



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

PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES

August 23, 2023

Via REMOTE ZOOM at 7:30pm

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Hudson Park Commission meeting will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town of Hudson website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

***The Hudson Park Commission meeting will be held via a Zoom Meeting (Internet)
Public Participation via calling in or using your computer is encouraged***

Topic: Park Commission Meeting

Time: Aug 23, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81636178991?pwd=R0dtUmJOSk91VmNUeVQ4bndkVWlqUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 3617 8991

Passcode: 176058

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1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:39pm. Members present were Mr. Bowen and Mr. Chaves. Mr Roan joined the meeting at 7:45pm. Also present: Mr. Santos.

2. Minutes to Approve:

A. Public Session – June 7, 2023

Mr. Chaves motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Bowen and carried...

Vote: 2 – 0, in favor

B. Public Session – July 14, 2023

Mr. Chaves motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Bowen and carried...

Vote: 2 – 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

NOTE: Mr. Roan joined the meeting.

7. Old Business:

A. Park Commission to discuss Morgan Bowl bleacher short-term and long-term updates

Mr. Santos outlined the work performed to date on the project stating the following:

May 4, 2023 – Town of Hudson Park Commission contracted with Activitas

June 15, 2023 – Project Kick-Off Meeting was held via Zoom with Activitas that included town and school representatives

June 27, 2023 – Activitas met recreation staff at Morgan Bowl to perform a site visit/assessment

August 9, 2023 – Activitas met with recreation staff to present the design concepts created to date based on the information gathered during the project kick-off meeting and the site visit

Mr. Santos reviewed the 2022 HS football regular season ticket sales that had been previously provided by the HS Athletic Director (max # tickets sold for any single game: 1027, Min # tickets sold for any single game: 663, Avg. # of tickets sold, over 6 games: 770).

Mr. Santos stated that Activitas was looking to get feedback from the Commission on the design concept options created to date and requested that the following questions be answered in order to guide the next steps in developing a concept plan for new bleachers at Morgan Bowl:

-What are the total # of seats to be accommodated at the site?

-Is it critical or preferred to have bleachers on both sides of the field?

-If, bleachers are to remain on one side only, which side should they be placed upon?

-Is the Commission open to modifying the stone wall that surrounds the field in order to accommodate any new bleachers?

Mr. Santos reviewed the design options developed by Activitas, dated August 9, 2023.

Discussion followed.

The Park Commission recognized Jessica Winders (HS AD) and Jason Medeiros (HS Principal), then asked for their input based on what had been shared by Mr. Santos.

Mrs. Winders stated that she was in full support of the redesign of the main entrance to the facility creating a raised and/or separate plaza area; that she preferred option #1 which showed separate bleachers on either side of main permanent bleachers; that if the Commission were to only add new bleachers to one side of the field, she prefer they be placed on the existing home side; and that design options for standing room and much needed storage be further explored on the visitors side.

Mr. Medeiros stated that he concurred with what Mrs. Winders had said.

Mr. Bowen stated that he preferred option #1 but wanted to see some bleachers also on the existing visitors side; yes, to relocating the ticket booth location and redesigning that entry area; that he would support meeting any plumbing code variance request but would not be opposed to exceeding the minimum requirements if the budget allows for it.

Mr. Chaves stated that the wall is of immense importance and is an integral part of the Morgan Bowl complex; that if a fence needs to be added to existing wall to meet building and site redevelopment codes, that materials be considered so that views to the field from the bleachers are not obstructed; that he did not currently support making alterations to the wall; yes, to relocating the ticket booth; yes, to creating a defined and grand entry way to the complex; that consideration be given to adding bathrooms to the visitors side even if codes do not require it; he prefer to see enhanced aesthetic design elements incorporated into the design of the bleachers and the areas of improvement.

Mr. Roan stated that he preferred option #1; that he was hesitant to add any fencing/rail to the top of the existing stone wall as this would alter that current viewing experience; and that any bathrooms above and beyond those required per MA plumbing code could substantially increase project costs.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Santos stated that based on the information provided that he would share the following details with Activitas in order to move the project to the next step:

-Option #1 was preferred, using a combination of permanent and semi-permanent bleachers systems.

-That the design should incorporate bleachers into both sides of the field

-# of seats on home side: 1000. # of seats on visitors' side: min 300, max 500

-Overall negative response specific to modifying the stone wall. But, Commission may be open to considering minor modifications.

Mr. Santos then continued on stating that he was expecting to meet with a contractor on site, in the coming days, to evaluate what could potentially be done in the short-term to improve the bleachers.

Mr. Chaves suggested that a conversation be had with the Building Inspector to discuss any potential future modifications, as stamped drawings or plans may be required. Mr. Santos stated that he would reach out to the Building/Inspections Department. Discussion followed.

Mr. Roan questioned whether modifying the existing bleachers would alter any existing exposure to the Town, then stated that he did support a temporary solution to make improvements, if such is feasible.

Mrs. Winders asked to speak and stated that regardless of what may or may not be done to improve the bleachers, access to the press box would always be required to meets the needs of the HS athletic programs using the facility.

B. Park Commission to receive update on Dog Park project and discuss next steps

Mr. Santos stated that he had not progressed as far as he had hoped on the dog park project.

However, since the last Park Commission meeting KZLA had met with recreation staff at the Intel Field property, off of Technology Drive, in July to assess two separate locations surrounding the field that could potentially serve as sites of the new dog park; and that Mr. Santos had met with residents to explore a potential location just off the rail trail as well. As a result, KZLA had responded with input on all three locations stating that the rail trail location was not conducive to constructing a dog park and that only one of the locations visited at the Intel Field was suitable for a dog park, while the other would be too far away from any parking spaces.

Mr. Santos informed the Park Commission that he had reached out the Cemetery Commission requesting to discuss the potential use of Intel field property for a dog park, as the property was under their jurisdiction and was still awaiting a response.

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

A. None

9. Announcements/Adjournment

A. Park Commission to discuss schedule for future meetings through June 2024

Commissioners discussed preferred meeting days and times. Mr. Chaves and Mr. Bowen stated that they preferred meetings to start at 7:30pm. Commissioners stated that mid-week meetings were preferred. Mr. Santos stated that he would organize a meeting schedule with the info provided in the coming weeks.

Mr. Roan motioned to adjourn at 9:22pm, seconded by Mr. Bowen and carried...

Vote: 3 - 0, in favor

Motion to Approve: Mr. Chaves

Second: Mr. Bowen

Vote: 2 – 0, in favor

Date: September 27, 2023