

Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2013

Members in Attendance: Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample, Rachel Buonopane, Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Janice Dallas, Kerrie Fallon, Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan James

Members Absent:

Others Present: Jack Jones, ADA Coordinator, Joe Connelly & Leslie Mayer from Park & Recreation, Nina Fischer (I Can Shine)

Meeting began at 4:05 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Guests

a. Recreation Department- Joe Connelly and Leslie Mayer

- Presentation of ADA study that the Town of Arlington Recreation department will be performing (looking to meet all needs such as physical, vision, hearing, ADHD, all ages, etc...)
- Money requested for study had been approved
- The project is out to bid
- Valerie Fletcher from the Institute for Human Centered Design has been consulted
- Public meeting on 1/16/14 at 7 pm to be held
- Meeting/training- covering ADA guidelines to explain how the study will take form
- Expected to take 6 months to discover programs offered and obtain cost estimates to plan to perform the project over several years
- The money for the project will likely come through future capital requests
- The Recreation Department is motivated and excited to work towards compliance
- Recreation Department would like to partner with our commission/ potentially as liaisons and/or involved in special projects, we would be involved in training and provide input
- Rachel and Heidi interested in partnering for this project
- ***the projects focus goes beyond play structures and field sports

b. Nina Fischer- I Can Shine (Arlington)

- Bike Camp Coordinator
- Runs special camp to teach children with special needs how to ride a two wheel bike
- Camp began last year and was run over April vacation at the Ottoson Middle School
- Children need to be ambulatory (able to walk) without an assistive device
- 125 families are currently on the wait list
- 35% of the children have Downs Syndrome, 35% of the children are on the Autism spectrum
- Ages for the camp 8 and up
- Camp is open to Arlington residents and surrounding towns, Arlington residents will be the priority for admission
- Participants pay a fee for admission to camp
- Nina is looking for community support and volunteers for the camp

- *Action items: commission will discuss further regarding potential support and volunteer*
 - Jack suggested applying for Community Development Block grant funds
 - Nina also looking to connect with EasterSeals for this project, Rachel gave Nina her card as she is on the Regional Board for EasterSeals and can assist with making connections
3. ADA Coordinators Report
- Calls from community
 1. Resident on Summer St called about snow being piled on wheelchair ramp/curb cut in front of her house across from the rink
 - Mike has put in request to have this intersection put on the list to be cleared manually
 - 2. Molly and Jack met with Laura Wiener
 - further discussion about handicap parking spots in the Arlington Heights business district
 - *Rachel to follow up with Laura this month*
 - Discussion of 1 spot in each quadrant around Mass Ave/Park Ave intersection (removing one in front of Cambridge Savings Bank), versus 5 spots (4 quadrants plus one in front of Cambridge Savings Bank), versus 4 spots (3 quadrants plus one in front of Cambridge Savings Bank)
 - 3. Nina Fisher (see above)
 - 4. Joe Connolly (see above)
 - 5. Town Transition Plan
 - Adam (town manager), Molly, Mike, Carol Kowloski, Andrew Flanagan and Jack met to discuss updating the plan
 - The last plan was written in 1993
 - Discussion of applying for funding
 - Noted that Recreation Department ADA study will fill some of the categories for study information needs
 - 6. Request for Bus Stop
 - At the Symmes site/ now Arlington 360
 - Town has requested this site be added to the 67 bus route (previously reported that the Symmes Hospital had a bus stop)
 - MBTA currently has denied due to grading issues on the sidewalk (regulations state that there can be no greater than 2% grade on the sidewalk)
 - Current suggested site as 3/5% grade
 - 7. Complaint regarding voting at the Thompson Elementary school
 - People were only allowed to enter the school through a side door (that was not accessible)
 - Reportedly principal would not allow community members to enter through front (accessible door)
 - Superintendent was contacted and access will now be allowed going forward
 - 8. Annual Report due Jan 2nd
 - Molly and Jack to review minutes of the year and will make a list to send out to the group including accomplishments and goals
4. Administrative Business

- a. September minutes approved
 - b. October minutes approved, November minutes approved with spelling changes
 - c. Meeting Minutes
 - Will try to distribute to the group by Friday or Monday preceding the meeting
 - d. Meeting time questionnaire
 - More surveys collected from commission members today
 - e. Master Plan Update
 - Revised deadline 12/20/13
 - Currently performing inventory of what town is building, transportation
 - No proposal of changes yet
 - Commission members to look at vision and goals for further suggestions
 - f. ADA Self evaluation/ Transition plan
 - Check in with other towns to find out more information on process and plan-Somerville/Cambridge
 - Find out information regarding similar set ups and budget as Arlington (towns as opposed to local cities)
 - Working to possibly get into FY 2015 budget
 - g. 2014 Town Warrant
 - Due January 31, 2014
 - Try to get guests to come out and explain process, discussion of resubmitting snow warrant/policy
 - h. HRC (Human Rights Commission) meeting on 11/20/13
 - Working on MBTA taxi subsidy program for RIDE users
5. 2014 Commission Goals
- a. Postpone discussion until after next month's meeting with Jeff Dougan
 - b. Review document from Jeff for suggestions to make goals
 - Document sent to members from Molly via email
6. Snow Removal
- 2 big storms so far this year
 - Mike reports that the first was difficult due to the combination of snow->rain->ice and second was difficult due to during rush hour making it difficult to clear the roads
 - Mike reports how snow removal is performed and how they plan
 - Sidewalks that are cleared manually (trees and parks division)- those on Town property, also assist in clearing intersections near schools, Mass Ave, Broadway and then target list of high concern intersections
 - Mike made capital budget request for sidewalk clearing machine (bombader), to purchase to improve towns response time
 - Question of clearing snow next to on street handicap parking spots, reports from commission members that if this snow is not cleared people are unable to lower wheelchair lifts, rendering spots "useless" for those individuals
 - Discussion of best way to make this better, and at what response would it be considered accessible

7. Handicapped Street Parking

- Addressed in ADA report

8. Acknowledgement of Service

- Janice Dallas recognized for her years of service, she will be moving soon and her term has expired
- Janice will stay in touch with commission and will visit meetings

Meeting adjourned 6:15pm

Next Meeting set January 15, 2015