



*City of Bristol
Board of Park Commissioners*

INFORMATION TO ACCESS MEETING

<https://bristolct-gov.zoom.us/j/81712509452?pwd=indaPfDaVNbIYNh8285k3xMCyPvRbd.1>

1. Call to Order

Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Members Present:

Chair Jeffrey Caggiano, Mayor
Commissioner Sandra Bogdanski
Commissioner Cynthia Donovan
Commissioner Robert Fiorito
Commissioner Leonard Lamothe
Commissioner Robert Lawson
City Council Liaison Jacqueline Olsen
Superintendent Joshua Medeiros
Deputy Superintendent Sarah Larson

Absent:

Commissioner Emily Michaud

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: September 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Bogdanski to Approve the September 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito, all in favor, motion carries.

3. Public Participation

Tom Doyle, of 181 Sherwood Rd in Bristol, started with an apology for missing the Roberts Property Site Walk. Mr. Doyle quoted Governor Lemont in stating, " We have enough development, we need more open space." Mr. Doyle believes that the City of Bristol also needs

more open space. Mr. Doyle reminded the Board of Park Commissioners of the Hoppers' great history and that we may never see anything like it again.

Jan Gatzuras, of 517 Church Hill St in Southington, is a former long-time Bristol resident. Ms. Gatzuras is opposed to allowing P & B Properties to have machinery access through the Roberts Property Park. She stated that the Hoppers is a preserve with a delicate ecosystem. Ms. Gatzuras asked if the Board of Park Commissioners approved P & B Properties' access to the Roberts Property, that they use smaller machinery that would not disturb any more of the land.

Michael Simmons, of 35 Jensen Ave in Bristol, thanked the Board of Park Commissioners for allowing him time to speak on the matter of P & B Properties' access to the Roberts Property. He described the Hoppers as "a beautiful, vibrant, and significant tack of land in our city." Mr. Simmons stated that the Board of Parks Commissioners had been intrusted in the proper stewardship of that land and asked if it was one of the Bristol Parks and Recreation's Core Values," to manage city parks and open space to preserve natural resources and park assets for future generations ". Mr. Simmons implied that the Board of Park Commission deny P & B Properties' request, and stand on the side of Nature.

Michael Panet, of 327 Perkins St. in Bristol, thanked the Board of Park Commissioners for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Panet is opposed to any and all destructive development and environmental probing of the area of the Hoppers Preserve and to preserve the geological formations that have been there since the Ice Age. He stated that any disturbance in and around these formations would end up in a disaster and further the potential of losing one of Connecticut's " Hidden Wonders". Mr. Panet suggested that some of the funds that were allocated to the revitalization of Rockwell Park help purchase the Hoppers.

Eric Madsen, 70 Oak Hill Dr. in Bristol, spoke in opposition to allowing P & B Properties to access through Roberts Property Park. Mr. Madsen stated, to the best of his knowledge, that the developer does not have any development plans on file with either Inland & Wetlands or Planning & Zoning Departments. He also brought forth the talks of the developer in negotiations with the city in order for the city to purchase part of the park and asked" why are we here to discuss the developers' use of a drill rig to damage both the park and the property to be purchased as a park?"

Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Chair, presented a summary of last month's Board of Park Commissioners Meeting.

Mr. James Pryor from P&B Properties, reminded the Board Of Park Commissioner of the proposal to use Robert's Property to conduct soil testing on private property.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Lawson to move up Section 5a. Request from P&B Properties to access Robert's Property to Conduct Soil Testing on Private Property. Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor, motion carried.

a. Request from P & B Properties to access Robert's Property to Conduct Soil Testing on Private Property

Mayor Jeff Caggiano, Chair, presented the Request from P&B Properties to access Robert's Property to Conduct Soil Testing on Private Property. Mayor Caggiano stated that

the Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Grant (O.S.W.A Grant) is open until December 2, 2024. This grant is 75% state funded and 25% City funded. James Pryor spoke about the plan in which P&B Properties would like to bring their equipment and stated that what they believe will be minimal damage. Mayor Caggiano opened up the meeting for discussion with the rest of the Board of Park Commissioners; discussion followed.

Superintendent Josh Medeiros presented a high level overview of the 10 year Capital Improvement Plan. There was a request for \$100,000.00 to restore the trail system. Superintendent Medeiros stated that after the site walk, and consulting with other city professionals, that the motion does not make sense now; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to table the decision to allow or deny access to the Robert's Property Park by P&B Properties pending negotiations between the City and the Developer on the sale of a piece of the Hoppers property.
Seconded by Commissioner Lawson, all in favor, motion carried.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to move up Section 6a., Consider the Request from the Chamber of Commerce to Expand the BrewFest 2025, on the agenda.
Seconded by Commission Lawson, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Consider a Request from the Chamber of Commerce to Expand the BrewFest 2025

Johnny Burnham from the Central CT Chamber of Commerce presented the Proposal to expand the BrewFest in 2025. The Central CT Chamber of Commerce had the idea of having a national act come in for a concert that would be on Muzzy field. The would like to host the event the weekend after Labor Day, September 5th and 6th, 2025. This would require a large portable stage and would be placed on the field; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to deny the Request from the Chamber of Commerce to Expand the BrewFest in 2025 and encouraged the Chamber of Commerce to return in 2025 for discussion for 2026.
Seconded by Commissioner Lawson, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Superintendent's Report

a. Monthly Division Updates

Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Monthly Division Updates. Superintendent Medeiros presented the update on the results of the National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Awards, the grant approval for a new Splash Park ADA Trails at Rockwell Park ; discussion followed.

b. Project Updates

Superintendent Joshua Medeiros presented the Project Updates. Superintendent

Medeiros' updates included the approval of the ADA Trails for the Veteran's Memorial Boulevard and the maintenance building improvements; discussion followed.

c. Department Financials

Superintendent Josh Medeiros pressed the Department's Financials, and stated that everything is on track; discussion followed.

Vice Chair Fiorito suggested that there be a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Page Park Revitalization; 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. Annual Approval of the BPRYCS Policy Manual

Mayor Jeff Caggiano presented the Annual Approval of the BPRYCS Policy Manual.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to Approve the Annual Approval of the BPRYCS Policy Manual. Seconded by Commissioner Donovan, all in favor, motion carried.

6. New Business

a. Determine a Direction of the Restoration of Demolition of the Damaged Rockwell Park Comfort Station

Superintendent Josh Medeiros presented the discussion of the Direction of the Restoration or Demolition of the Damaged Rockwell Park Comfort Station. It is an estimated \$6,000 to demolish the building or about \$10,000 to restore the building; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Bogdanski to add a Request from Adam Whitlock for Bristol Girl Little League Softball to the agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito, all in favor, motion carried.

6b. Request from Adam Whitlock for Bristol Girl Little League Softball

Superintendent Josh Medeiros presented the Request from Adam Whitlock for Lights for Bristol Girls Little League Softball fields. The Bristol Girls Little League Softball has recently been rewarded with a grant that would replace the lights for some of their softball fields if approved by the Board of Park Commission; discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Lamothe to Approve the Request from Adam Whitlock for the new Lights on the Bristol Little League Girls Softball Fields. Seconded by Vice Chair Fiorito, all in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Lamothe presented the idea of the Holiday Lights for this year. He had generously offered to purchase lights for Rockwell Park to add some holiday cheer to the space; discussion followed.

7. Reports and Committee Reports

a. Fund Development Committee

None.

b. Policy Committee

None.

c. Finance Committee

None.

d. City Council Liaison

None.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Fiorito to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.
Seconded by Commissioner Lawson, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Board of Parks Commissioners