

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

June 2, 2020

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday June 2nd, 2020 at 6:32pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, and associate member, Sarah Carrier were present. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and Program Supervisor Zachary Vaillette were also in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: Kyle Zick and Danielle Desilets of Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, INC. (KZLA)

Members of the Public: Elaine Blackman

Preliminary Matter: Leslie Mayer, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call. Ms. Mayer read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Ms. Mayer.

Review Phase II Reservoir Project with Architect

Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, INC. (KZLA) has been awarded the contract for the Phase 2 Design and Implementation of the Arlington Reservoir Master Plan. The firm has started reviewing the Phase 2 work and the Master Plan. Kyle Zick and Danielle Desilets were in attendance to review the questions that they previously sent to Commission Members. Please see the attached *Arlington Reservoir-Phase 2 Question for the Committee KZLA* document for the questions which discussion points occurred for during the meeting.

Ms. Desilets spoke how to best approach 1st public meeting in regards to the current situation. The plan would be to use normal methods, but also believes the best approach is to gather information from users while they are physically onsite. As soon as possible, interactive stations would be set up around the property starting in the parking lot. Each station would have a QR code or quick link to an online survey, so park users could provide feedback and answer questions. Commissioners will review questions again and send any additional input to Mr. Connelly.

Ms. Desilets talked about the Commission's interest in increased public boating activities at the Reservoir including kayaks, row boats, SUP, etc. The Recreation Department currently has canoes and kayaks available for rent, and the hope would be that overall public usage increases moving forward

Following up on Ms. Rothenberg's question regarding timing for the project, Ms. Desilets stated KZLA would be looking to implement the questions/signs soon and would collect onsite feedback for 3-4 weeks. Ms. Rothenberg asked if Reservoir Beach will be open this summer and how that decision will impact the public feedback collection process. Mr. Connelly stated that he will be meeting with the Arlington Board of Health to discuss the opening of Reservoir Beach. He stated that the Phase 1 work is just being completed and that Recreation would still need (3-4) weeks to prepare for an opening. More information regarding the opening will be provided moving forward. In the event that Reservoir Beach does not open, KZLA will look into alternative ways to collect feedback from the public. KZLA will be putting together a schedule regarding the public information plan, survey, data review, etc. as requested by Mr. Connelly. Mr. Connelly will be setting up an onsite meeting with KZLA.

Open Forum (Public Comment)

Ms. Mayer asked if anyone in attendance had public comment to share. N/A

Update from MRPA – Zach Vaillette

Mr. Vaillette reported updates regarding current and future Recreation Department programs, including summer camp. On June 1st, the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care released the *Massachusetts Child and Youth Serving Programs Reopen Approach: Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety* document. This document outlined the requirements that all programs will need to follow, as youth programs and camps are permitted to reopen in Phase 2. This includes any program that Arlington Recreation would run this summer. To

date, no decision has been made regarding the plan for Arlington Recreation's operations for the summer. This includes camps, Reservoir Beach, and general programs. Recreation has a meeting with the Arlington Board of Health on Thursday, June 4th regarding summer operations. Once any decisions have been made, this information will be posted and made available to the public.

Capital Project Updates –Joe Connelly/Bob Jefferson

Mr. Connelly gave updated on Capital Projects as Bob Jefferson was not in attendance. Mr. Connelly will be meeting with Terri McLaughlin regarding the ADA Rink Project. There may be an issue regarding the soil composition in front of building in relation to the work that will be done there. An electrical line was also damaged while work was being completed in a locker room. This is scheduled to be fixed.

Mr. Connelly also reported that the contract for the Lussiano project has been sent out to be signed and that an initial construction meeting will be taking place. More information regarding the budget and materials will be coming soon. Mr. Lasker asked if alternates were included, which was confirmed. Mr. Jefferson conducted reference checks on the contractor, JAM, of Worcester, MA. The feedback on this firm's previous work was very positive.

