

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Jon Marshall
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 27, 2016
Meeting Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00pm for its meeting in the Senior Center on Tuesday, September 27, 2016.

Members in attendance included: Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Elena Bartholomew and Associate Member Crissy Tarantino. Director of Recreation Jon Marshall and Assistant Town Manager Jim Feeney were also present.

Members from the public: Gleisser Allen and Jeff Rikeman from DPW.

Ms. Rothenberg began the meeting by welcoming the new Director of Recreation, Jon Marshall.

Approval of Minutes – The Commission reviewed the minutes of September 13, 2016. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Bartholomew and approved 4-0, with Ms. Canniff abstaining.

Open Forum – Arlington resident, Gleisser Allen, shared her desire to renovate Buzzell Field and the adjacent playground in order to attract families from other communities to Arlington. She stated that her motivation was to increase business traffic to Arlington Center. Ms. Allen has spoken with neighbors about fundraising. Ms. Rothenberg suggested that Ms. Allen start a “Friends of Buzzell Field” group with her neighbors.

Scannell Field Tree Planting

Mr. Feeney presented the DPW plans for potential planting locations at and recommended species based on the current tree population and planting seasons. Mr. Rikeman of the DPW stated that the town has 13 trees available to them as part of the “green energy” initiative. The DPW will be responsible for purchasing, planting and maintaining the trees. The Commission discussed ideal planting placement for beneficial shade and preserving the Spy Pond vista. The Commission will compile a priority list of other fields that would benefit from similar plantings. Ms. Rothenberg will contact the tree warden to mark the potential planting locations so the Commission can view and provide feedback.

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Capital Updates

Magnolia Park Project – Mr. Vitters stated that he had attended the Magnolia Park Project weekly update meeting. Paths have been staked out and materials are being added to raise the walkways for paving. The underground drainage piping for the Community Garden is being dug and the waterline is partially installed. During digging, concrete debris from previous foundations were discovered under the new garden. Sacca stated that this was an unexpected condition. It was also recommended that benches be installed on a concrete pad without asphalt, as asphalt can soften and deteriorate over time. Pricing for additional landscaping is being considered through Wagon Wheel Nursery. Mr. Vitters also stated that the community bulletin board had been reframed, the Magnolia Park sign location had been marked and the backflow preventer for Magnolia Field had been installed. Additionally, the DPW will be looking into updates for affected sidewalks. Ms. Mayers inquired about the handicap parking space request. Mr. Feeney stated that TAC will be receiving input from APD regarding handicap parking and speed bumps.

Robbins Farm Project – Ms. Rothenberg stated that the Initial Screening Committee had reviewed eleven proposal submissions. Five companies have been invited to interview at a special Commission meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2016.

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

Florence and Lussiano Field ADA Improvements – Ms. Canniff stated that there were concerns about the root systems and run-off at Florence Avenue. Bidding documents are currently being prepared for the renovations which are expected to take a month. Mr. Rikeman stated that the DPW, Water Department and Sewer Department would review the plans.

Reservoir Update - Ms. Mayer stated that the preliminary CPA application for the Reservoir Renovations Master Plan is due October 7, 2016. Weston and Sampson will provide an estimate based on information gathered during a walk around the Arlington/Lexington property.

Recreation Topics

Programming – Ms. Canniff shared that temporary locations for Kid Care programs were being researched. It has been determined that temporary licensing will be easier to obtain for town owned

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property. Mr. Feeney stated that he was aware the Kid Care Preschool Director had been actively researching potential locations throughout the summer and that further exploration was required.

Mr. Marshall stated that the travel basketball program was underway. An unequal age-level turnout will require changes in gym space, coaches and rosters. He also stated that fall programming enrollment is consistent with last year.

Ms. Mayer requested the Reservoir financial information for the Master Plan.

Special Events – Ms. Rothenberg stated that the Moonlight Beach Party was more of a community building event than a fundraiser this year. The event broke even, with lower attendance than previous years. Planning for next year will begin earlier in the season.

Open Space – Ms. Bartholomew stated that the Open Space Committee will be expanding their Walking Tour of Arlington to include walking routes in Arlington Heights.

Off-Leash Park and Program – Mr. Marshall stated that there is a leak in one of the water stations at Thorndike OLRA. Due to seasonal timing, repairs will be made next year.

Correspondence Received

Email received from Kate Loosian concerning root systems and run-off at Florence Field.

Other –

Ms. Mayer stated that the Commission needed to prioritize future park projects and incomplete park projects. All projects must go through the Capital Planning process to determine where applications for funding can be made. The Commission agreed to make a priority list and discuss funding requests for on-going projects at the Commission meeting on October 25, 2016.

Ms. Canniff made a motion to adjourn at 10:00pm, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Healy

Next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2016