

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016 @ 7:00 PM**  
Open Meeting - Council Chambers - Town Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Timothy Quillen	Chairman	Present
Cheryl Dowdell	Vice Chair	Present
Julia Beasley	Commissioner	Present
Ryan Campbell	Commissioner	Present
Sonita K. Cummings	Commissioner	Present
David Currier	Commissioner	Present
Keith D. DeMerchant	Commissioner	Present
Donna M. Deyorio	Commissioner	Present
Jodi Frank	Commissioner	Present
Richard E. Horstmann	Commissioner	Present
Thomas L. Nowell	Commissioner	Absent
Edward Vazquez	Commissioner	Absent
Holly Eaves	Commissioner	Present

Also present was Town Council Liaison Bonnie Van Slyke, Parks and Recreation Director Vicky Hilton and Assistant Director Ray DeFalco.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 16, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [8 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Holly Eaves, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Dowdell, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

b. April 26, 2016 Minutes

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [10 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Holly Eaves, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Deyorio
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

3. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

4. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Town Council Liaison Bonnie Van Slyke mentioned that sign up for the National Grid program was close to meeting the requirement.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Naming of the New Pavilion in Ninigret Park to the Daniel M. Alves Pavilion

Parks and Recreation Director Vicky Hilton reported that it was easier when people rent the pavilion to have a name for it. She was open to discussion if there were any ideas for a name for the new pavilion.

It was mentioned that Mr. Alves served on the Commission for ten (10) years. Some of his accomplishments were noted. It was noted that he lives in South Kingstown, but that it was a community and state park with federal dollars and that it could be looked at with a wider scope. The Commission cited The Bliven Playground and Robert Schiedler Dog Park being named after people..

Commissioner DeMerchant noted that there was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner that lived in Charlestown.

Commissioner Dowdell motioned to study and consider the item and put it back on the agenda in three (3) months.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [10 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cheryl Dowdell, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Keith D. DeMerchant, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank
<b>NAYS:</b>	Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

b. Additional Priorities in Ninigret Park

Chairman Quillen mentioned that he spoke to the Town Administrator about the Recreation Center lights and that when it was first put forward there was opposition to the solar powered lights. As the solar powered lights required the lighting to be higher and more lights and more illuminated. The lighting around the Town Hall is dark sky compliant and had cost \$30,000.

Commissioner Beasley spoke about the ice skating rink. She mentioned that there was a stock pile of lumber for the warming shed that wasn't discussed and that there had never been a design for the building of it. She continued that the budget was the basic maintenance for the rink to keep it going and that if there was the right winter the rink is packed every weekend, and that for the size of the rink it is fully used.

Councilor Van Slyke mentioned the crack sealing for the criterium and that the Town Administrator had found out the cost would be about \$10,000.

Commissioner Frank asked about the crack sealing and if it was the same as last time.

Councilor Van Slyke reported that it was different crack sealing.

Commissioner Frank noted that it would preserve the criterium track until the festivals could get off of it.

The Commission discussed adding the item to the list at number four (4). The Commission discussed where it fell on the list.

The Commission discussed moving crack sealing to number four (4), move additional restrooms to number five (5), bike path to number six (6), and additional playground equipment to seven (7).

The Commission discussed the disc golf request and the three (3) projects at \$3,000 per project.

Commissioner Campbell noted that the list was two-fold, for the bond money and to help the Director with prioritization associated with any additional funding that came in whether it be from a grant or other.

The Commission discussed who it was to make the decision of what monies get spent on it. The Commission discussed the Master Plan.

Commissioner Beasley asked about the event center and if that was mentioned at the last meeting.

Chairman Quillen noted that this list is not the final list and that it is fluid and that the Commission can keep moving forward with it.

The Commission discussed that it was a big concession to take the event center off the table at the Master Plan meetings because they wanted to move forward with the meetings and the workshop.

Commissioner Eaves noted that infrastructure did come up at the meeting and that the project would need to be reviewed in greater detail. That the Commission was trying to get the secondary priority list as requested at the Town Council meeting to address where any additional money would go. That the list was a running list for Parks and Recreation, for the Director, for grants, bond monies and for capital and future improvements.

The Commission discussed the bike path in the Master Plan.

Commissioner Dowdell noted that at the workshops expanding the walking trails was discussed. The Bike Pathways Ad Hoc was set into motion to connect Westerly and South Kingstown; that the Bike Pathways is a separate entity outside the Parks and Recreation Commission and that there are two (2) factions working their way up to get something done.

The Commission discussed the history of the Bicycle Ad Hoc Committee’s plan.

Commissioner Eaves noted the reason it is on the secondary list was because the Commission cited things that needed to be addressed and where any excess monies would be expended and to address the requests that were coming to the Commission.

Motion to add crack sealing to the list of additional priorities as number four.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Holly Eaves, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

Commissioner Eaves mentioned she had drafted a letter regarding the advisories.

Chairman Quillen noted 1. Recreation Center Lighting, 2. Ice Skating Rink, 3. Disc Golf, 4. Crack Sealing the Criterium, 5. Additional Restrooms, 6. Bike Path, 7. Additional Playground Equipment.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Holly Eaves, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

- c. Request of an Advisory from the Parks and Recreation Commission to be Forwarded in Time for the June 13, 2016 Town Council Meeting on Investing \$37,970 to Add the Zip Krooz Handicapped Playground Equipment to the Existing Playground Equipment in a Kid's Place Playground in Ninigret Park to be Paid for from the \$1 M Bond

Commissioner Cummings noted approximately one-third of the bond was already earmarked.

Commissioner Dowdell mentioned she had researched the item and that she was a tutor and teacher of students with special needs. She thanked the Town Council for asking for an advisory.

Commissioner Dowdell continued that she had gotten in touch with professionals to research the item. She also went to the playground. She noted that in the summer the population of Charlestown swells. There are seven (7) students at Chariho that have appliances and wheel chairs and some of those are out of district placement and are profound. She noted that no children of the two hundred eighty (280) that attend Charlestown School have a disability that precludes them from enjoying a playground for typical kids. She reported that the principal educator at Hope Valley School got funding for a wheelchair swing, and he reported that no children use it and it was removed for a safety issue.

Commissioner Dowdell continued that she spoke to an adaptive Physical Education educator who suggested a number of other equipment for kids with disabilities. Also, that a local parents group said they would not want to spend that much money on a zip line. That Meghan Taylor of ME O'Brien had reported that the equipment had never been installed in New England. The only place that had the equipment was CP Rochester in New York, and it was like the Trudeau Center. She noted that 50% of the Zip Krooz was for children with disabilities and that for those children a spotter is needed and recommended by the experts. Commissioner Dowdell mentioned that the Town Council and Cody Clarkin have installed a lot of new equipment in the park for children with disabilities and that more study is needed on the item. She continued that it would be beneficial to look at the item and understand what the community would like to see that would service kids with disabilities. She continued that the highest and best use of town treasure would not be for the Zip Krooz at this time.

Commissioner Dowdell noted that there was an existing zip line at the playground for kids without disabilities and that there was a swing for kids with disabilities and Cody Clarkin's incoming equipment. She had received some ideas from a parents group and that from a cost stand point that much money would not have to be expended to have wheel chair access for things that all kids can play with.

Commissioner Dowdell motioned that the advisory to the Town Council is that based on the research that was done at this time this is not the highest and best use of Town treasure, whether it is from the bond money or from other money and that it needs more study and that things should be purchased in additions to the park for kids with disabilities that are appropriate.

Richard Horstmann approved the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

Commissioner Dowdell motioned to advise the Town Council, based on the research to not purchase the Zip Krooz. Further study of equipment purchases for an inclusive playground can be studied at a future date. The

Commission suggests that more inclusive equipment be looked at using the best and highest use of Town treasure.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cheryl Dowdell, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

- d. Request of an Advisory from the Parks and Recreation Commission to be Forwarded in Time for the June 13, 2016 Town Council Meeting on the Award of the Ninigret Park Multi-Purpose Trail Bid to Cardi Corporation for an Amount Not to Exceed \$266,927

Chairman Quillen reported that he had asked the Town Administrator a multiple of times if a funding source could be identified so the Commission would know if it was going to be asked to come out of the \$1 million bond fund. Chairman Quillen reported the Town Administrator didn't know and that multiple funding sources were identified.

Commissioner Eaves mentioned that if that was known she may have voted differently on the list of secondary priorities.

Commissioner Eaves noted that in the secondary priority list the Commission made the recommendation that it does think it is a very low priority; however it was her opinion that it not go forward at the current cost, and that their true goal should be reconsidered. Commissioner Eaves mentioned it was her opinion that it should potentially go to vote, or the scope of the project should be reduced and changed as it was nowhere near the originally proposed plan.

Commissioner Horstmann recommended it be approved as it is a valuable asset to the Town.

The Commission discussed the difference between the bike path and the multi-use trail. The Commission then discussed the name change of the Multi-Use Bike Path.

Commissioner Dowdell noted that there were two (2) entities, one (1) is a committee that reports to the Town Council and is working on something in the park. Then there is the Parks and Recreation Commission that is working on the priority of expanding the walking trails.

Commissioner Dowdell noted that the cost of the bike path was 3,700% more expensive than the original plan proposed and that the police department had reported that there were no accidents with recreational bikers or pedestrians in the park.

The cost and the competing trails were discussed.

Chairman Quillen noted that it started out as a \$7,000 bicycle path, that was going to use volunteers and that the cost has escalated to \$266,000.

Commissioner Dowdell mentioned that at the workshops the priority was not a bike path, but to expand the walking trails and that was the project the Commission was charged with.

Commissioner Frank noted that it was not just the money but adding more pavement in the park that doesn't need to be paved anymore. She continued that paving an enormous path would be a travesty and that the existing macadam could be used.

Commissioner Beasley noted that at the initial meeting the impression was given that it was going to be street cleaners and making a loop around the playground and that the whole loop was already paved at a cost of \$7,000 to \$10,000.

Chairman Quillen noted that the initial group when it went before the Commission mentioned boots on the ground and doing some physical work and that there hasn't been any work done on the ground.

Deb Carney gave a recap of the history of the bike path. She mentioned a presentation given by Faith LaBossiere to the Town Council on November 3, 2014 where she outlined how it was started. That on June 14th there was a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission for their written request for the Town Council for the formation of a pathways subcommittee. Ms. LaBossiere was unable to attend the meeting and asked Frank Glista to attend. From Town Council minutes dated July 17, 2014, "Mr. Glista addressed the Council, noting that Faith LaBossiere was unable to attend this evening. He explained that in 2007 there was a Route 1 Corridor Study Advisory ad hoc Committee; the maps distributed to the Council were a result of a July 24, 2007 bikeway workshop, showing a potential concept of a bikeway from Westerly to South Kingstown lines involving State roads, private roads, Association roads, Town roads and other pathways. He presented that idea of forming an ad hoc committee to look at these areas and the possibility to connect the dots." Then there was a motion made to approve the pathways committee. Ms. Carney noted that the presentation that was given to and approved by the Town Council regarding their Committee goal in May of 2015 was to create a safe recreational cycling, pedestrian linear park. It was noted they met with representatives outside the town. Ms. Carney continued that never at any point did they ask to do a loop in Ninigret Park.

Commissioner Eaves mentioned that on the 2004 survey the bike path was very low and that is why it was low on the secondary priority list. That it was too costly at \$266,927 and it was too much to spend on a project that is adding more pavement to the park. The Master Plan does state that bike lanes should be provided and that is a goal that is not being provided.

Commissioner Dowdell motioned that the advisory is not to award the bid to Cardi Corporation and to recommend to the Bicycle Pathway Ad Hoc Committee to go back to the original intent and reevaluate the purpose and that the desired goal of the bike pathways is not a closed route.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eaves.

The Commission discussed the request.

Commissioner Eaves reviewed the letter she drafted.

Commissioner Beasley read an excerpt of a letter from Faith LaBossiere dated April 28, 2016, "(t)he cost well exceeds what we lay people on the Committee anticipated. However, as we have learned, a properly constructed pathway is much like road construction and we all know how dear an expensive that is. The important aspect of this pathway is, that after carefully considered input from all stakeholders of the Park, this pathway links all the major features of the Park. The architect's first instruction was to create a stress free safe pathway that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. Further, the design and quality is the model for the Coastal Pathway which is the Committee's future goal." She continued that the Committee believes it is a stepping stone to the coastal pathway.

The Commission identified the route of the proposed pathway.

Commissioner Dowdell noted that she had not researched that the project was not put before the Town Council and that she did not feel comfortable putting that in the advisory.

The Commission reviewed the letter and discussed adding that it is adding pavement to a highly paved area is not recommended as number five (5).

The motion was withdrawn.

Ms. Carney mentioned that no funding source was identified with the bid and it was unclear if the funding was going to come from the bond or the Ninigret Park fund because that issue was never addressed.

Commissioner Beasley noted there were no bike stands in the proposed plan.