American Refrigeration is scheduled to work on the compressor room and to create a new snow melt pit at the Ed Burns Arena. Recreation has approximately \$111,000 set aside for the project. However, the initial bid came in at approximately \$130,000. A new snow melt pit and system would potentially help save the department costs long term in both operations and energy. Mr. Lasker asked if it was possible to use the extra funding that was not used on the Poet's project. There may also be \$20,000 set aside for Rink roof repairs, but this may have already been used. Mr. Connelly will discuss possible options for funding with the Deputy Town Manager.

The Phase 1 project at the Reservoir is complete and contractors are moving out. Hydro seeding and clean up on the property, including in parking lot area, will take place soon. The Town is still waiting for Eversource to hook up electricity to the pump house. The Reservoir water level is being raised, which will allow for the system to be turned on and tested in the near future. Training will be provided on UV system to several Recreation and DPW staff members. Mr. Connelly announced that JJ O'Sullivan is new Rink Manager for Arlington Recreation. Mr. O'Sullivan comes to Recreation from the Arlington Facilities Department. Mr. Connelly is looking forward to working with him when he begins full time on July 1st. In addition, the tennis courts have been removed at Poet's Corner. Mr. Connelly has a meeting with Arlington Catholic High School and the Belmont Hill School this week to start discussions regarding the future of the property.

Park and Recreation Summer 2020 Open Discussion

As stated above, there has not been a decision made yet regarding summer 2020 Recreation operations, including summer camp and Reservoir Beach. More information will be made available on this after Recreation's scheduled meeting with the Arlington BOH. Mr. Connelly reported that he will be meeting with field users next week to talk about usage for this summer and moving forward. The DPW has stated to prepare fields. Ms. Rothenberg asked who would have the final decision regarding the field openings. All Towns need to follow the State's guidelines regarding reopening. Mr. Connelly stated that once fields are allowed to open, he would like to discuss opening dates with the BOH based off the Commission's recommendations. User groups including Babe Ruth Baseball, adult soccer, adult softball, and ultimate frisbee have expressed interest in using fields this summer, if allowed. Ms. Mayer stated that she believes it would be contradicting if Recreation programs are cancelled, but fields are open for restricted use only. If fields are open, then they should be open and available to all users. The Commission is hoping that the BOH can provide more insight on this moving forward. The topic of field usage and user groups will be included as a discussion point for the Commission's next meeting. As the field liaison, Caniff plans on joining the field user group meeting alongside Mr. Connelly.

Approval of Minutes (May 19th, 2020)

Ms. Mayer brought up approval of meeting minutes. Ms. Canniff made the motion to approve the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes for May 19th. Ms. Rothenberg seconded this motion. Ms. Mayer asked

for a roll call to vote to approve the minutes for the May 19th Meeting Minutes. All (5) Commissioners responded yes, approving the minutes.

Comments and Items For Future Meetings

Ms. Mayer stated that the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 16th. Ms. Rothenberg is excited to see the Robbin's Farm field open, but would like a long-term maintenance plan put in place soon, especially before sports resume. Mr. Connelly will check in with Mr. Jefferson regarding this.

Ms. Mayer stated that representatives from the Wellington project have interest in joining in on the Commission's next meeting. Ms. Rothenberg stated there are budgeting issues with the project, as the costs are higher than expected. Suggestions have been made regarding possibly removing the bridge from this phase, as it is not ADA compliant and does not have a specific destination. Bio retention areas were also discussed. The time limit for the project is June, so decisions will need to be finalized soon. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly the possibility of block scheduling being used to schedule fields. This will be discussed at a future meeting. Town Meeting has been postponed, but CPA has still been meeting. Town Meeting will now only be dealing with critical financial matter and funding for the Reservoir project will be included. The recommendation for funding in FY21 is \$575,000 and will be brought forward.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm. This motion was seconded by Ms. Canniff. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Program Supervisor, Zachary Vaillette.