



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Parks and Recreation Minutes 10/15/2002

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED - Meeting Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:40 PM.

Commissioners Present: Don Vitters, Leslie Mayer, Joe Carabello, Bernice Jones and Mark McCabe
Staff Present: Jon Jalbert, Patsy Kraemer and Billy Gore

Others Present:

1. Minutes

Motion made to approve 9/10/02 minutes with changes. Approved 5-0.

2. Budget Implications for Recreation and Parks – Phil Farrington

Mr. Farrington was not able to attend tonight's meeting due to another meeting. Mr. Jalbert presented a handout to the commission from Mr. Farrington. The handout was a brief summary of the potential budget challenges for the next few years. Included in the handout were 2 spreadsheets; one-3 year projection of the "bottom line" from the Town's Operational budget and two DPW's athletic field maintenance costs totaling around \$200,000. The commissioners were requested to think about ways to more efficiently provide services to our residents. Were there ways to increase revenue, decrease costs, share cost, and perform tasks differently?

The commissioners are looking at ways to cover the costs by first finding out what the costs are by field type (i.e. ball fields, soccer fields). Mr. Jalbert will research the costs and try to break down the areas around town and the costs for these areas.

3. Arlington Soccer Club, storage at Thorndike Field- Steve Moniak

No representatives present.

4. Fields Sub-Committee- Joe Carabello

Mr. Carabello presented the field policy addendum to the commissioners. Motion made to accept latest changes. Motion accepted 4-1.

5. Arlington Sports Center Improvement Committee (SCIC)- Jon Jalbert

Mr. Jalbert updated the commission on the latest. The SCIC approved the change in scope of services for the proposed feasibility study on the Sports Center to include the possibility of operating 2 rinks in Town. Mr. Jalbert also reported on the numerous projects that are being worked on at the Sports Center. Motion made to approve storage shed to be placed outside the rink for the back-up zamboni. Motion approved 4-1.

6. Capital Project Review and CDBG Update- Don Vitters

Mr. Vitters stated there will be a meeting with Carol Johnson Associates tomorrow night to discuss Robbins Farm and Spy Pond Shores. Mr. Vitters requested the presence from commissioners who could attend. Mr. Vitters also requested Mr. Jalbert to find a space for the meeting and post the meeting.

Spy Pond Shores-Mr. Carabello stated he would like Carol Johnson to contact Chief Maimone on the specs for the

boat ramp and about appropriate bollards.

Mr. Vitters reported that Pine & Swallow has reviewed some sights and will report at the next meeting.

Summer Street- Mr. Jalbert reported the fencing contract is being worked on as Emmanuel Brothers is having difficulty with current contractor. The commissioners requested that Mr. Jalbert investigate the irrigation system being on during rainstorms and the grass seeds washed away in the process.

The commission requested the presence of Jack Lepore, Babe Ruth at the November meeting to report on what he has completed thus far.

Thorndike Field- Mr. Vitters is waiting for a price on the bollards and Mr. Jalbert has not heard from DPW on their price either.

Peirce Playground- Mr. Vitters did contact Mr. Farrington on the RCN box but has not received a response.

5-year Capital Plan- Mr. Farrington requested the commissioners to move Waldo Playground into FY04 under CDBG funds.

Bishop Playground- Mr. Jalbert reported there has been no progress made as of today getting the rotting wood replaced in the playground. The commission again expressed their frustrations in getting this project completed and if not soon they should consider doing it themselves.

7. DPW-Parks Update- Bill Jones

Mr. Jones was not present tonight.

Mr. Carabello requested Mr. Jones report on the winterization of the irrigation systems around town for the November meeting.

8. Recreation and Rink Update- Jon Jalbert

Mr. Jalbert introduced Billy Gore, the new Recreation Supervisor.

Mr. Jalbert was requested to send out information on the recreation software prior to the November meeting.

The commission stated their need to be involved in the next steps regarding the management of the rink for next hockey season.

11. Others

All Day and Overnight Parking- the commissioners discussed some issues with overnight parking at Hurd, Summer and Thorndike. Thorndike parking issue has been addressed with proper signage and enforcement. Hurd parking lot is a larger issue as Trader Joes advertises the lot as overflow parking. Drake Village residents also use the lot for parking. Motion was made to write a letter to Arlington Housing Authority. Motion accepted 5-0.

Dog Park at Reeds Brook- the commissioners discussed a dog park at Reeds Brook. Motion made not in favor of a dog park at Reeds Brook. Motion accepted- 3 not in favor of Dog Park, 1 in favor of Dog Park and 1 abstained. A letter will be written to Redevelopment Board of the commissioners' position not in favor of Dog Park at Reeds Brook site.

Vote for new chairperson- Motion made to nominate Mr. Carabello as new chairperson. Motion accepted 5-0. Motion made to develop Park & Recreation Commission by-laws. Motion accepted 5-0. Ms. Kraemer will send the commissioners other by-laws used by numerous commissions in Human Services. Mr. Carabello will write letter to the selectmen regarding his nomination and a thank you to Mr. Vitters and his many years as chairperson.

The Commission adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Jon Jalbert, Superintendent of Recreation, took minutes

