

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS
Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, September 27, 2022
6:00 PM - REMOTE MEETING via ZOOM

AGENDA

- 1) Robbins Farm Landscape Architect Interviews (6 pm – 7:30 pm)
- 2) Open Forum – Public Comment
- 3) Carlene Scaravaglione, OT/s Entry-Level Doctor of Occupational Therapy Student – Summer Review
- 4) Request from Friends of Crusher Lot – CPA -Assessment and Rejuvenation Plan – Alan Jones
- 5) Request for Off Leash Hours at Parallel Park – Michele Meagher & Others
- 6) Approval of Minutes – 9/13/2022
- 7) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
 - a) Needs Assessment – Court Discussion
- 8) Correspondence Received: Spy Pond Playground Surfacing (Rachel Massey/FOSPP, Pickle Ball Courts (Paul Gerzon)
- 9) New Business

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Sep 27, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufumhpzqG9Qb0sSEmTORzHHlMoceOY0h>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Maximizing Inclusive Recreation: Implementation & Evaluation

Club Rec Summer 2022

1

CARLENE SCARAVAGLIONE, OT/S



Background

- Program evaluation of Club Rec's staff orientation & summer programming was completed in 2021
- Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation, helped indicate next steps for summer 2022 to maximize inclusion
 - Newly hired program inclusion director
 - Training on inclusion during staff orientation

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Focus of Summer 2022

- Support role development of program inclusion director
- Implement staff training on inclusion and evaluate the effectiveness through a pre-post survey
- Provide reinforcement trainings (“Topics of the Week”) and on-site staff mentoring on inclusion
- Conduct 2 sets of interviews with 6 children to gain perspectives of their experiences at Club Rec throughout their summer
- Provide additional support to summer program participants

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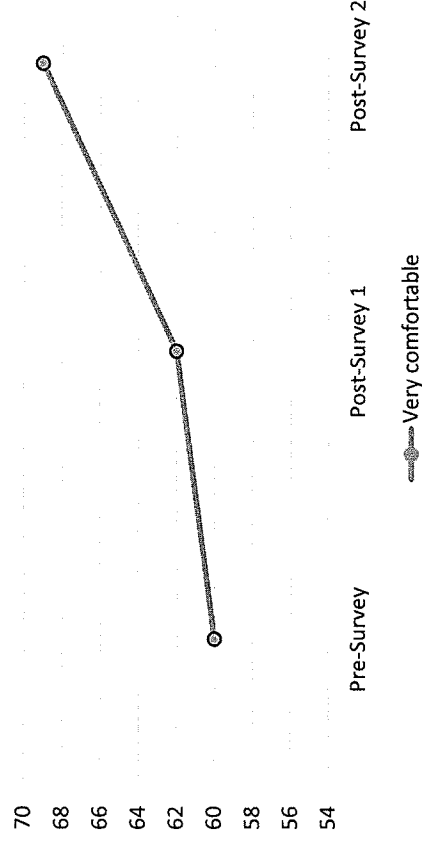
Pre-Post-Post Survey



How comfortable are you in encouraging a more hesitant participant to join an activity/game?

	Pre Survey	Post Survey 1	Post Survey 2
Very comfortable	60%	62%	69%
Comfortable	30%	31%	15%
Somewhat comfortable	10%	8%	15%
Not comfortable at all	0%	0%	0%

Encouraging a more hesitant participant to join an activity/game

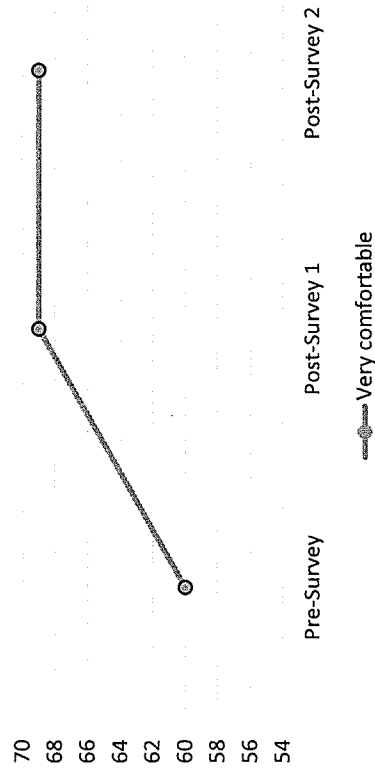


51

How comfortable are you in changing activities to support the needs of all children at Club Rec?

	Pre Survey	Post Survey 1	Post Survey 2
Very comfortable	60%	69%	69%
Comfortable	25%	31%	15%
Somewhat comfortable	15%	0%	15%
Not comfortable at all	0%	0%	0%

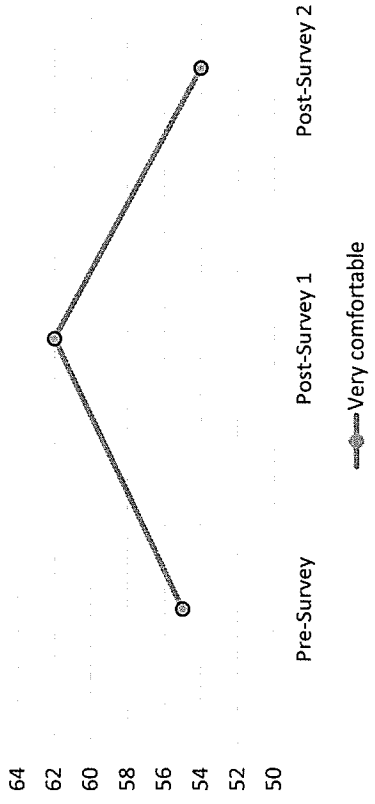
Changing activities to support the needs of all children at Club Rec



How comfortable are you in starting activities/games when there is downtime at Club Rec?

