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Recreation Commission Minutes 06/08/2010

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, June 8, 2010.

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

Members of the public included: Brian McBride, and Julie Hall

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vitters Amended the minutes.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the May 19, 2010 minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, and approved 3-0-1 with Ms. Campbell abstaining.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No comments in open forum.

Article 36 Implementation Plan

Mr. Connelly reviewed the proposed plan outlining some points for discussion including:

- 1 – 15' Playground restriction
- 2 – 8 AM start time on Saturday morning at selected sport fields
- 3 - Robbins Farm school route issue and times

The Commission discussed each of the issues and the proposal. Ms. Mayer asked if the newly renovated Crickett Yard at the Brackett School was used for physical education. Ms. Rothenberg stated that she believed so but it was not big enough for some of the activities.

The Commission discussed some of the correspondence received relating to the Robbins Farm. Ms. Mayer stated that there are some issues with the abutters behind the backstop and the proximity to the designated area.

Mr. Rothenberg stated that this proposal would allow flexibility and if issues do arise at a particular park they can be dealt with swiftly and the proposal can be modified.

The Commission discussed the proposal rules and signage. Mr. Connelly stated that the public input session would be held on Tuesday, June 15th.

Special Requests

Mr. McBride reviewed his request for June 26th to have an outdoor camping event at Robbins Farm. Mr. McBride reviewed the event. While it seems like an interesting, educational event, the Commission was concerned about the precedent this would set. Ms. Mayer stated that the participants should sign the Town indemnification form and there would need to be advance sign-up. Ms. Rothenberg suggested keeping it to a minimum of 7-10 two person tents. The Commission discussed the event logistics. Mr. Connelly stated no open flames or cooking should occur on site. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve with the conditions stated, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Buck Field Amplification – June 5th – The Commission discussed the event and the conditions that were set for the event. Mr. Connelly reported that the event was held without incident and received positive feedback from the neighbors. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to formally support the event, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Jerome Moisand – Mr. Connelly reviewed the request for a fishing derby at Spy Pond on June 27th. The Commission presented the following conditions: keep to behind baseball field and at Linwood Beach, have participants complete indemnification form, approval from BOH and Conservation (concern about the water treatment for weeds). Mr. Vitters motioned to approve with the conditions mentioned, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to have signs installed at the boat ramp with the bylaw concerning motorboat usage clearly stated.

Inter City League Fencing Request – Mr. Connelly presented the request from Mr. Hart concerning a temporary fence at Summer Street baseball field. The Commission discussed the request. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to deny the request at the time, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0.

Arlington Sport Center Renovation Project

Mr. Connelly stated that the rink project was on schedule and so far within budget. Mr. Connelly stated that the cement floor was scheduled to be poured on June 21st, which was a week ahead of schedule.

Capital Improvement Update

Thorndike Parking - Mr. Connelly stated that he did meet with Warner/Larson and JJ Sacca on site for a preliminary meeting. Mr. Connelly stated that Sacca was flagging the area for Conservation to review and that the project was still scheduled to begin the third week in June.

Summer Street Playground – Mr. Connelly stated that the bid was awarded to Sacca and that a preliminary construction meeting was being set up. Mr. Connelly did state that the equipment had been ordered through the State bid list.

North Union Basketball Court – Mr. Connelly explained that he did review a sketch of the site that did show the exchange of lands with school and recreation and it appeared that the facilities would fit. Mr. Connelly explained the basketball court, play ground and spray pool would stay in the same location and the baseball fields would switch to where the school is. The Commission discussed the issue is not would it fit but how it would fit and be perceived by the abutters. Mr. Robillard stated that the 90' diamond would be moved to a more residential area.

Recreation and Rink Update

Mr. Connelly stated that summer registration was on going.

Committee Updates

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer updated the Commission on the Fenced OLA Task Force. The group continues to pursue the creation of one or more fenced off-leash areas in town and will meet with Andrew Leonard at its next meeting to discuss the feasibility study done.

Park Policies

Lighted Field

Mr. Connelly reviewed the success of the new lighted field policy and the cooperation from youth baseball. To date, lights at Buck Field have been off prior to 10pm every night – 100% compliance.

Adult Softball Program Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed issues with the adult softball program and loitering after games and public drinking after games. Mr. Connelly stated the police have been notified and both himself and the police have talked to the league. Mr. Connelly further stated that a meeting was being scheduled with the league president, police and his office.

Rowing Program

Mr. Connelly discussed concerns from residents on the speed of the chase boats, gas-powered engines and size of motors being used for the program. Mr. Connelly summarized his conversations with Mr. Stavros the head of the rowing program. Mr. Connelly stated that the program was not in any bylaw violation and that the program used a 9.9 horsepower motor and did not exceed 10 miles per hour. The Commission again asked Mr. Connelly to have the sign installed stating the motorboat by-law at the boat ramp.

Robbins Community Garden

Ms. Mayer stated that there was some concern over the use of public property for the Robbins Farm Community Garden. Ms. Mayer stated that she responded to those concerned stating that the decision was made during multiple public Park and Recreation meetings. Mr. Connelly stated that everyone who expressed interest in the program did get in so no lottery was needed. Mr. Connelly also explained that the program was advertised in the spring recreation brochure.

Ms. Robillard motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation