. Woods's decision and wished him the best.

Mr. Bowen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:47pm, seconded by Mr. Wood and carried...

Vote: 3-0, in favor

Motion to Adopt:	Mr. Chaves
Second:	Mr. Bowen
Vote:	2 – 0, in favor
Date:	April 25, 2019