	Pre-Survey	Post Survey 1	Post Survey 2
Very comfortable	55%	62%	54%
Comfortable	20%	31%	23%
Somewhat comfortable	25%	8%	23%
Not comfortable at all	0%	0%	0%

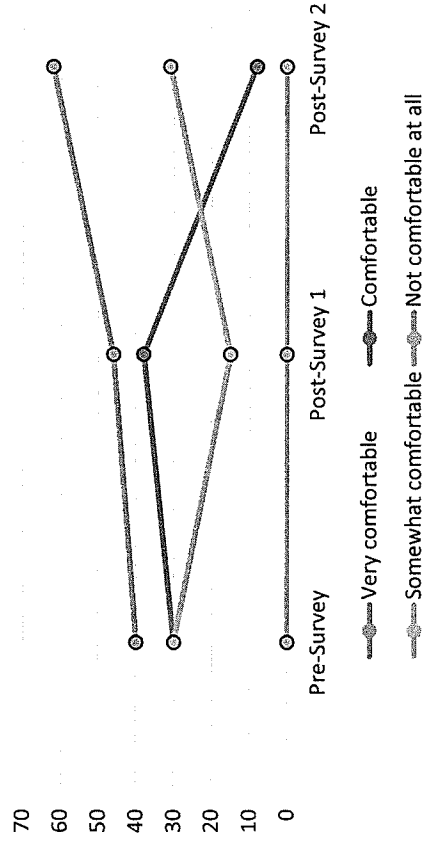
Starting activities/games when there is downtime



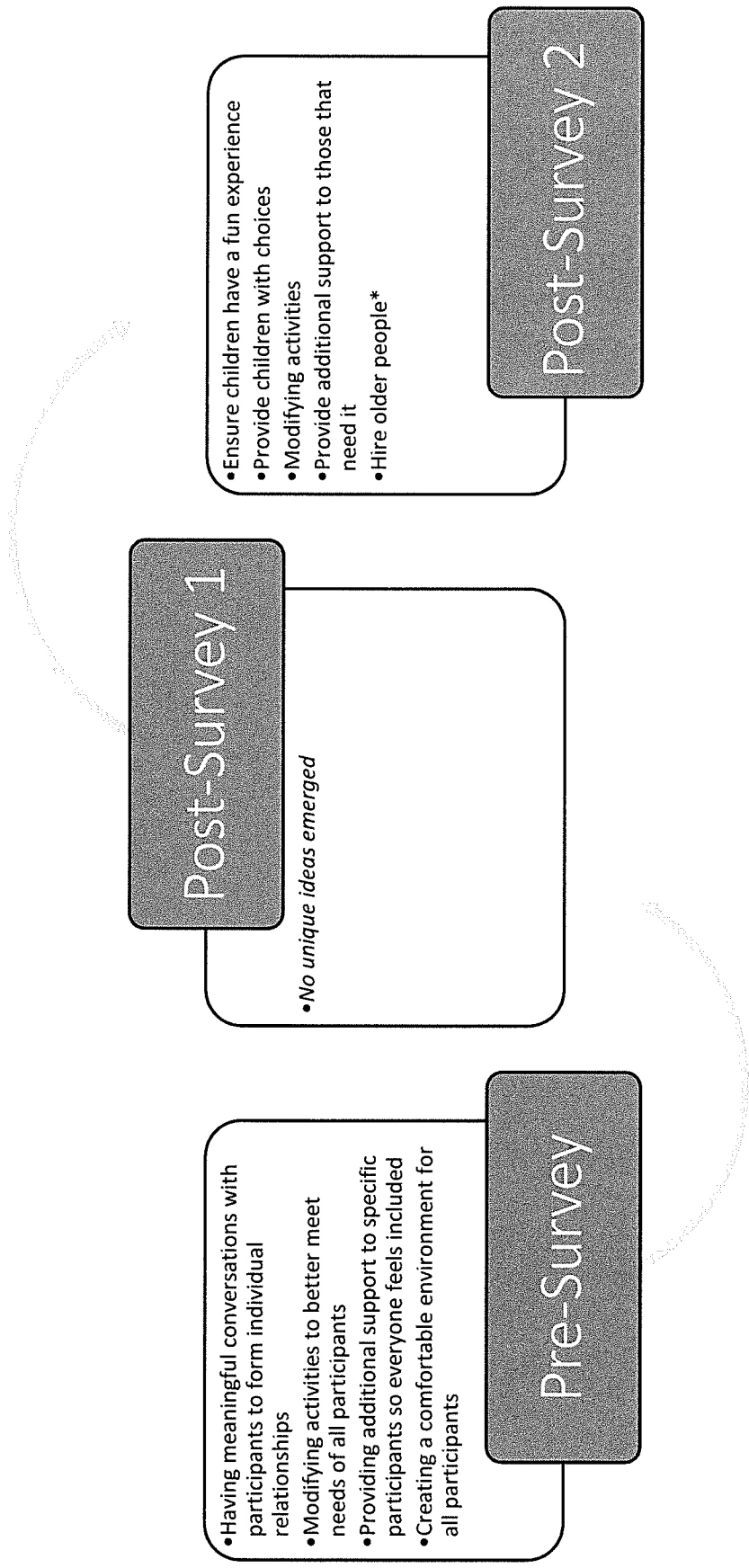
How comfortable are you in talking to a participant's guardian to gain more information about the child's interests and needs?

	Pre Survey	Post Survey 1	Post Survey 2
Very comfortable	40%	46%	62%
Comfortable	30%	38%	8%
Somewhat comfortable	30%	15%	31%
Not comfortable at all	0%	0%	0%

Talking to a participant's guardian to gain more information about the child's interests and needs



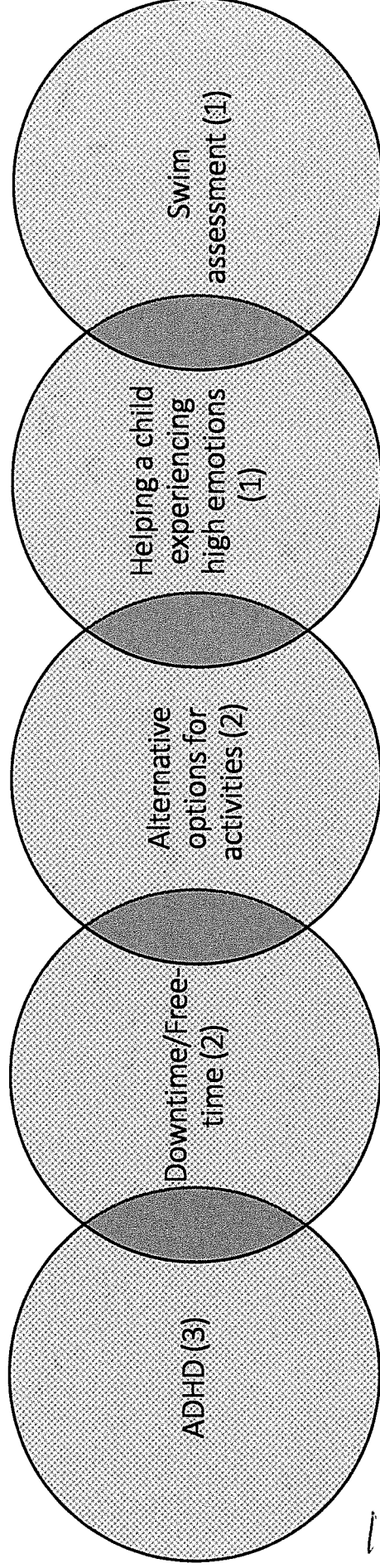
How do you think a summer staff member at Club Rec can create an environment where all children feel included?



* Indicated by a counselor of 3 or more years at Club Rec

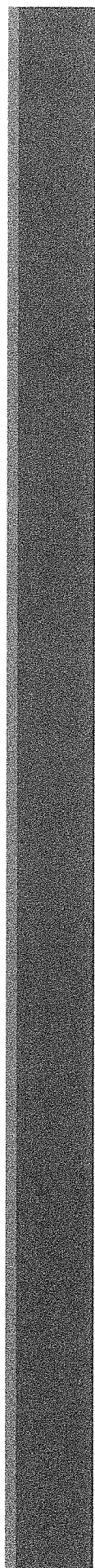


Which “Topics of the Week” trainings did you find most helpful in continuing to increase inclusion at Club Rec?



10

* (#) indicates frequency of responses



Final Deliverables

- Analyze data from the surveys, interviews, and on-site experiences to create a summary report
- Inclusion training modules
- “Topics of the Week” reference sheets

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Thank you!
Any questions?



OK, thanks. We don't have any definite plans or budgets, just the concept of hiring a professional to evaluate the current state of the woodland, resulting in a plan for restoration and improvement as an educational nature park in the future (native species, controlling erosion, opening the vernal spring, etc. and maybe educational signage, a woodland classroom, bird houses, bat houses, etc). We'd get a quote from Parterre and/or other firms to put a number and more details on the final CPA application. I just wanted to make sure we weren't getting ahead of ourselves or stepping on anyone's toes before taking the next step.

Thanks for your help,

Alan

=====
Alan H. Jones
Carr-Jones, Inc
jones@carr-jones.com
781-820-0306

From: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 9:49 AM
To: Alan Jones <jones@carr-jones.com>
Cc: phil_lasker@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: CPA funds for an assessment * plan of the Crusher Lot

ok Alan,

We may still discuss in some manner tonight when we discuss CPA requests in general.

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington

Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.

From: Alan Jones <jones@carr-jones.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: "phil_lasker@yahoo.com" <phil_lasker@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, 12 Sep 2022 21:31:44 +0000
Subject: RE: CPA funds for an assessment * plan of the Crusher Lot

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Hi Joe & Phil,

I sort of thought this would be a "correspondence received" with follow-up later, and wasn't expecting to get on the agenda so soon. I unfortunately can't make the meeting tomorrow night, and am not prepared anyway. So I ask to postpone this item until the next meeting, September 27. I promise to be there and well-prepared.

Thanks,
Alan

=====
Alan H. Jones
Carr-Jones, Inc

13

jones@carr-jones.com
781-820-0306

From: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2022 9:34 AM
To: Alan Jones <jones@carr-jones.com>
Cc: phil_lasker@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: CPA funds for an assessment * plan of the Crusher Lot

Hi Alan,

I think they would certainly consider it. The issue will be if this impacts the Commission's intended request for next year. I will include this when we discuss the FY24 CPA requests and make sure you are invited.

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.
Director of Recreation
Town of Arlington

Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.

From: Alan Jones <jones@carr-jones.com>
To: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Wed, 17 Aug 2022 19:51:06 +0000
Subject: CPA funds for an assessment * plan of the Crusher Lot

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Hi Joe,

It's CPA application season, and some of us have been thinking that we might be able to get a small CPA grant to do an assessment and rejuvenation plan for the Crusher Lot. Something like hiring Parterre to do a tree inventory and come back with a proposal to plant more natives, maybe enhance the vernal spring, leave us with a maintenance plan, etc. If that worked, we'd follow it up with a proposal next year for funds to implement it. I think the grant applications would have to come from Parks & Rec, not the Friends. Do you think that's something the Commission would consider? We'd be willing to do the legwork. One of us could do a short presentation at a meeting.

Thanks,
Alan

=====
Alan H. Jones
Carr-Jones, Inc
jones@carr-jones.com
781-820-0306

14

Dr. Nicole Flory
92 Webster St
Arlington MA 02474

To: Recreation Director: Joseph Connolly
Parks & Recreation Commission: Jennifer Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Lesley Mayer,
Phil Lasker (no email)

Email Addresses: jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us;
irothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us; scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us;
lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us

From: Arlington Dog Owners

Subject: Agenda Item for Sept.

We are Arlington residents and responsible dog owners writing to you about Parallel Park in Arlington Center, located at the juncture of Rte. 60 and Mystic Valley Parkway.

Since the onset of COVID, many of us have regularly brought our dogs to the park in the mornings between 7 and 8:30 a.m., for time off-leash because it is the only fenced-in area that is within easy walking distance of our homes. While we are there, no children not part of a dog owner's family are playing in the park. When families do come, we leash the dogs and often leave the park unless they are happy to share the park.


As responsible dog owners and citizens, we leave the park cleaner than we find it. We pick up after our dogs, move heavy limbs downed by storms, and pick up litter. One morning, three of us spent about 45 minutes cleaning smashed liquor and beer bottles from the basketball court so that others coming later in the day would not be harmed.

During the week of Aug. 7 around 8 a.m., Captain Richard Flynn approached a small group of dog owners in the park with off-leash brochures in hand. Because someone had registered a complaint, he needed to enforce the park rule of no dogs off leash at any time in this park.

We have read the brochure that outlines the off-leash guidelines and can attest that we are respectful of park users and neighbors and that our dogs meet the criteria as stated in the brochure. While Parallel Park includes two playground areas, much of the space is open and used for other purposes. With small yards in this part of town, residents don't have a fenced in area they can walk to early in the morning for dogs to be off leash to exercise, socialize and have fun.

In a town that values inclusivity as much as Arlington, we ask the Commission to add this to its September meeting agenda so that we can learn what steps we need to take to add Parallel Park to the list of off-leash parks and can all enjoy the park our taxes pay for.

Regards,



15

Dr. Nicole Flory
92 Webster St
Arlington MA 02474

I want to join in the request of my neighbors who are also dog owners (and parents with dogs). We are writing to ask that Parallel Park be added to the list of Arlington parks where dogs are allowed off leash from 6-9 a.m. There is no other area nearby for dogs to play, use of the park by people without dogs is very limited during those hours, and several of the families that come in the morning with small children from time to time have said that they enjoy having the dogs there. A group of people from the neighborhood has been taking our dogs to Parallel Park in the morning, and we keep the park clean — picking up dog waste that people who use the park at other hours leave and trash that people leave in the park. One time, we brought a waste basket, brooms, and dust pans, and three of us spent 45 minutes sweeping up glass from liquor and beer bottles that had been smashed over the entire basketball court overnight. We are good stewards of the park and have formed a nice community of neighbors who would like to be able to let our dogs play together.

Thank you for considering this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Flory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

From: M B <mike_bolt2000@hotmail.com>
To: "JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>
"lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us" <lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us>, "jrothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us"
Cc: <jrothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us>, "scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us" <scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us>,
"mmm@michelemeagher.com" <mmm@michelemeagher.com>
Date: 09/16/2022 03:41 PM
Subject: Off-leash dog hours in Parallel park

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Dear Mr. Connelly,

I am writing you to also petition to allow dogs off-leash for a couple of hours (something like 6:30 am to 8:30 am as a suggestion) at Parallel park. This is a time when the park is usually empty. This park has the advantage of being fenced-in (making it a safer environment); has plenty of space, and it is easy to walk to.

In my experiences, it was beneficial to allow dogs off-leash at Parallel because 1) the dog owners would share tips on how to care and train your dog. Some of the tips were from owners that were preparing their animals to be service dogs 2) it helped to socialize my dog to both other dogs and humans, and 3) my dog was a favorite for little kids (and some elderly) to pet, which, based on the smiles on their faces, brought them much happiness.

All of these aspects are wonderful for building an inclusive community that I was proud to contribute to.

I can confirm all the dog owners were very responsible. They were attentive and picked up after their pets. My dog is a yellow lab, so she would also bring me all the garbage and empty water bottles to throw away.

I would be willing to pay a small annual fee to allow off-leash privileges at Parallel park, with the hope that the funds raised would go towards maintaining and improving the park. So off-leash hours could potentially be a source of revenue for the town.

Thank you to the Parks committee for considering this idea,
Mike (and Sona)

Michael W. Bolt
44 Morningside Drive
ARLINGTON, MA, 02474

17

10/2

To: Recreation Director: Joseph Connolly
Parks & Recreation Commission: Jennifer Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Lesley Mayer,
Phil Lasker (no email)

From: Arlington Dog Owners

Subject: Use of Parallel Park by All

We are Arlington residents and responsible dog owners writing to you about Parallel Park in Arlington Center, located at the juncture of Rte. 60 and Mystic Valley Parkway.

Since the onset of COVID, many of us have regularly brought our dogs to the park in the mornings between 7 and 8:30 a.m., for time off-leash because it is the only fenced-in area that is within easy walking distance of our homes. While we are there, no children not part of a dog owner's family are playing in the park. When families do come, we leash the dogs and often leave the park unless they are happy to share the park.

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During the week of Aug. 7 around 8 a.m., Captain Richard Flynn approached a small group of dog owners in the park with off-leash brochures in hand. Because someone had registered a complaint, he needed to enforce the park rule of no dogs off leash at any time in this park.

We have read the brochure that outlines the off-leash guidelines and can attest that we are respectful of park users and neighbors and that our dogs meet the criteria as stated in the brochure. While Parallel Park includes two playground areas, much of the space is open and used for other purposes. With small yards in this part of town, residents don't have a fenced in area they can walk to early in the morning for dogs to be off leash to exercise, socialize and have fun.

In a town that values inclusivity as much as Arlington, we ask the Commission to add this to its September meeting agenda so that we can learn what steps we need to take to add Parallel Park to the list of off-leash parks and can all enjoy the park our taxes pay for.

We would like this issue to be added to the October Parks & Recreation Commission agenda so that we can begin looking at ways in which we can make this happen.

Regards,

Michelle McKeaghen, 131 Franklin St.
Piper Carter, 7 Newton Road
Shaw Van 168 MENTFORD ST.
Judy Vagan 12 Hayes St
Julie Anderson 9 Newton Rd.
Leah Redman 7 Newton Rd #2

10

over ->

- Stephen & David Zawacki, 10 Newton Road

Keith & H 129 Francisco St, Arhitzer

20/2

Adrian + Jaime Viteri 69 Windmill Ln

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

September 13, 2022

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday September 13, 2022 at 7:00pm.

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

Anticipated Speakers: Steve Moore, Brian McBride, Beth Melofchik, Catherine Garnett, Larry Slotnick

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:

- Ms. Melofchick – Russell St. Expressed concern for the degradation of the forested woodland area at Hill's Hill and the native trees thriving in the area.
- Mr. Mc Bride – Looking for more information on the process of developing a proposal for Hill's Hill.
- Mr. Moore – Piedmont St. After a walk through Hill's Hill, he feels that there is room for compromise if the space is reconfigured. Ex: Repositioning the soccer field.

FY24 CPA Requests:

At the last meeting the Commission formulated Capital requests discussing feasibility studies and ADA compliance. Parallel Park is anticipated to receive most of the needed funding from CPA.

Multi-Year Plan:

Menotomy Rocks Park playground - \$300,000. Stantec has advised that this would not cover a full playground renovation.

Turkey Hill - \$30,000 for access project including signage.

Hill's Hill - \$400,000 for design, construction documents, construction oversight and construction. Design fees include initial design through public meetings and final design. The Ecotrack option is possible for consideration.

- Ms. Rothenberg: If the funds are awarded for all three projects, totaling \$730,000, is there a timeframe for use?
- Mr. Fenollosa: Inquired if the Capital funding had already approved. Mr. Connelly stated that it had been requested a month ago and is currently under review.
- Mr. Walker: Questioned if a CPA project could be altered if Capital was not approved. Mr. Connelly stated that the Commission had already voted on Capital. CPA is currently in the discussion phase.
- Ms. Garnett: Requested town mapping documents showing access points and signage to share with David Morgan before Thursday.
- Mr. Moore: Believes more money should be requested in the proposal. Would like to see the feasibility study cover park improvements as well as the Mountain Bike Project.
- Ms. Melofchik: Requested that consideration be given to restoration of the picnic tables at Menotomy and include ADA complaint tables that allow for wheelchair access. Also stated that an Environmental Impact Study and tree/plant inventory should be taken before moving forward with Hill's Hill as the project affects the heat islands and tree canopy. She wanted it noted that she is very opposed to the project.

Ms. Canniff made a motion to approve the 2024 CPA request, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Rothenberg – YES

Ms. Canniff – YES

Mr. Walker – YES

Ms. Mayer – YES

Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 5-0.

Basketball Court Discussion: The Commission discussed the need for more basketball courts in town due to the loss of the courts that had been located behind Arlington High School. Input from the community suggests a strong interest in designated pickleball courts that do not affect current tennis and basketball courts. Because pickleball courts have a small footprint it may be worthwhile to look at adding courts adjacent to the current basketball or tennis courts to create a multi-generational complex.

- Mr. Lasker: Noted that Robbins Farm provides a shared court and was created with the intention of being used as both a basketball and pickleball court. He also noted that street hockey and futsal groups would also benefit from sharing courts.
- Ms. Rothenberg: Suggested compiling data from the iPlay app used to reserve court time to determine how many individuals or groups are reserving for pickleball vs basketball. Mr. Connelly will get the data to share with the Commission. She also suggested the possibility of installing a basketball court in the lower field at Ottoson Middle School.
- Ms. Mayer: Noted that maintenance of the courts is not covered by CPA. She suggested the use of feasibility study funds to determine how to potentially expand the use of the town's existing courts.
- Mr. Fenollosa: Suggested installing a court at one of the smaller parks; Cutter, Locke, Waldo. Mr. Connelly suggested an assessment of the locations as they are very important to the abutting neighbors.
- Ms. Canniff: Commented that the removal of the Arlington High Basketball courts is a huge loss for the youth of Arlington. The courts were very well used.

The Commission will further discuss Parallel Park and Thompson Field as potential locations for additional courts.

Capital Project Updates:

- a. Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds – The weekly meeting with Ray Contracting will be held tomorrow, September 14, to discuss both projects. The Friends of Spy Pond have expressed concerns about the poured in place rubber surfacing being used. Mr. Connelly stated that poured in place is recommended by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the governing body of playground safety. Use of the product has already been approved by the Commission and the Conservation Commission. The decision is final for this project.

Parmenter equipment has been installed. Spy Pond Equipment is being delivered next week. The retaining wall and ramp at Parmenter are complete. The subgrade and prep work is complete at Spy Pond.

- Mr. Lasker: Asked if the poured in place pathways would be completed before the temperature changes. Mr. Connelly assured the Commission that Parmenter would be completed before the temperature changes. Completion at Spy Pond depends on whether there will be delays in receiving and installing equipment.

- Ms. Mayer: Inquired about the ramp work and second entrance being added at Parmenter. Mr. Connelly will request more information.

- b. Robbins Playground – Six firms have submitted an RFP – KZLA, Weston & Sampson, Warner Larson, Kate Took, RDLA and Copley Wolffe. Mr. Connelly has shared the documents with the Commission for review. He requested that each Commission email him their top three choices to interview by the end of the week.

- c. Arlington Reservoir Phase II – The pathway has been prepped and work will begin Thursday or Friday of this week. Disturbed areas will be hydroseeded on September 19. Final signage is ready for installation. Some plants will have to be replaced next spring. The Commission commended the upkeep and continued watering.
 - Ms. Garnett also noted that she was impressed with the plant growth and watering efforts.

- d. Stratton, Pierce, Bishop ARPA Project – Mr. Connelly shared that JJ Fallon has been extremely accommodating and he is very impressed with their work.

Bishop is almost complete. Ropes will be installed next week. Final items include a playground inspection and sealcoating. The contractor will swap out the swings.

Stratton equipment installation will begin this week. Anticipated completion is by the end of October. The Commission discussed the success and the fast turnaround with the project, begun in July.

Pierce site prep is ongoing. Equipment delivery is expected on October 1. The Commission discussed laying mulch for use during the school year and schedule rubber installation in early summer 2023.

Site furnishings for all three locations are on backorder due to supply chain delays.

- Ms. Mayer asked about the use of binder in the mulch at Pierce. Mr. Connelly will get clarification from KZLA about how dropping temperatures, 45-50 degrees, could be a concern.

- e. Hurd Field – The project is moving fast and is coming in \$500K under budget. Cement pads were found under the grass near the shed and had to be removed. Trees will be pruned to allow for better lighting. It was determined that it was not ideal to keep the original fence posts along the bike path and only replace the mesh. Mr. Connelly is pricing the cost to replace the entire section. Lights will be ready at the end of September and sod will be laid in November.

Mr. Slotnick, co-chair of the Zero Waste Committee, presented a proposal on behalf of Arlington on Tap. In response to the proposal to ban the sale of bottled water as of November 1st, the committee is looking to install water bottle filling stations at town parks. \$50K has been earmarked in the state budget, with the support of State Representative Garballey and DPW head Mike Rademacher, to purchase water bottle filling stations. The committee would like to see them placed in high traffic community areas such as the Thorndike dog park, the bike way and along Mass Ave. Hurd Field was suggested as a pilot location because it is accessible to both users of the field and bike path. Mr. Slotnick has a meeting on Thursday with David Morgan to collaborate on an application for a \$50K CPA match. The initial \$50K is already in hand. Filling stations for water bottles price at around \$3000 while more complex units that include a water bubbler and dog bowl filler run around \$5500.

