



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

**PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Town Hall – Selectmen’s Room at 8:15pm**

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Chaves called the meeting to order at 8:18pm. Members present were Mr. Chaves, Mr. Roan and Mr. Bowen. Also present: Mr. Santos, Mr. Hannon and Mr. Aponte.

2. Minutes to Approve:

A. Public Session – February 12, 2020

Mr. Chaves motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Roan 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. Recreation Director to present funding strategies and associated timelines related to Short-Term Master Plan Objectives

Mr. Santos presented the Park Commission with project timelines and associated funding options for the three short-term master plan objectives: Improved Facility Maintenance, Renovations to Moulton Field and Design of a Dog Park. Mr. Santos explained that Improved Field Maintenance programming would need to be coordinated and developed in conjunction with DPW; that the Moulton Field Renovation Project could potentially be completed by the Fall of 2021 but only if the final design was completed by late summer of 2020 and the project was able to secure approximately \$1.5 million via FY22 capital budget and CPC requests; and that there was funding opportunities for both design and construction of dog parks, however those opportunities might not be available until January 2021.

7. Old Business:

A. Park Commission to meet with Smile2Play

Amy Griffis from Smile2Pay – The Hudson Playground Project and Susan Brown from SMILE Mass were present. Mrs. Griffis stated that to date fundraising had generated \$30K; now having a location would increase fundraising capacity; that there were two upcoming fundraising events already planned, that they were hoping to work with Play By Design to develop the playground in a highly community driven process that would include a design day at the local schools as well as a public

meeting for all residents to participate; that Play By Design's approach was focused on custom build/themed playgrounds and that they'd also purchase equipment from playground manufacturers for items that cannot be custom built; that they'd like to host a design day in the fall of 2020; that they'd like to build the playground in July 2021 (per previous discussions and meetings with the Park Commission and Recreation Staff); that the Design Day would need to be within 9-12 months of the actual install.

Stating further that she is looking for a realistic project timeline because of the sponsors that have already committed, those waiting to commit and the involvement of SMILE Mass; that she was OK with pushing the install date back to the fall of 2021 after hearing Mr. Santos present earlier in the meeting but needs to know how realistic that projected end date is.

In closing Mrs. Griffis stated that she wanted notice, by way of email, of information that could impact the project timeline or funding plan, as soon as its available and ideally three days prior to publicly posting said info; Mrs. Griffis requested that this project be a priority for the Park Commission and Recreation Staff; and that both support their fundraising efforts via social media and share any grant info that may be beneficial to the group.

Mrs. Griffis asked if in-kind donations could be accepted during the construction phase as a means of offsetting costs. Mr. Santos replied, yes. Mr. Santos stated that further discussion would be required with the Park Commission specific to the naming of equipment and/or areas associated with the playground, as well as reviewing the requirements of the donor signage to be placed on site.

Mr. Chaves stated that he had some concerns when he initially heard of the brick fundraiser, as he is not sure what the expectations are for those who donated.

Mrs. Griffis stated that she would email Mr. Santos the sponsor kits for distribution to the Park Commission but they could also be found on the website.

Mr. Santos stated that this was a priority project for the department. Mrs. Griffis responded saying that this was a high priority project for SMILE Mass, her and her volunteers, some of whom may not be able to commit past the fall of 2021 and she wanted to ensure it was a priority for Hudson Recreation.

Mr. Chaves stated that he and his fellow commissioners were all volunteers as well, all of whom at their last meeting decided to make this a project a priority for Hudson Recreation. Further that Hudson Recreation is responsible for a multitude of projects including this one. Mr. Chaves went on to say that the presentation earlier in the evening by Mr. Santos which outlined the project timeline and funding sources for a build in the fall of 2021 was not realistic and should not be the expectation. Mrs. Griffis asked why the group had not been informed sooner of the delay. Mr. Chaves replied stating that funding the complete project is much higher than originally expected.

Mr. Santos stated that the most important factor which directly impacts the timeline is the fact that, per the recently completed Recreation Master Plan, there is not a location currently available to accommodate a playground to meet their goals. And further that the Moulton Field renovation project involves many other recreation amenities, as well as a large parking area which is critical to the playground they seek to build and the redevelopment of the entire site.

Mrs. Griffis stated again that moving forward she wants to ensure that communication is improved and wants advance notice of any project changes/updates.

Mr. Roan stated that after hearing the presentation earlier in the evening on project timelines and funding options, he is unsure if the proposed Moulton project timeline is attainable and also that he wished there was spot currently available where they could build a playground immediately.

Mr. Chaves stated that he did not feel comfortable putting any timeline on this project.

Mrs. Griffis stated that she wanted a timeline from the commission in order to notify the residents and her sponsors of their future plans. She asked what the next step is in finalizing a timeline.

Mr. Chaves stated that the next step is to confirm that the entire project design phase budget \$160K as indicated in the master plan. Dependent on that figure the timeline could be impacted and therefore that would be the next step in moving this project forward.

Mr. Santos stated that he would contact some other firms to get estimates on the overall project design fee and other related soft costs by the end of April 2020.

Both Mr. Chaves and Mrs. Griffis suggested that once a final design was complete it would be a great marketing tool for securing town funding as well as private donations.

B. Guidotti Field Sign

Mr. Bowen stated that he was working with the HS Athletic Director as well as the HS Varsity Baseball Coach to try to plan for an unveiling of the new field sign. Additionally he would be speaking the Guidotti family to ensure they'd be around for the unveiling.

Park Commissioners reviewed the updated sign designs and associated costs. Mr. Chaves motioned to move forward with the purchase and installation of the new field signs at Riverside Park Baseball field, seconded by Mr. Bowen and carried...

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

C. Field Signs – Sign Policy Clarification request submitted by Hudson Youth Baseball & Softball
Park Commissioners discussed HYBS request for clarification on the field sign policy, specifically and per the email dated January 16, 2020, “whether or not if an establishment that sells alcohol/beer is the same as “promoting alcohol”, for example a sign for Absolut Vodka or Marlboro cigarettes, as opposed to Bacon’s, Daigneault’s, etc.”

After a brief discussion the Park Commission collectively stated they would not support the placement of signs on town property that directly promoted and/or advertised tobacco, marijuana, alcohol and/or any other controlled substances.

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

A. TBA

9. Announcements/Adjournment

A. Mr. Santos announced that the recreation staff will be attending the Mass Recreation and Park Association State Conference later this month and that the FY21 Budget Review with the Finance Committee was scheduled for March 18, 2020 at 7pm.

Mr. Chaves motioned to adjourn at 10:15pm, seconded by Mr. Roan and carried...

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

Motion to Approve:	Mr. Bowen
Second:	Mr. Chaves
Vote:	3 – 0, in favor
Date:	April 29, 2020