



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

**PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, August 8, 2019  
Town Hall – Selectmen’s Room at 6:00 pm**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Mr. Chaves called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Members present were Mr. Bowen, Mr. Roan and Mr. Chaves. Also present: Mr. Santos, Mr. Hannon and Mr. Aponte.

**2. Minutes to Approve:**

A. Public Session –June 17, 2019

Mr. Bowen motioned to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Roan and carried...

Vote: 3-0, in favor

**3. Citizens Issues / Special Interest Groups:**

A. Park Commission to meet with Smile2Play, The Hudson Playground Project

Amy Griffis of Smile2Play, The Hudson Playground Project and Lotte Diomedede of SMILE Mass (Small Miracles in Life Exist) were present and provided the Commission with an overview of their organization, fundraising plan, project goals (to build a universally accessible playground in Hudson) and individual backgrounds that led them to partner with one another on this project.

Mrs. Griffis stated that she was the project lead, supported by a team of local residents who offer varying levels of professional experience. Stating further that Mrs. Diomedede would be providing project insight based on her previous experience (point person on building the SMILE Playground in Sudbury, MA), as well as fundraising support via SMILE Mass (an established non-profit).

Mr. Santos informed the Park Commission of the discussion he had with Mr. Moses in anticipation of this meeting, stating the following:

-If the Park Commission or the Rec Staff are involved in any way in this project, then it becomes a “public project” and is subject to all procurement processes.

-The Park Commission does have the right to allow a group to make improvements to a facility and can set some basic guidelines as to what can or cannot be done on said property. The Park Commission, by way of the board of Selectmen, can then receive said new playground from the group as a gift. And it becomes ours (the Town’s) to do what we want with.

-The group could raise funds for the Park Commission to complete this task and donate said funds to the town. If a general non-specific donation is made, the use of the funds are subject to all procurement processes & prevailing wages. However if the funds are donated to the town, with specifics on how they are to be used (what exactly to buy) then they can only be used for those purposes and are not subject to procurement process (30B) but may still be subject to prevailing wage requirements (for installation).

Mr. Chaves stated that he loved the idea; he sees the need and is on board with the concept.

However, he is slightly hesitant as the business end of the project stills needed to be worked out.

Stating further that he is still unclear about what the “rules of engagement” may be, should the Park Commission authorize this group to complete their project on town property. Mr. Chaves stated that

he is open to exploring the different types of relationships that could be established between the group and the Park Commission/Rec Staff in order to complete this project.

Mr. Santos stated that the idea of a universal playground is not a new; that he and his staff have been discussing the need for years and supports this type of playground. Additionally, Mr. Santos stated that with any new playground or facility, long term maintenance costs should be examined prior to making any commitments.

Mr. Santos suggested that the Park Commission make their decision on how to proceed with the group based on what level of involvement they wish to have over the lifespan of this project.

Mr. Chaves suggested the Commission treat is as if it were HYBS wanting to install lights on a field, or make any other facility improvement.

Mrs. Griffis stated that she wants to work with the Park Commission and Recreation Staff and wants the input from all.

Mr. Bowen stated he wants to know specifically the dos and don'ts of the relationship and the pros and cons of working closely together opposed to giving the group full right to design, plan and install as they see fit.

Mr. Santos stated that he would ask Mr. Moses for further clarification.

Mr. Roan stated that he was struggling with how to proceed and therefore how to support the group, given the scope of the project, their goals and more importantly that a location has not yet been determined. Stating further that a location would most likely not become available until the recreation master planning process was completed.

Mrs. Diomedes stated that although the goals are ambitious, she would be happy to scale back the project based on what the Park Commission or Town has to offer.

Mr. Chaves stated that the location is the extremely important and a destination playground would certainly have an impact on a neighborhood wherever it goes.

Mr. Chaves asked Mr. Santos if he knew what the approval process would be if a private developer wanted to create similar playground on their property within the town. Mr. Santos stated that he was unsure.

Mr. Bowen stated that a large destination playground as proposed would require a public input process for abutters to voice their support and/or concerns.

Mr. Chaves stated that proper oversight of insurance and liability needs throughout the project would be required.

Mr. Santos suggested that the Park Commission make no determination on how to proceed or establish a relationship with the group, until such time that they determine how their involvement may impact the goals of both the group and Park Commission/Division of Recreation.

#### **4. Personnel:**

A. None

#### **5. Director's Report:**

A. Mr. Santos reviewed status of the...

-Centennial Beach Renovation Project: stating that final plans would be submitted to the Planning Board in August. Mr. Santos also encouraged Commissioners to attend the planning board meeting when the project would be reviewed for final approval.

-Morgan Bowl Track & Stone Wall Project: stating that both contractors have been on site, work was moving along as scheduled, with some minor delays.

-Summer Programs: Stating that programs were not yet over and a report would be provided at the next meeting.

#### **6. New Business:**

A. Park Commission to determine future meeting schedule through June 2020

Mr. Santos presented the Commissioners with a draft of meeting dates/times requesting that they review, and then provide input as to their availability via email prior to the next Park Commission

meeting. Mr. Santos stated that he wanted to set meeting dates through June 2020 by the next meeting.

## **7. Old Business:**

A. Samuel Senghas- Recreation Department summer intern to propose new policy on Memorial Requests/Memorial Donations on Public-Park Commission Property

Mr. Senghas presented the Park Commission with a detailed draft policy including Standards, Objectives, Procedures and Definitions to be used as the base for developing a comprehensive memorial bench program in order to meet the needs of the community. Mr. Senghas strongly encouraged the Commission to evaluate the lifespan of each memorial bench and consider setting a time limit/donation period, in order to allow for greater turnover to provide as many community members as possible with the opportunity to participate. Mr. Senghas also stated that the Commission would need to spend some time defining merit criteria to be used in determining applicability of the requests, such as the "minimum limit of residency required" and what constitutes a "significant community impact".

Mr. Chaves suggested that applications be submitted only once a pre-determined waiting period has expired, in order to help curb the initial heightened emotions immediately following the passing of a loved one.

Mr. Santos stated that he was in favor of bench memorials having a finite lifespan and not be considered in the same regard as requests for permanent memorials.

B. Mr. Bowen to update Commission on recent request he had received specific to the placement of a Memorial Bench on Park Commission Property

Mr. Bowen stated that he and his brother had spoken to the Guidotti Family about their interest in a memorial bench, in memory of Mr. Guidotti. Mr. Bowen stated that he had informed the family that the Park Commission may consider naming the baseball field at Riverside Park after Mr. Guidotti and that the family was extremely excited about the potential opportunity.

Mr. Chaves stated that he felt this was a great fit given his decade's community involvement and that he would support the naming of the field.

Mr. Bowen motioned to name the baseball field located at Riverside Park after Hugo George Guidotti subject to verification from Mr. Moses that the Park Commission has the authority to do so.

Seconded by Mr. Chaves and carried...

Vote: 3-0, in favor

Mr. Santos stated that he would speak with Mr. Moses to confirm whether or not the Park Commissions decision could be carried out, prior to any further input/approvals from other Town Boards or staff. He also suggested that the family not be notified of the action taken until such a determination had been made.

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

A. None

## **Announcements/Adjournment**

Mr. Chaves motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm, seconded by Mr. Bowen and carried...

Vote: 3-0, in favor

Motion to Approve: Mr. Bowen

Second: Mr. Chaves

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

Date: September 27, 2019