



*City of Bristol
Board of Park Commissioners*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/88962098471?pwd=tUIEr2YCTI5twlitd8mgsAnQheYx9p.1>

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Meeting Room 1-2 in City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Chair
Robert Fiorito, Vice Chair
Cynthia Donovan, Commissioner
Aaron Weber, Commissioner
Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent
Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent

Absent:

Mark Dickau, City Council Liaison

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Donovan to Approve the January 21, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito; all in favor; motion carried.

3. Public Participation

Erik Madsen, of 70 Oak Hill Drive in Bristol, and Friends of the Hoppers Birge Pond Preserve Board Member presented an update on the most recent decisions made about the land purchased off of Ambler Road and Grassy Road; discussion followed.

5. Old Business

- a. Consider a Request from the City Arts and Culture Commission to install a polyresin heart sculpture at Federal Hill Green or Alternate Location.**

Walter Lewandoski, Chair of the City Arts and Culture Commission, presented the request to install a polyresin heart sculpture at Federal Hill Green or an alternate location. The intention is to have more heart sculptures around the city. The Federal Hill area is the geographical center of Bristol, making this location desirable; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the Heart Sculpture Location as the South East Corner of Federal Hill Green.
Seconded by Commissioner Weber; all in favor; motion carried.

- b. By Commissioners**

Nothing to Report.

6. New Business

- a. Consider a request from the Bristol Military Museum & Veterans Council for a Women's Monument**

Carol Denehy, of the Memorial Military Museum in Bristol, and Rick Carello, Chair of the Bristol Veterans Council, delivered a presentation on the importance of gathering stories and highlighting the women that served in the military, and presented the request for a Women's Monument on the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito support the concept of creating a Women's Monument and to return to the Board of Park Commissioners with a plan.
Seconded by Commissioner Weber, all in favor; motion carried.

- b. Acceptance of a \$20,000.00 Donation from Jim Cleveland to support the creation of the Jim Cleveland Wildflower Field at the Pigeon Hill Preserve and discuss next steps for project implementation.**

Commissioner Cynthia Donovan presented the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department with a \$20,000.00 check from Jim Cleveland to support the creation of the Jim Cleveland Wildflower Field at the Pigeon Hill Preserve; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Donovan to accept the \$20,000.00 donation from Jim Cleveland for signage at the Jim Cleveland Wildflower Field and refer the donation to the

Bristol City Council.

Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito, all in favor; motion carried.

c. Preliminary Bristol Blues Baseball Contract Discussion and schedule follow-up meeting as needed.

Jordan Scheiner, General Manager of Bristol Blues Baseball, delivered a presentation outlining the organization's history and provided a summary of the past year's activities and operations. Mr. Scheiner discussed plans for the upcoming season; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to refer the Bristol Blues Contract discussion to the Finance Committee.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

4. Superintendent's Report

a. Division Supervisor's Report

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Division Supervisor's Report; discussion followed.

b. Project Updates

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Project Updates. Superintendent Medeiros highlighted the ADA Audit bid results, the installation of the diving board and starting blocks at the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center, Page Park, and Rockwell Park; discussion followed.

c. Year to Date Financials

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Year-to-Date Financials; discussion followed.

d. Strategic Plan Updates

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Strategic Plan Updates; discussion followed.

Commissioner Donovan inquired about obtaining a copy of the 2020 Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Master Plan for current and new commissioners; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to place the Superintendent's Report on file. Seconded by Commissioner Weber, all in favor; motion carried.

6. New Business

c. Preliminary Bristol Blues Baseball Contract Discussion and schedule follow-up meeting as needed.

Jordan Scheiner, General Manager of Bristol Blues Baseball, delivered a presentation outlining the organization's history and provided a summary of the past year's activities and operations. Mr. Scheiner discussed plans for the upcoming season; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to refer the Bristol Blues Contract discussion to the Finance Committee.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

d. Approve the conceptual design for the Veterans Memorial Boulevard Riparian Buffer as previously approved through the BPRYCS Geese Management Plan

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the conceptual design for the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard Riparian Buffer as previously approved through the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Geese Management Plan. The department partnered with the Farmington River Watershed Association to create the preliminary concept; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Donovan to approve the conceptual design for the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard Riparian Buffer as previously approved through the BPRYCS Geese Management Plan.

Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito, all in favor; motion carried.

e. Approve the 2026 All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award Program

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu presented the 2026 All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award Program. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu outlined the qualifications for the program and highlighted that the deadline for applications is March 31, 2026; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the 2026 All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award Program as modified.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

f. Approve the Winter Operations Plan as part of the BPRYCS Policy Manual

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Winter Operations Plan as part of the BPRYCS Policy Manual; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the Winter Operations Plan.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

g. Workshop Ideas for strategic objectives to improve public perception of park safety and development of a public awareness on littering campaign.

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the workshop ideas for the strategic objectives to improve public perception of park safety and development of a public awareness on litter campaign; discussion followed. No action was taken.

h. By Commissioners

Commissioner Donovan recalled in the 2020 Master Plan, that the department could take a role in helping the homeless. Commissioner Donovan shared how other communities help the homeless through a step-by-step process. Commissioner Donovan asked if there was anything Bristol could do that is similar. Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated that there has been a discussion about consolidating and organizing some of the functions, that will include transitional housing, while collaborating with all the local organizations; discussion followed.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu informed the commissioners that Cecilia Garay has transitioned to the Youth Commission, and Robert Parenti has been appointed to the Board of Education, and Lenny Lamothe has resigned. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu has been conducting interviews for the 3 vacancies and is hopeful for new additions in March.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu inquired if the West End Association was still interested in holding the Rockwell Festival. Staff asked to follow up.

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu updated the commission on the discussions surrounding Chippabee Golf Course and the West Cemetery; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to send a Letter of Thanks to Commissioner Lamothe for his years of service.

Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

7. Reports and Committee Reports

a. Fund Development & Advocacy Committee

Nothing to Report.

b. Policy & Strategy Committee

Nothing to Report.

c. Finance Committee

Nothing to Report.

d. City Council Liaison Report

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu stated City Council Liaison Dickau was absent due to the required attendance for a speaking engagement at the Forestville Association. Nothing to report.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners