



PARKS COMMISSION AGENDA

July 6, 2021, 5:30 PM

1. Approval of Minutes of May 4, 2021
2. Old Business
 - a) Program Open Space Community Parks and Playgrounds FY22 Grant
3. New Business
 - a) Program Open Space Development Programs for FY23
 - b) National Night Out Participation August 3, 2021
4. Berlin Youth Program Update
5. Other

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

*Tuesday, August 3, 2021: National Night Out

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

MINUTES – PARKS COMMISSION
May 4, 2021

The meeting of the Parks Commission for Tuesday, May 4, 2021 was called to order at 5:30 PM. Parks Commission members present were Chair Mike Wiley, Patricia Dufendach, Sarah Hooper, Bruce Hyder, and Laura Stearns, as well as Deputy Town Administrator Mary Bohlen. Also present was Works Superintendent Jimmy Charles and several presenters.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus/Covid-19 State of Emergency, this meeting was broadcast live via Facebook.

Ms. Dufendach moved to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2021, Mr. Hyder seconded, and approval was unanimous.

Ms. Bohlen provided an update on several items discussed in previous meetings. The utility locate at Burbage Park indicated that the proposed ping pong table placements were feasible and a graphic for the sign for the Henry Park Raingarden was included in the packet.

Ms. Bohlen noted that two events had been approved by the Mayor and Council since the previous meeting. The Grace Center had received approval for a Motherhood Walk for September 11 or 25, 2021; they had originally wanted to hold the walk, starting in Stephen Decatur Park, on Saturday, May 8, 2021, but, because the Town had only recently begun accepting events for the Parks in light of Covid, the timing did not allow them sufficient time to prepare for a May event. Worcester Recreation and Parks had also requested and been approved for their summer youth basketball program on Saturdays, June 5-July 24, 2021.

Mr. Adrian Bowen and Ms. Carol Rose appeared before the Commission to seek support for a project to paint the Henry Park Basketball Courts. Mr. Bowen provided examples of other courts in the region and elsewhere which had been painted in a similar manner and discussed the work of Mr. Shelton Hawkins on those projects, two of which were in Easton and Cambridge, Maryland. Mr. Bowen indicated that he believed that such a project would be an attractant to the courts and indicated that he did not feel that the courts at Henry Park were being used and that the primary activity at the park was illicit. He noted that the project itself would be done using volunteers and that the group was particularly interested in seeking students needing to fulfill their community service hours. Ms. Bohlen expressed her disagreement with the statement that no one uses the Henry Park courts and noted that Worcester County Recreation had used them for programming every summer for several years and that the courts were in frequent use by park visitors. Lengthy discussion continued regarding the painting project, how the project would be funded and implemented and projected life of the project. Ms. Bohlen noted that the Mayor and Council would have concerns regarding long-term maintenance of the project and that they would likely not want to undertake a project that possibly could not be maintained once it started to become worn. Discussion continued. Ms. Rose and Mr. Bowen assured the Parks Commission that the non-profit which was sponsoring the project would provide future maintenance. Ms. Bohlen asked if the non-profit – We “Heart” Berlin – had received their 501(c)(3) certification and Ms. Rose indicated that they were waiting for notification. Ms. Bohlen noted that, while the Parks Commission could not approve or deny the project itself, their input would be sought by the Mayor and Council. She suggested that, before appearing before the Mayor and Council, the issues of a formal agreement, project implementation, including work specifications, and future maintenance be addressed. Ms. Stearn moved for the Parks Commission to support the project, Ms. Dufendach seconded, and approval was unanimous. Ms. Bohlen asked that Mr. Bowen and Ms. Rose contact her when the project was ready to be brought before the Mayor and Council for approval.

In the course of the above discussion, it was noted that it was not yet known if National Night Out would be held in August.

Messrs. Austin Widdowson and Shawn Johnson with Eastbound Disc Golf appeared before the Commission to seek support for a disc golf course at Stephen Decatur Park. Mr. Widdowson explained he was working with Eastbound Disc Golf to fully donate a Disc Golf course to be installed at Decatur Park; the materials would be paid for through grants and donations, with no cost to the Town. Mr. Widdowson did indicate that he had spoken with Mayor Tyndall, who stated his preference that Town forces install the "pins". Lengthy discussion followed regarding the actual game and many of the same concerns - particularly regarding future maintenance - which were expressed in the prior conversation were discussed. Mr. Wiley noted that he had walked the park with Mr. Widdowson and pointed out a number of areas that would likely not be suitable because of their tendency to be very wet. Ms. Bohlen expressed concerns with potential safety issues to non-players and it was indicated that warning signs would be placed in appropriate areas. Ms. Bohlen also reiterated, as in the prior discussion, that, while the Parks Commission could not approve or deny the project itself, their input would be sought by the Mayor and Council. She also indicated a formal agreement, information regarding project implementation, including work specifications, and future maintenance would need to be addressed. Ms. Dufendach moved for the Parks Commission to support the project, Mr. Hyder seconded, and approval was unanimous. Following discussion, Ms. Bohlen indicated that the project would be tentatively placed on the agenda for the June 14, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting.

Ms. Jennifer Leggour, Executive Director, and Ms. Leslie Dickson, Youth Program Coordinator, of Worcester Youth and Family Counseling, appeared before the Commission to provide an update on the Berlin Youth Program. They noted that the program would be offered to children ages 6-12 and would run for eight weeks in July and August. No more than 10 children at a time would be included and that activities would be outdoors as much as possible. Discussion continued regarding the impact of the Covid pandemic on the conduct of the program and the successes of the virtual events and activities conducted over the last year. The Commission thanked Worcester Youth for continuing the program and Ms. Bohlen indicated that they would likely be asked to attend one of the Mayor and Council Meetings in June to make their annual presentation and seek contract renewal.

Ms. Dufendach asked about marker flags placed along the ditch adjacent to Rt. 113 in Stephen Decatur Park. Ms. Bohlen and Mr. Charles speculated that they might be related to the upcoming State Highway Administration work at the intersection of Bay Street and Rt. 113.

Mr. Charles noted that Public Works had recently replaced a large number of signs at Heron Park following a vandalism incident and that they were continuing to install engineered wood fiber in the playground areas at both Decatur and Henry Parks.

Ms. Bohlen noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2021.

With no further items for discussion, Ms. Dufendach moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:55 PM. Mr. Hyder seconded, and approval was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary T. Bohlen
Deputy Town Administrator
Liaison to the Parks Commission



MEMO

DATE: July 6, 2021

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Mary Bohlen, Deputy Town Administrator

SUBJECT: Program Open Space Development Programs for FY23

In years past, Worcester County has requested annual submission of the Program Open Space Annual Program for Development, which is commonly referred to as our "Wishlist" and is used as a guide to prioritize projects for funding application. The attached is the POS Development Plan for FY2020, which was the last plan submitted to Worcester County (the county has not requested Development Plans for FY21, FY22, or (to date) FY23).

Although the County has not requested it, the Program for Development remains a useful tool for planning and project prioritization.

On the attached:

- I have struck Item #2: Stephen Decatur Park Prefabricated restrooms. We applied for Community Parks and Playgrounds grant funds for FY22 and it appears to be on track for approval in the State's FY22 budget; we should have final word at any time.
- Item #3 is recommended to hold until further action, if any, is determined by the Mayor and Council regarding the sale of certain parcels of Heron Park.

Because the Henry Park basketball courts lighting project has been a priority project for several years, it is my recommendation to leave it as item #1 with the intent to apply for FY2023 (applications due August 26, 2021). The Burbage Park project could also remain on the Development list pending further communication from We "Heart" Berlin's fundraising efforts toward a Ping-Pong Park.

Any other projects to be considered for inclusion on the list should be discussed and added at this time. Once the Parks Commission approves a complete list, it will be submitted to the Mayor and Council for final approval, then can be submitted to Worcester County should they request it.

