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Recreation Commission Minutes 01/13/2009

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

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

Members of the public included: Paolo Marinelli, John Hollywood, Russell Stevens, and Zach Christo.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of December 9, 2009. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Campbell. Motion was approved 4-0-1 with Mr. Robillard abstaining.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the success of the tournaments held at the rink over the last month, including the Christmas Tournament, the High School Jamboree and the Ed Burns Tournament. Ms. Mayer also reviewed the positive comments regarding the condition of the ice and the public skating hours as seen on the e-list and in the Globe Northwest Weekly. The Commission discussed the positive success of the rink operations.

Mr. Connelly stated that the fall and winter registration numbers were higher than anticipated and already higher than last year.

Thorndike Parking Design Review

Mr. Warner reviewed the existing conditions and prior plans for the Commission including the wetland flagging results.

Mr. Warner first reviewed latest revisions to Option B, highlighting the increase in size of the access road, sidewalk connecting Margaret Street to the crosswalk connection to Varnum Street and the permeable pavement options. Mr. Warner reviewed the estimated budget for Option B (see attached). The Commission discussed the budget. Mr. Warner also reviewed the ground water discharge system with the Commission and how it would work with the permeable pavement.

Mr. Warner reviewed the revisions to Option C with the Commission; first highlighting the similarities to Option B with the size of the access road and sidewalk connections. Mr. Warner illustrated that the revised Option C reduced the lot by one additional parking space but created 20' of separation from the bike path. The Commission reviewed with Mr. Warner the reduction in the amount of permeable pavement in Option C. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly wanted to make sure the overall amount of impervious surfacing was still being reduced. Mr. Warner stated that it was reduced by over 2,000 sq feet, however the amount of permeable pavement and impervious asphalt combined would be increased by 200 sq feet. Ms. Mayer asked if this included the sidewalk in

concrete to the crossing. Mr. Warner indicated that it did.

Mr. Warner reviewed the budget for Option C (see attached). The estimated budget was within the appropriated funding. Mr. Warner stated his choice for alternatives would be the wood guardrail, stone dust walk way on the field side connecting the bike path to the sidewalk and then additional permeable pavement.

Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed the sidewalk material choice with Mr. Warner, indicating that the original intent was to use stabilized aggregate and not concrete. Mr. Warner did state that concrete would ensure all weather condition accessibility that was not possible with the aggregate.

Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Warner to look at the new by-law for storm water run-off to make sure the plan is in compliance.

Mr. Connelly asked if there would be any tree removal. Mr. Warner indicated that one existing tree would be removed but two additional trees would be planted.

Mr. Marinelli asked that the existing shrubbery remain in its current state. Mr. Marinelli also stated that the concrete sidewalk was attractive from a disability access point of view.

Ms. Mayer stated that the Conservation Commission would have the final input as to any new and existing plantings on site.

Mr. Connelly stated that in the public hearing there was a concern/request for a guardrail along the sidewalk adjacent to the entranceway to prevent vehicles from parking on the sidewalk. Mr. Connelly asked that this be placed into the base bid or be alternate number one.

Mr. Connelly also reminded Mr. Warner that the preliminary design cost and survey cost totaling approximately \$6,000 was not included and would have to be to give an accurate picture. Mr. Vitters pointed out that this cost could be covered within the contingency allocation keeping the project on budget.

Mr. Vitters motioned to endorse the revised Option C2 to move forward to the Redevelopment Board for Special Permit. The motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Mr. Connelly stated that he would review this option with TAC and unless there was any significant opposition to the plan move forward.

Arlington Sports Complex Feasibility Study Review

Mr. Vitters excused himself from the meeting.

Mr. Hollywood, Mr. Christo and Mr. Stevens reviewed three options with the Commission. Option 1 included a newly renovated single ice sheet facility with additional indoor recreation areas. The Commission reviewed different parking options, the connection of the entire site and the estimated budget for this option.

Option 2 included a newly renovated ice sheet with additional sheet of ice including additional indoor recreation areas. The Commission reviewed different parking options, the connection of the entire site and the estimated budget for this option. The issue with this option was the lack of accessibility to Hills Hill Field and Buck Field.

Option 3 included a newly renovated ice sheet with additional sheet of ice including additional indoor recreation areas. The Commission reviewed different parking options, the connection of the entire site and the budget for this option. The major difference from option two was the addition of the retractable stands to allow the facility footprint to be reduced for accessibility to Hills Hill Field and Buck Field. This option could be done in phases allowing for immediate repairs and expansion later. While the Commission recognizes the immediate needs of the existing facility, the reality of the current economic climate and its impact on a project of this scope was discussed.

The Commission discussed concerns regarding the financial number being carried forward for the renovation of the existing facility with the addition of a second sheet. Ms. Mayer stated that it would seem that the number would need to be adjusted. Mr. Stevens commented that it should and would most likely be lower and would be reviewed for future illustrations.

The Commission looked at the entire site and how each plan showed the flow of activity on site and addressed the recreational needs of the community and issues of the neighborhood. The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed how to proceed with the second public hearing. Mr. Connelly will post the second public hearing within the next couple of months to solicit feedback on the entire layout of the site.

Special Events

There are no special requests at this time.

Capital Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the status of this year's request, stating that his understanding was that the request for FY 2010 was significantly reduced pushing back Wellington and limiting the safety improvements to a portion of surfacing replacement for Spy Pond Park.

Buzzell Field - Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was completed and that funds were still being held to ensure turf quality.

Thorndike Parking – This project was reviewed by Mr. Warner earlier in the meeting.

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was completed and that funds were still being held to ensure turf quality.

Summer Street Fence Removal – Mr. Connelly reviewed the correspondence from DPW Director John Bean stating that the fence would be removed upon the completion of the project this summer.

Committee Updates

Comfort Facility and Friends of Parks – Ms. Rothenberg stated that this meeting was scheduled but was cancelled due to weather and would be made up shortly.

Green Dog Committee – Ms. Mayer stated that a draft warrant article was being written for Town Meeting and that a working session meeting would be held to review the changes to the existing policy.

Correspondence

Memo from John Bean, Director of Public Works to Leslie Mayer – Mr. Connelly reviewed the memo. Ms. Mayer will review the responses and how they relate to the initial requests from the Commission.

Joey Glushko, Planner – Bicycle Rack Installation Request – Members of the Commission will try to meet with representatives of the Bicycle Advisory Committee on site to discuss placement.

Other

Ms. Mayer reviewed a request from Vision 20/20 to support an article proposing \$25,000 in funds to the Water Bodies Fund. Mr. Connelly stated that although he supported the cause, he had concerns over the perception of the request after having the Commission's priority requests reduced significantly by Capital Improvement Committee. The Commission discussed this issue. Ms. Rothenberg had similar concerns about the timing of the request. The Commission decided to take no action at this time.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation