

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Jon Marshall, Director



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Canniff, Chair

Leslie Mayer

Jen Rothenberg

Don Vitters

John Donato - Associate

Crissy Tarantino – Associate

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its meeting at the Senior Center on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 7:05pm.

Members in attendance : Shirley Canniff, Elena Bartholomew, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Leslie Mayer and Associate Members John Donato and Chrissy Tarantino. Director of Recreation Jon Marshall was also present.

Members from the public: Meghan Fitzgerald, Megan Rewpro and Lauren Hague from Tinkergarten. Samantha Markey and Rob Eckel from Emerson College.

Open Forum – N/A

Tinkergarten - Ms. Fitzgerald, Tinkergarten founder, presented their vision/mission statement, program goals and history, and letters of support from Arlington residents. The Commission supports the idea of the program, however, zoning bylaws restrict for-profit programs from operating in Open Space. Ms. Fitzgerald expressed concerns about the 40/60 financial split that the Recreation Department utilizes to support the enterprise fund. She stated that the most they can support is 10-15%. She also stated that she prefers to run the program separate from the Recreation.

The Commission will not issue permits beyond any current established dates until the policies have been updated and in compliance with town laws. Mr. Marshall will contact the legal department regarding clarification and recodification information before reviewing future permit requests for for-profit organizations.

Commission Expectations, Discussion on Goals 2018 - Mr. Marshall presented the Commission Operation Charter and Protocols from previous years and FY2015 Commission Goals for members to review. Commissioners will email goal ideas to Mr. Marshall and will be discussed and prioritized at a future meeting. It was suggested to establish no more than three goals for the year ahead. The goals should not be new endeavors, but work that is a priority for the year ahead.

Capital Requests for Town Meeting Follow Up - Dean Carman is working with the Capital Planning Committee to determine how to slot Hurd for renovation since the turf installation project was voted down by the Commission.

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The CPA Committee, while being very supportive of the Reservoir Project, is concerned about the high cost estimates. They have requested a total funding plan including grants, Capital, CPA and operational funds. The working group will meet next Wednesday to discuss Phase I costs, review Phase II numbers and discuss possible grant funding. Weston and Sampson has been invited to the January 23, 2018 Park and Recreation meeting to review the project and discuss next steps.

Commissioners discussed ways to improve publicity for the project, including contacting the Arlington Advocate and ACMI. It was discussed that it will be important to circle Lexington into the conversation and include them in future discussions.

Playground Discussion - Data has been gathered and analyzed for purposes of prioritizing playground maintenance and future reconstruction. Mr. Marshall has been asked to be involved in the Hardy School Kindergarten playground project. There will be future collective discussions between the Park and Recreation Commission, the school department and facilities department in regards to playgrounds.

Indoor Space Discussion - Dr. Bodie and Mr. Marshall have come to an agreement regarding allotted space for Kid Care Afterschool in the new Gibbs building for the 2018/2019 school year. Registration will begin at the end of January.

Capital Projects - New Updates

Summer Street Fence - RAD of Rockland is currently working as frozen ground is beneficial for vehicular movement on fields. Mr. Marshall is in talks with DPW to line up rehabilitation work at Robillard Field.

Reservoir Master Plan - The Commission will further discuss the benefits of enacting Article 97 Protection to improve chances of grant funding. Ms. Mayer will reach out to other sources for more information prior to the next Commission meeting on January 23, 2018 and the Town Meeting warrant article deadline of January 26, 2018.

TAC has submitted a request to the BOS for work on Lowell Street to address safety concerns.

Spy Pond - Mr. Vitters reported that Hatch-Chester was not present at the recent meeting with ConCom. The porous walkway element may not be within the budget and alternatives will be need to be discussed. A Spring Valley Road resident has expressed concerns about the project within her property lines.

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Mill Brook - The working group is requesting feedback from residents about Phase II of the project.

Recreation Topics - N/A

Correspondence Received

a. Special Request - Menotomy Rocks Park Film

Ms. Markey, a graduate student at Emerson College, presented her plans for her thesis film which she would like to film, in part, at Menotomy Rocks Park on Friday, February 23, 2018. Permits and fees have been filed with the main office. The Commission reminded Ms. Markey of vehicle restrictions within the park, raindate possibilities, parking and bathroom suggestions to minimize neighborhood inconvenience and insurance/liability policies. The equipment is minimal and quiet, no props will be used and all dialog is family-appropriate and minimal. Ms. Markey will email a link to the film for Commissioners to view upon it's completion.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the filming request, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 5-0.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings

Ms. Canniff thanked Ms. Bartholomew for her service and dedication to the Commission.

Ms. Bartholomew motioned to adjourn at 10:10 pm, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2018 at 7:00pm in the Senior Center.