PROGRAM OPEN SPACE ANNUAL PROGRAM FOR DEVELOPMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2020

Source of Funds (for Annual Program Only)

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Project Name, Project Description</u>			<u>Acreage Project</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State(POS Local Funds)</u>	<u>Federal</u>
BERLIN								
1	Dr. William Henry Park:	Map 307	Parcel 0692					
	Purchase and Installation of Lighting for Basketball Courts (application pending with Community Parks and Playgrounds)			<.5	\$114,500	\$9,000	\$105,500	
* 2	Stephen Decatur Park:	Map 302	Parcel 873					
	Purchase and Installation of Pre- fabricated Permanent Restroom			<.5	\$135,000	\$13,500	\$121,500	
**3	Berlin Falls Park	Map 25	Parcels 52; 410; 57	70 +/-	\$45,000	\$4,500	\$40,500	
	Purchase of amenities (benches, picnic tables, waste receptacles, etc.)							
4	John Howard Babbage	Map 300	Parcel 1629	+/- .5				
	Development of complete specs for improvements				\$10,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	
	Development of area into neighborhood park			+/- .5	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	
TOTALS					\$354,500	\$33,000	\$321,500	

* **TENTATIVELY Approved for FY22**

** Suggest Holding off until Mayor and Council makes decision regarding potential sale of parcels

July 6, 2021

Worcester Youth & Family Counseling Services

Berlin Youth Club Updates and Information:

The Berlin Youth Club Summer Camp will begin on July 6th and run for 8 weeks total, ending on August 26th. This camp will follow all CDC guidelines, and is designed to keep children and staff safe and healthy. We will be requiring masks, having hand sanitizer with us always, wearing gloves when needed, and staying appropriate distances away from each other when necessary. The camp will operate on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with two sections to keep groups small. The morning section runs from 9 am to 12 pm for ages 6 – 9 and the afternoon section runs from 1 pm to 4 pm for ages 10 - 12. We have 10 children in the morning group and 11 children in the afternoon group, for a total of 21 participants. We will be keeping the children outside away from public crowds. We will be moving back and forth between two locations which are Taylor House Museum and Buckingham Presbyterian Church, as they have allowed us to use their space and are walking distance from our office. Each week will be a different theme and we have different organizations coming out to teach lessons. Our themes include Art, Fitness, Game, Animal, Stem, Water, Culinary, and Kindness week (see the attached schedule – noting that there are two schedules for each month for the two age groups). Also, this year we will send a newsletter to families every Friday, so parents will be constantly updated on what the next week's theme is, whether they need to send their child with any supplies or extra clothing and give them a chance to see pictures of the campers in action. We are thankful for everyone who is making the BYC camp possible this summer.



BYC SUMMER PROGRAM

Free Outdoor
Adventures
Every Week!

(Ages 6-12)
Must be a Berlin resident.

Limited to 10
campers per group.

CDC guidelines in place



Camp Themes - art,
fitness, games, animals,
STEM, water, culinary,
and kindness
Sign Up Today!

Contact:
Leslie Dixon
410-641-4598
ldixon@gowoyo.org

July 5th -
August 23th

Tue-Thurs

Time :

ages 6-9 : 9 - 12 pm

ages 10-12 : 1 - 4 pm



2021 JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Art week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian	6 9-10: Creating stepping stones 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Clay modeling	7 9-10: Bird houses 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Wind chimes	8 9-10: Paper Spinner Toy 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: TC Studios	9	10
11	12 Fitness week Location: Taylor House	13 9-10: Balloon Tennis 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Yoga	14 9-10: CrossFit 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: CrossFit	15 9-10: Fitness dice 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Obstacle course	16	17
18	19 Game week Location: Taylor House	20 9-10:Charade & Pictionary 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Jeopardy	21 9-10: Disc golf & Simon says 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Chalk games, hula hoops and jump ropes	22 9-10: Bingo & Hangman 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Scavenger hunt	23	24
25	26 Animal week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian	27 9-10: Animal peekaboo 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Coastal kids	28 9-10: Animal trivia 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Assateague Park	29 9-10: Coastal bay 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Coastal bay	30	31

