

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 406

Approved July 27, 2018

WHEREAS, Kerry Kohring was born on February 13, 1944 in St Louis, Missouri to Harold Mathias Kohring and Lola Schoppe; and

WHEREAS, After his service as an Army medic in Korea, he attained his Master's Degree in Journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1971; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, Kohring and his family moved to Providence, Rhode Island where he took a job as copy editor at The Providence Journal, where he would remain until his retirement in 2010, after 36 years of diligent and commendable work; and

WHEREAS, He was an active member of the Providence Newspaper Guild and a fierce defender of worker's rights, becoming president of the Retired Members Council of the Providence Newspaper Guild after retirement; and

WHEREAS, An active member of his community, Kohring was noted as a familiar, warm, encouraging, and helpful presence in the Summit Neighborhood, serving as the Vice President of the Summit Neighborhood Association; and

WHEREAS, He worked on the North Main Street Revitalization Committee for a number of years and was instrumental in the recent Summit Avenue Park renovations and the community garden construction; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, he volunteered as a patient ambassador for the cardiac rehabilitation program at Miriam Hospital, encouraging people based on his own experiences as a patient; and

WHEREAS, Sadly, Kohring passed away unexpectedly on December 3, 2017 at his home in the Summit neighborhood at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sandy, and his two children, Mathias Kohring and his wife Laura and Megan Crane and her husband Jeffrey Crane; and

WHEREAS, Kerry Kohring will be remembered as a dear friend, devoted and attentive family member, and a wonderful and humble neighbor who simply wished to give something back whenever he could; and

WHEREAS, Naming the Summit Avenue Park in honor of Kerry Kohring's memory would be an appropriate and fitting tribute to his life and many contributions to our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City Council of the City of Providence does respectfully request that the Board of Parks Commissioners name the Summit Avenue Park, "Kerry Kohring Park."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Board of Parks Commissioners, the Superintendent of Parks, and Mrs. Sandra Kohring.

IN CITY COUNCIL

JUL 23 2018

READ AND PASSED

PRES.

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Mayor

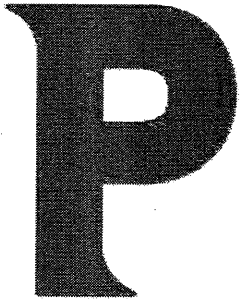
Date:

7/27/18

Hagen, Lori

From: Nilsson, Wendy
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2018 4:02 PM
To: Hagen, Lori
Subject: summit

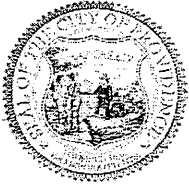
Hi Lori, I just received your request for support for Summit Park name change. Please know that I endorse this name change and will be presenting to the BOPC at the next meeting (TBD) for their approval. Thank you. Wendy



Wendy A. Nilsson

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PROVIDENCE THE CREATIVE CAPITAL



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

~ Meeting Minutes ~

Monday, March 19, 2018

8:15 A.M.

RWP Dalrymple Boathouse

This meeting was called to order at 8:29 a.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner John J. Igliozi; Commissioner Marilyn Cepeda-Andujar; Commissioner Elizabeth Gordon-Martin; Commissioner Elli Panichas; Subsequently, Chairman Elorza joined the meeting at 8:40 a.m. – 5.

ABSENT: Commissioner Nicholas Narducci; Commissioner Sara McConnell – 2.

Also present are Wendy Nilsson, Parks Superintendent; Brian Byrnes, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Jeremy Goodman, Executive Director; RWP Zoo; Jillian Barker, Associate City Solicitor, Law Department; Ethan Gyles, President of the Summit Neighborhood Association; Alison Hamel, Representative of RIDOT; Jessica David, Executive Director of Strategy and Community Investments at the RI Foundation; Megan Fischer, Executive Director of the RWP Conservancy; and Katherine Berroa, Assistant to the Superintendent.

In the absence of Chairman Elorza, the meeting was chaired by Commissioner Igliozi.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 8, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Igliozi entertained a motion to approve the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar. Motion passes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [4 to 4]
MOVER:	Commissioner Gordon-Martin
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar
AYES:	Commissioner Igliozi, Commissioner Gordon-Martin, Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar, Commissioner Panichas – 4.
ABSENT:	Chairman Elorza, Commissioner Narducci & Commissioner McConnell– 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE RWP CONSERVANCY, MEGAN FISCHER. *Discussion. Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent.*

Superintendent Nilsson introduced Megan Fischer as the New Executive Director of the Roger Williams Conservancy (Conservancy). Ms. Fischer joins the Conservancy with a vast history of experience in non-profit organizations, parks and urban agriculture. With over 13 years of experience in non-profits, Ms. Fischer has worked in the Providence Film Festival in the area of development and at the Children's Museum in programming, in conjunction with the Parks Superintendent and Neighborhood Parks. Jessica David, the Vice-chair of the RWP

Conservancy was also introduced. Jessica commented on her excitement to partner with the Parks Department in this role.

Following Superintendent Nilsson's introduction, no further comments were made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Igliazzi to receive agenda item number five. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar. Motion passes.

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE ROGER WILLIAMS PARK CONSERVANCY, INC., AND THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE." Discussion and possible vote. *Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent.*

Superintendent Nilsson described the positive working relationship between the Roger Williams Conservancy (Conservancy), and the Parks Department. The Superintendent emphasized how this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Exhibit A) will define the relationship between the City of Providence and the Roger Williams Park Conservancy for the next 10 years. The Superintendent acknowledged and thanked the Rhode Island Foundation (RIF) for their commitment and support for the Roger Williams Park through the 2015-2018 *Campaign for Roger Williams Park*. She further explained that this MOU follows the successful execution of the 2014 MOU between the City and RIF. The Conservancy will be building on the work of the RIF as it relates to that initial MOU.

The Superintendent asked Jessica David from the RIF for any additional comments regarding the MOU. Ms. David expressed gratitude for this official agreement with the City and the Conservancy.

Commissioner Igliazzi asked if anyone was present from the Law Department to comment on this agreement and if anyone from the Law Department has reviewed the MOU between the City and the RWP Conservancy. Associate City Solicitor Jillian Barker from the Law Department stated that she had not reviewed the document and had not been informed of any conversations between the Deputy City Solicitor and the Superintendent about this matter. The Superintendent interjected by adding that she had been working directly with Deputy City Solicitor Adrienne Southgate on this matter. The Superintendent relayed that she met with the Mayor, the City Solicitor Jeff Dana who had also consulted with Adrienne Southgate, Deputy City Solicitor to finalize this document.

Commissioner Igliazzi asked Superintendent Nilsson if City Solicitor Jeff Dana will be executing this document. In response to this question, the superintendent answered yes.

Commissioner Igliazzi requested a brief overview of the agreement between the RWP Conservancy and the Parks Department, City of Providence. Ms. Megan Fischer provided a brief summary of the MOU. She emphasized that the agreement is for ten years, and that the Conservancy will assist in programming, marketing, and fundraising to generate additional resources for the park. The City will provide office and parking space for staff as well as e-mail internet access. The Conservancy will not represent the Zoo or get involved in any issues related to Collective Bargaining Agreements. The funds raised by the Conservancy will stay with the Conservancy. The core functions of the Conservancy are to provide additional resources, as well as marketing and communication support to promote and plan programs. This agreement does

not include the zoo as the zoo is run by the Rhode Island Zoological Society under a separate agreement with the Parks Department.

Commissioner Igliazzi asked if Ms. Fischer's position is included in this contract. In response, the Superintendent answered that Ms. Fischer is the Executive Director of the Conservancy, which is a private non-profit organization. The Conservancy's Board of Directors oversees this role. Adding to this, Ms. Fischer explained the Superintendent of Parks and the Executive Director of the Zoological Society are ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of the Conservancy.

Commissioner Igliazzi further inquired about a dissolution clause in the event that either party chose to terminate the agreement before the end of the contract. Ms. Fischer stated that a clause of mutual agreement between both parties was added to the MOU to provide some flexibility to both parties.

Following this discussion, Commissioner Panichas also inquired about the impact this agreement would have on the Parks Department and if the agreement would impede in any way the normal functions of the department. Superintendent Nilsson explained that in no way this agreement would effect the department's normal operations adding that the Park falls directly under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent.

With no further comments or questions, Commissioner Igliazzi entertains a motion to authorize the Memorandum of Understanding between the Roger Williams Park Conservancy, Inc. and the City of Providence Parks Department as identified in agenda item number six. On motion of Commissioner Gordon-Martin and seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar, motion is approved.

Upon arrival of Chairman Elorza, Commissioner Igliazzi relinquishes the chair.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Commissioner Gordon-Martin
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar
AYES:	Chairman Elorza, Commissioner Gordon-Martin, Commissioner Panichas, Commissioner Igliazzi, Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar – 5.
ABSENT:	Commissioner Narducci and Commissioner McConnell – 2.

AUTHORIZATION TO NAME SUMMIT AVENUE PARK, KERRY KOHRING PARK.
Discussion and possible vote. *Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent.*

Superintendent Nilsson explained that Summit Avenue Park is a beloved neighborhood park and that the Parks Department has partnered with the Summit Neighborhood Association (SNA) and Kerry Kohring, in his association as a member and as the president of the SNA, on many park improvement projects. The Superintendent cited recent renovations to the playground that were made possible by the relationship Kerry fostered with Memorial Hospital. After a brief introduction, Superintendent Nilsson invited Mr. Ethan Gyles, President of the Summit Neighborhood Association to discuss in further detail why this park should be named Kerry Kohring Park (Exhibit B).

Mr. Gyles described Mr. Kerry Kohring as a dedicated and caring member of the community who dedicated much time and energy to the entire neighborhood. He further explained how Mr. Kohring was a much loved and respected presence in the neighborhood through his contributions to the park, the SNA, neighborhood events, and as a volunteer at Miriam Hospital. Mr. Kohring passed away late last year and there was unconditional support from a breadth of community stakeholders including City Councilor, Nirva LaFortune, Miriam Hospital, Summit Ave Garden and friends groups, SNA, and other community leaders, to name the park in his honor. Mr. Gyles also indicated how very pleased he was to have the opportunity of bringing this proposal forward.

Superintendent Nilsson added that a resolution from the City Council supporting the re-naming of this park had recently been approved.

Chairman Elorza made a remark that re-naming the park is an outstanding idea as Kerry Kohring was incredibly involved in the community and was also very involved in the SNA meetings. Chairman Elorza further commented on how this was a great way to honor Mr. Kohring's work in the community as an inspiration for other people to be more invested in the community. He thanked everyone for their involvement in bringing this proposal forward.

Public Comment: Mr. Kerry Kohring's son spoke and acknowledged that the park was not only special to the association, but also for being special to the community and to the children. He thanked everyone for their efforts in bringing this forward.

Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar: "Your father committed so much to Providence and you should be proud also, not everyone has that devotion for community work. That says a lot about your father."

With no further questions or comments, Chairman Elorza entertains a motion to authorize the naming of Summit Avenue Park to Kerry Kohring Park as indicated in item number seven in the agenda. On motion by Commissioner Panichas and Seconded by Commissioner Gordon Martin.

Motion is approved.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Commissioner Panichas
SECONDER:	Commissioner Gordon-Martin
AYES:	Chairman Elorza, Commissioner Gordon-Martin, Commissioner Panichas, Commissioner Igliozzi, Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar – 5.
ABSENT:	Commissioner Narducci and Commissioner McConnell – 2.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSAL FOR ZOO EXPANSION AT GATE 3 AREA OF ROGER WILLIAMS PARK TO ACCOMMODATE DELIVERIES AND NEW COMMISSARY. *Discussion and possible vote. Dr. Jeremy Goodman, Executive Director, RWP Zoo, RI Zoological Society and Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent.*

At the January 3, 2018 board meeting, Dr. Goodman presented plans for the approval of an expansion at Gate 3 (Exhibit C). At that time, Dr. Goodman was asked to dedicate two meetings to present the proposal for zoo expansion at Gate-3 area to the public and also to the RWP Conservancy and to bring the feedback from those meetings before the board for consideration of approval. Superintendent Nilsson asked Dr. Goodman to approach the board and further discuss the results of those meetings.

Dr. Goodman indicated that both meetings were held and there were no comments or suggestions that would alter the plans he presented to the board in January. He further indicated that he received positive feedback at these meetings.

Chairman Elorza thanked Dr. Goodman for taking those extra steps to reach out to the community for additional feedback.

Public Comment: Ms. Megan Fisher commented: "On behalf of the RWP Conservancy and its Board of Directors, we wish to make a public statement of support for the process by which the RWP Zoo's proposed changes to their perimeter and fencing at their Gate-3 access point came about. We appreciate the thoughtful and deliberate exchange between the Parks Department and the Zoo to arrive at a final proposal that gives careful attention to the Park's aesthetics, maintains and increases green space, and ensures that the needs of Park users remain a priority. We welcomed the chance for the Conservancy's Board to review and comment on this proposal, and the opportunity to bring it to the RWP community meeting for public comment. We look forward to having a voice and engaging the public in proposed changes to the Park in the future, and we welcome continued collaboration with the Parks Department and all Roger Williams Park entities to ensure the Park's long-term sustainability and that it serves the needs of the community."

With no further questions or comments, Chairman Elorza entertained a motion to approve item number eight as indicated in the agenda. Motion moved by Commissioner Igliozi and seconded by Commissioner Panichas. Motion is approved.

RESULT:	CONTINUED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Commissioner Igliozi
SECONDER:	Commissioner Panichas
AYES:	Chairman Elorza, Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar, Commissioner Gordon-Martin, Commissioner Panichas, Commissioner Igliozi – 5.
ABSENT:	Commissioner Narducci and Commissioner McConnell – 2.

APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH RIDOT FOR ROGER WILLIAMS PARK PONDS/ROUTE-10 STORMWATER RETROFIT.
Discussion and possible vote. Joseph D. Baker, P.E., Manager, Project Management for RIDOT; Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent.

Alison Hamel joined the meeting on behalf of Joseph Barker from the Department of Transportation. She explained that this project began with a grant application from Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and Rhode Island Department of transportation (RIDOT) for the City of Providence. Ms. Hamel explained that there is a structural

treatment agreement in place for stormwater management and referred to a consent agreement between RIDOT and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a requirement under that consent agreement to provide stormwater management on all RIDOT roadways and includes many municipalities. Providence is one of the first partnerships to plan the installation of these treatment units. RIDOT is installing two units: one off of Route-10, and the other inside the Park at Roger Williams Park at Roosevelt Lake. She further explained that the Construction and Maintenance Agreement (Exhibit D) is ready to be signed by the Parks Department, the Mayor, the City Solicitor and the City Council President.

Superintendent Nilsson confirmed both installation agreements were approved by the Board of Park Commissioners in August 2017 for stormwater treatment adding that this is a construction and maintenance agreement for the August 19 proposal. She further explained that Roger Williams Park will receive twenty nine additional stormwater treatment features. As a result, the park is being looked at regionally and nationally as a best practices demonstration site for water quality.

Ms. Hamel added that they are currently doing a number of trainings throughout the State and working with Providence Parks Department has set a great example for other collaborators. She cited the fall of 2017 training on the maintenance of these stormwater treatment units that took place at RWP Park and emphasized that this is a great partnership all around.

Chairman Elorza requested additional information about the work being done at the Roosevelt pond. Ms. Hamel explained that RIDOT will install a vegetated treatment system with native plants which will result in taking stormwater out of Route-10 and some from Elmwood Ave and treating it before it enters Roosevelt Lake. This will remove the contaminants from the pond before it enters the lake. There is a concrete box that is part of the system, which will be covered by natural vegetation which will look natural to the park.

With no further questions or comments, Chairman Elorza entertained a motion to approve agenda item number nine. Motion moved by Commissioner Igliozi and seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar. Commissioner Igliozi requests to abstain from item number nine. Motion passes.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Commissioner Igliozi
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar
AYES:	Chairman Elorza, Commissioner Gordon-Martin, Commissioner Panichas, Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar – 4.
ABSENT:	Commissioner Narducci and Commissioner McConnell – 2.
ABSTAIN:	Commissioner Igliozi - 1

AUTHORIZATION TO WITHDRAW FUNDS FROM THE EDWARD ELY TRUST FUND FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PERFORMING ARTS INITIATIVE. *Discussion and possible vote. Lizzie Araujo, Deputy Director of Art Culture + Tourism, and Wendy Nilsson, Superintendent.*

Superintendent Nilsson requested the withdrawal of \$42,647.00 from the Ely Trust fund which is 4% of the current balance. Lizzie Araujo from Art, Culture and Tourism further emphasized how the funding will be used (Exhibit E). Ms. Araujo explained that last year \$30,000 dollars was dedicated for the Neighborhood parks and \$10,000 for Burnside Park. This year, the goal is to increase their presence in the parks by supporting the Summer Meals Program and having performances while the children are having lunch.

Superintendent Nilsson commented that they are requesting the funds ahead of the application process this year so that performers can be paid in a timely fashion and can award grants within the exact budget.

Commissioner Iglioizzi requested the list of the parks funded this summer and asked who will be coordinating the summer lunch program. Ms. Araujo explained that the applications were submitted last Friday, March 16, 2018 and since they are still receiving late applications, a list has not been generated. She further explained that the neighborhood groups who submit successful applications will receive funding. Any remaining funds will be dedicated to activating other well used parks during summer meals.

Commissioner Iglioizzi requested additional information about Neutaconkanut Park. Currently Neutaconkanut doesn't have anyone running art programs around the summer lunch program at the park. He asked Ms. Araujo if the City is looking for her to coordinate an effort at Neutaconkanut or if he is required to do so in his position as Councilman of that ward. She clarified that if there is no current programming in place, they will work with Christy Clausen from the Summer Lunch program to implement it. The City Council as well as neighborhood parks will also be notified. She confirmed that there is time to decide where and when those programs are going to be placed and suggested that a more holistic approach at the parks will be of great value. She concluded that having performing arts while children are having lunch is a great opportunity for the community to take advantage of this program.

Chairman Elorza elaborated on his appreciation to the fiscal restraints and responsibility Parks and Art, Culture + Tourism are taking to limit the withdrawal of 4-5% of the funds as opposed to previous years where more substantial numbers were withdrawn.

Chairman Elorza requested a motion to authorize the withdrawal of funds from the Edward Ely Trust Fund as indicated in item number ten in the agenda. On motion by Commissioner Iglioizzi and seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar. Motion is approved.

RESULT:	CONTINUED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Commissioner Iglioizzi
SECONDER:	Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar
AYES:	Chairman Elorza, Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar, Commissioner Gordon-Martin, Commissioner Panichas, Commissioner Iglioizzi – 5.
ABSENT:	Commissioner Narducci and Commissioner McConnell – 2.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Gordon-Martin to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cepeda-Andujar.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.