



Lowell City Council

Parks & Recreation SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: December 3, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: City Council Chamber/Zoom (Hybrid)
375 Merrimack St., Lowell. Ma.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Mercier, Belanger and C. Gitschier. Also present were Keith Rudy (Board of Parks), Peter Faticanti (Rec. Dept.), Heather Larkin (Sec. Bd. Of Parks), Kah Ndi (Board of Parks), Melissa Morales (Board of Parks), Thomas Caunter (Board of Parks), John Linnehan (Board of Parks) and Jeff Lesniak (Parks Dept.).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Mercier called meeting to order noting attendees and the agenda item regarding updating the Board of Parks tournament fee schedule. C. Mercier introduced members of the Board of Parks and Parks Department.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Mercier reviewed the fee structure noting that there was never a schedule done for fees and that this was needed. C. Mercier noted fees for synthetic (\$1,500/day) and non-synthetic fields (\$225/day). C. Gitschier questioned if any staff were present for oversight. Mr. Faticanti outlined staffing structures. Mr. Rudy indicated the ability of the Board to waive fees. C. Belanger questioned the frequency of use of synthetic fields. Mr. Rudy noted the many samples of other communities used to develop the fee structure. Mr. Caunter noted the field can only be used for athletic purposes. C. Gitschier noted money goes to general fund and that it may be better served to keep money at department for maintenance of fields. C. Gitschier commented that use of open space in a City should not be used to produce revenue. Mr. Linnehan commented on the use of enterprise funds. C. Belanger indicated all fees should be used to maintain parks and protect investments in them.



C. Mercier opened meeting to public and Matt LeLacheur commented on the efforts of the board to develop the fee structure and the benefits of it.

C. Mercier commented on trash fee per day of \$200. C. Belanger noted if parties do not clean what can be done. Mr. Rudy noted the goal is to have trash removed and did not favor the use of dumpsters. C. Mercier questioned what trash removal is defined as. C. Gitschier questioned definition of per day in the schedule. Ms. Larkin indicated that it mirrored the ordinance.

C. Mercier opened discussion regarding lighting and the fee of \$100/4 hours. C. Gitschier noted it was above the fee for the field. Ms. Larking noted that there is a turn on fee for those lights that are not automatically turned on. Mr. Faticanti commented on the use of field by non-profits in Lowell for Lowell residents. C. Belanger indicated preference for Lowell residents.

C. Gitschier lauded the efforts of the board and the move forward. Mr. Rudy noted that insurance binders are need as well as part of the rental process. C. Belanger noted the need to protect the City. C. Mercier questioned issue of sub-leasing. Ms. Larkin noted that it was corrected. C. Mercier noted she was proud of the work of the board. Motion by C. Belanger, seconded by C. Gitschier to accept the new Board of Parks fee schedule as presented. Adopted per Roll Call vote 3 yeas (C. Belanger, C. Gitschier, C. Mercier). So voted.

ADOURNMENT:

Motion "To Adjourn" by C. Belanger, seconded by C. Gitschier. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
