

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



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 June 14, 2016 Draft Meeting Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00pm for its meeting in the Senior Center on Tuesday, June 14, 2016.

Commission members in attendance included: Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Elena Bartholomew and Associate Members Chrissy Tarantino and Peter Hedlund.

Staff in attendance included: Dave Cunningham, Erin Campbell and Jim Feeney

Members from the public: Susan Doctrow, Judy Weinberg, Darcy Devney, Wendy Johnecheck, Mark McAneny, Amy West and Rosa Nagle.

Approval of Minutes – The Commission tabled the minutes of May 24, 2016.

Open Forum – N/A

AYBSA Scannell Field Bench Area/Buck Field Batting Cage – N/A, no AYBSA representative present.

Vision 2020 Survey Results – Ms. Susan Doctrow was invited to share the results of the 2016 Vision 2020 Survey on Off Leash Recreational Areas (OLRA). There was an increased record response and support for a fenced OLRA in 2016 as compared to 2007. Built with a grant provided by the Stanton Foundation, the Thorndike OLRA opened in 2012. Survey responses show that the majority of responders were dog owners and in support of a second OLRA. They are willing to pay a reasonable fee to maintain the park when the 3 year maintenance stipend provided by Stanton expires. Ms. Mayer estimated that, going forward, yearly operating and maintenance costs would be approximately \$20,000. Ms. Rothenberg stated that the Commission was open to the idea of a second OLRA.

Bishop School Garden Review – Ms. Wendy Johnecheck and Mr. Mark McAneny, Principal of Bishop School, presented information about the creation, use and goals for the Bishop School garden. Currently the garden is being used by all 18 classrooms based on a curriculum created for each grade by the classroom teachers and the Garden Educator. The garden is adding to the “community feel” of the Bishop School neighborhood and provides social and emotional benefits to the students. Going forward Ms. Johnecheck and Mr. McAneny would like to incorporate a gathering place for outdoor learning within the garden boundaries established by

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the Commission, fundraise for a water station at the garden that will provide improved sanitation and convenience and help educate the other elementary schools in town on the benefits of a school-wide community garden. Mr. Hedlund shared financial estimates for the water station and backflow project stating that it was expensive for a pilot program, but could be considered in the future if the garden program continues. Ms. Rothenberg inquired about summer maintenance of the garden. Ms. Johnecheck stated that families sign-up for time slots in which they are responsible for the garden through the summer break. The Commission was in support of the garden and its benefits and asked to see updates through the remaining two years of the pilot.

ADA Project Recommendations – North Union/Lussiano, Florence and Buck Fields – Ms. Mayer stated that the \$142,000 budget would only cover two of the projects based on the Berkshire Designs estimates of \$181,000. Mr. Vitters stated that the Buck Field plans were not finalized, therefore North Union/Lussiano and Florence fields should be the first projects to be addressed. Mr. Hedlund stated that a public meeting would be held regarding the projects. A motion to prioritize the ADA projects of North Union and Florence Fields was made by Mr. Vitters, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Special Requests –

Amy West and Rosa Nagle presented a Special Request to hold an outdoor play rehearsal and performance at Spy Pond Park on the evenings of July 15-17, 2016 between the hours of 5-8pm, with a rain date of July 18, 2016. Advertising will be done through word of mouth and on Facebook and audience members will be encouraged to bring their own chairs or blankets for seating. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Hedlund asked for a brief description of the play to insure appropriateness for a public audience. The play is a kidnapping mystery with no bad language or violence acted out but geared toward a 13+ aged audience. Ms. West and Ms. Nagle stated that an insurance policy has been drafted and will be filed, pending request approval of the Commission. A motion to approve the special request was made by Ms. Mayers, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Capital Updates -

Magnolia Park – Mr. Vitters stated that construction is currently on hold. Documentation is set to be presented to the Conservation Commission for approval. A walk through with Con Com is scheduled for June 15, 2016 followed by a hearing on the evening of June 16, 2016.

Spy Pond Bleachers – Ms. Mayer stated that unless the stone bleachers are found to be historical in nature, any application for CPA funding for this project would be considered under the recreation allotment of CPA funds. An application for such funding is expected from the Town Manager and DPW.

Robbins Farm – Mr. Vitters stated that more research was being done on the pros and cons of side-by-side slides versus one slide. Ms. Mayer stated that CPA fund requests can be made for

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replacement playground equipment and the Commission would need to have further discussion regarding the slides level of priority.

Reservoir – Mr. Cunningham, Veterans Rink supervisor, was asked to share the condition of the pumps and pump house located at Reservoir Beach. The current equipment and location is 35 years old, while the life expectancy is 25-30 years. Ms. Mayer stated that CPA funds could probably be used for the building of a new pump house. The Commission will further discuss repairing the current equipment versus options for new pumps and pump house.

Recreation Topics –

Programming – Ms. Campbell, Recreation Programs Supervisor, stated that summer registration numbers are still up. This year's H.R.C. camp will incorporate the Arlington Fire Department. It will add to the camp's objectives, community and safety.

Ms. Rothenberg stated that the Commission would discuss the "Moonlight Beach Party" at the June 28, 2016 meeting.

Capital Improvements – Mr. Hedlund stated that the Conservation Committee could either "approve" or "stay" the plans at Magnolia Park. The removal of the large Dawn Redwood is gaining community concern. Mr. Feeney stated that if they opt to "stay", the project may still be able to commence around the Dawn Redwood until a final decision is made.

Other – Ms. Rothenberg introduced Interim Recreation Director Jim Feeney to the Commission.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn at 9:25pm, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew and approved 5-0.

Submitted by : Deanna Healy

Next Meeting is Tuesday, July 26, 2016