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Parks and Recreation Minutes 02/12/2002

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, February 12, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:30 PM in the Whittemore Robbins House.

Commissioners Present: Don Vitters, Leslie Mayer, Mark McCabe, Joe Carabello and Bernice Jones

Staff Present: Jon Jalbert, Patsy Kraemer, Bill Jones

Others Present: Carla Bonsignore, Martha and Guy Bonsignore, Dimitre Sakvales, Mr. and Mrs. John Fenerlis, M.M. Sweetlaud, Phil Kearney, Phyllis Mahoney, Steve Moniak-ASC, Joe Hart-Little League, Jack Lepor-Babe Ruth

1. Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of December 11, 2001. After corrections and additions, Mr. Carabello motioned to approve the minutes and approved 4-0.

2. Crosby Playground Public Information Session

Mr. Andrew Leonard presented the plans for work to be done at Crosby Playground. The project went out to bid and we received 15 bids and the low bids including add alternatives was less than estimated costs. Playground is in good shape and the playground area will increase in area. Playground surface will be a wood condensed fiber that is ADA approved and economical. The Tennis courts will receive only band-aid treatment until phase II of the project begins to include a complete resurfacing of the tennis courts. Construction will begin at Crosby Playground this spring and be completed by June. The playing field will open for the fall of '02. The tennis courts will remain open.

The Commissioners opened the floor for any questions or feedback from the public present.

Questions or Concerns brought up:

- Paved access from Oxford St.?
- Problems with teenagers/adults drinking in the late evening to early AM
- Parking issues with the tenants of Crosby School Property and public, no parking anywhere.
- Create additional parking spaces
- Install a sandbox
- Increase number of swings
- Winter St. side access
- Locking gates to secure playground area
- More lighting from the school on the play area
- Design looks great and the neighborhood will enjoy the new and updated playground

Park Commissioners responded to all of the issues and suggestions. It was recommended that the neighbors call the police when people are drinking throughout the night and as a group to address their parking concerns to the Selectmen and/or Redevelopment Board.

3. Summer Street Project Update

Mr. Leonard presented the layout for Summer Street, which included the outfield fence with a warning track in right field. The reason for the fence is to eliminate injury from the trees when a ball is hit into far right field and to fence in the playground area. Mr. Carabello suggested asking Rob DiLoreto about the fence coming too close to the field hockey field making it a safety issue. Leslie Mayer made a motion to approve the project subject to the approval from Rob DiLoreto, AHS AD, (as long as he and the field hockey coach feel it will not impede field hockey play), and

subject to all of the requirements laid out by the Commissioners to be provided by Andrew Leonard, the fence and warning track must go in at the same time and the project is supervised by DPW. The motion was approved unanimously.

Babe Ruth will pay for the fence and the installation. They will make the donation to the Park Beautification Fund and we will pay for the project out of that fund. Andrew will provide Babe Ruth with the specifications of the fence. Mr. Jones said DPW can oversee the project.

4. DRA presentation on Peirce Playground

DRA presented their final design of the playground for approval from the commission. Handouts were provided showing the scope of services and itemized list. Construction could not start until the school project is completed. CDBG will be funding this project. DRA will send Mr. Jalbert the costs from the current contractor working on the school.. The commission made a motion to accept the final plans. Motion was approved.

5. Jack Lepor, Babe Ruth, on fence at Summer St. Field

Jack Lepor stated Babe Ruth can only afford doing piece meal projects on Summer. The first project Babe Ruth would like to do is the fence. The commission would like the warning track put in at the same time the fence goes in. Andrew Leonard will give the updated specs to Jack Lepor. Babe Ruth wants to put up the fence and the warning track prior to the Spring season beginning. If the costs of the warning track are too much for Babe Ruth to fund, the warning track can be included in the bid on Summer Street project but they must be done at the same time. Babe Ruth will give the costs of funding the fence and warning track to the Park Beautification Fund and the work will be administered by DPW.

6. Joe Hart, Arlington Little League

Mr. Hart had two requests for the commission. (A.) Bullpens for pitching warm-ups at Scannell, Buck and Poets, which consists of a chain link fence attached to the current dugouts. Leslie Mayer suggested the process be the same for Little League as the process for Babe Ruth. Motion was made to approve the bullpens as long as they go through the process of donating money to the Park Beautification Fund and DPW administers the project.

(B.) Port-a-potties at fields with a permanent fence around the port-a-potties. At Buzzell and Buck. Mr. Jalbert suggested meeting with Babe Ruth, Little League and Arlington Soccer Club and seeing if we could arrange a deal for using Sports Center facilities and offering concessions. Jack and Joe said they would like to meet and discuss the possibility and the costs. Motion was made to support Mr. Jalbert to come up with an agreement to use the Sports Center. Motion approved unanimously. The commission denied the request of port-a-potties at fields.

7. Budget Update- Patsy Kraemer

Patsy presented budget summary for FY'03. Patsy recommended not raising rink fees more than what is budgeted and instead taking it from the reserve fund. Joe Carabello made a motion to increase rink fees an additional \$5.00 because of the unforeseen increases due to health insurances. Motion not voted on. Patsy recommended increasing the recreation program fees by 15% to cover increases from health insurance and new program person. The commission requested a survey of program costs over the past two years and information about surrounding communities to assist in deciding increases in program costs. This will be reviewed at the next meeting. The new program person's salary will be divided into 75% recreation and 25% rink.

8. Arlington Sports Center Update-Mark McCabe

Mr. Jalbert passed out the memo from the Town Manager and the commission feels this helps clarify things being direct about the charter for the Sports Center Improvement Committee. Mark McCabe will continue to report to the commission on the progress of the Sports Center Improvement Committee.

Jon handed out the Sports Center Improvement Committee Survey for comments and changes. The commission suggested changes and Jon will send out to recreation mailing list, put on web site, hand out at rink and put in newspaper.

9. Capital Project Review-Don Vitters and Jon Jalbert

The commission would like to have a joint meeting with Spy Pond and Robbins Farm. Don will work with Carol Johnson and send out the meeting date and time. Jon will secure a location.

10. Recreation and Rink Update- Jon Jalbert

Jon is working with Patsy on seasonal salaries by expanding ranges to keep staff.

Jon is saving money on brochures by eliminating the contract with the prior company and now Donna is producing the brochure in-house. Total savings \$1,000. Jon is also looking at saving electrical costs for the rink.

Jon requested a vote from the commission on installing TVs in the Lobby of the rink. Motion was made to accept them and approved 3-2 based on Jon's recommendations with a policy for its use.

11. Other

Joe Carabello made a motion to have Mark Shea go to Town Council regarding the Roads Company on Town Land to get a response from Roads about money owed and additional compensation for expanded usage. Motion was unanimously approved.

Joe Carabello made a suggestion to shorten the agenda or meetings. The Commission all agreed and will try to keep discussions short.

The Commission adjourned at 11:45 pm.

Jon Jalbert, Superintendent of Recreation, took minutes