

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:05pm for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

Members in Attendance : Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker. and Sarah Carrier. Director of Recreation Stacey Mulroy and Assistant Director Erin Campbell were also present.

Members from the Public : Christina Murphy, Sam Kendis, Ray Dunetz, Charlotte Milan, Leah Broder and Phil Tedesco.

Open Forum – Public Comments – N/A

Discussion Topics

- a. Food Scrap Drop-Off Program – Charlotte Milan presented a proposal for two additional compost container locations. The proposal requests consideration for placement at McClennan and Crosby fields. After the success of the pilot program, the hope is to expand the program to other areas of town and be accessible to more residents. Ms. Rothenberg inquired about the ADA accessibility of the containers and requested that a phone number be posted on the vessels for community members that may require assistance. She also requested that Ms. Milan provide annual updates on the program. The Commission discussed potential locations to avoid the visibility of “messy overflow” when the containers are full. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to expand the pilot program to add two additional bins at Crosby and McClennan, with specific locations to be determined by the next Recreation Director, seconded by Mr. Walker and approved 4-1 with Ms. Canniff voting not in favor.
- b. Menotomy Rocks Park – Ms. Rothenberg met with the New England Mountain Bike Association to discuss positive usage of multi-use paths at Menotomy Rocks Park. She will reach out to the group to invite them to a Commission meeting in March. FOMRP will be invited as well. All pathways in Arlington are “multi-use” and FOMRP has been advised not to block the pathways with logs, rocks, etc... to deter bicyclists from using the paths.
- c. Turf Fields – Mr. Lasker has a meeting with Arlington Catholic and Belmont Hill Wednesday, February 12 to discuss Poet’s Corner.
- d. Archery – tabled until new Director is in place
- e. Indoor Space Study – tables until after AHS project

Current Projects

- a. Lussiano/North Union – Ray Dunetz presented the final schematic design he created based on the working group discussion and community feedback from 2/3 community meetings he attended. The design included sketches of the designated areas, plantings, pathways, equipment, sunshades and ground cover. He also provided the budget, indicating the project was currently \$75K over-budget. The Commission discussed the ADA accessibility of the equipment including “transfer stations”, equipment companies, and costs, pathway possibilities and maintenance needs. Ms. Canniff motioned to support the schematic design concept with

the understanding that the working group will further discuss the details, elements and budget, seconded by Mr. Lasker and approved 5-0.

- b. Playground Evaluation Study – Ms. Mulroy presented a map pinpointing playgrounds requiring renovation and those labeled as “Hazards”. Ms. Mayer requested that the map be emailed to the Commissioners in color for further review. Ms. Carrier requested that an agenda item be added on February 24 to discuss the “3-5 year plan”, maintenance and safety. Ms. Mayer stated that all agenda requests be emailed directly to Ms. Campbell by February 14, 2020. Ms. Broder shared concerns over the safety of the playgrounds highlighted in the evaluation. Ms. Mayer reiterated the reason for the “ad-hoc” meeting is to discuss concerns with other departments and gain assistance to provide “a balanced approach to address the needs and concerns of all demographics”.
- c. Reservoir Phase 1 and 2 – Ms. Mulroy presented at the CPA meeting last week. Mr. Feeney will reach out to Ms. Mayer regarding grant funding. Emily Sullivan has also offered to assist with grant applications. CPA was receptive to a 30% contingency plan for the project. Ms. Mulroy will complete the RFP before her last day as Director, February 14, 2020.
- d. Rink – ADA Upgrades – Three bids have been received and will be forwarded to the Commission for review.
- e. Wellington Phase 3 – Ms. Sullivan also presented at the CPA meeting. The committee will meet at the end of the month to discuss recommendations.
- f. Spy Pond – no updates until spring 2020.

Correspondence Received

Special Events Request – Mr. Lasker motioned to approve the annual Orienteering event at Menotomy Rocks Park requested by Mr. Nemet, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Email Requests – The Commission took no action on an email regarding St. Paul’s Cemetery because it is not within the Commissions jurisdiction.

Working Groups

- a. Capital Planning – Ms. Broder inquired about the ADA line item of \$50K for FY2020. Ms. Mayer explained that the line item was designated for upgrades, changes, etc... In 2020 this money was used on the Spy Pond project. Use in 2021 is TBD. An “ask” for the Reservoir project will be presented to CPA. Ms. Mulroy shared that she learned that \$400K of the Reservoir funding was a “place holder” and not included in the \$3M.
- b. Field User Fees – tabled until after AHS project.
- c. Field User Study – tabled until after AHS project.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the minutes of January 14, as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0. Mr. Lasker motioned to approve the minutes of January 28, as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Staffing Updates – Ms. Campbell reported that she is on the panel for Program Supervisor interviews. The job posting for Facilities Supervisor closed Monday, February 10. Currently there are no updates on who will be the interim Recreation Director. Human Resources will review potential candidates. Staffing for summer programming has begun. Registration for Kid Care Afterschool is continuing with a smaller enrollment count due to spacing concerns at Gibbs for the upcoming school year.

Next Meetings – February 24 (Playground Study) and February 25

Other Important Dates - March 11 – TAC meeting

Comments and Items for Future Meetings – Ms. Canniff thanked Ms. Mulroy, on behalf of the Commission, for her service. Ms. Mayer requested information on the Beautification Fund.

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

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.