

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

Chair Lima, Commissioner Amy Billings, Commissioner Rich Combra, Executive Administrator Nicole Morey, John Schilling (VH Band), Andrea Taylor and Pride Parade Sofie Green.

Via zoom: Battle in the Bluffs Ian Thomas and Arthur Andrews, Spelhouse HBCU Wilton Baker, Harvard Black Alumni Association Patience Singleton, MVCS Scott Mullin, Oyster Fest Adam Epstein, and US Endurance Leeann Yarbor.

3:00 PM

Open meeting 3:05 PM

New Business

Vineyard Haven Band concert dates Special Use Permit Applications

John Schilling Informed the Commission of the summer schedule for band concerts. Concerts will begin on June 25th and run through the week of August 13th. The final concert will be August 18th on the evening of the Fireworks. Concerts will begin at 7:30 pm. He requested rain dates be on Mondays. Chair Lima granted permission for Mondays to be a rain date for concerts.

No vote or approval needed.

Battle in the Bluffs 12; Niantic Park – Thursday, July 6 & Friday, July 7, 2023

Via zoom, Ian Thomas was seeking the Parks Commission approval for Battle in the Bluffs. The event will follow the same model as previous year. Clinics will be held on Thursday. Games will be held on Friday morning and a promotional game that night. Chair Lima asked Thomas to be considerate of neighbors while setting up and noise level throughout the event. Arthur Andrews asked if the Parks Department would be open to new bleachers, a small calisthenics gym (pull up and dip bars) and add more lighting. Andrews said he spoke with someone who would like to donate this to the town. Chair Lima asked Andrews to reach out to him and Executive Administrator Nicole Morey in an email to discuss more. Chair Lima made a motion to grant a permit for Battle in the Bluffs. Commissioner Combra seconded (3 ayes).

Reiki at Sunrise; Town Beach OR Waban/Alley Park – May 26 thru September 3, 2023

No one was present for the event application.

Spelhouse HBCU Beach Party; Town Beach – Friday, August 11, 2023

Via zoom, Wilton Baker of Morehouse College Alumni Association was seeking the Parks Commission support and permission for a family friendly event for 500 people on Town Beach. Baker requested music provided by a DJ with a small generator and alcohol (provided by a sponsor) at the event. Chair Lima responded that Baker would need to go before the Select Board for alcohol permit, speak with the Police Chief if a detail was necessary, arrange port-a-potties, trash removal and rental tents would not be allowed, only personal pop-up tents. Chair Billings said if alcohol is served it would require fencing. Commissioner Combra said he is not comfortable having alcohol on the beach but would go ahead with the permit without alcohol. Combra reminded Baker that if Select Board approves amplified sound, speakers should not be pointed at lifeguard stand and music must not be too loud.

Commissioner Combra motioned for preliminarily approve of the event, without alcohol, and Baker must return with signoffs from select Board and Police Chief by July 10th. Commissioner Billings seconded. (3 ayes)

Harvard @ the Inkwell; Town Beach – Friday, August 11, 2023

Via zoom, Patience Singleton of Harvard Black Alumni Association was seeking the Parks Commission support and permission for Harvard @ the Inkwell event. The event is for approximately 45-60 attendees from 11:00 am -3:00 pm, there will be no alcohol and supply music with a DJ or a small personal speaker. Chair Lima explained that they had just given permission to the earlier applicant for the same date and nearby beach. He asked Singleton if the event could be held on Inkwell Beach so as not to overcrowd Town/Pay Beach. Chair Lima said the event would have to be capped at 45 and without a DJ. Lima offered Singleton a chance to come back for May 1st meeting if she would like to check with her group. Singleton said she would like to continue with the application for 45 attendees, 2 personal pop-up tents, a small personal speaker and the event held on Inkwell beach.

Commissioner Billings made a motion to approve permit application with the understanding that it be held on Inkwell Beach, in front of Waban Park. Commissioner Combra seconded the motion. (3 ayes)

Pride in OB; Ocean Park - Saturday, June 10, 2023 (rain date June 11)

Pride in OB; Ocean Park Bandstand - Saturday, June 10, 2023 (rain date June 11)

Via zoom, Sophie Greene was seeking the Parks Commission support and permission for Pride in OB Parade and Ocean Park Bandstand Event. The event will be like last year, although tents are being requested for nonprofit information tables (8-10) and “Card My Yard” sign placed on grass. A sound check of amplified sound will be done at 2:00 pm and music will be played from 4:00-6:00 pm. Chair Lima explained that tents are not allowed for private events. Commissioner Billings added that it needs to be decided if it is a town sponsored event or a parade and band concert. Commissioner Combra suggested placing tables and tents in a few of the parking spaces surrounding Ocean Park, near Healey Square. The group would need to go before the Select Board for approval of tents and tables and sign placement would need to be coordinated with Crossland Landscape.

Commissioner Combra made a motion for use of bandstand and parade permit. Commissioner Billings seconded. (3 ayes)

MV Oyster Fest postponement to 2024

Via zoom, Adam Epstein updated the Commissioners on the postponement of Oyster Fest to 2024. Epstein scheduled a meeting with the Chief of Police to discuss a different type of safety plan for the event. Chair Lima asked if Epstein would like a refund on the application fee or roll it over for 2024 application. Epstein opted to roll it over and later return with an application for the event to be held on September 27th to 29th of 2024.

Old Business

Park Director job hiring update.

Chair Lima reported that there were three candidates for the Parks Manger. One applicant has been offered the job. Lima plans to meet with the Parks Manager and invite Fire, Police and Lifeguards prior to the start of summer. The Parks Department has decided to pay for a certification class for head lifeguard Matt O’Rourke.

Healy Square relocation of trees

FY 24 budget – no updates

FY 23 budget/CPA

- An application will be submitted for East Chop Lighthouse for fence repair and removing shrubs. The East Chop Association has offered to contribute for certain repairs.
- An application for Sunset Park Catch basin, at the top of hill, will be submitted.

Healy Square relocation of trees – no updates

Updates/Comments

Via zoom, USA Endurance Leeann Yarbor gave an update on May 20th event. Big Sky will set up the Beer Garden tent on Friday and mile marker flags will be set up on Thursday. The race will start at the YMCA for all runners. Commissioners reminded Yarbor to make sure that Fire Department is aware of event. Chair Lima said the event will be put on May 1st meeting for final approval once the Police Department has signed off.

Della Hardman Day

Andrea Taylor had an incomplete application to use Ocean Park for Della Hardman Day on Saturday, July 29th. She said that they have revived the essay program with the winner speaking at the event. They would serve cake and water under the tent. Application will be on the May 1st agenda.

Commissioner Combra made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Billings seconded. (3 ayes).

Meeting adjourned 4:58 pm