

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

October 11, 2022

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday October 11, 2022 at 7:00pm.

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

Anticipated Speakers: Teresa Marzilli

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

Introduction of Teresa Marzilli : Ms. Marzilli was invited to tonight's meeting to introduce herself to the Commission as the new Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator with the Division of Health and Human Services. Her role includes, but is not limited to, auditing policies and procedures for inclusive housing and language access as well as providing educational workshops for town employees. Ms. Marzilli looks forward to working with the Commission for equitable community engagement.

Capital Project Updates :

- Spy Pond and Parmenter Playgrounds – There is a construction meeting for Parmenter tomorrow. Equipment is being installed at Parmenter this week. Rubber installation is scheduled for the end of the month. Equipment is also being installed at Spy Pond. Rubber surfacing installation is questionable, pending time and temperature.
- Robbins Farm Playground – Landscape Architects has accepted the contract and begun the design phase. A working group meeting will be scheduled for next week. The Deputy Town Manager has contacted Mr. Connelly about hiring the company for the Brackett School project. Due to the proximity of Brackett School to Robbins Farm, the idea is to have the project design and equipment complement each other.

Mr. Connelly, Ms. Mayer, Ms. Rothenberg and Ms. Garnett all visited Danehy Park / Cambridge Universal Playground. They all shared how impressed they were with how the design incorporated accessibility and fun for multi-generational enjoyment. Ms. Rothenberg will share photos and videos she took of her visit with the Commissioners via email. The Commission discussed some of the attributes of the park including "dignity exit platforms" and accessible water filling stations. Ms. Rothenberg did some research on the Canada-based design company. Jim Hempe, representing Friends of Robbins Farm Park, stated that he is on the project working group and recommended that Commission members also visit, or look up, Martin's Park in Boston's Seaport District, which is another good example of fun, accessible playground.

- Reservoir Phase II – Small punch list; bridge handrails, fishing pier signage, plantings. The pathway connecting to Hurd and the ramp to Drake Village are complete. Plant health will be revisited in the spring.
- Bishop/Stratton/Peirce – Bishop passed inspection and is fully open. There is a small punch of Level 1 issued to address in addition to sealcoating and painting which will be completed in the spring. Mr.

Connelly has arranged an exchange for a larger tot swing. Whitney Roberts, a Bishop neighbor, shared that the community loves the new playground. She thanked Mr. Connelly and the Commission for their responsiveness and assistance during the renovation.

A full crew is completing the grading work, hot tops and cement pathways at Stratton. Inspection is tentatively planned for the end of October.

The crew from Stratton will move to Peirce once work is complete. Equipment is on site and will be installed once site prep is completed. The temporary use of wood fiber has been approved for the fall and will be installed at the end of October due to temperature restrictions. Poured in place pavement will be installed in the spring. Mr. Connelly noted that both firms were a pleasure to work with and made it a priority to allow for maximum use during construction.

- Hurd – Mr. Lasker attended the last project meeting and shared the following information; pruning work has been completed, most plantings are in place but due to unforeseen circumstances some will be planted in the spring, posts for the backstop have been installed, concrete and lighting work will continue this week, new sheds will be delivered next week. Once the perimeter paving is complete, work will begin on the field. Installation of a bottle filling station has been approved. A single unit filling station will be installed at the entrance near the bike rack area. The area is equipped with permeable pavers and will connect to the existing main.
- Poet's Corner – Town and Archdiocese signed off on boring testing which will begin tomorrow on both the town and Archdiocese land parcels. Ms. Mayer asked if the wetland survey was complete. Mr. Connelly will follow up.
- CPA Requests FY2024 – Turkey Hill signage, Menotomy Rocks Park picnic and playground renovation and Hill's Hill MBP.

Menotomy Rocks Park history, bench placement and renovation details will be discussed at a future meeting.

Several pieces of correspondence received were added to the agenda packet concerning Hill's Hill. Additional correspondence was received after the agenda was posted and will be on the next agenda. Mr. Connelly reviewed the process for the attendees beginning with application for CPA funding, the design and public input process and Town Meeting and Finance Committee involvement. If funding is awarded, the design process will begin in July 2023 for all three projects. Mr. Connelly noted that discussions and suggestions about trees were premature at this stage but that public input meetings are always scheduled as part of the design process. Ms. Mayer, the Commission's CPA representative, shared a list of other projects identified in this year's CPA packet that could impact Park and Recreation property. Projects include – a feasibility study at 21 Pond Lane (used by A-B Crew), an invasive management plan at Spy Pond including the purchase of a harvester machine, and a project to remove invasive species at the Ryder Street bikeway access which may impact the fencing at Summer Street field. Ms. Rothenberg questioned how projects are submitted without consulting Mr. Connelly and receiving approval from the Commission.

Brian McBride shared that "strong public sentiment expressed concerns about installing a pump track in the woods" at Hill's Hill. Mr. McBride's comments were supported by Beth Melofchik who also expressed her continued concern about the potential impact on the tree canopy. She also shared displeasure that funds were being allotted for projects that she felt didn't have public support when the money could be used in other ways to offset costs and overrides. Mr. Connelly explained the legislation governing the use of CPA funds stating that unused CPA funds must be used for CPA projects and cannot be reallocated to Capital or the town operating fund. Ms. Melofchik stated that she wanted it noted that she continues

to be against the project. Elaine Crowder requested to see the description of the CPA project submission and inquired about how categories and allocations are determined. Ms. Mayer identified the three CPA categories - historical, recreation/open space and housing. She also explained that the committee must allocate a minimum of 10% of funding to each category and has the authority to determine how the remaining funds are allocated.

Ms. Garnett shared that invasive species removal is taking place at Ryder Street. Ms. Crowder stated that it was a volunteer project that Mr. Connelly was aware of and did not impact the Summer Street fencing.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Mayer made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2022, seconded by Mr. Walker.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Mayer – YES

Mr. Walker – YES

Ms. Rothenberg – YES

Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 4-0.

Special Event Approval : N/A

Correspondence Received: Several letters of support for Hill's Hill were received from town residents. Mr. Fenollosa noted that most of the letters were from eager youth looking forward to using the space. There were also letters expressing concern for the project. Additional correspondence was received regarding Reservoir path bike riding, off-leash hours at Parallel Park and artificial turf.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings: The Open Space and Recreation Plan will be discussed at the next meeting. An agenda item will also be added for a discussion with the Historical Commission and Menotomy Rocks Park. Mr. Connelly stated that he reached out to Town Counsel regarding the off-leash dog request at Parallel Park. Town Counsel will be reviewing the conditions of the lease agreement and will advise whether Mr. Connelly should reach out to DCR.

New Business: N/A

Mr. Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Mayer – YES

Mr. Walker – YES

Ms. Rothenberg – YES

Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 4-0.

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