

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

January 12th, 2021

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday January 12th, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, and Scott Walker were present. Shirley Canniff, and associate members Scott Lever & Sarah Carrier, were not present for this meeting. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and Program Supervisor Zachary Vaillette were also in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: N/A

Members of the Public: Elisabeth Carr-Jones

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.

Open Forum – Public Comment

N/A

Correspondence Received: None Received

N/A. Mr. Connelly stated that some correspondence was received prior to the Meeting Packet being sent to Commissioners. This correspondence will be included on the Commission's next meeting agenda.

Annual Review of Park Commission Charter

Mr. Connelly stated that he requested for Commission Members to review the Park Commission Charter. A review of this occurs annually, as the process is outlined within the Charter. The last review of this occurred about a year ago when Mr. Walker and Mr. Lasker joined the Commission. Mr. Connelly stated that everything looked good from his perspective. Ms. Mayer stated that edits to the document last occurred in 2015. Mr. Walker noted a small typo in Section 2 of the Charter in regards to the "liaison" statement. This small grammatically correction will be made administratively and will not be considered as a change to the Charter. Ms. Rothenberg asked that information on each Commission Member's seat and term is included in future reviews. Access to this information will allow the Commission to have a better outlook on the timeline of seat terms and when they will be expiring. It was believed that some Commissioners terms vary. The Commission is made up of (5) voting Commission Members and (2) Associate Non-Voting Commission Members, with terms varying between (2-3) years. Mr. Connelly stated that he be looking into this to determine more information on the difference in term lengths. Ms. Mayer then stated that she believes this information is in the Town Bylaws. She believes that terms are staggered, but all voting member terms are (3) years, with Associate non-voting member terms being (2) years. She also stated that there is no formal expiration or limit on the number of terms someone can serve. Ms. Mayer stated that the Commission Chair and Vice Chair rotate every two years. Mr. Lasker will take over the Commission Chair role from Ms. Mayer in July 2021. This transition will make Mr. Walker the new Vice Chair.

Capital Project Updates

Reservoir Beach Phase 1 & 2

Mr. Connelly reported that Department and KZLA are still in discussions with the Town of Arlington and Town of Lexington Conservation Commissions. This is in regards to the required approvals needed from these Commissions in order to move forward with the project. Mr. Connelly stated that they have presented to the Arlington Conservation Commission twice, and will be going back a third time with hopes of an approval. Lexington Conservation Commission meeting has been attended so far and they will be going back a second time. Arlington Conservation Commission Members have been looking for additional details on the project. With this and stated concerns of possible crowding of tree plantings, a site walk through will be occurring with KZLA and at least one Arlington Conservation Commission Member this week. Mr. Connelly noted that the next Lexington and Arlington Conservation Commission meetings will occur January 19th and 21st respectively. Mr. Connelly is hopeful that following these meetings, they will have both approvals to move forward with the project. KZLA will then present 99% design plans to the Commission. Once approved the plans will be 100% complete and ready to go out to bid. Mr. Connelly also noted that Phase 1 of the project is wrapping up. Mr. Lasker asked Mr. Connelly about the recent building bid. Mr. Connelly reported that several responses were received, which all came in over budget by at least \$60,000. KZLA is currently in the process of reviewing the bids and completing reference checks. Mr. Connelly is

currently unaware why bids came back over budget, but stated this will be determined through the review process. KZLA is also looking where cuts can be made to unnecessary items on the site side, allowing for additional funding to be available for the building work.

CPA

Mr. Connelly reported that there have been no changes or updates regarding the FY22 CPA Requests. A formal presentation date for these requests has not yet been determined. Mr. Connelly reported that he was told during his last discussion with Capital Planning Committee Members that Recreation was not currently eligible for any major project funding. Ms. Mayer stated that CPA most likely has enough funding available to fund these requests. She questioned the possibility of the Capital Planning Committee funding the proposed future Spy Pond Playground Project.