2021 JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Art week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian	6 1-2: Creating stepping stones 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Clay modeling	7 1-2: Bird houses 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Wind chimes	8 1-2:TC Studios 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Paper Spinner Toy	9	10
11	12 Fitness week Location: Taylor House	13 1-2: Yoga 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-12: Balloon Tennis	14 1-2: CrossFit 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: CrossFit	15 1-2: Fitness dice 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Obstacle course	16	17
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25	26 Animal week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian	27 1-2: Coastal kids 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Animal peekaboo	28 1-2: Assategue Park 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Animal trivia	29 1-2: Coastal bay 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Coastal bay	30	31

2021 AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Stem week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian	3 9-10: Catapult, Snow in a jar 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Straw tower & airplane	4 9:00-9:30: Paper chain challenge 9:30-10:00: Food & BR break 10:00-12: M4 Reactor	5 9-10: Rocket car 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Water tower & Design a maze	6	7
8	9 Water week Location: Taylor House	10 9-10: Squirt tag & Boat race 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Water bowling & WB baseball	11 9-10: WB toss 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: WB race	12 9-10: Fill the bucket 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Sponge Darts	13	14
15	16 Culinary week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian	17 9-12: Creating graham cracker scenes and movie	18 9-10: Guess the condiment 10-12: Pizza making and movie	19 9-12: Wrap making and snow cones/ popsicles	20	21
22	23 Kindness week Location: Taylor House	24 9-10: Kindness rocks 10-10:45: Food & BR break 10:45-12: Time capsules	25 9-11: Make tie dye towels. 11-12: MYOP Minority Outreach Project	26 9-12: Last Day fun! Including pizza, wings, games, camp board, signing camp shirts and a movie	27	28
29	30	31				

2021 AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Stem week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian 2	1-2: Catapult, Snow in a jar 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Straw tower & airplane 3	1-3: M4 Reactor 3-3:30: Food & BR break 3:30-4: Spider Web Challenge 4	1-2: Rocket car 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Water tower & Design a maze 5	6	7
1		1-2: Squirt tag & Boat race 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Water bowling & WB baseball 10	1-2: WB toss 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: WB race 11	1-2: Fill the bucket 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Sponge Darts 12	13	14
8	Water week Location: Taylor House 9					
	Culinary week Location: Buckingham Presbyterian 16	1-4: Creating graham cracker scenes and movie 17	1-2: Guess the condiment 2-4: Pizza making and movie 18	1-4: Wrap making and snow cones/ popsicles 19	20	21
15						
22	Kindness week Location: Taylor House 23	1-2: Kindness rocks 2-2:45: Food & BR break 2:45-4: Time capsules 24	1-2: MYOP 2-4: Make tie dye towels. 25	1-4: Last Day fun! Including pizza, wings, games, camp board, signing camp shirts and a movie 26	27	28
29	30	31				

Draft

Art Week Adventure!

by Leslie Dixon

This week the kids started off making beautiful and unique stepping stones, bird houses, and wind chimes! Above shows a picture of them hard at work. They also did clay modeling, designed tote bags and lastly they created amazing paintings with TC Studios !

Weekly raffle:

As an incentive we will be doing a raffle every week in which we will draw 2-3 names and they will be given a prize ! Everyone will have a chance to be a winner!

This week's winners are !!!!!

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We would like to thank all of our camp participants and everyone who is contributing to making this year's twist to summer camp happen!

Upcoming:

Next week will consist of fitness week in which they will be doing yoga and cross fit with instructors. If you are not familiar with cross fit it is sort of like a strength and conditioning workout! There will also be an obstacle course, and lastly we will be creating our own form of a tennis racket to play balloon tennis!

Items to send with your child:

Nothing is needed this week!