

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
September 13, 2016
Draft Meeting Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00pm for its meeting in the Senior Center on Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

Members in attendance included: Jen Rothenberg, Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Elena Bartholomew and Associate Members Crissy Tarantino and Peter Hedlund. Assistant Town Manager Jim Feeney was also present.

Members from the public: Amy Cooper and Colin Cooper

Approval of Minutes – The Commission reviewed the minutes of June 27, 2016. Ms. Bartholomew motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. The Commission reviewed the minutes of July 26, 2016. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Colin Cooper explained that he was observing the meeting for a Boy Scout badge requirement. The Commissioners welcomed him and encouraged him to ask questions.

Special Requests – n/a

Capital Updates

Magnolia Park Project – Mr. Hedlund stated that the tree removal was completed before Labor Day allowing for demolition and construction to begin on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Many tree and playground equipment materials were salvaged for potential future use. Grading and drainage work will begin next, followed by equipment installation and planting. Planting will be dependent on the quality of plants delivered. The project could potentially be complete by the end of November.

Robbins Farm Project – Mr. Feeney stated that the Commission has received eleven contractor proposals which have been previewed by both Mr. Feeney and Mr. Vitters. The Initial Screening Committee includes Ms. Rothenberg, Ms. Mayer, Mr. Vitters and Mr. Hedlund. The Initial Screening Committee will present the top four candidates' proposals to the Commission on September 20, 2016.

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Interviews with the top four candidates will be conducted at a meeting on September 29, 2016. The project will be awarded during the first week of October.

Buck Field Fencing/Summer Street Field – Mr. Feeney stated that the projects will begin after the fall baseball season ends in October.

Florence and Lussiano Field ADA Improvements – Members of the Commission will be attending the ADA meeting on September 15, 2016. Berkshire and the Disability Commission have been invited for further discussion.

Recreation Topics

Programming – Ms. Rothenberg stated that the winter brochure has been distributed.

Capital Improvements – Mr. Vitters and Mr. Feeney have been in contact with Weston and Sampson to determine a cost estimate for the Reservoir Master Plan. The Commission has reached out to the Conservation Committee and the Reservoir Committee for their input to be included in the letter of intent. Ms. Mayer stated that support from the Town of Lexington would also be needed, as a portion of the path encircling the Reservoir is Lexington land. The preliminary application will include the survey costs and be submitted by the due date, October 7, 2016. The final CPA application is due in December 2016.

Policies and Procedures – Ms. Bartholomew shared that the Town of Arlington is in the process of creating town email addresses for all town commission members.

Field Management – Mr. Hedlund reported that Crosby, Bishop and McClennen, which are all irrigated fields, maintained healthy, green grass throughout the drought. The other town fields, which are not irrigated, did not fare as well under the severe conditions.

Mr. Feeney received notice from the tree warden that the Tree Committee is proposing that ten large shade trees be planted at Scannell Field by the DPW. Plans for the plantings will be submitted to the Commission.

Special Events – Ms. Rothenberg stated that the Moonlight Beach Party is scheduled for Town Day Night, September 17, 2016. Signage has been posted at parks, businesses and schools. Advertisements have also been posted on social media and through email blasts. Tickets are currently on sale.

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Open Space – Ms. Bartholomew stated that the Open Space Committee will be promoting their Walking Tour of Arlington at Town Day on September 17, 2016.

Off-Leash Park and Program – Mr. Feeney shared that the money raised from the “Dogs Day of Summah” event will go toward the Thorndike OLRA “Give a Bag/Take a Bag” dispenser.

Correspondence Received

Email received from Xanthe Papdakakis regarding off-leash dogs chasing geese at the Reservoir.

Other –

Ms. Rothenberg listed topics for future discussion. 1. Longer Reservoir season and venue rental possibilities. 2. Use of Arlington Recreation Facebook page for public information regarding Parks and Recreation Commission 3. Public Process improvements.

Ms. Mayer asked if any Commission members had been asked about pending requests by the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park to apply for CPA funding for additional benches for the park. None of the Commissioners or Mr. Feeney had any information or had heard about a need for additional benches at Menotomy Rocks Park.

Mr. Vitters attended the “Spy Pond Fun Day” and stated that it was well attended and organized. Activities included arts and crafts, live music and dancing, Penny the swan statue’s dedication and boat rides to Elizabeth Island.

Mr. Feeney stated that the Ed Burns Arena will be used as a polling location on November 8, 2016 for the Presidential Election. Precincts 13 and 15 will both use this location while the Stratton School is under construction.

Ms. Bartholomew motioned to adjourn at 9:50pm, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by: Deanna Healy

Next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2016