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Parks and Recreation Minutes 03/22/2005

The Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mr. Carabello, Mr. Caccavaro, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Mayer, Mr. Vitters

Staff Present: Ms. Patsy Kraemer, Director of Human Services

Mr. Jonathan Jalbert, Recreation Superintendent

Ms. Heather Hogle, Recreation Coordinator

Recording Secretary: Laura Munsey

Others Present: Jen Rothenberg, Christian Klein, Roland Chaput (Friends of Robbins Farm)

Shirley Canniff

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Mr. Carabello welcomed the Commissioners and guests to the March 22nd Meeting.

1. Approval February Minutes.

MOTION (Made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Mr. Vitters)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES MAKING AMENDMENTS TO THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8TH PARK COMMISSION MEETING AS REQUESTED.

(UNANIMOUS 5-0 IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION)

MOTION (Made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8TH MEETING AS AMENDED.

(UNANIMOUS 5-0 IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION)

2. Robbins Farm Park Updates – Jen Rothenberg, Friends of Robbins Farm Park

Ms. Rothenberg of the Friends of Robbins Farm Park addressed the Commission regarding the punch list for projects yet to be completed, and referenced her memo of 3-6-05, which was previously provided to the Commission. Concerns were raised regarding cracks and a large bump located on slide, which may pose a safety risk. Mr. Caccavaro requested that a letter from Gorek be submitted to the Commission with their initial assessment as reported. Mr. Jalbert will consult DPW and they will work to find a solution so that signage is placed at Robbins Farm to shut down slide until repairs are made. Mr. Jalbert will set up a meeting with all parties involved and the Brackett School Principal will be notified. Don Vitters will get in touch with Carole Johnson's office and the contractor to discuss this situation and will investigate/evaluate cause and solutions. Mr. Jalbert will check on status of available funds and will report back to the Commission.

Ms. Rothenberg also reported that a Seesaw located in the toddler area has become a concern to the Friends Committee and many complaints have been addressed to the Committee regarding this structure and its location. The Manufacturer was consulted and confirmed that installation was correct. If removed, a different type of seesaw or play structure might be installed that is toddler friendly.

Mr. Jalbert and the Commission stated that the Arlington Department of Public Works cannot do any work at the Robbins Farm Site until the project is officially turned over to the town.

The Friends Committee reported that snow was being trucked from Brackett School and was being dumped at the park and salt may have been inadvertently disposed of at Robbins Farm. Mr. Caccavaro will discuss this at the next Snow and Ice Committee Meeting.

Mr. Chaput informed the Commission that the Memorial tree that was vandalized and damaged last Fall will be replaced through the Town's Adopt a Tree Program. 3 trees will be available for purchase from the town and one of these trees will be designated as the Memorial tree. This new memorial tree will be relocated to an appropriate location and the boulder and plaque will be placed accordingly, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Friends Committee.

The Friends Committee is considering replacement and purchase of 3 new trash receptacles. Pricing has been acquired and installation options are being investigated. No immediate action is planned or recommended at this time.

The Commissioner's Dedication Plaque will be installed in April. No resolution has been reached regarding the visual improvements to the stonewall. When the park is turned over to the town the Commissioners will discuss this matter further with the Committee.

3. Capital Project Updates – Don Vitters and Joe Carabello

Bishop (Field) and Menotomy Rocks Park (pathway and trail maintenance, and other improvements) proposals are being discussed and it is the hope of the Commission to put out a Request for Quotations to acquire the Scope and Costs associated with these two Projects.

Crosby Tennis Courts – bids have arrived. A Civil Engineer and Geo-Technical Engineer have been consulted by Mr. Vitters to review plans and recommendations. The results of these recommendations have been discussed with the Commissioners and other necessary parties.

MOTION (made by Lesley Mayer 2ND by Nancy Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION WILL ACCEPT THE LOW BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE CROSBY TENNIS COURTS CONTINGENT UPON CONFIRMATION FROM THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT THAT A CHANGE-ORDER FOR SPECIFICATIONS OF FILL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND APPROVED.
(VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION)

4. Needing Approval:

- a. Little League request for Temporary Fence at Poets Field
- b. Babe Ruth request for Temporary Fence at Summer Street Field

Mr. Jalbert informed the Commission that Arlington Little League and Arlington Babe Ruth have requested permission to install temporary fencing at Poets Field (for Little League) and Summer Street Field (for Babe Ruth). Both parties reported that fencing will be up for the season and will be removed at the close of the season. Mr. DiLoretto (AHS Athletic Director) and Mr. Shine (ACHS Athletic Director) have been consulted and are in support of these proposals and do not anticipate any problems or conflicts. Mr. Jalbert informed the commission that neither of these proposals conflicts or interferes with any other programs or permitting requests. Upon inquiry, Mr. Jalbert did not foresee a conflict with the Relay for Life Event planned in June.

MOTION (made by Mr. Caccavaro, 2nd by Mr. Vitters)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE REQUEST OF ARLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE TO INSTALL TEMPORARY FENCING AT POETS FIELD FOR THE 2005 BASEBALL SEASON.
(VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION)

MOTION (made by Mr. Caccavaro, 2nd by Mr. Vitters)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE REQUEST OF ARLINGTON BABE RUTH TO INSTALL TEMPORARY FENCING AT SUMMER STREET FIELD FOR THE 2005 BASEBALL SEASON.

(VOTE: 3-2 IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION)

(Mr. Carabello, Mr. Caccavaro, & Mr. Vitters in the Affirmative)

(Ms. Mayer and Ms. Campbell in the Negative)

SPECIAL EVENT REQUESTS

MOTION (Made by Mr. Caccavaro, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE REQUEST OF ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE TO HOLD A CAR WASH AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL RINK ON APRIL 30TH FROM 7:00AM – 3:00PM WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THEY FOLLOW ALL REQUESTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION

(VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION)

MOTION (made by Ms. Mayer, 2nd by Ms. Campbell)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE REQUEST OF PIERCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (5TH GRADE) TO HOLD A CAR WASH AT THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL SKATING RINK ON SATURDAY JUNE 1ST WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THEY FOLLOW ALL REQUESTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION

(VOTE: 5-0 UNANIMOUS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION)

Mr. Carabello informed Mr. Jalbert that if ACHS Rugby is requesting the use of Poets Field 1 day per week, they must come before the Commission for Approval due to the Commissions League Expansion Policy Requirements.

5. Recreation Program Fees for FY06 proposal.

Ms. Kraemer and Mr. Jalbert presented the Commission with the proposed fees for the Summer, Fall, Winter 05, and Spring 06 Seasons. An evaluation of operational expenses was provided to the Commission.

MOTION (Made by Mr. Caccavaro, 2nd by Mr. Vitters)

THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVES THE PROPOSED FEE INCREASES AS PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION FOR THE SUMMER 05, FALL 05, WINTER 05, AND SPRING 06 SEASON INCLUDING ALL CHANGES AS AMENDED.

VOTE: 3-2 IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION

(Mr. Carabello, Mr. Caccavaro, and Mr. Vitters in the affirmative)

(Ms. Mayer, and Ms. Campbell in the negative)

6. Committee Updates (5 minutes each)

-Field Policy Committee (Joe Carabello). Some conflicts regarding scheduling were discussed. All users have paid or worked out payment schedules.

-Field Maintenance and User Fee Committee (Nancy Campbell). Subcommittee's have been established and are working on pricing and maintenance issues. Field Rotation Plan is being looked at and established. Meeting at the end of the month.

-Sports Center Improvement Committee (Tom Caccavaro). Mr. Caccavaro requested that a letter be drafted to inform the SCIC that its role is limited to Capital Improvements. No money will be spent until a Lease is settled with the State.

-Open Space Committee (Leslie Mayer). The Committee continues to work on Management plans. The Route 2 maintenance project has plans to improve the pathway and is planning a Maintenance day on May 14 and 15. The adopt a tree program was discussed.

-Friends Groups (Reported by Leslie Mayer)

FOCCA – A public hearing has been scheduled for Monday April 11th at 7:00 pm at the Senior Center.

RESERVOIR - No plans for a Spring clean up is scheduled at the Reservoir this year due to the dam work which will be well underway. It may be unlikely that fencing will keep people out from walking around the reservoir during the construction. There are Fall plans for walk-around to create a landscape plan at the Reservoir. The Conservation Commission will come up with a tree plan.

7. Recreation and Rink Update – Jon Jalbert

Recreation update. The Recreation Department is planning and finalizing all programs for the Summer Season. The Winter Sessions are now complete. Mr. Brooks, the Aquatics Director will not be returning to the Reservoir for the 05 Season. He has been an amazing presence for many years and he will be missed. Mr. Jalbert wished him well with his Principal Internship and would like to thank him accordingly. Recommendations will be made. The Bench for Bernice Jones will be dedicated/presented on Saturday May 21st Mr. Jalbert will order the plaque.

Rink Update. The rink will be closing for the Season on April 10th. A sight inspection and meeting was held with representatives from the State and Town. April 11th 2:00pm is the deadline for the RFQ. Municipalities may be considered for a 20-year lease with an option of 5 years. If lease is not granted it goes to public process. The town can also apply during this process. There is an in-depth qualification process with a detailed historical reference, and 25-year Capital plan has been prepared. State Officials informed the Town Representatives that they do not want or appreciate political maneuvering.

8. Other

Activate Arlington will be hosting an event Saturday April 9th from 10:00am – 12:00 noon entitled “moving day”. Walk begins at Jefferson Cutter House and goes to Bow Street in Lexington. Event has been partnered with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. There will be a stop at the Sports Center/Rink or participants may continue on to Bow Street Lexington and back.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:30 pm