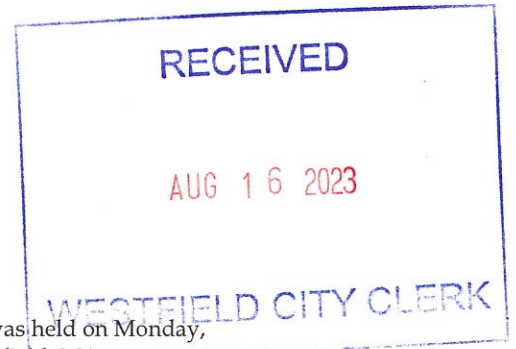




July 10, 2023



A regular meeting of the Westfield Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Monday, July 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, Vincent Olinski, Kenneth Magarian, Douglas Morash. Michael Tirrell joined in shortly after.

Commissioners absent: Sara Unger and Peter Lurgio.

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.

Approval of the June 12, 2023 minutes moved by Douglas Morash seconded by Vincent Olinski
The following roll call vote was taken:

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

Zoom minutes June 26, 2023, regarding Parker Memorial Park minutes approved and moved by Kenneth Magarian, seconded by Douglas Morash

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

Public Participation: Nancy Stolpinski, Natalie Ocasio, Christina Ramos, Amy Porte, Sara Nielsen, Dana Nielsen, Beverly Nielsen, Ruby Nielsen, Rosemary Gowdy, Nicholas Morganelli and Jeff Burke

City Council Communication: Nicholas Morganelli went over a few issues that were brought up with a couple of City Councilors, cameras in parks based on a letter to City Council from Rosemary Gowdy. The LGBTQ flag on pole at Park Square, and asked about our flag policy and was noted by Michael Tirrell we follow the same guidelines as the Mayor and all flags are welcomed. Nicholas Morganelli showed pictures of the river rail trail near the bocce courts there is broken glass and weeds and has brought this to Scott Hathaway's attention and people want to play bocce and they can't. He also asked if the commission might be interested in taking control of all the green space in Westfield. He brought up Holyoke Road there is vacant space that could be used for recreation and other areas.

Scott LaBombard responded to Nicholas Morganelli it's a good idea to develop green space someday however we have enough on our plate at this time with current parks and playgrounds.

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

1. Michael Tirrell moved and approve Jane DeBarbieri seconded to naming Hampton Ponds Playground ball fields the "Bruce W. Nielsen Field".

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

Prior to the vote, Dana Nielsen went over the history of his dad Bruce Nielsen who coached him in baseball all his life and when he visited Hampton Ponds Playground he thought to himself it would be nice to honor his dad who passed away and who actually started the senior league at Hampton Ponds ballfield. His dad build that field, for the senior league and maintained it for years because at that time there were no senior leagues. He was involved in Little League for many years as well. It would be an honor if this field could be named after him as the "Bruce W Nielsen Field" He has provided a petition list of names. A conversation came up regarding signage. Michael Tirrell informed him the next step after this commission vote is to go to City Council He said we could get a bronze sign with stone for signage and a dedication in his honor. Scott LaBombard commended his honor of his dad and how important volunteers are who make it happen and your dad certainly has the support of signatures and criteria to name the ballfields after him.

2. Michael Tirrell moved to approve Douglas Moran seconded for Natalie Ocasio a permit for Whitney Playground for a tournament on August 26 times 7:00 am- 8:00 pm with fees and a refundable deposit.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

Prior to the vote, Natalie Ocasio explained this is a fundraiser in honor of her father Luis Ocasio who passed away and worked seasonally for the parks and recreation department for many years. She went over how her dad was always helping people by fundraising and as a family, they want to continue his legacy and honor him and have a yearly fundraiser in his name. She said donations would go to breast cancer, as he helped her during her battle and helped others suffering from cancer who may need help with financial needs and possibly donating to the youth scholarship and community. They will have softball teams, food, drinks and food truck and sell baseball equipment. They have people making prepared food as grills are not allowed. Vincent Olinski explained to her any food vendor with a truck selling food should get a permit from the Health Dept. Scott LaBombard told Natalie he had the opportunity to meet her dad and he was a very humble and giving person.

3. Michael Tirrell wanted to table another meeting regarding a follow-up with the School Supt. regarding graduation time and no parking on the field at both Bullens and Jachym Field. He did not get a chance this month due to summer vacations in a few months we can do a follow-up.

4. Rosemary Gowdy brought to the attention of the City Council an incident that happened in another city (she went over details) and suggested we add cameras to all the playgrounds for vandalism and the safety of the children. A conversation was made the commission has talked about cameras in the past due to Municipal and other playgrounds' constant vandalism. To be referred to Scott Hathaway to get a quote and work with the technology dept. or other departments to get a complete detailed list of what we would need for internet and eventually funding due to safety issues. They thanked Rosemary Gowdy for attending. Nicholas Morganelli said he serves on the City Council safety committee as well. Michael Tirrell said he will also speak with Peter Cowles Media System Specialist.

5. Jeff Burke attended with an update on the skate park project and how we need to get the skate park project moving forward. They had a meeting with the purchasing director regarding design, going with a local engineering firm SLR.

Michael Tirrell explained the \$ 25,000 funding from the community preservation fund and the next steps he will reach out to Scott Hathaway. Once we get the design and firm and partner with an engineering firm SLR we can discuss the funding for the budget. Scott Hathaway needs to reach out to the purchasing director. Jeff Burke also explained we don't want a wood design like Agawam put in due to wood decays we want a concrete one we have the footprint and location of the previous skate park. He explained Western Massachusetts only has so many skate parks and it would draw park tourism and it brings business and people to Westfield. He also brought up business fundraising and asked where the funds raised would go. Michael Tirrell responded we have an account set up for the Skate Park due to a recent donation and donation funds would go to the dept.

6. Nancy Stolpinski is here tonight requesting either the pickleball group or dept. paint the tennis court next to Greylock St. with lines for two pickleball courts. The conversation made if it will affect the tennis courts and tennis players. Nancy responded it should not they currently uses painter's tape and she is suggesting a gallon or two of paint could be painted with painter's tape as a guideline of 4-inch lines. Scott LaBombard suggested she coordinate with Scott Hathaway to have the dept. paint them if they have staff.

Motion moved by Michael Tirrell to approve seconded by Kenneth Magarian to have Nancy Stolpinski coordinate with Scott Hathaway on painting the back tennis court close to Greylock Street to have pickleball courts painted for two pickleball courts as presented.

The following roll call vote was taken:

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

7. Conversation was brought up by Scott LaBombard that spray parks need repainting. Vincent Olinski brought up 5-6 years again a study was done on all improvements on parks and playgrounds with Engineering Jay Vinski.

Reports - Attached

The next board meeting is August 7, 2023

Adjourn:

Jane DeBarbieri moved, Michael Tirrell seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Motion passes

The meeting ended at 7:44 pm

Documents: Agenda, minutes, schedules, Permits, Naming facilities and reports

The review of minutes by Douglas Morash, Secretary of Commission

DM/pg

