

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its meeting at the Senior Center on Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 7:05pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker and Sarah Carrier were in attendance. Director of Recreation Stacey Mulroy and Assistant Director Erin Campbell were also present. Ms. Canniff and Ms. Rothenberg were not in attendance.

Members of the Public: Phil Tedesco

Open Forum – N/A

Correspondence Received – N/A

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Lasker motioned to approve the minutes of December 17, 2019 as amended, seconded by Mr. Walker and approved 3-0. Ms. Canniff and Ms. Rothenberg abstained from the vote.

Ms. Mayer shared concerns about previously discussed agenda items that were left open-ended. Going forward, items brought up at a meeting that require further discussion, will be added to the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

Working Groups –

Capital Planning – Ms. Mulroy met with the Finance team to adjust the FY2019 projections which had been established by the previous Recreation Director. The adjustments were necessary to be more in line with the incoming revenue.

It is anticipated that all ADA rink projects will be completed in FY2020. The Facilities Manager, who had been on administrative leave since mid-December 2019, resigned January 14, 2020. The rink was shut-down for eight hours on Saturday, January 11 due to a power outage caused by a blown breaker which caused a pump to be out of service. Temporary repairs were made and the compressors are working. However, the pumps need to be upgraded and the VFD needs to be replaced. The facilities department, town electrician, town plumber and engineers have evaluated the site and will report back with recommendations and cost estimates. The Finance Committee supports the use of a previously dormant capital request for mechanical upgrades in the amount of \$111K.

At this time ice scheduling is on hold and not posted past February 1, 2020. User groups will submit needs and requests to Ms. Mulroy.

Field User Fees and Field User Study – No updates at this time. Items are currently on hold and will be removed from the agenda.

Current Projects –

Reservoir Phase 1 – The temporary fencing in the parking lot fell down during a recent wind storm and is being repaired by the contractor. The fencing will remain in place until Eversource work is complete. Mr. Feeney will be reaching out to JJ Phelan for quotes to possibly replace the pump house roof under a separate sub-contract. Currently Weston & Sampson staff is only attending “on-site” meetings. The tree warden has trimmed trees along the walkway that were deemed “widow makers” during a CPA walkthrough.

Reservoir Phase 2 – RFP is in beginning phases. Ms. Mulroy has notified CPA of the delayed timeline due to the resignation of the facilities manager. She anticipates that the RFP will be prepared by the end of the week. Ms. Mulroy will send a copy to Ms. Mayer for review and assistance with the task.

Spy Pond – N/A

Wellington Phase 3 – Four proposals have been reviewed by Ms. Mulroy. Hatch Chester was unanimously selected. Going forward Ms. Mayer has volunteered to be the Commission representative on this project.

Lussiano/North Union – Ms. Campbell reported that two public input meetings have been held. The meeting located at Thompson School was better attended. The Commission discussed ideas for more outreach to residents of Menotomy Manor including babysitting availability at public meetings and posting the design plans at the sub-station. RDLA’s presentation, the public survey and the playground study will all be posted on the Recreation website. Notification has been sent to abutters. Ms. Canniff shared that there was lots of positive community feedback from the second meeting that she attended. Ms. Mayer stated that the much of the feedback requested creativity and variation from the Thompson School playground. The Commission further discussed the community feedback regarding swings, sandboxes, surfacing and the desire for “simple, old-school” equipment. The Commission will further discuss maintenance, safety, accessibility and cost of the equipment and features. Mr. Lasker stated that Representative Garballey is confident that he will be able to request and secure more funding from the state for the project. The Commission

shared concerns over increasing the budget for the project with state funding when there are several “Hazard 1” playgrounds in Arlington requiring renovation and repair.

Ms. Rothenberg requested that communication between community members and RDLA be directed through the Recreation email. Ms. Mulroy shared that RDLA will conduct the topographical survey and she will discuss moving the bid date up to June/July with RDLA.

Playground Evaluations – The Commission discussed the “alarming” results of the playground evaluations conducted by Ms. White. Historically, the Commission has done one playground renovation per year. However, the results of the evaluation indicate that safety is of the utmost importance and the Commission will need to discuss potentially closing playgrounds as well as repairing and upgrading multiple sites per year. The Commission will have a meeting strictly for in-depth discussion regarding playground evaluations, funding and next steps. Ms. Carrier volunteered to be the playground working group representative.

Ms. White has offered to walk-throughs with the Town Manager, Commission, DPW and the School Department.

Ms. Rothenberg requested that the Commission hold the meeting to discuss the playground evaluations before involving other town agencies so questions and strategies can be discussed.

Ms. Mulroy shared that she has been receiving frequent emails regarding the use of Locke playground as a teenage hang-out.

#### Discussion Topics –

Indoor Space Study – Commission will review the draft they have received. Item will be added to the next agenda.

Homelessness Task Force – no updates at this time.

Menotomy Rocks Park – The New England Mountain Bike Association will be invited to a Commission meeting in March. The item will also be added to the agenda for one of the February meeting dates.

Turf Fields – The item will be added to one of the February agendas. A meeting with Belmont Hill is TBD.

Sledding at Robbins Farm – The Recreation office has received numerous emails siting safety concerns around sledding and the temporary fencing at Robbins Farm. The fencing will not be removed as it was determined to be necessary to allow the grass to establish without further use until spring 2020. Sledding poses a liability to the town and is not sanctioned in the by-laws. Ms. Canniff motioned against removing the fencing at Robbins Farm until the spring sports schedule begins, seconded by Mr. Lasker and approved 5-0.

Meet the Staff/Commission - no updates at this time.

Next Meetings: January 28, February 11 and 25

Other Important Dates – January 22 – Lussiano/North Union Working Group meeting, January 27 – Lussiano/North Union public meeting

#### Comments and Items for Future Meetings –

The town manager has requested that the Crosby tennis courts be unlocked on winter weekends when nice weather is predicted. DPW has advised against this for maintenance reasons.

Ms. Mulroy will access information on the Beautification Fund to share at the next meeting, if available.

Ms. Canniff motioned to adjourn at 9:32pm, seconded by Mr. Lasker and approved 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.