

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, July 29, 2014
Arlington Senior Center
Draft

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, July 29th.

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

Members from the public: Kevin Duffy, Karen Grossman and Peter Ronte.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 10, 2014 were approved on a motion from Mr. Robillard and seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, minutes approved 3-0.

Minutes of June 24th were tabled.

Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no comments.

Spy Pond Public Art - Swan Donation

The Commission discussed the generous donation of the swan sculpture for Spy Pond Park with artist, Kevin Duffy. The Commission discussed permanent versus temporary art and possible locations for Mr. Duffy's swan piece. Mr. Duffy explained the benefits of a concrete pad or a stone dust pad under the surface for stability purposes, as the rock sculpture is large and heavy. The Commission discussed a written agreement with Mr. Duffy to ensure that everyone is on the same page. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to talk to Town Counsel about drafting an agreement with the approved condition to accompany the indemnification agreement.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the swan sculpture under the following conditions:

1. The Park Commission allows display of the art in Spy Pond Park for a two year period from September 2014 to September 2016 at which time the art donation will be reviewed by the Commission and Mr. Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy retains ownership of the sculpture, which he is loaning it to the Town of Arlington for public display.

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3. The location for display is in an area across from the bench pad at the Linwood St. end of the park in a location known as location number #3 on the proposed plan.
4. A stonedust pad will be used for the base and Mr. Duffy will prepare the site and install the sculpture.
5. If there are any changes to the display location or sculpture during the two year period, Mr. Duffy will be notified.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 3-0.

Spv Pond Planting Plan

Ms. Grossman and Mr. Ronte reviewed the planting plan for bed #6. Ms. Grossman explained that the plan did receive a positive review from the Conservation Commission but was not officially approved until the Latin names of the proposed plantings could be provided. The Commission reviewed the plans. Ms. Grossman stated that, provided the Conservation Commission concurs, the planting in bed #6 could be done because there is no shoreline work recommended in this area. Mr. Connelly stated that the plan as presented is being recommended by Carol Johnson and Associates.

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer complimented the FOSPP for their efforts and stated that they have supplied the Commission with everything the Commission has asked them for. Ms. Grossman stated the Friends would be providing the funding and the manpower for all of the work.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the planting plan for bed #6 with the condition that the Conservation Commission also approves the plan, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 3-0.

Banner Policy Review

The Commission reviewed the current draft of the Banner Policy and the current process for sign approval. The Commission expressed their frustration with the current bylaw restrictions limiting the notification of town-wide events in properties zoned as open space.

The Commission will withdraw their current ZBA request for a special permit. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to continue to work with Town Counsel on a long-term solution that is fair and equitable to all organizations and that will allow some community event notifications in an open space zone.

Bulletin Board Policy Review

The Commission reviewed the current policy for Bulletin Boards at Commission properties. The Commission discussed adding one line stating that unapproved items would be removed.

Mr. Robillard motion to approve as amended and seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

Tennis Court Sunday Start Time

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The Commission discussed the current rule of no tennis play before 9am on Sunday. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to amend the current policy by removing this restriction, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 3-0.

Commission Goals, Mission Statement and Charter Review

This item was tabled until all Commission Members and Associates can be present. Mr. Connelly will contact all Commission members to try to schedule an August meeting that will focus exclusively on this item.

Special Event Requests

International School of Boston –Robbins Farm Request

The Commission discussed the annual request from the ISoB. The Commission had many concerns including the congestion (on site/traffic on Eastern Ave/parking), such a large event that is not open to the public, restroom use and overall an increased number of events at the park.

The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to summarize the number of events at each park at the end of the year so they could compare the increased volume at all the parks.

Mr. Robillard motioned to approve the permit for this year with the following conditions, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

- 1 – Extra portable toilets for the event, picked up the next day
- 2 – Two police officers; one for crowd control and one for traffic
- 3 – DPW Clean up detail
- 4 – No ice cream truck
- 5 – Make sure 60% of attendees are residents to determine resident vs. non-resident rate
- 6 – Insurance naming the Town of Arlington as an additional

Capital Improvement Project Update

North Union and Hibbert – Mr. Connelly reviewed both projects stating that North Union ran into unanticipated electrical delays and was now back on schedule with an estimated completion date of mid-August. A Town Alert was sent to residents explaining the delay, and Mr. Connelly has committed to keep the spray park open, weather permitting, for extra weekends. Hibbert was nearly complete with two pieces of equipment on back order.

Florence – Mr. Connelly stated the spray components have been replaced and the spray jets are working. Mr. Connelly is still working on the replacement swing.

Thorndike OLRA – No report at this time.

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Spy Pond Tennis Courts - The site was soil tested and is being surveyed.

Capital Plan for FY2016 – The Commission did a preliminary review of the capital plan for the coming year with requests to focus on upgrades to Magnolia Park/Playground and ADA compliance projects.

Commission Liaison Reports

Ms. Mayer discussed the proposed changes to the Open Space Plan and will send out information for comment from the Commissioners.

Ms. Rothenberg reminded the Commission about the date change for the Moonlight Beach Party event to Saturday, September 6th.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation