

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

December 14, 2021

Approved on January 25, 2022

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday December 14, 2021 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Shirley Canniff, Scott Walker and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present.

Anticipated Speakers: Josh Atkinson – Stantec, Captain Rich Flynn – off-leash dogs, Guillermo Hamlin – coyote sign request

Preliminary Matter: Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call 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 – N/A

Off-Leash Dog Report – Captain Rich Flynn from the Arlington Police Department shared an off-leash dog update with the Commission. The ACO will be focusing on school areas, especially during drop-off and pick-up. Captain Flynn asked that the Commission review the updated pamphlet before it is sent to the printers next week. The updated pamphlet includes the APD logo to show enforcement support as well as licensing updates. The pamphlet will accompany new and renewed dog licensing materials and be sent out in a town and recreation email blast. Pamphlets will also be provided to town user groups (ie : A-Dog) for distribution to members. Ms. Rothenberg requested that the Recreation office and Commissioners receive copies of the pamphlets for distribution at town parks. Ms. Canniff noted that she has seen a reduction in off-leash dogs at Florence Field/Dallin School since she has begun approaching dog owners at the park. Mr. Lasker requested that a reminder email blast be sent out in the spring.

Hurd Field Final Design Review – Mr. Atkinson of Stantec shared the Hurd Field Renovation presentation. Updates were made based on public meetings. The more modest plan reduces the cost of the project significantly to \$1.865M. Plantings, porous pavement and exercise stations will be project alternates.

The Commission discussed the potential use, safety and cost of exercise and playground features. Additional ideas were brought to the table including striping the walking paths for trikes and adding game/picnic tables and more benches. Portable bathroom locations were discussed in relation to access for maintenance, bike path use and esthetics. Flooding, irrigation and drainage remain a concern to be discussed further with DPW and engineering. The Commission will work with the tree warden for additional plantings for shade and buffering between parking and the field. Mr. Connelly will contact DPW to repair the "cut-through" area in the existing fence to prevent further foot traffic across the field.

Ms. Mayer stated that the connection to the Reservoir bridge needs work. Mr. Connelly will investigate whether funding from the Reservoir Project can be used.

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the design plan pending feedback from ConCom and engineering. Seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Coyote Park Sign Request – Mr. Hamlin presented a request for signage warning parks and playground users of coyote activity in the area. Mr. Hamlin's request has received support from APD Chief Julie Flaherty and the ACO. Mr. Connelly will consult the ACO regarding prime signage locations and language. Ms. Mayer made a motion of support, pending ACO's feedback regarding language and location. The motion was seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Capital Project Updates

Project Liaison Assignments

Mr. Connelly will email a list to the Commission of finalized assignments this week.

Reservoir – Leslie Mayer

Hurd – Phil Lasker and Leslie Mayer (CPA)

Parmenter / Spy Pond – Shirley Canniff and Sarah Carrier

Mountain Bike – Phil Lasker and Scott Walker

School Projects – Jen Rothenberg (Stratton), Leslie Mayer (Peirce) and Sarah Carrier (Bishop).

Open Space – Shirley Canniff

Poets Corner – Shirley Canniff and Phil Lasker

Final decisions for the school projects will be made by the Commission. The projects involve replacing the playgrounds only, including safety surfacing and equipment. The budget for each playground is \$600-700K.

Reservoir Project

The existing green fence is being removed to install posts for a new fence to prevent erosion. The Commission discussed the different mesh sizes around the playground area.

CPA FY23 and FY24-27 Requests

Mr. Connelly is working on the final request, to be reviewed by Mr. Lasker and Ms. Mayer. \$1 million is expected based on the budget vs the number of requests. Requests for Hurd will need to be presented in phases.

Capital FY24-27 Requests / Artificial Turf

The Commission will further discuss Thorndike as a location for a potential turf field. Mr. Connelly stated that the project would be put to Capital rather than CPA.

ARPA Playground Fund Update/Design RFP

\$4 million has been awarded. The first three design bids for Stratton, Peirce and Bishop are due by December 16, 2021. It is anticipated that there will be between 8-10. Electronic copies of the RFPs will be provided for review. The Commission will need to choose a firm that can handle the workload and schedule.

Hills Mountain Biking

The design will be presented after the new year.

Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds

The second public meeting was held December 15. Mr. Connelly, Ms. Canniff and Ms. Carrier met with KZLA and are reviewing three designs.

Poets Corner

The abutters meeting was positive. The next public meeting will be held the first week of January 2022.

Playground Repair Update

All scheduled repairs have been done to all parks except Stratton and Peirce. Due to delivery delays, there is one piece remaining at each school to be repaired.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Walker motioned to approve the minutes from November 9, 2021, as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, and approved 5-0. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the minutes from November 23, as amended, seconded by Mr. Walker, and approved 5-0.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings

- a. Arlington Belmont Crew Proposal – The Commission was asked to review the A-B Crew Proposal and provide feedback to Mr. Connelly. A copy was also forwarded to the abutter.
- b. Carry In, Carry Out Trash Policy Discussion
- c. Park cleanliness and upkeep

Correspondence Received –

Eagle Scout Report (Nolan McDonnall/Turkey Hill) – project is complete. Documentation was provided to Commission for review.

Julie Frohlich (Off Leash Dogs) – emails sharing concerns about off-leash dogs, locations and times off-leash dogs were seen.

Jennifer Mansfield (Spy Pond Playground) – request for consideration of playground equipment appropriate for both younger and older children.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Walker at 9:30p, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

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