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Parks and Recreation Minutes 11/13/2001

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2001 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes - Approved

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:45 PM in the Recreation Sports Center. Commission members in attendance included Don Vitters, Joe Carabello, Leslie Mayer and Mark McCabe. Also present were Superintendent of Recreation, Jon Jalbert and Mark Shea of the Department of Public Works.

Others present included: Ellen Kelly, Arthur Ales and Tom Caccavaro representing the Rink Improvement Committee.

1. Rink Improvement Committee Update:

Mr. Caccavaro stated there is \$320,000 (includes \$300,000 grant from Senator Havern) to improve the rink facility. He also stated there needs to be a plan developed in order to raise more money to continue the process of the overall improvement of the facility. Mr. Caccavaro discussed the heat topic and presented the flyers of heat radiators that only heat bodies or objects below them. The costs would be \$11/hour for all the heaters. The only real need for this type of heating system would be for spectators at High School games and figure skating shows. Mr. Caccavaro stated the Rink Improvement Committee would like to consider an improvement for the entire sports center and not just the ice rink and the heating solution may come out of the process of improving the entire sports center. The Commission agreed and suggested changing the Rink Improvement Committee name to Arlington Sports Center Committee instead. The name was motioned and approved unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Carabello suggested the Arlington Sports Center Committee get the public opinion about what they would like to see through a questionnaire or needs assessment. Leslie suggested Vision 20/20, and other suggestions were Arlington Advocate, Website, and using mailing lists. Mr. Carabello we focus not on this coming winter season but next season (02-03).

The Arlington Sports Center Committee was asked to do a survey/needs assessment to get public opinion and then do a feasibility study. It was stated a feasibility study was done years ago by Tufts and to make sure that study was reviewed as well.

2. Arlington Sports Center Tour

Mr. McKeown gave a tour of the Sports Center to the Parks Commission.

3. Introduction of Jonathan Jalbert, Superintendent of Recreation

The Parks Commission welcomed Mr. Jalbert to Arlington Recreation.

4. Capital Project Review:

Thorndike Field- Mr. Vitters reported the field is almost done except for the drainage area which still needs work.

The Commission is concerned about the opening date for the field and stated the architects will return in the spring to test the sod and see if it has settled. There will also be some minor adjustments made to the sprinkler heads in the spring and that will be completed in the end of April. The Commission discussed solutions to keeping people off the field until the Commission approves the opening based on the inspections in the spring. Some ideas were signage, increased police patrol, and keeping the temporary fence up. There will be a meeting with Andrew Leonard on Thursday, November 15, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. to wrap-up the project. Leslie Mayer and Don Vitters will

attend.

Mr. Shea reported that ROADS still has not replied to the letter sent in April from the Commission regarding the expansion of their project past the fence onto Town property. The letter further stated there would be a rental fee assessed for the use of their equipment on Town property, which would be a donation to the Arlington Recreation.

Mr. Shea is going to write another letter and include the April letter, if and when it is found, to VP of ROADS asking a minimum of \$5,000 as a rental fee.

Parallel Park- The complaints continue. It has been observed that the contractor has not finished his work and there is not secure fencing or appropriate signage causing a safety issue. Mr. Vitters recommends that someone on Mr. Sheas staff stop by every day to get updates and to make sure the contractor is doing his job.

Peirce Playground- Ms. Mayer stated the architects are in the planning process and will hopefully present to the Commission in the December meeting.

Arlington Res- Mr. Shea stated the State will not put any vegetation on the dam.

5. Discussion of interviews for architects for Robbins Farm and Spy Pond:

The Commission discussed the process for Thursday, November 15, 2001 interview session with the architects.

Mr. Vitters suggested the architects present their proposal and then field questions from the Commission. Mr. Carabello stated that we should send a copy of questions or suggestions from the Friends of Robbins Farm and Spy Pond to the architects prior to the presentation so they can address those questions and concerns in their presentations. Mr. Vitters will make sure all architects receive the questions. Mr. Vitters suggested that they keep the fee proposals sealed until they have their top choices after the presentations and come to a final selection at the end of the meeting. Mr. Jalbert was asked to attend the meeting and to bring the sealed fee proposals.

6. Recreation Report:

Mr. Jalbert reported that the registrations for programs are going very well. The winter brochure will be going to press soon and be available after Thanksgiving. Mr. Jalbert also stated he is just getting acclimated with the programs and systems in the office and can not report on anything else.

7. Other Items:

Mr. Carabello reported on his discussions with the Tocci family regarding the Brenda Tocci Memorial Gift. Mr. Carabello said the family agreed to having a bench put up at the Arlington Res. The Commission felt it was a great idea to have a new bench installed with a memorial plaque. Mr. Carabello will follow-up with the family and Mr. Jalbert will then work with family on wording of plaque, location of bench and date of dedication ceremony.

Mr. Vittles commented the Capital Improvement Committee suggested to add Locke Playground with Spy Pond project.

Letter to the Transportation Department was approved 4-0 to be sent.

7. Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of October 9, 2001. After 2 corrections, Mr. McCabe motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Carabello and approved 4-0.

The Commission adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jon Jalbert, Superintendent of Recreation