

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES**

*October 12, 2021*

*Approved 4-0-1 – on 10/26/2021*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday October 12, 2021 at 7:10pm.

**Commission Members:** Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Sarah Carrier and Shirley Canniff. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present. Scott Walker was not in attendance.

**Anticipated Speakers:** Elaine Crowder and Cristin Canterbury Bagnell

**Members of the Public :** Evelyn Ginsparg

**Preliminary Matter:** Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll and 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 Mr. Lasker.

### **Open Forum – Public Comment**

N/A

### **Invasive Plant Removal and Replanting as a Town Wide Program**

Ms. Crowder presented a low cost, low effort initiative to remove invasive species and replenish open space and parks with non-invasive, native plants that will survive with minimal care. The pilot program would begin with a targeted group of participants already familiar with invasive species. Applications will be submitted via Google form. A working draft was shared by Mr. Connelly.

Applications will be reviewed by the Conservation Commission agent and will need to sign off on prospective locations. ConCom will also assist in identifying invasive species and seed selection, per a previous conversation between Ms. Crowder and Emily Sullivan. Many potential locations are also under P&R jurisdiction and will require approval.

The Commission discussed the possibility of simplifying the application process, the iNaturalist app available to approved applicants and assigning plots as the program grows. Due to Emily Sullivan's resignation, there is an open position for ConCom agent.

### **Town Wide Playground Working Group**

The accessibility project has been completed. Mr. Connelly has presented materials to a graphic designer to create easy to read grids for brochures and the Recreation website.

### **Special Event Request**

*Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture Menotomy Rocks Park 10/23*

Ms. Bagnell presented a special event request to close out the "Reflecting on our Pandemic Experience" installation implemented by Nilou Moochhala. Ms. Bagnell requested that the time frame be changed from 11am – 3pm to 12pm – 4pm. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 4-0.

### **Capital Project Updates**

*Reservoir Project Update*

The project is on schedule at this time. The anticipated completion date is December 31, 2021.

It was noted that the old path from Lowell Street will remain. Ms. Mayer addressed possible contamination due to the placement of sand and debris.

*CPA 2023 Requests – Hurd Phase II and Robbins Farm Playground*

Requests are due on October 18. Preliminaries have been submitted.

### *Hills Mountain Biking*

Mr. Connelly stated that the public meeting was well attended. The working group has reviewed data and provided to Will from Powder Horn to create report. A request for an environmental impact study will be submitted. The subgroup and ConCom will perform a walk through to address any concerns. Mr. Connelly will bring findings to Commission for discussion.

### *Hurd Phase I*

Mr. Connelly will discuss wetland flagging, test pouring locations and issues with conceptual with Josh from Stantec tomorrow, October 13th.

### *Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds*

A contract has not been awarded at this time. P&R recommendation has been sent to purchasing agent. Mr. Connelly will meet with Mr. Feeney tomorrow to open pricing envelope and begin negotiations.

### *Playground Repair Update*

Inspections were performed at ten Arlington playgrounds. Findings resulted in several closings due to structural concerns. A contractor has been consulted for cost of replacements parts and installation. The current lead time for parts is 5 months.

It has been determined that the Stratton playground is at the end of its useful life. Mr. Connelly will meet with DPW and school and town administrators to discuss the best approach for necessary repairs.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from 5/25, 8/10 and 9/28 were tabled. A motion to approve the minutes from 9/14 was made by Ms. Rothenberg, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 4-0.

### **Comments and Items for Future Meetings**

- a. Mr. Connelly will reach out to Arlington-Belmont Crew regarding the survey.
- b. Carry In, Carry Out Trash Policy Discussion. Mr. Connelly and Ms. Rothenberg will look into the policies of neighboring communities.
- c.

Ms. Canniff requested that the Commission add a future agenda item to discuss the possibility of installing two outdoor rinks at Poet's Corner, one for team use and one for neighborhood use. The volunteer effort will be led by Mike Courtney of Courtney Construction.

Ms. Canniff also requested that an agenda item be added to address the increasing need for trash disposal at playgrounds and P&R properties. Due to Covid regulations schools are required to spend more time outdoors for activities such as snack time and lunch, which generates more trash. Mr. Connelly will discuss the potential use of federal stimulus money with Mr. Feeney tomorrow. Mr. Connelly will include DPW in the discussion.

### **Other**

#### *Open Space Committee Opening*

P&R currently does not have a representative on the committee. Ms. Canniff volunteered to be the representative through April 2022 via Zoom only.

### **Correspondence Received**

#### *Fishing Line Notice*

Mr. Connelly has been contacted by 6 individuals with their concerns. A working group task force has been created.

#### *Paths at Crusher*

A request has been submitted to formalize the path from Ottoson Middle School through the woods to Gray Street. Ms. Mayer suggested looking at possible maintenance for the asphalt pass that already exists. Ms. Ginsparg stated that the path was repaired about 10 years ago. The path was repaired as part of a Boys Scout project but they did not construct the

path. Ms. Canniff stated that the path was intended to be a non-sanctioned walking path, not a bike path. Installing a formal bike path requires ADA compliance.

Ms. Canniff made the motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 4-0, at 8:25pm.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.