



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## 11/13/2012 Minutes

Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Tuesday, November 13, 2012 @ 7:00 PM  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: John Messuri, Coach AHS Hockey, Dan Shine, AD and Coach of ACHS Hockey and Jim Hunt, Assistant Coach ACHS Hockey.

### Approval of Minutes

The word "last" should be inserted in the first paragraph under the Approval of Minutes.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. (Ms. Canniff not yet present.)

### Open Forum – Public Comments

N/A

### Arlington High School Hockey/Ed Burns Tournament Ice Discussion – John Messuri

Dan Shine and John Messuri both were present. The topic of discussion was the Ed Burns Hockey Tournament that takes place the week after Christmas. Arlington High or Arlington Catholic hosts this tournament every other year with Reading and Billerica hosting in the other years. This is the arrangement that has been in place since the start of the tournament, 17 years ago. This year, it is Arlington Catholic's turn to host in Arlington.

Mr. Messuri has pulled the AHS team out of this tournament and is looking to start a new tournament with a new group of schools. Since AHS now plays in the same league with Reading, Mr. Messuri feels that they should not play a league opponent in the tournament and also stated that he feels it has become a safety issue for his team to play Arlington Catholic, Reading and Billerica. Mr. Messuri would also like to keep the Ed Burns Hockey Tournament name and indicated that the Burns family supports this. With this year being Arlington Catholic's year to host, there is not enough ice time for both schools to run a tournament in the Arlington rink during that week. Mr. Messuri is looking for 8 hours of ice time for his tournament and the time that has been offered, during New Year's Eve day, is not workable. He said he was hoping he could get some ice time from the Arlington Hockey Club, which also runs a tournament at this time, or that ACHS would move to another venue.

Mr. Shine stated that Andover is filling in for Arlington High this year, but hopes that Arlington High will return to the tournament. Mr. Shine stated that he felt that this tournament brings the schools closer together and is good for the local hockey community. He does not believe it is good for either school to start a new tournament and that they are losing a lot more than gaining by Arlington High School not being in the tournament.

Ms. Mayer expressed concern that taking ice time from the Arlington Hockey Club will impact a tournament that includes both boys and girls just to give high school boys more ice time. She stated that the girls should have just as much home ice time and would like to see the schools explore having a tournament that includes opportunities for the girls. Both Mr. Messuri and Mr. Shine agreed. Both Ms. Mayer and Ms. Rothenberg stated the need for more public skating, especially during the school vacation week, and Ms. Mayer expressed her disappointment over the amount of time given to recreational lessons.

In conclusion, it was agreed that Mr. Messuri should contact the Arlington Hockey Club directly to see if he can get some ice time from them to host a second tournament this year.

It was agreed by all parties that a meeting should take place in January to discuss a plan for all future ice hockey tournaments held at the Ed Burns Arena.

#### **Picnic and Special Event Policy Review**

The Commission reviewed the draft of the Picnic and Special Event Policy that Mr. Connelly created.

- The fees were increased on the Special Event Form.
- Mr. Connelly added in the need for a DPW Detail.
- Ms. Rothenberg suggested more clarification to define which form to fill out. The Special Event Request form should be filled out by organizations or large groups. The Picnic Area Request Form should be filled out for birthday parties and small private gatherings.
- Under the rules and regulations the fine of \$300 was deleted.
- All events over 100 people would fall under the Special Event Request.

Mr. Connelly stated that event fees make up approximately \$6,000 in revenue. Robbins Farm Park is the top site for picnics and events. Approximately 200 permits are given out a year. This money should be used for park beautification. Currently, portable restrooms and small park improvements come out of this money. Mr. Connelly will break it down for the Commission.

#### **Robbins Farm Picnic Tables**

The Friends of Robbins Farm Park have requested two additional picnic tables be added in the playground area. The tables will be the same style as the existing and DPW will install the tables in the spring of 2013. Mr. Vitters and Mr. Connelly walked the site and recommended two locations, which the Commission discussed. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the two locations, Ms.

Rothenberg seconded, all in favor 5-0.

#### **Capital Improvement Update**

**Thorndike Field OLRA Update (Stanton Foundation)** – The Thorndike OLRA will be shut down from November 16<sup>th</sup> through November 26<sup>th</sup> to complete outstanding work. Staylok can be installed as long as the temperature is 40 degrees or above. Geogrid with stones will be installed around the tree, and the shed that was destroyed during the microburst will be replaced.

#### **Florence Playground**

Florence Public Meetings went well. DPW will be more involved in this project. Another public meeting will be scheduled for the first week of December, after Mr. Connelly and the landscape architect have had an opportunity to meet with students and incorporate their ideas into the initial options.

**Buck Field Renovation** – No change.

**Poets Corner Master Plan** – Mr. Connelly asked Mr. Leonard to provide a price and will ask Mr. Leonard to attend the next Commission meeting. Mr. Connelly will ask Mr. Leonard to break down the plan into Site A (what the town currently owns) and Site B (any additional property). The Arlington Soccer Club may give monies to assist in preparing the master plan.

**Spy Pond Pathway** – Mr. Vitters visited Spy Pond Park during a severe rainstorm and observed that the rain run-off coming down Pond Lane never made it to the handicap ramp in front of the playground. Mr. Connelly and DPW are planning to meet bi-monthly to discuss resolving issues like this on a timely basis.

**Summer Street Field Netting** – There is \$50,000 in unused previous project funds that can be used for safety netting. It would cost approx \$3,400 for netting, plus installation on existing light poles, to do a test. Mr. Connelly suggests doing a pilot this spring to see if the netting will be effective at preventing balls from hitting cars and houses along Summer St.

**Rink Sign** – Installation scheduled for December 10, 2012.

**Capital Request for FY 2014** – Mr. Connelly had a meeting with the Capital Committee. Hibbert St. Playground and the North Union Spray Pool are being recommended for funding. Also, funding for an ADA compliance and playground safety study are being recommended. Mr. Connelly expressed concern with the Reservoir Beach and needed improvements there.

#### **Special Requests**

There were no special requests.

#### **Rink and Recreation Update – Budget Updates**

No report.

#### **Committee Updates:**

**Portable Restrooms** – N/A  
**Friends of Parks** – N/A  
**Skateboard Park** – N/A  
**Mill Brook Linear Park** – N/A

#### **Other Business**

##### **Menotomy Rock Park Path Erosion**

Ms. Maryanna Foskett sent pictures of the back field at Menotomy Rocks Park showing erosion of the pathway material. Mr. Connelly said it needs some edging and will bring this to Mike Rademacher's attention.

##### **Parallel Park Gate**

The gate has been installed at Parallel Park. Mr. Connelly received a letter of appreciation from Lisa Robinson.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation