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Recreation Commission Minutes 9/9/2008

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

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: Clarissa Rowe, Jeanne Leary, Al LeBlanc, Jennifer LeBlanc, Sue Doctrow, Ann Smith, Andrew Ward, Erin Kelly, Jo Rutkowski, Susan MacGowan, Carla Cerrato, Dave Cerrato, Jennifer Peirce, and Helen Binnell.

Public Hearing – Summer Street Planting/Fence Public Hearing

Ms. Mayer opened the public hearing. Ms. Mayer reviewed the last meeting and discussions with Ms. Leary and Ms. Rowe. Ms. Mayer stated that the Commission had discussed supporting the planting plan and was waiting for a detailed written plan to be submitted to the Commission and for Commissioner Robillard to walk the site along the baseball field with Ms. Rowe.

Ms. Mayer asked Ms. Rowe to review the process. Ms. Rowe stated that the intent was to submit a detailed plan that would show the species and exact locations for the planting. Ms. Rowe confirmed that she and Ms. Leary would walk the site with Mr. Robillard.

Ms. Leary spoke on behalf of the planting plan and the removal of the fence along the Summer Street side of the baseball field. Ms. Leary submitted a petition signed by forty residents who indicated they would like the fence removed and trees planted. Ms. Leary reviewed pictures of the area before the Summer Street construction and after the construction to illustrate the number of lost trees.

Ms. Leary, Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer discussed the unfortunate situation of the State delivering trees in July without notice. Ms. Mayer stated the hope was for the Commission to approve a written plan so that when the state delivers the remaining trees the town would be ready to plant in the designated locations. Ms. Leary stated that the town already had the funding so the timing should not be an issue.

Mr. Cerrato discussed the importance of improving the sound barrier at the site by planting the correct type of trees and covering the riprap along the hillside adjacent to the parking lot.

The Commission discussed that they were not there to halt any beautification plan but rather make sure the trees were planted according to an approved plan to enhance the area without interfering with its recreational use.

Mr. Connelly will inquire about where the state funds are for the project, how they are being allocated and who is responsible for oversight.

Mr. Connelly also discussed the request by the Veterans' Agent to install a flagpole at the Summer St. Field. It was suggested that it would be erected behind the backstop either at field level or in the upper area with the benches.

Ms. Campbell motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Ms. Mayer called the regular monthly meeting to order.

Mr. Robillard made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

The Park and Recreation Commission motion to support the immediate removal of the fence along the Summer Street side of the baseball field and support both the planting plan as discussed and the installation of a Veterans' memorial flag pole at the Summer-Street field site with the following conditions:

- 1 - A final plan of the type of trees and exact placement of the trees is submitted to the Commission prior to planting.
- 2 - Park Commissioner Jim Robillard walks the site with Ms. Rowe to review the exact planting locations along the baseball field prior to planting.
- 3 - The flagpole exact location and memorial stone details to be presented to the Commission before installation.

Approval of Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission reviewed the minutes of July 29, 2008. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters. Motion was approved 5-0.

Thorndike Parking Design and Alternatives Feedback/Option Review

Ms. Mayer reviewed the process to date and suggested the Commission identify the top two options, for which costs would then be estimated. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer reviewed both working sessions with the Redevelopment Board and the Conservation Commission. Ms. Mayer stated that both groups recommended that we keep options B and C1 under consideration. Mr. Connelly reviewed all of the options and indicated that the Conservation Commission will be requiring wetlands flagging for the project. The Commission discussed the options. Mr. Connelly reviewed the budget for the project and stated that Warner/Larson Landscape Architects submitted a proposal for the next phase that was almost \$40,000. He indicated that the next design phase was more costly than he had thought. Mr. Vitters stated that the extra cost was due to the addition of a civil engineer for the project.

Mr. Vitters motioned to move forward with the project concentrating on options B and C1. This motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Mr. Connelly stated that a third public hearing would be held after the survey work was completed.

Responsible Dog Ownership Day -

Jennifer Peirce of Go Play reviewed their proposal to hold a Responsible Dog Ownership Day in co-sponsorship with the Arlington Recreation Department. Ms. Peirce reviewed the booth activities with the Commission. Ms. Peirce explained it as a Town Day for dogs and their owners. Ms. Rothenberg asked how the booths would be decided. Ms. Peirce stated that a priority would be given to demonstrations and town groups with vendors being last priority. Mr. Connelly discussed the timing of the event and the possibility of holding off until early spring. Ms. Peirce stated that even if the event were small this year it would be nice to have it in the fall. Mr. Connelly stated that he would want the approval from Town Counsel and the Town Manager. Ms. Mayer stated that it would have to be made very clear that all town by-laws would be followed including the leash law and picking up after your dog.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned approve the event as described for October 25, 2008 at the Arlington Reservoir with the prior approval from Town Counsel and the Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Ms. Mayer asked that Mr. Connelly review any material prior to being sent to the public.

Playground/Park Issues

Ms. Mayer introduced the agenda item by asking Ms. Binnell to review her written comments. Ms. Binnell stated that Hibbert Park is in dire need of attention. Ms. Binnell reviewed the current conditions of the Park. Mr. Connelly agreed that the conditions were in need of immediate attention. Mr. Vitters discussed the potential for a short and long term plan. Mr. Connelly will contact the Department of Public Works for some immediate clean up.

Ms. Binnell also asked if Mr. Connelly could look at a situation at the end of Rublee Street. Mr. Connelly will talk to DPW about this area as well.

The Commission also discussed the need for new playground surfacing at Spy Pond Park due to wasp infestation that required closure of the playground for several weeks over the past few summers and for erosion control and turf treatment at the Peirce School Playground. Ms. Mayer suggested that the Commission request a sum of money through the Capital Plan for a series of projects that are not full capital renovations but that are more significant than basic maintenance issues.

The Commission discussed other projects that would fall into this category including the redesign/repair of the Robbins Farm Slide and safety improvements to the Shawnee Road entrance to Menotomy Rocks Park.

FY 10 Capital Improvement Recommendations

Mr. Connelly reviewed the current multi-year capital improvement plan. The Commission discussed the priorities of the projects.

The Commission discussed adding \$75,000 annually for park and playground safety improvements, as well as \$10,000 for feasibility study funding on an annual basis.

The Commission made the following recommendations:

~	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Location	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
~	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Florence Ave	~			\$304,000	~	~	~	~
Hibbert Street		\$150,000		~	~	~	~	
Hurd Field			~	~	~		\$350,000	\$350,000
North Union			\$150,000	~	~	~	~	~
Poets Corner	~		~	~	~	\$522,000		~
Reservoir		~	~		\$600,000	~	~	~
Robbins Farm	~		\$450,000	~			~	~
Spy Pond Tennis		\$279,270		~		~	~	~
Turkey Hill	~		~	\$50,000	~	~	~	~
Wellington	\$531,082		~	~	~	~	~	~
Bishop Play ground	~	~		\$175,000	~	~	~	~
Safety Improvements	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Feasibility Study	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Rink Improvements	\$1,200,000	\$400,000	~	~	~	~	~	~

Mr. Vitters motioned to make the FY-10 capital improvement requests as presented and amended, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Rink/Recreation Update

Recreation – Mr. Connelly reviewed the success of the early fall programming season and the inaugural golf tournament to be held on September 29th.

Rink – Mr. Connelly publicly thanked Dave Cunningham for a successful opening and for the effort and hard work of his staff to do so on time.

Special Events

High Rock Church – 9/28 – Mentomy Rocks Park – Ms. Campbell motion to approve with noise limitations, second Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Great Expectations – 9/17 – Robbins Farm – Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, second by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Dallin School – 9/11 at Florence Field - Ms. Campbell motioned to approve, second by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

International School of Boston – Two Miscellaneous Dates – The Commission reviewed the request. The Commission stated that the out of town rate should be charged for this event. Mr. Connelly will coordinate the date with the school. Ms. Campbell made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Sunshine Nursery School – 9/17 – Menotomy Rocks Park – Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Wedding Ceremony Spy Pond – 10/25 – Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Campbell and approved 5-0.

Capital Update

Buzzell Field – Mr. Connelly stated that the basketball courts were completed. Mr. Connelly stated that the contractor owned the maintenance until it was officially turned over to the Town.

Thorndike Parking – Mr. Connelly reviewed the proposal from Warner-Larson Associates for the next phase of the project.

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was 99.9 % completed and was open for the first day of school. Mr. Connelly stated that the field would remain closed until the end of September.

Menotomy Rocks – Mr. Connelly stated that the aerator motor needs replacement.

Handicap Access – Ms. Mayer suggested that to start we should look at Mentomy Rocks Park, Locke, Waldo Playground, Buzzell Field and Pheasant Ave. Playground and make a request to the Board of Selectmen.

Committee Updates

There were no Committee updates to report.

Committee Re-Organization

The Commission discussed the next year's schedule and reviewed current assignments.

Arlington Park & Recreation Commission
Organization & Voluntary Assignments for FY'09

PRC Chairperson	Leslie Mayer – accepted and approved
PRC Vice Chairperson	Nancy Campbell – accepted and approved

Representatives to Committees/Sub-committees (A Commissioner is needed to represent the PRC)

Field User Committee	Nancy Campbell
Sports Center Improvement Committee	Jim Robillard
PRC Capital / CDBG Planning	Don Vitters
Open Space Committee	Leslie Mayer
Friends of Parks Group	Jen Rothenberg

Capital Projects (It is recommended that a Commissioner be assigned to work in partnership with the Director of Recreation, the community and/or other involved parties)

Wellington	Leslie Mayer (OSC) / Jen Rothenberg
Safety Projects	Hibbert – Nancy Campbell Robbins Slide – Jen Rothenberg Spy Pond Sand – Don Vitters Peirce School Turf – Leslie Mayer
Thorndike Parking Study	Leslie Mayer
Summer St. Playground & Parking	Jim Robillard

Other Projects (It is recommended that a Commissioner be assigned to work in partnership with the Director of Recreation, the community and/or other involved parties)

Field Maintenance Policies	Jim Robillard
“Green Dog” Program	Leslie Mayer
McClennen Park Turn-Over	Don Vitters
Recreation Programming	Jen Rothenberg
“Workplace” Community Service Projects	Nancy Campbell
Rest Rooms in Parks	Jen Rothenberg

Investigations (It is recommended that a Commissioner be assigned to work in partnership with the Director of Recreation, the community and/or other involved parties on potential future projects)

Mill Brook Linear Park	Leslie Mayer (via Open Space Comm)
Outdoor skating facilities	TBA
Community gardens	TBA
Swimming facilities	TBA
Teen activities	TBA
Community Center	TBA
Grants Requests	TBA

Correspondence

Mr. Connelly reviewed the e-mail from Mr. Jim McLaughlin regarding creation of a new girls' softball team/league. The Commission suggested having Mr. McLaughlin at the October meeting.

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