ADA

Mr. Connelly reported that \$150,000 was received from Capital previously for ADA renovations at the Ed Burns Arena. This amount included funding for the installation of a power lift and creating accessible seating. Terry McLaughlin is currently working with Recreation to develop plans for this installation. These ADA improvements should take place in late spring/early summer of this year. Mr. Connelly noted the power lift will most likely be added to the main set of bleachers adjacent to the visitor's bench. Based off and in ratio to the current seating capacity, (6-7) accessible seats will be added which will include partner seating beside each them. Ms. Rothenberg asked for an update on the original ADA improvements check list for the Ed Burns Arena. Mr. Connelly noted several ADA improvements that have been completed at the Rink already. This work includes the addition of an accessible ramp at the main entrance of the building, power doors, lowered ticket booth and concession windows, and shower upgrades. The Ed Burns Arena also has portable ramps to help those in need to get on the ice surface. The lift and seating improvements are the last ADA improvements that need to be completed at the rink. Mr. Connelly also noted that improvements will be occurring around the Hill's Hill playground. KZLA is working to design a walking path from the Ed Burns Arena and to the bike path to make the playground 100% accessible. Mr. Walker asked Commissioners if issues/suggested improvements to the Ed Burns Arena parking lot and lighting were included within the previously completed accessibility study. Mr. Connelly stated that the parking lot was addressed, but lighting was not. This came as a surprise to them. However, just last week new lights were installed on the side of the Ed Burns Arena which has vastly improved lighting around the building/lot. Mr. Connelly noted his interest in future parking lot upgrades which would make the site more ADA accessible and aesthetically appealing. A new lighting plan would be include if this were to occur.

Robbins Farm Slide Temporary Option Discussion

Mr. Connelly informed the Commission that he was the guest speaker at the Friends of Robbins Farm Annual Meeting. He spoke about the current plan to hold off on the previously proposed slide renovation plan, as well as trying to move up the anticipated playground replacement. The group was very receptive to this information. Mr. Connelly stated that they will see how long they can go with the current slide without making changes. If there are any issues before anticipated renovations at Robbins Farm, they can fall back on the plan to remove one slide and use the extra parts for the remaining slide. Questions regarding the status of the slope still remain and will be discussed if this plan does need to occur in the future.

Task Group Updates: Mountain Biking, Field Policy

Mr. Lasker stated that the Mountain Biking Task Force Group Members are currently ranking site locations for a possible mountain biking features. Mr. Lasker is looking for everyone's results by end of week on which site are best to move forward with. Once the results are in, the Task Group will meet to review these results. This information will be present to the Commission in the near future.

Recreation and Rink Updates

Mr. Connelly stated that the Ed Burns Arena and recreation programs are following all State Guidelines in relation to COVID-19. The Town made the decision last week to follow the State's Guidelines, rather than the more strict guidelines following Boston in the recent role back. The previous role back resulted in the cancellation of all adult skating, public skating, and stick & puck sessions for two weeks. The decision to move to the less restrictive State Guidelines has allowed these programs to start up again. No major issues to report at the Rink regarding COVID-19. Mr. Connelly stated that travel basketball is going well and also has had no issues to date. Some games have had to be cancelled due to concerns in other

communities, but nothing from Arlington. The nightly practice monitor continues to check in with teams on following COVID-19 policies and guidelines. Mr. Vaillette reported that the department has put together program information for the Spring/Summer 2021 Program Brochure. The final brochure will be sent to the printer next week. It was noted that households with individuals 2-14 will only be mailed this brochure, rather than every household in Town. The brochure includes a message from the Recreation Director and the plan for the department in relation to COVID-19/program changes. Registration for all spring and summer programs will open online Monday, February 8th at 8:00pm. Arlington Recreation also has (25) registrations for the new Middlesex Esports Program which will begin in the coming weeks.

Approval of Minutes – 12/22/2020

The approval of Meeting Minutes from the December 22nd, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting was discussed. The only edited requested for the December 22nd Meeting Minutes is that Mr. Walker noted on page 1 a wording change where it states “slide”.

The motion to approve the December 22nd, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes, as amended, was made by Mr. Walker. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lasker. The Commission voted to approve the December 22nd, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes with a vote of 4-0, at 7:46pm.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

Final Review of Reservoir Phase II Design – 1/26/2021

Commission will approve Final Design at this time before going out to bid. Mr. Connelly will send current design documents to Commissioners.

Park Master Plans

Mr. Connelly noted the Mr. Lever brought up the idea of possibly completing a long range master plan from Menotomy Rocks Park. May be a good idea to have master plans for some of the Town’s larger parks. Master plan of that size and scope \$75,000 would need a capital request. This is just a suggestion and has been noted. Also noted was the possibility of funding coming from the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park Group if this ever does occur.

Other

The next Park & Recreation Commission Meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, January 26th at 7:00pm

Ms. Rothenberg made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Walker. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 4-0, at 7:52pm. The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Program Supervisor, Zachary Vaillette.