- Mr. Lasker: Pointed out that if the units were installed and fed off the irrigation water source, a backflow preventer would be needed. It would be difficult to place the units at Hurd due to the advanced stage of the project. He suggested choosing a pilot location that already has a water feed, such as a park that previously had a water fountain. Mr. Lasker also pointed out that the units would require winterization.
- Ms. Canniff: Inquired about the functionality of the water fountain installed at Waldo Park in 2019. Mr. Connelly stated that a plumber had been hired for occasional repairs. He also noted that the fountain at Hill's Hill Playground had been fixed four times this past summer. The existing fountains are prone to maintenance due to use and exposure to the elements.
- Mr. Connelly: Will speak to Mr. Rademacher about maintenance support.
- Ms. Mayer: Stated the need for a maintenance budget and commitment from DPW. She suggested including the Board of Health in future discussions, pointing out health risks of the "bubbler" feature. The drinking feature is also prone to vandalism. Ms. Mayer inquired which agency assumes the cost of the water?
- Ms. Garnett: Shared that the water used to feed the habitat garden was ultimately paid for by the taxpayers.
- Ms. Rothenberg: Expressed concern for public health. Since the pandemic, it is important to evaluate how these units could prevent spreading of illness and germs. She also suggested allocating a percentage of the \$50K to a 2 year maintenance plan.
- Mr. Fenollosa: Suggested locations frequented by cyclists; Kickstand Café, Uncle Sam's Park, and the Heights bus station.
- Mr. Ballin, worked on the proposal on behalf of Zero Waste Arlington: Stated that Concord, MA installed six units with CPA money in 2015 and reports very low maintenance. He suggested that a portion of the state funding be allocated for maintenance. The funding is unrestricted and could potentially be used with Sandy Pooler's approval.
- Ms. Melofchik: Suggested that the Commission look into the units used at End of the World in Hingham which have an overflow feature for filling dog balls rather than a separate spigot. She also requesting that the Commission consider shadow planting and to plant more trees to maximize cooling and the tree canopy.
- Ms. Canniff: Noted that the Commission has always passionately worked with the tree warden to incorporate additional tree planting in park and playground projects.

f. Poets Corner – There is nothing new to report. Mr. Connelly will be meeting with Belmont Hill at the end of September.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Canniff made a motion to approve the minutes of August 9, 2022, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg.

Roll call vote:
 Ms. Rothenberg – YES
 Ms. Canniff – YES
 Mr. Walker – YES
 Ms. Mayer – YES
 Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 5-0.

Special Event Approval: Colleen McGrath requested approval for the annual Bark For Life event scheduled to be held at the Reservoir on October 30, 2022. The event will include a bake sale for fundraising purposes. Mr. Connelly advised for Ms. McGrath to contact the Board of Health.

- Ms. Rothenberg: Requested additional information about the individuals running the event and why Arlington was chosen. Ms. McGrath stated that several Arlington High School students were on the committee for the Relay for Life which is where the Bark for Life stemmed from. Many of the registered participants are Arlington residents and Arlington dog walking groups.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the Bark for Life special event request, seconded by Ms. Mayer.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Rothenberg – NAY

Ms. Canniff – NAY

Mr. Walker – YES

Ms. Mayer – YES

Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 3-2.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

Mr. Connelly: Alan Jones has been invited to the next Commission meeting to discuss a proposed assessment and rejuvenation plan for Crusher Lot. The Commission discussed concerns about other groups presenting CPA requests for work on Recreation property.

- Ms. Mayer: CPA would require the Commission's endorsement before considering the request from an outside group. Requests made by the property owner are preferred.
- Ms. Rothenberg: Requested that Crusher Lot be discussed in the next cycle. The Commission is currently managing many projects.
- Mr. Lasker: The scope of Mr. Jones' request is maintenance. CPA does not cover maintenance. Suggested fundraising for similar to what has been done by the Friends of Spy Pond. The group could come to the Commission for approval.

Ms. Canniff: Open Space will be sharing the current draft design at their booth at Town Day.

Ms. Mayer: Theresa Marzilli, the Community Outreach Coordinator, will be attending the next Commission meeting to introduce herself. Ms. Mayer also requested that Commissioners set up their town email accounts so that all Commissioners receive email correspondence from the public.

Correspondence Received: The Commission received correspondence regarding Hill's Hill from several Arlington residents including Sara Alfaro-Franco, Cheryl Marceau, Flynn Monks and Wynelle Evans.

New Business: Mr. Connelly reminded the Commission that the Arlington Town Day Road Race would be taking place on Saturday September 17, 2022, at the Reservoir. There will be food trucks and a DJ as well.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff.

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Roll call vote:

Ms. Rothenberg – YES

Ms. Canniff – YES

Mr. Walker – YES

Ms. Mayer – YES

Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 5-0.

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

From: Karen Grossman <fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org>
Betsy Leondar-Wright <betsy@classmatters.org>, David White <dwhite@gilbertwhite.com>, David Morgan
To: <dmorgan@town.arlington.ma.us>, Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, Catherine Garnett
<cgarnett251@gmail.com>, Chuck Tirone <ctirone@ci.reading.ma.us>
Date: 09/12/2022 08:09 PM
Subject: Re: Problems with the playground surface?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Town of Arlington's email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the REAL sender (whose email address in the From: line in "< >" brackets) and you know the content is safe.

