



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

PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES

September 27, 2023

Via REMOTE ZOOM at 7:00pm

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: Sep 27, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84994180015?pwd=YoX3oVwWLMdamaVjb4HF6jj69J0STc.1>

Meeting ID: 849 9418 0015

Passcode: 556583

One tap mobile

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- Meeting ID: 849 9418 0015
Passcode: 556583

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1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Bowen called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. Members present were Mr. Bowen and Mr. Chaves. Also present: Mr. Santos and Mr. Hannon.

2. Minutes to Approve:

A. Public Session – August 23, 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. Fall Winter Programs Update

Mr. Santos informed the commissioners that the department was planning to run its full slate of fall/winter programs as in the past. Mr. Santos did state that the staff was planning to realign the youth basketball divisions for the upcoming season and had met with some coaching staff from the high school to discuss how to continue to work together and ultimately build a stronger youth basketball program for the community.

6. New Business:

A. Park Commission to discuss public input plan relative to the installation of field lights at Cherry Street Field.

Mr. Santos reminded the commissioners that at the upcoming November Town Meeting, there would be an article voted on requesting use of CPC funds to add field lights to the Cherry Street field. Mr. Santos suggested that the commission consider inviting the abutters of the field into a future park commission meeting to give them an opportunity to provide any input or voice any concerns they may have. Mr. Bowen suggested this be done as part of the next park commission meeting. Mr. Chaves concurred.

7. Old Business:

A. Park Commission to review Morgan Bowl bleacher planning efforts

Mr. Santos informed the commission that he had not received any further updates from Activitas related to the development of concept designs for new bleachers or corresponding cost estimates. Additionally, Mr. Santos stated that he had met with the building commissioner to review the possibility of making short term improvements to the bleachers. The building commissioner advised that any modifications would need to comply with ICC 300. Mr. Santos suggested that as Activitas

moves the planning effort forward, that the commission be mindful of overall project costs and continue to consider lower cost alternatives that would meet the required needs, but may not achieve everything that may be desired. In closing, Mr. Santos shared some quotes he had received for renting portable bleachers (\$11,000.00 for 300 seats for 11 weeks), as well as an estimate to purchase semi-portable angle frame bleachers, assembled on site (\$187,000.00 for 1246 seats, 7 sections). The Commissioners noted the information provided and requested that Mr. Santos follow up with Activitas for a project update. No further discussion.

B. Park Commission to receive update on Dog Park project, specific to potential use of property currently under the jurisdiction of the Cemetery Commission

Mr. Santos stated that he had met with the cemetery commission on September 15, 2023 to discuss use of a portion of cemetery land for the development of a dog park, adjacent to the existing Intel Field. As a result, and while no formal vote was taken by the cemetery commission, each member stated that they would be open to exploring the possible use, however each commissioner specifically stated that they would most likely not support the transfer of land ownership to the Park Commission for such purposes.

Mr. Santos continued on saying that if the cemetery commission was not willing to transfer land to the Park Commission, then use of CPC funds to cover project costs at this location would not be possible.

Mr. Bowen stated that he understood the position of the cemetery commission members and that selecting the final location should be driven by the ability to maximize grants funds, while keeping costs as low as possible for residents.

Mr. Chaves stated that he too understands feedback provided by the cemetery commissioners. He continued on saying that, access to and approval for use of CPC funds for this specific project may be challenged less at Town Meeting in comparison to requesting funding via a stand-alone capital plan item at Town Meeting. Mr. Chaves requested that Mr. Santos and Mr. Hannon share their opinions on the matter.

Mr. Hannon stated that a small dog park at Sauta Fields may be the best solution based on the information currently available.

Mr. Santos stated that he is unsure of how much public support this project has currently. Additionally, that he did not see the use of cemetery land as viable option based on his meeting with the cemetery commission; and felt the costs to develop a dog park at Farina and its proximity to the homes of abutters would pose far greater challenges in comparison to developing a small dog park at Sauta Fields.

No Further discussion was had.

Mr. Santos and Mr. Hannon will follow up with KZLA to inform them of what was discussed, the outcome of the meeting with the cemetery commission and to determine the next steps in site selection and planning.

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

A. None

9. Announcements/Adjournment

Next Meeting – October 18, 2023 at 7:00pm

REC Fest – October 14, 2023

November Town Meeting – November 20, 2023

Mr. Bowen motioned to adjourn at 7:56pm, seconded by Mr. Chaves and carried...

Vote: - 0, in favor

Motion to Approve: Mr. Chaves

Second: Mr. Roan

Vote: 2 – 0, in favor

Date: October 18, 2023