



*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, April 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Meeting Room 1-2 in City Hall, 111 North Main Street, Bristol, CT 06010.

1. Call to Order

City Council Member Erick Rosengren called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., serving as Chair Pro Tem for this meeting.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

City Council Member Erick Rosengren,
Chair Pro Tem
Robert Fiorito, Vice Chair
Cynthia Donovan, Commissioner
Julie Metzroth, Commissioner
Mark Dickau, City Council Liaison
Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent
Sarah Larson, Deputy Superintendent

Absent:

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Chair
Jonathan Bradley, Commissioner
Aaron Weber, Commissioner

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes - March 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the March 18, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

3. Public Participation

Nothing to report.

4. Superintendent's Report

a. Division Supervisor's Report

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

b. Project Updates

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Project Updates. Superintendent Medeiros shared that the department has completed interviews for the ADA Audit and Transition Firm. Phase One of the Page Park Revitalization has been completed, and they are currently waiting for Eversource to come out to turn the power on to the new electrical pad, and have the final walkthrough by the end of the month. Once this is complete, Yield Industries will begin Phase Two of the project. The department is still waiting for the MOU from the state for Rockwell Park, and the Park Maintenance Building Improvements are set to begin in August. The Jim Cleveland Wildflower Project has been added to the project spreadsheet. Dr. Medeiros stated that \$120,000.00 has been donated to the project from Mr. Cleveland to the department and the Environmental Learning Center of CT. The Environmental Learning Center of CT is currently working on a non-chemical approach to address the mug wort as the first step in the process. Discussion followed.

c. Year to Date Financials

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented Year to Date Financials. Superintendent Medeiros stated that with the fiscal year coming to an end, the department feels confident, and will be able to cover overages within the department. Discussion followed.

d. Trust Fund Portfolio Executive Summary

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Trust Fund Portfolio Executive Summary. Superintendent Medeiros stated the Trust Fund accounts have been performing well, and the department will continue to monitor the changes due to current world inflation. Discussion followed.

e. Strategic Plan Updates

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Strategic Plan Updates. Superintendent Medeiros stated that there has been great progress on the Littering and Park Safety Campaigns, and will hear more details later on the agenda. Discussion followed.

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

5. Old Business

a. Hoppers-Birge Pond Boardwalk Approach and Fundraising

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Hoppers-Birge Pond Boardwalk Approach and Fundraising. The Friends of the Hoppers-Birge Pond Group submitted their certificate of insurance and signed the Memorandum of Understanding. Chair Pro Tem Erick Rosengren reported that the City Council approved the purchase of 6 acres of the Hoppers-Birge Pond property, using the Land Grant Funds. The vote will then go to the Board of Finance for final approval. Superintendent Medeiros stated that the \$250,000.00 is still remaining in the Capital Improvements Budget but will know for sure when the budget is adopted at the end of May. Discussion followed.

b. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

6. New Business

a. Presentation from Life Scout Hunter Michaud on his Eagle Scout Project

Life Scout Hunter Michaud, of Troop 425, presented an update on the Eagle Scout Project on invasive species. Mr. Michaud stated that he had completed the first part about two (2) weeks ago, picking up trash and removing some of the invasive plants. He will now be moving on to part two (2), signage, and will send the signage templates over to Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson. Discussion followed.

b. Presentation from UCONN Conservation Ambassador Program Participant, Esha Osioh, on storm-water quality testing data and recommendations

UCONN Conservation Ambassador Program Participant Esha Osioh, presented the storm-water quality testing data and recommendations. Ms. Osioh tested the pond water at Veteran's Memorial Boulevard and Page Park before and after winter. Ms. Osioh's found that Veteran's Memorial Boulevard was higher in nitrates and phosphates due to the heavy traffic and usage of salt during the winter. Ms. Osioh recommended reducing the volume and overspray of salt and suggested an alternative de-ice such as ice melt, which is less harmful to the environment. Discussion followed.

c. Consider a request from Bristol Little League for Peck Park Improvements

Bristol Little League President Scott Lodge presented the request for the Peck Park Improvements. The Bristol Little League is currently working on the weathered siding and signage on the front field, and are looking into long-term improvements to enhance the safety, aesthetics and playability of the fields. Bristol Little League would like to raise, crown and add lights to Watson Field. They requested the assistance of the department to regrade the culvert by the T-ball fields. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Donovan to Approve the Watson Field Renovation and Approve the Drainage Project based on feedback from the City's Engineers. Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito; all in favor; motion carried.

d. Selection of the All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award 2026

Commissioner Donovan presented the nominees for the All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award 2026. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to Award Jim Cleveland as the 2026 All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year. Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

e. Consider amendments to section 16-1 MV Use of Memorial Boulevard

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the amendments to section 16-1 MV use of Memorial Boulevard. Chair Pro Tem Erick Rosengren stated the City Council spoke on this subject the night before and determined that there are not many combination plates on the roads anymore, and it would be beneficial to move to a weight-based system. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to Approve the amendments to section 16-1 MV Use of Memorial Boulevard. Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

f. Place on file the 2026 DMAC Facility Impact Report

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the 2026 DMAC Facility Impact Report. Superintendent Medeiros stated the overall satisfaction is still high and pointed out some of the increases in ratings. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to place the 2026 DMAC Facility Impact Report on file. Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

g. Endorse strategic approaches to addressing Park Safety and Littering

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the strategic approach to addressing Park Safety and Littering. Superintendent Medeiros introduced the campaign "Be Part of the Solution, Not the Pollution." In 2025, Bristol Parks collected 186 tons of trash in the park, which is the equivalent weight of 2 Blue Whales or 45 Elephants. The department would like to carry this message across the city and help relaunch the Green Team in June. Superintendent Medeiros asked the commission to assist in spreading the word about the campaign. Superintendent Medeiros mentioned that police presence was the number one (1) concern within the department and the commission, as well as more cameras, lighting and temporary speed bumps. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to Endorse the Strategic approaches to address Park Safety and Littering.

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

h. Approval of the Arbiter Sports Payment Processing Policy

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson presented the Arbiter Sports Payment Processing Policy for the Pony League Program. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Fiorito to approve the Arbiter Sports Payment Processing Policy. Seconded by Commissioner Metzroth; all in favor; motion carried.

i. Approval of the Rockwell Park Invasive Weed Management Plan

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson presented the Rockwell Park Invasive Weed Management Plan. Developed by Landscape Gardener Steven Schriver, to outline the management and maintenance of invasive species throughout Rockwell Park. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the Rockwell Park Invasive Weed Management Plan.

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

j. Approval of the Pool Inclement Weather Policy

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson presented the Pool Inclement Weather Policy. The most notable change in the policy is in the event of school closings, but after school programs are allowed, the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center will have a delayed opening. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to approve the Pool Inclement Weather Policy. Seconded by Commissioner Metzroth; all in favor; motion carried.

k. By Commissioners

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to adjourn at 7:56 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Donovan; all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners