



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Recreation Commission Minutes 6-14-2011

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:50 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, June 14, 2011.

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

Members of the public included: Barry Russell and Andrew Leonard

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2011 meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-01 with Ms. Canniff abstaining.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No comments from the public.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Robbins Farm Slide – Mr. Leonard reviewed the designs for the two slides at Robbins Farm. Mr. Leonard reviewed the slides from Natural Playgrounds and the different bidding options. The Commission discussed the benefit of multi-year warranties with Mr. Leonard and requested that he explore the options and costs for an extended warranty.

Ms. Rothenberg discussed her concerns with the in-between space of the slide. The Commission discussed options with Mr. Leonard. The Commission was in favor of the poured in place rubber with cobblestones every 10' or so on the sides of the slide and in the middle. Ms. Rothenberg asked about the depth of the slides. The Commission discussed the safety issues with playground misuse. The Commission directed Mr. Leonard to continue with that option and look into different warranty options.

Mr. Leonard asked how the Commission would prefer to bid the project. The Commission discussed this issue and recommended a sole source bid. The Commission discussed concerns about some issues with the contractor who originally put in the slide.

Ms. Russell from the Friends of Robbins Farm reviewed the current fundraising progress and stated that the funds could be transferred to the Friends of Park fund whenever needed. Ms. Russell discussed the possibility of running a fundraiser with the Remax hot air balloon. Mr. Connelly stated that would be possible if we had the proper insurance and indemnification forms. Ms. Russell will further investigate and review the request with Mr. Connelly.

Wellington Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly stated that Mr. Leonard and he met with Heimlich to review the schedule and to kick off the project. Ms. Mayer asked if an alert could go out informing residents of the project and that the courts will be closed. Mr.

Connelly indicated he will send out an alert as soon as possible.

Thompson School Basketball Court – No report.

The Commission discussed having a meeting with the Capital Plan subcommittee and identifying a funding source, possibly the Antenna Fund, for park and open space significant maintenance projects. Mr. Connelly indicated that will set-up the meeting.

Off leash Implementation (Article 36) Monthly Review

Mr. Connelly quickly reviewed the comments and correspondence received since the last Commission meeting regarding Article 36, concerning an issue at McClennen Park, a letter of support for morning off-leash hours by a group using McClennen Park and an inquiry from a potential resident.

Stanton Foundation and Thorndike Field OLRA Update

Mr. Connelly and Mr. Leonard reviewed the plans to date and the working session with the Conservation Commission. Ms. Mayer discussed moving as many items (storage shed, agility elements, etc) as possible out of the floodplain. Mr. Connelly stated that there would be a public hearing on 6/28 at the Sr. Center, a formal hearing to be scheduled with the Conservation Commission, final approval by the Park Commission and then a review by the Animal Rescue League. After all of those approvals the project will be put out to bid.

Field Light Policy Seasonal Review

Mr. Connelly reported on the season-to-date status of lighted fields. While most nights lights have been off and the parking lots vacated quietly per policy, Mr. Connelly did have to issue an official letter of warning to youth baseball for violations at Buck Field. A mix-up with the key caused the lights to be off after 10pm on 5/23 and a complaint sent to Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer alleges that on 5/31 lights were off within minutes of 10pm and a loud group was loitering beyond 10:15pm – though the times recorded by the police suggest that no actual violation of policy occurred.

The Commission inquired about the status of amplification requests for Buck. The game that amplification was originally requested for was rained out and no rain date or requests for additional dates for amplification were requested. Mr. Connelly will follow up with the youth baseball league president.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the registration numbers and concerns with the Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that the rink would be bringing roller skating to its offerings this summer, about which the Commission expressed its enthusiasm.

Special Requests

Friends of Robbins Farm Concerts on 7/30 and 8/13 – Motion to approve by Ms. Rothenberg, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Fishing Derby –Spy Pond - Motion to approve by Mr. Vitters, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 4-0.

Susan Komen – Robbins Farm – 7/23 - Motion to approve by Ms. Canniff, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0. Ms. Rothenberg asked that the Friends of Robbins be notified.

Liz Katzman – Parallel Park – Motion to approve by Mr. Vitters, Seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0.

Mr. Connelly discussed the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park running free education classes at the park. The Commission though this was ok but wanted all any donations made to go into the Friends of Park Fund.

Other Business

Mr. Connelly provided the Commission with correspondence from the Summer Street Neighborhood Association about their successful multi-generational area planting event. The Commission expressed its admiration of the plantings and its appreciation for the hard work of the neighbors.

Ms. Mayer reviewed with the Commission plans for a rain garden project at Spy Pond and the installation by DPW of a water line for the habitat garden at the Reservoir.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation