

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes - February 6, 2023

Chair Lima, Commissioner Rich Combra and Executive Administrator Nicole Morey.

Via zoom: MV Museum Executive Director Heather Seger, East Chop Beach Club Representative David Bryan, Open Market organizer Kathy Cowley, Oak Bluffs Police Department Lt. Currelli, Ink Well Beach Yoga Representatives Elisa Barnes, Dr. Linda Silva Thompson, Juneteenth Jubilee 2023 Celebration and A Long Talk – MV Community of Change Black Party representative Kharma Isis, Crimson Tide beach party representatives Jocelyn Walton and Lori Cawthorne, Fun Zone Representative Oliver Kennedy and Maura McGroaty,

Meeting recorded by Nicole Morey and later transcribed by Patty Culkins

2:00 PM Open meeting

2:05 PM

New Business

East Chop Lighthouse update

Chair Lima asked MV Museum Executive Director Heather Seger her thoughts on how the Museum and Parks Department can move forward, in a coordinated effort, for permitting applications for events at the East Chop Lighthouse. Seger explained they have a contract they send to applicants which spells out rules: wedding ceremonies only and no alcohol. Chair Lima noted that the Parks Department allows alcohol with a permit at some of the parks. They both agreed it would be best to let each organization know as permit applications are requested and that should ensure the lighthouse and grounds are not double booked. Seger said the Museum will not make exceptions concerning the Museum's rules for the lighthouse and if any applicants wanted liquor they would direct them to the Parks Department for proper permitting.

Public walkway for Jetty Beach update

David Bryan from East Chop Yacht Club requested to share his screen to give an update on walkway plans at the Club. Since the last meeting, the Club engaged Souratti Engineering Group. After reviewing the current set up of pedestrians walking through parking lot and out to the beach, he proposed cutting an opening in the existing chain link fence and put a prepared path (planned at six feet wide) from the street (East Chop Drive) to the beginning of the existing foot path. Split rail fence would be installed on either side. Souratti proposed the path remain sand, although the Club would prefer a surface that is like what the town currently has. A bike rack and proposed water line for beach rinsing are included in the plans. Bryan requested an informal meeting on site with the Conservation Commission and Souratti to get input. Bryan said he would like to make a presentation to the Select Board in a few weeks. If the proposal is successful the Club will plan on making an application to Capital improvement. Chair Lima suggested looking into Mobi Mats that are recycled plastic mats that are ADA compliant and asked Bryan to stay in touch with the Parks Commissioners.

Permit for Beach Yoga Special Use Permit Applications

Via zoom, Elisa Barnes and Dr. Linda Silva Thompson asked to address the Parks Commissions concerns for yoga on the beach in the upcoming summer season. Barnes said she expects a maximum of 125 yoga participants on the beach for an hour and a quarter. Chair Lima said last year, once there was a contact person, communication was better when they had questions or issues and suggested reaching out to

other organizations with a similar model, to have a better understanding of how it can work. Lima said he would like to see a permit application and fee submitted for yoga on the beach. Barnes said the yoga class is free and they are not operating as a business but felt unsure how they should handle if participants offer to donate money. Lima responded that there have been permitted groups that do fund raising with events in the park. That would be different than running a business out of the park. Combra said they could send an application for a permit as a business, and it would have to be reviewed. Lima asked Lt. Currelli if the Police Department had anything to add. He responded there is no need for police detail. Chair Lima said they will look forward to receiving their application by February 20th for the March Agenda.

Juneteenth Jubilee 2023 Celebration; Waban/Alley Park – June 17 & 18, 2023

Kharma Finlay-Wallace was present via zoom to submit an updated application for the June 17 & 18 Juneteenth Jubilee Celebration. She said there will be speakers, but no music. No food or vendors will be at the event, but she requested permission for tents, chairs, and a smaller stage. Kharma will rent port-a-potties, chairs, and trash receptacles. There are 3 speakers on Saturday and 2 speakers on Sunday with approximately 200 people. Chair Lima pointed out that parking was not on the application and expects Isis to inform attendees there is no parking in the park and someone should oversee enforcing it. Chair Lima said Kharma should continue with planning the event, meet with the Select Board for amplified sound permit and check in with Police Department if a detail is necessary. Lt. Currelli said no detail would be needed.

Commissioner Combra made a motion to authorize permitting process to go forward. Chair Lima seconded motion. (2 ayes).

A Long Talk – MV Community of Change Black Party; Waban/Alley Park – Saturday, August 5, 2023

Kharma Finlay-Wallace was present via zoom to speak for A Long Talk (2nd year) application and has requested a 30 x 50 tent, stage and will rent port-a-potties. Kharma said she would like to have food or possibly a food truck. There would be no alcohol served. Lima said tents of a 10 x 10 size may not be assembled together, they should be spread out and Isis should check in with the building department. Set up time is 7:00 am, be respectful to neighbors especially while setting up tents and amplified speakers must face the ocean. Lima noted that there was a Police Detail the first year because the event is in the high season.

Commissioner Combra made a motion to authorize permitting process to go forward. Chair Lima seconded motion. (2 ayes).

Fun Zone at Sunset Lake; Sunset Lake & Park – summer season (six days per week weather allowing)

Chair Lima expressed a few concerns the Commission has with the proposed Fun Zone permit application. Water access is a top concern as there is no designated shore and/or access. There is a danger of destroying the marsh without a designated spot and care must be taken around the nets that are set up to protect the bank. There are deed restrictions that do not allow tents. Commissioner Combra felt there is a need to speak with town counsel and the town administrator about a business operating at the lake. Lima said he will talk with the town administrator and will cc Oliver Kennedy on an email to start a conversation with Conservation Committee about the permit request.

Crimson Tide beach party; Town/Inkwell Beach – Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Jocelyn Walton and Lori Cawthorne returned to the Parks Commission to resubmit their application for an event that was cancelled the previous year due to weather. The event will have approximately 100 guests and no alcohol. Walton and Cawthorne plan to take care of trash receptacles, rent port-a-potties, set up police details if necessary, and asked if they can have personal beach pop tents. Chair Lima responded that personal pop-up tents would be fine as they do not allow rental tents on the beach. Commissioner Combra made a motion to allow them to continue the permitting process contingent on proof of Police Detail arranged. Chair Lima seconded motion. (2 ayes).

Open Market 2023; Washington Park – Sundays from May 28 to October 8, 2023.

Kathleen Cowley was present via zoom to submit an application for an Open Market in Washington Park. She requested the same configuration at the park that was done in 2022 with tents 12-13 feet apart, have musicians and reported that she has been contacted by more vendors that would like to take part. Commissioner Combra said he is concerned about too many vendor vehicles in the park and wants to be thoughtful about the impact on other local businesses that serve food. Chair Lima asked if there have been any changes in the fee structure to which Cowley replied that vendors pay as they go and mentioned that any amplified sound would need to be permitted through the Select Board. Cowley said she would pursue that.

Commissioner Combra made a motion to authorize the permitting process to go forward. Chair Lima seconded motion. (2 ayes).

Sundays in the Park Concerts; Ocean Park Bandstand.

Chair Lima reported that increased funding in the budget has been requested to pay for bands in the park and said there has been very positive feedback on concerts. Kathleen Cowley said events will start Memorial Day Weekend (5/27 – 29), pick up again a few weeks later on Fathers' Day weekend (6/17 & 18) and said that there are no changes from last year's events. She asked the commission if bands could set up on the leaside of bandstand in inclement weather. Commissioners responded the bandstand is preferred, however if equipment and band stayed on the brick, it would be okay. Chair Lima noted that an amplified permit application is not needed because the events are town sponsored.

Commissioner Combra made a motion to authorize final approval. Chair Lima seconded motion. (2 ayes).

Old Business

- FY 24 budget - no updates
- Pickleball – no updates
- Park Director job description – no updates
- Holiday light display 2022 – no updates
- Healy Square relocation of trees - Preconstruction Walk through will begin this week
- FY 23 budget/CIP – Chair Lima is suggesting bandstand repairs/replace door.

Updates/Comments

Chair Lima mentioned that it is time to think about carry in/carry out signs at beaches and recently did a cost analysis for installing and removal of signs.

Commissioner Combra said he is concerned the rental boats would be too much for Sunset Lake. He asked that Mr. Oliver be notified for the next meeting.

Via zoom, Maura McGroarty said she is concerned with the walkway by the Steamship Authority. She said it lacks railings and it is very dangerous. Commissioner Combra said he will inspect the area she is referring to and in the meantime, may be able install snow fencing. A section will be installed before the start of the season and caution signs will be installed.

Chair Lima will save approval for minutes from September 19 & October 3, 2023, for next meeting.

Chair Lima made a motion to close the meeting. Commissioner Combra seconded the motion. (2 ayes).

3:34 pm

Future meeting dates: March 6, 2023 & April 3, 2023

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