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April 10, 2023

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

A regular meeting of the Westfield Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Location: City Hall in room 315 at 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA.

Members present by a roll call were: Jane DeBarbieri, Scott LaBombard, Peter Lurgio, Kenneth Magarian, Vincent Olinski, Douglas Morash and Michael Tirrell. Commissioner Absent: Sara Unger

At 6:30 pm Chairman LaBombard called the meeting to order asking if anyone was here tonight that was not listed on the agenda and explaining the 15 max minutes of speaking time per person for Public Participation.

Approval of March 20, 2023 minutes Michael Tirrell moved, seconded by Vincent Olinski. The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Michael Tirrell	X	
Jane DeBarbieri	X	
Scott LaBombard	X	
Peter Lurgio	X	
Kenneth Magarian	X	
Vincent Olinski	X	
Douglas Morash	<u>X</u>	
	7	0

Motion passed

Speakers for Business or Items for Discussion on Agenda - Paula Hebert-Pike, Mike Raposa, Joe Delaney, Kristen Mello, Stephanie Morris, Sean Elvirta, Kames Homad, Kathy Bradford, Dennis Atkins and Amy Porter-reporter.

Business or Items for Discussion: Items on the agenda with Chairman LaBombard presiding

1. Michael Tirrell moved, Vincent Olinski seconded to approve Joe Delaney Veterans Council permit for Kane/Wojtkiewicz Park for the Purple Heart Day ceremony on August 7, 2023 times 12:30 pm -2:30 pm.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Michael Tirrell	X	
Jane DeBarbieri	X	
Scott LaBombard	X	
Peter Lurgio	X	
Kenneth Magarian	X	
Vincent Olinski	X	
Douglas Morash	<u>X</u>	
	7	0

Motion passed

Prior to the vote, Joseph Delaney went over Purple Heart day that used to be called Metal of merit day for the last 2 years it is now called Purple Heart Day.

2. Vincent Olinski moved, Jane DeBarbieri seconded to approve Paula Hebert- Pike Westfield CFCE program two permits renewal dates for playgroups at Cross Street Playground as presented.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Michael Tirrell	X	
Jane DeBarbieri	X	
Scott LaBombard	X	
Peter Lurgio	X	
Kenneth Magarian	X	
Vincent Olinski	X	
Douglas Morash	<u>X</u>	
	7	<u>0</u> Motion passed

3. Peter Lurgio moved, Douglas Morash seconded to approve Mike Raposo, Westfield Little League to place a 2nd batting cage at Cross Street Ballfields.

The following roll call vote was taken:

	<u>Y</u>	<u>N</u>
Michael Tirrell	X	
Jane DeBarbieri	X	
Scott LaBombard	X	
Peter Lurgio	X	
Kenneth Magarian	X	
Vincent Olinski	X	
Douglas Morash	<u>X</u>	
	7	<u>0</u> Motion passed

Prior to the vote, a map was presented by Mike Raposo who explained that the batting cage will go behind the first base dugout. Another purpose is will serve as a bullpen enclosed so balls are not flying around or in neighbors' yards, it is 50 x 15 and will have turf inside for less maintenance and he explained they have 19 teams ages 9 and under.

4. Michael Tirrell moved, Peter Lurgio seconded to approve the pride flag at Park Square on the flag pole June 1- June 7 or display the flag on the stage or gazebo area during the month of June. During the Art-works event on June 3, they will put the 5" x 5" Pride flag up and take it down after the event or place the flag off the stage area or gazebo. (Due to the flagpoles both are broken they are hoping to have them fixed for the event) If not they will display the pride flag at Park Square in the areas mentioned.

Prior to the Vote Kristen Mello explained that the students in the schools appreciate their voices. The Pride flag was at Park Square a few years ago and they received many positive comments from Students she mentioned that the Mayor will also have the Pride flag at the city hall flag poles during the month of June during the activities with the down businesses. Michel Tirrell brought up the flag ordinance a few years ago and the Mayor will fly all types of requested flags at city hall the commission can follow those guidelines as well if requested at Park Square.

5. Jane DeBarbieri provided an update on the Women's Temperance Park subcommittee they will meet at the Technical Academy School this week to look at the stones. She went over ideas of etching on the stones, and Kathy Hillman is still researching women's names. She mentioned Nate Sperry and the students' ideas and hopefully next fall we can get started on the project. The conversation was made that the Historic Commission and or Cindy Gaylord should be involved in the names of women in history.

6. Peter Lurgio provided an update on Parker Memorial Park subcommittee members Vincent Olinski, Julie Barnes and himself and mentioned Nate Perry went over his designs last month with the commission. They went over the 3D models and designs and the water fountain will be removed due to maintenance and explained all the different entrances and green space will be 15 percent smaller. Julie Barnes will let the Veterans know the plans regarding the park and the placement of the monuments to one area. he also explained a tree grant could be available through Bridgett Matthews-Kane, City Council member who has been working with the state on tree grants.

7. Scott Hathaway brought up that Fran Cain attended last month's meeting and questioned permits for people with renewals. Other departments that have permits don't go to a commission meeting for approval the Deputy's approve them. He also explains the permittee always asks why they have to attend every year for approval. A conversation was made that it was the commission policy and it could be looked at. Michael Tirrell brought up possibly returning permittees Scott Hathaway can include them in his monthly report. Scott Hathaway said if we have a problem with a permittee then we can have them attend a commission meeting, or if a new person or event have them attend. Michael Tirrell, Scott LaBombard and Vincent Olinski will review the formal permit policy and add it to the May agenda.

8. Monthly Staff Reports- Scott Hathaway brought up the Whitney Playground grant and believes it has to be spent by June 30 and he was going to buy lights and then next year or any grant money to do the other work needed at Whitney. Scott LaBombard responded we are looking at getting Whitney Playground ballfields in shape due to all the issues we have and said he was not impressed that we don't have quotes and are ready to go and laser grade the fields, add loam and fix ruts and get the ballfields ready to play. He said he disagrees with buying light bulbs for 50,000 and nothing else. Michael Tirrell said those fields are deplorable and need to be fixed. Scott Hathaway also brought up Sackett Street exit is closed for about a month until G & E takes down a building that is falling apart. Softball games are on hold until the building is demolished. Scott Hathaway went over pickleball courts for tournaments and Scott. LaBombard responded the pickleball group does not have tournaments due to the weather and fees to pay. He wanted to concentrate on the Whitney fields project.

9. Schedule of bills - (Attached)

Adjournment: Michael Tirrell moved, seconded by Vincent Olinski to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting ended at 7: 52 pm

Documents: Agenda, minutes, schedules and committee reports

The next meeting is on May 8, 2023

The review of minutes approved by Douglas Morash, Secretary of the Commission

DM/pg

