



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

**PARK COMMISSION MEETING – MINUTES**

**January 10, 2024**

**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: Jan 10, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81169516063?pwd=wJgaMdnDp3YTsrOXIATjsUEcVz4joS.1>

Meeting ID: 811 6951 6063

Passcode: 033186

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kexwMefTM8>

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

Mr. Roan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Members present were Mr. Roan, Mr. Bowen and Mr. Chaves. Also present: Mr. Santos and Mr. Hannon

### **2. Minutes to Approve:**

A. Public Session – December 20, 2023

Mr. Bowen motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Chaves and carried...

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

### **3. Citizens Issues / Special Interest Groups:**

A. None

### **4. Personnel:**

A. None

### **5. Director's Report:**

A. None

### **6. New Business:**

A. Park Commission to discuss Facility and Field Use Policies

Mr. Santos stated that it was his hope that the Park Commission would review and update all its policies, some of which have not been updated in over two decades, over the next 12-18 months.

Mr. Santos expressed that updating policies could have a significant positive impact on how user groups such as the local youth sports organizations access fields and facilities across town. Mr. Santos then explained that he had enlisted the help of Assistant Director, Dan Hannon who would be providing the Commission with a brief overview of some of the current policies and potential changes that could be considered.

Mr. Hannon provided an overview of the research he had performed and stated that there is a great demand for fields and facilities from the existing local user groups, many who now run programs essentially year-round. Mr. Hannon highlighted some of the existing policies that contradict one another and suggested that eliminating any policies that may be in conflict with another would be a good first step in making updates.

Mr. Hannon continued on saying that during the spring and summer season, there are sufficient fields to support the current needs of the existing user groups. However, come fall with the days becoming shorter or less hours of daylight available, the need for all groups to have access to a field with lights becomes challenging. Mr. Hannon suggested that altering the existing field light policies on some fields, could provide greater access to the user groups during the challenging fall season.

Mr. Roan stated that prior to changes being made the Recreation Staff would need to perform the research to determine what led to the creation of the existing policies. Discussion followed and the Commissioners expressed support for potentially making changes to field light policies.

Mr. Santos stated that there were many policies that would need to be reviewed and potentially updated. And further that he would work with the staff to bring individual policies, including any historical notes of importance before the Commission over the next several months for review.

Mr. Santos asked if it was any requirement to notify or solicit input from abutters who might be impacted field light policy changes. The Commissioners were unsure if there was any requirement and stated that all policy changes would be discussed as part of an open and accessible Park Commission meeting, where comments and public input could be presented by any resident.

## **7. Old Business:**

A. Park Commission to discuss Wood Park playground equipment

Mr. Santos presented the Commission with an option to purchase and install a nature themed play structure at Wood Park, estimated to cost approximately \$55K. As an alternative Mr. Santos presented options for similarly priced play structures to be purchased and installed at Wood Park that boasted more traditional or non-themed design. Mr. Santos then explained that while the nature themed play structure would fit into the park nicely and blend into the natural park setting, it did not provide nearly as many play opportunities when compared to the more traditionally designed play structures. Continuing on Mr. Santos explained that nature themed equipment generally tends to be more expensive for various reason.

Mr. Santos asked the Park Commission if they preferred one design or style of play structure over the other. Discussion followed and all Commissioners agreed that a structure should be selected for Wood Park that offers the most play value and/or play opportunities.

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

A. None

## **9. Announcements/Adjournment**

Mr. Santos stated that Town had received the Design Grant funding for the Dog Park and it had been accepted by the Select Board on January 8, 2024.

Select Board FY25 Budget review – January 22, 2024

Next Meeting – January 31, 2024

Mr. Bowen motioned to adjourn at 7:50pm, seconded by Mr. Chaves and carried...

Vote: 3 - 0, in favor

Motion to Approve: Mr. Bowen

Second: Mr. Chaves

Vote: 3 – 0, in favor

Date: February 14, 2024