Betssy,

I sent concerns along these lines to Joe Connelly from another concerned party, too. Please read the new comments below.

I am copying him, also. He just responded before that it was safe, but I pointed out that the safety was only for falls, not for the environment or for the overall health of the children, not involved in the testing.

I am copying these concerns below to some Con Comm members. As I learn more about the surface, on behalf of the Friends of Spy Pond Park, we are concerned, also. We'd like a meeting a.s.a.p. with the ConComm and the park commissioners before the surface is poured. I just got back from a week away and would like to place a hold on the construction until this is fully discussed despite public input previously which did not raise this issue.

Please keep me posted a.s.a.p. as to the status of my request.
Karen

On Sep 12, 2022, at 7:39 PM, Betsy Leondar-Wright
<betsy@classmatters.org> wrote:

Hello Arlington officials and Spy Pond advocates,
I was disturbed to get this message from someone who sounds quite knowledgeable about toxic surface materials, including the material planned for the Tot Lot in Spy Pond Park near Pond Lane. I don't know if it's too late to change the plan, but can you please make sure this information reaches the right people?

Thanks,
Betsy

~~~~~  
Betsy Leondar-Wright



[Betsy@classmatters.org](mailto:Betsy@classmatters.org) • 781-648-0630

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Massey, Rachel I** <[Rachel\\_Massey@uml.edu](mailto:Rachel_Massey@uml.edu)>  
Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 4:15 PM  
Subject: hello and a question about Spy Pond  
To: [betsy@classmatters.org](mailto:betsy@classmatters.org) <[betsy@classmatters.org](mailto:betsy@classmatters.org)>

Hi Betsy,

I saw your contact information at Spy Pond, and I'm thinking about giving you a call, but thought I'd start with this email. I think you'll remember me - we knew each other through Reena. I hope you are doing OK these days.

I was concerned to see a sign saying that Pour-in-Place (PIP) surfacing is going to be installed at the playground at Spy Pond. PIP surfacing poses health and environmental hazards, and it falls apart over time ([here are some photos](#) from Somerville).

I was actually really sad when I returned to Spy Pond after a couple of years away, and discovered that the path had been resurfaced with waste tire materials. In addition to offgassing, that surfacing degrades quickly so those tire particles move quickly into the surrounding soil and will end up the pond itself. (As you may know, the tire industry has worked hard and successfully to avoid any federal or state requirements related to true recycling, and has shifted the burden of managing tire waste to the states. That's why we see tires being used so widely in infrastructure projects, recreational surfacing, etc.)

PIP playground surfacing generally includes a layer of waste tires covered by a layer of another type of rubber mixed with a binder. All these materials contain toxic chemicals. They also get very hot in the sun.

PIP is being promoted aggressively on the basis of accessibility. However, engineered wood fiber is also ADA compliant and doesn't pose any of these problems. A few years ago, I worked with colleagues on a

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playground surfacing report, which includes a comparison of various surfacing materials.

Do you know if there's any possibility of getting those playground surfacing plans changed? Was there any community consultation about the project? I would love to see a healthy, clean playground reinstalled at that site.

All best wishes to you,

Rachel Massey

(617-866-7104)

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Dear Joe and rec department,

I'm writing to encourage Arlington to join other towns in responding to the incredible increase of interest in pickleball. I'm wondering what plans there are to build some dedicated pickleball courts in Arlington?

Currently I often go to Medford's 9-11 a.m. pickleball program. It's sponsored by the Rec Dept at Dugger Park, where they have five tennis courts, and some are lined to yield five pickleball courts. (It makes no sense, don't get me started, it should be SIX pickleball courts!) These are on the quite new five tennis courts, where the first three are multiuse for both sports.

The other day I went there and there were five pickleball courts in use, which is 20 people, plus eight people waiting to play when others finished!

I know of no such opportunity in my town. As pickleball increases even more in popularity, I do have a concern they may start saying "for Medford residents only" or something! Right now, it is free, and open to all.

So I felt I should write and become the squeaky wheel that may get some pickle grease in Arlington. I understand there are lined courts in two locations, plus the two at Robbins Farm, but I never play at any of them, because other nearby towns have more players and more organization.

I'd like to play in Arlington and wonder what are the offerings from the Rec Dept I may have missed, and what are the plans to have more pickleball in Arlington?

I believe you have something for beginners on a weeknight at Robbins Farm? And lessons from Eric?

I'm beginning a dialogue here. If there is a board or commission that decides such things, I'd like to go to a meeting. Or are such things down at Town Hall? I understand things move slow with Town Government, and I'm willing to be patient, but I'd like to speak up.

We're wanting the third court in Medford to have not just ONE side lined for pickleball, but both! (It's illogical to have only one side lined!) And that is slow going too.

I appreciate any response,  
Arlington Resident Paul W. Gerzon  
Tufts ST in East Arlington  
781-507-1115

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/09/24/metro/boomers-have-created-pickleball-phenomenon/>  
is first Globe article on Pickleball

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/08/18/lifestyle/old-dogs-knees-new-tricks-we-took-swing-pickleball/?event=event12>  
is another Boston Globe article

<https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2021/10/how-pickleball-won-over-everyone> is about famous people AND your grandmother

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/sporting/a39323873/pickleball-trend-one-percent/> is about the 1%

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