Commissioner Eaves motioned that regarding the bike path, it is our advisory that the project not go forth for the following reasons:

- 1) This bike path was not identified in the 2008 master plan. It is the opinion of this Commission that bond money cannot be expended on this project as there is no bike path in the Master Plan. The Plan states, "bike lanes should be provided linking various activity centers to Old Post Rd." The proposed bike path does not link various activity centers nor does it link to Old Post Rd.
- 2) The cost is too high. \$280,000 is too much money to spend on a project that was not on the original priority list approved by the Town Council in October 2015 nor was this bike path on the list of items that resident's wanted to see at Ninigret Park according to the 2004 survey. This project will expend bond funds that can instead be targeted to resident's wishes.
- 3) This bike path is not what was presented and approved by the Council in June 2015. The project that was approved was for \$7,000. This is a vastly different proposal. Also, the original intent of the group has morphed into an inadequate version of the idea. Bike paths are a type of linear park. This proposed one mile circuit within Ninigret Park does not meet the linear park idea.
- 4) It is acknowledged that parents of children riding bikes around the playground would like a safe place for their children to ride unencumbered by vehicular traffic. We feel this can be accomplished with a smaller scale, less expensive plan. This can be accomplished with a space specifically designated for this purpose. This can be done with gates and no further road pavement. The road next to the playground can be gated for this purpose. To extend it, maybe a path could be paved around the playground to attain a ¼ mile length. This would reduce the scale of the project and meet the evolved goal of providing this space to people in the park. This would be the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation department.
- 5) Additional pavement in an already heavily paved area is not recommended.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [10 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Holly Eaves, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Campbell
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town Adoption of the 2014 Draft to the Master Plan

Commissioner Dowdell wanted to make sure that it was acknowledged that the Commission was asked to work on it and the Town spent money on it and volunteers spent time on it. She continued that it is important that the work is acknowledged, accepted and adopted.

The Commission discussed researching it and tabling the item for next month.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>NO VOTE TAKEN</b>
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7. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

a. Overall RI Flying Disc Championship

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

#### 8. PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### a. May Director's Report

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

#### 9. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### a. May Assistant Director's Report

Director Hilton explained the new pickle ball program.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

#### 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### a. Ninigret Park Entrance, Roads and Signage Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Dowdell reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) was out and that it was being phased.

##### b. Ninigret Park Trails Subcommittee Report

Commissioner Eaves reported that the Committee had met with the Town Administrator and there were some suggestions. A second draft of the trail was created. The trails could be multi-purpose trails and there was nothing to keep bikes or dogs off it. She continued that there was room for development of trails to be carved out. The changes from the original trail were identified. It was noted the trail was off the criterium and soccer fields.

Commissioner Eaves requested permission from the Commission to bring the trail forward to the Town Council for further input.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the Trails Committee had gone to the Bike Pathway Committee with the plan.

Commissioner Eaves noted that there wasn't a conflict of the two (2) paths and that the plan addressed the hiking/walking trail issue in the survey and Master Plan. She continued that there is nothing stopping multi-use from happening on the trail.

It was noted that the trail would be sanctioned.

Motion to approve the Ninigret Park Trails Subcommittee to present their preliminary plans to the Town Council at their next meeting.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cheryl Dowdell, Vice Chair
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez

c. Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee Report

There was no Friends of Ninigret Park report.

d. Dog Park Subcommittee Report

Chairman Quillen reported that he had weed wacked, mowed and performed cleanup. He mentioned that he was going to close off a third of the big dog park to plant grass seed.

11. TREE STEWARD'S REPORT

Commissioner Frank reported the invasives in the Frosty Drew area were being assessed. That Mr. Wronski had met with Boy Scout Cody Clarkin to discuss the trees.

12. LIAISON, COMMISSION, DIRECTOR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Commissioner Horstmann mentioned he enjoyed the flyover at the Air Memorial Sign Ceremony.

Commissioner Currier mentioned he had a great time at the Fishing Derby.

Commissioner Cummings mentioned it was an exciting summer coming up.

Commissioner DeMerchant mentioned there was good work being done on the hiking trail.

Commissioner Eaves mentioned that the bike path committee worked really hard, and thanked all those people for their work.

Chairman Quillen noted he had fun at the Fishing Derby and the Air Memorial sign ceremony.

Director Hilton mentioned that they were getting ready for summer and that the Fishing Derby went well and she appreciated everyone's work on the Subcommittees.

Commissioner Beasley mentioned she does appreciate the safety in the park for the bike path. She suggested to the Committee to get approval.

13. AGENDA REQUESTS

14. NEXT MEETING DATE - TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2016 AT 7:00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL'S TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 4540 SOUTH COUNTY TRAIL

15. NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Holly Eaves, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Quillen, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Nowell, Vazquez