

# TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation

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

## Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission  
March 22, 2016  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00pm for its meeting in the Senior Center Main Room on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

Members in attendance included: Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Elena Bartholomew and Associate Members Chrissy Tarantino and Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly and Park Commission Secretary Deanna Healy were also present.

Members from the public: Jody Reale, Tony Vogel, Christian Klein and Mary Jo Sargent

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of February 23, 2016 were approved, as amended, on a motion made by Ms. Canniff, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew. Approved 3-0, with Ms. Mayer and Mr. Vitters abstaining.

Open Forum – N/A

### Robbins Farm Slide Discussion

Mr. Connelly introduced Jody Reale of Reale Associates who assists the Town with various playground inspections and repairs. Ms. Reale shared concerns regarding the embankment slide located at Robbins Farm Park. Mr. Connelly stated that the slide seems to be made of a thinner plastic than other smaller hard plastic slides in Town. Ms. Reale stated that the slides currently may not meet the latest consumer product safety commission standards, pointing out the needed slide clearance zone and height of the exit area. Ms. Reale stated that due to a lack of a footer system the slides were pulling away from the top of the structure and shifting down the hillside. Ms. Reale again stated a dual slide in this space does not currently comply with code due to the lack of clearance space between the slides and the steps on either side of the slides.

Mr. Vogel questioned the thinner material, whether the slide can be properly fixed after several previous repairs and the costs of repairs that have been made. Mr. Connelly stated that although the costs are not significantly high, the slide is becoming increasingly difficult for the DPW to repair.

Ms. Reale again reviewed the compliance issues and current CPSC standards. Ms. Reale also stated that the stairs are old and worn and are in need of repair. Mr. Hedlund asked if it was possible to fix the stairs and install a compliant slide. Mr. Hedlund asked for a recommendation for a long term and short term solution. Ms. Rothenberg stated that there are short term repairs that can be made so it can remain open. Mr. Connelly stated that the Recreation Department already has a stock of extra slide pieces that can be

**422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474**  
**Telephone (781) 316-3880 Fax (781) 641-5495**

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used for immediate repairs if necessary. The Commission will continue to discuss the long term plans for repair and replacement of the slide at a future meeting. Ms. Mayer is going to check if slide replacement could be covered by a CPA project request. Mr. Connelly will meet with Ms. Reale on site to evaluate the current conditions and then begin to draft a long term plan with Ms. Reale and an embankment slide manufacturer.

#### Special Requests

A – Boston Earth Citizen Walk – June 18, 2016 - Menotomy Rocks Park

Mr. Connelly invited Ms. Sargent to share details about her special request for the Boston Earth Citizen Walk at Menotomy Rocks Park. Ms. Sargent stated that this event is a free, family friendly event that is advertised by word of mouth by a non-profit organization. The gathering is to promote mindfulness, exercise and energy in a natural setting. They will use the field entrance and the path around the pond. Ms. Rothenberg stated that Saturdays at Menotomy Rocks Park are typically busy. Ms. Mayer asked Ms. Sargent to remind participants to follow dog leashing rules. A motion to approve the special request was made by Ms. Mayer, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

B – Batting Cage at Summer Street Field – Permanent Fixture Request

Mr. Brian Malo was not in attendance this evening. Mr. Connelly stated that Babe Ruth is requesting permanent posts for the batting cage with removable netting in the off-season. The Commission will discuss this request further when a Babe Ruth representative is present.

#### Recreation Topic Areas

##### Recreation Programming

Mr. Connelly stated that Summer Registration is going well and has many new programs and activities. Mr. Hedlund recommended adding Recreation Programs to the agenda periodically. The Daddy/Daughter Dance was a success. Mr. Connelly stated that he did receive a phone call from a resident who expressed concerns about the name of the dance being discriminatory.

##### Capital Improvements

- Mr. Connelly stated that the Magnolia Park project bids would open bidding on April 14, 2016.
- Berkshires will attend the Commission meeting on April 8, 2016 to review options for ADA compliance projects for the first phase of upgrades.
- Mr. Connelly recommended that the Summer Street Field project would concentrate on a new diamond as phase 1 as part of the state funding and the backstop replacement at part of the Capital funds. The remaining requests made by Babe Ruth can be phased in at a later time.
- CPA - Mr. Connelly, Ms. Mayer and Mr. Vitters reviewed the Robbins Farm Park application and presentation to CPA. Ms. Mayer stated that it was well received by CPA. Ms. Mayer stated that

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CPA recommendations will be voted on next week. A report is being prepared for Town Meeting. If approved, the money will be available July 1, 2016.

#### Off Leash Park and Program

Mr. Connelly stated that Ms. Rothenberg, Ms. Canniff and the Animal Control Officer, Ms. Katie Kozikowski, held a meeting with members of "A-Dog". Maryanna Foskett and Judy Weinberg presented a petition and outlined ideas to allow for off-leash dogs to be allowed in the woods during current off leash hours. The group reviewed a suggestion by the MSPCA that a temporary fenced in area within the park may allow for extended hours and space. The meeting participants agreed to meet again in June to check in about enforcement and off leash reporting. A new online reporting mechanism is being fine-tuned and Mr. Connelly hopes that it will be active within the next few weeks.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn at 9:10 pm, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew and approved 5-0.

Submitted by: Deanne Healy and Joseph Connelly