



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **March 25, 2014 Minutes**

Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Tuesday, March 25, 2014 @ 7:00 PM  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:10 PM in the Downstairs Main Room of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jim Robillard, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg, Elena Bartholomew and Peter Hedlund. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly.

Members from the public: Laura Fuller, Sarah Lynch, Charlotte Milan, Dan Shine, Chris Hall and Merli Guerra.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the minutes of March 11, 2014; Ms. Canniff seconded and approved 4-0-1 with Mr. Vitters abstaining.

### **Open Forum – Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **Recycling in the Parks Discussion with Charlotte Milan**

Ms. Milan reviewed handouts on park recycling with the Commission. Ms. Milan would like to see fewer trash barrels and more recycling bins in the parks. The Commission agreed in concept that adding recycling to the parks is a good idea and discussed the placement of the units. Mr. Connelly stated that the feedback he received is that the parks need more barrels in locations of high use such as near each player bench. Ms. Milan indicated that the challenge was how to get recycling from those areas to an area where the hauler would be able to pick it up.

Ms. Milan reviewed the pick-up of pet waste in the parks and approaches to make this easier for DPW staff. One option is installing pet waste stations in certain parks that would have to be picked up on a frequent basis. Ms. Milan stated that she was still collecting data to give to the Director of DPW.

Ms. Milan reviewed different ways to get the community involved with the recycling effort. The Commission agreed with the concept but asked that before any final decision is made about new waste or recycling units to be placed in the parks that Mr. Connelly be given the information to review with the Commission.

### **Bishop School Community Classroom Discussion**

Ms. Lynch reviewed the proposal for a community classroom. The main issue with the proposal is the use of parkland for this purpose. Ms. Lynch stated that they could not use school property due to the issues of dampness, mold and rodents in the lower level if it was near the school building, but assured the Commission that these would not be problems in the area that they were requesting.

Mr. Connelly stated that he thought the concept of a community classroom was excellent but his concern was giving up the land and the precedent it would set for other park properties beside schools. His concerns were overall responsibility for the garden area, and interference with other public uses, such as softball and soccer. The Commission and Ms. Lynch and Ms. Fuller discussed options as they looked at a map of the facility.

Ms. Rothenberg asked what the plan was for maintenance during the offseason. Ms. Lynch stated that there were numerous options for maintenance support.

The Commission all agreed that the concept was a good one but asked the group to sit with Mr. Connelly and see if a better area could be identified or a smaller area for a pilot program. Mr. Connelly also stated that with Bishop in the capital plan for FY 16/17, this area could be looked at as part of that process.

Mr. Connelly will set up a meeting with the Bishop group and report back to the Commission.

### **Special Event Requests**

Merli Guerra – Dance Company Event – The Commission reviewed the event on September 6<sup>th</sup> with the applicant. The Commission discussed their concerns and possible solutions with Ms. Guerra. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the permit with conditions, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Conditions:

- Safety plan implemented by the Arlington Police Department is strictly adhered to.
- Traffic plan implemented by the Arlington Police Department is strictly adhered to.
- Some form of temporary barrier is placed along the Park Avenue side of the property.
- Extra trash receptacles are provided for the event.
- Any potential conflicts are resolved with MBTA regarding regular bus routes during the event.
- The Board of Selectmen approve any street closings for the event.

Ottoson Middle School – Team Works Festival at Thorndike Field, June 20, 2014 – Mr. Connelly reviewed the correspondence from Ottoson confirming that they would like the event to be held at Thorndike Field and that the school will make the arrangements for an adequate number of portable restrooms to be brought to and removed from the site. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Park Avenue Church – Robbins Farm Park, April 20, 2014 – Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Bourassa – Charity Fun Run at the Arlington Reservoir, May 17, 2014 – Mr. Vitters motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Jeff Alexander – Astronomy Nights at Robbins Farm Park, several evening dates - Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

### **Arlington Catholic Batting Cage at Summer Street Field**

Mr. Shine and Mr. Hall reviewed their request for a temporary batting cage at Summer Street Field. The Commission discussed the request and placement of the unit, which will be near the parking lot beyond the center field lights. Mr. Robillard motioned to approve with the condition that Town Counsel approves, any liability insurance requirements are met and the usage is reviewed in June, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

### **Wellington Tennis Courts – Increased Lighting Time/Reserve a Game**

The Commission discussed the request to increase the time that the tennis courts at Wellington Park are lighted. The Commission has not received many requests for increased time and decided to table the issue until the July meeting to see how the spring season goes.

The Commission also tabled the “Reserve a Game” discussion until a future meeting.

### **Warrant Articles/CPA**

The Commission discussed the CPA warrant article – the benefits of CPA and concerns about it. The Commission decided to take no position on the CPA article at this time. Ms. Rothenberg will inform the CPA Committee.

### **Commission Charter and Goals Review**

The Commission tabled this discussion to a future meeting.

### **Capital Improvement Project Update**

**Florence Playground** - Mr. Connelly will be meeting a representative from Landscape Structures at the site on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11 am to evaluate the swings.

**ADA Study** - Mr. Connelly received a draft ADA report for the Thorndike OLRA. It is quite detailed and complex. A

representative from IHCD will be meeting with Mr. Connelly onsite to explain the findings. Mr. Connelly will inform the Commissioners of the date, since it would be educational for everyone.

**Thorndike OLRA-** Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly informed the Commission that it is time to submit our capital requests to the Stanton Foundation for OLRA improvements. Mr. Connelly stated that he was waiting until after the ADA meeting to formulate the request. Any suggestions should be sent to him.

**Commission Liaison Reports**

*Friends of Parks/Special Event Fundraising* – Ms. Rothenberg stated that a meeting would be taking place on Thursday, March 27, 2014 to discuss the event.

*Field Management* – Ms. Canniff reported on the success of the meeting stating that the user groups had a good handle on the upcoming season and were very supportive of the process.

**Other**

*Youth Sports Meeting* – Mr. Connelly announced that the Recreation Department would be sponsoring a guest lecture from former NBA player Bob Bigelow on Youth Sports in America. The lecture is Thursday, March 27, 2014 at Town Hall and is being publicized to parents by the youth sports groups in town.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation