

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
Thursday, November 13, 2014
Arlington Senior Center
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 6:30 PM in the Arlington Senior Center on Thursday, November 13, 2014 for a public hearing on the Spy Pond Tennis Courts project and its regular meeting.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, and Associate Member Elena Bartholomew. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Doloris Schueler, Maryanna Foskett, Kristin Garrigus, Pat Guthrie, Sean Alton, Frank Days, Jim Ballin, Ying Barlow, Gordon Graham and landscape architect, Andrew Leonard.

Public Input Session Spy Pond Tennis Courts

Mr. Connelly reviewed the project scope and the design process that has occurred to this point in time. Mr. Connelly introduced landscape architect, Andrew Leonard, to review the options and asked that Mr. Leonard be allowed to review each option and the Commission allowed to discuss the options before the meeting is opened up for public input.

Mr. Leonard reviewed several options including multiple four, five and six court options. Options were presented in different orientations and lighting for the courts was also discussed. Mr. Connelly and Mr. Leonard reviewed the budget for the project and cost implications of the different scenarios. Mr. Leonard also discussed the desirability of moving the courts out of the Spy Pond buffer zone.

The Commission discussed several concerns including the impact on green space, increased traffic congestion in the area, ADA accessibility requirements and involving the Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Commission opened the meeting up to public comment:

Sean Alton (Arlington Soccer Club) – Concerned about any reduction in field space, and although an 11 v 11 field may fit, any loss of green space reduces much needed practice space and potential future field options.

Pat Guthrie (Abutter) – Is not opposed to lights but would like a systems in place to make sure that the courts are not lighted when not in use.

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Jim Ballin – Would like to see additional courts, six is preferred and at a minimum five. He has been involved with soccer for years and does not feel that increasing the number of courts impacts ASC significantly.

Gordon Graham (Teaches tennis for the Town and is the former AHS coach) – Would like to see additional courts, prefers the 6 court option with one being reserved for youth tennis as mini-courts. The Commission discussed the mini-court option in detail.

Maryanna Foskett – Asked if windscreens could be included as part of the project.

The Commission continued discussion on each option with the public.

Ms. Canniff commented that she likes the five court option without lights. Mr. Vitters agreed that a five court option made sense. Ms. Rothenberg asked that we involve TAC in the process. Mr. Connelly stated that he would draft a memo to the Board of Selectmen and ask that TAC review the draft plans and traffic/parking issues in the area.

The Commission will review final plans, after the Conservation Commission hearing on the project, expected to be at the December 9 meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 28, 2014 were approved on a motion from Ms. Canniff and seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Minutes approved 3-0-1 with Mr. Vitters abstaining.

Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no comments.

Special Requests

Spy Pond Splash

The Commission reviewed the correspondence from Mr. Barber. The Commission stated that they supported the concept and would wait for a formal park request and event details before officially voting on the event.

Review of 2014 Park Picnic and Reservations and Special Events

Mr. Connelly reviewed the number of permits granted over the last three years. The Commission discussed the findings. The Commission asked that Mr. Connelly revise the table and separate out birthday parties and picnics from major special events.

The Commission discussed where the park reservation fees collected should be placed. Mr. Connelly stated that there is administrative overhead from Enterprise Fund resources that should be reimbursed, which the Commission agreed with. Ms. Canniff motion to have funds collected from picnic and special

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event reservations deposited into the Park Beautification Fund with 10% paid out to the Enterprise Fund at fiscal year end for administrative overhead. Motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg; approved 4-0.

Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly stated that the Kid Care Pre-school program would be expanding to a five day program next school year.

Mr. Connelly also announced that a new Program Supervisor, Erin Campbell, had been hired and will be starting on November 17.

Discussion of CPA Impact

The Commission discussed the potential impact of the newly passed Community Preservation Act. The current capital plan was reviewed and will be evaluated through the topic leader group. The Commission will need to carefully watch how the CPA process is implemented.

Commission Topic Leader Discussion

Ms. Mayer discussed the importance that each topic area set up a meeting with Mr. Connelly to discuss the best way to proceed for the coming year. A detailed Topic Leader discussion will be on the agenda for the December 9 meeting.

Capital Projects Update

2016 Capital Requests – Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed the importance of reviewing the current capital plan with respect to current and future priorities. Mr. Connelly stated that a pre-meeting should occur between Mr. Vitters and Mr. Hedlund. The Commission discussed meeting as a Commission first during the December meeting to give guidance to the topic group.

Other

NA

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation