



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Recreation Commission Minutes 05/21/2008**

Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Wednesday, May 21, 2008  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 6:45 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Wednesday, May 21, 2008.

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

Members of the public included Paul Carroll of Arlington Youth Baseball and Jeanne Leary.

### **Discussion with Youth Baseball and Batting Cages**

Mr. Connelly stated reviewed the concerns of the Commission regarding the scheduled use of the batting cages and permitting aspects. Ms. Mayer reviewed the Commission's concerns regarding the installation of the two batting cages and the installation notification process. Ms. Mayer stated that for future projects a detailed plan needs to be submitted to the Park Commission, so that appropriate review and public notification can occur. Mr. Carroll agreed and acknowledged that the project increased as it was being done in order to install the cages appropriately. Ms. Rothenberg inquired as to the cost of the cages. Mr. Carroll stated that the installation of the cages was approximately \$17,000 and the purchase of all three cages was \$18,000. Mr. Carroll and the Commission discussed the youth baseball scheduled use of Poets, and the additional storage shed that was placed at Poets. Mr. Carroll stated that the shed was from Buzzell Field and was brought to Poets only temporarily while Buzzell was under construction. Mr. Connelly stated that the permit for the cages should go with the permit of the field. The Commission and Mr. Carroll discussed public use of the batting cages, liability and repair responsibility. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to ask Town Counsel for their opinion about liability and responsibility and if there needs to be a "gifting" to the town. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Carroll if youth baseball could come back in September to discuss how the season went with respect to use of the batting cages and to review storage options of the batting cages. Mr. Carroll agreed that meeting in September would be helpful.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of April 8, 2008. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Motion was approved 4-0.

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of April 28, 2008. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Ms. Campbell. Motion was approved 3-0-1 with Mr. Robillard abstaining.

### **Arlington Babe Ruth Request for Protective Fencing**

Mr. Robillard reviewed the request from Arlington Babe Ruth to install a protective fencing along the third base player's bench at North Union Field with the cost to be borne by Arlington Babe Ruth. Mr. Robillard reviewed pictures of the site with the

Commission. The Commission discussed this request and acknowledged there was a safety concern. Mr. Connelly will contact a fencing company to meet with Mr. Robillard and himself. The Commission discussed the possible re-use of the Summer Street fence. Ms. Leary suggested that they wait until the project was completed. Mr. Connelly suggested the gauge of the fence may be different than what is needed for protective fencing. Ms. Campbell motioned to approved the installation of a protective fence in front of the player's bench with the proper specifications, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0-1 with Mr. Robillard abstaining.

### **Permitted Picnic Areas**

This issue was tabled by the Commission. Ms. Mayer asked the Commissioners to review the current policy for Menotomy Rocks and list changes and additions for other possible sites for the June meeting.

### **Support for Grants for Rain Garden and Mill Brook Linear Park**

Ms. Mayer reviewed the request from the Planning Dept for support from the Commission for a grant to investigate the rain garden concept in the Magnolia/Thorndike area. Ms. Mayer reviewed her draft letter with the Commission.

Ms. Campbell motioned to support the letter as presented by Ms. Mayer, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed the meeting with the National Park Service with regards to qualifying for professional services to assist with the Mill Brook Linear Park plan.

Ms. Mayer reviewed her meeting with the landscape architect who drafted the original plans in 1976. Ms Mayer stated that the meeting was very informative and may lead to future technical assistance.

### **Preliminary Discussion Toilet Facilities in the Parks**

The Commission discussed the issue of portable toilets in our parks. The Commission discussed forming a working group to evaluate all the possible options and make recommendations on the issue. The Commission supported this approach and will continue the discussion at a future meeting.

### **Special Events**

Arlington Heights Nursery School – 6/9/08 – Parallel Park – The Commission had concerns about the number of people proposed for Parallel. Ms. Campbell motion to approve with the move to Summer Street Field. Motion seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Charles River – 6/12/08 – Summer Street Field – Ms. Rothenberg motion to approve with conditions, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 4-0. Conditions – Grilling Permit, Certificate of Insurance, Grilling on hardtop area only.

### **Capital Update**

Buzzell Field –Mr. Connelly stated that the project should be completed by June 1, 2008

Thorndike Parking –Mr. Connelly stated that he is waiting for TAC to gather some key information before advertising for a second public hearing

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly stated that the contracts have been signed and preliminary work should begin soon.

Summer Street Field – The Commission discussed the surprise installation by the State of chain link fencing along the Forest and Summer Street perimeter of the park. While the fencing along Forest Street replaced fencing that had been there previously, the fencing along Summer Street is new and had not been requested or approved by the Commission. The Commission will determine if it is needs to be removed. Mr. Connelly stated that DPW Director, John Bean, has assured him that, if necessary, it will be

removed when the Town accepts the Summer Street project from the State.

**Committee Updates**

Open Space – Ms. Mayer gave a brief summary of the final Open Space plan and where the copies of the full report are located on-line and in Town offices..

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation