

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Recreation Department

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

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, June 13, 2023

7:00 PM

Arlington Community Center – 27 Maple Street – 2nd Floor BOH Meeting Room

AGENDA

1) Capital Project Updates

- A - Spy and Parmenter Playgrounds
- B - Robbins Playground
- C – Arlington Reservoir Phase II
- D - Stratton, Peirce, Bishop ARPA Project
- E – Hurd Field Project
- F – Arlington Court Needs Assessment
- G –Hill Mountain Biking Project
- H - Menotomy Rocks Park Playground/Picnic Area
- I – Other
 - Parallel Design

2) Playgrounds and Gathering Spaces Discussion

3) Approval of Minutes – 5/16/2023, 5/30/2023

4) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

5) Correspondence Received: Off Leash Dogs Menotomy (M. Varoglu)

6) New Business

7) Public Comment

ARLINGTON PARKS

PARKS ACCORDING TO HAZARD TYPE | RENOVATION

DEFINITIONS OF REPAIR TYPE

Hazard 1: Playground is in Poor Condition

Hazard 1 is considered to be an issue/s in the playground that can result in loss of life, body part, or permanent disability.

Hazard 2: Playground is in Fair Condition

Hazard 2 is considered to be an issue/s in the playground that can result in serious injury or illness resulting in temporary disability.

Hazard 3: Playground is in Good Condition

Hazard 3 is considered to be an issue/s in the playground that can result in a minor or major non-disabling injury.

<u>Name of Park</u>	<u>Repair Type</u>
Menotomy Rocks _____	Renovate
Poets Corner _____	Renovate
Cutter _____	Renovate
Spy Pond _____	Renovate
Robbins Farm _____	Renovate
Stratton _____	Hazard 1
Buzzell _____	Hazard 1
Parmenter _____	Hazard 1
Peirce _____	Hazard 1
Bishop _____	Hazard 1
Locke _____	Hazard 2
Whittemore Robbins _____	Hazard 2
Parallel Park _____	Hazard 2
Crosby Park _____	Hazard 2
Waldo Park _____	Hazard 3
Hill's Hill _____	Hazard 3
McClennen _____	Hazard 3
Florence Dallin _____	Hazard 3
Hibbert _____	Hazard 3
Magnolia _____	Hazard 3

Bishop
Brackett
North Union

Thompson School
Handy
Magnolia
Reservoir

27 Total

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

May 16, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00pm.

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

Anticipated Speakers: Agency Landscape

Members of the public: David Bean, Judy Weinberg, Maryanna Foskett, Chuck Tirone, Liz Reisberg, Alexander D'Amour, Melissa Collins, Julia Kennerson

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission vice chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and public attendees to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Robbins Farm Final Design Review

Mr. Connelly gave a brief summary of the process to date stating that the feedback received was tremendous and all was taken into consideration within the final design.

Agency Landscape – Kate Tooke, Estello Regiant, and Nicholas Cook – Presented the plan to the Commission

- The presentation is attached to the minutes for reference

After the presentation the Commission reviewed and asked questions and provided feedback. The Commission as a whole was very positive about the design. Below are questions and concerns.

Ms. Rothenberg

- Surface color and equipment color
- Height of upper shed and view from top of hill

Mr. Fenollosa

- Tree additions and locations
- Picnic area and layout
- Native plantings and planting plan in general
- Accessibility of the tot truck

Ms. Carrier

- Greenery and plant bed plans and long term maintenance concerns
- Stroller parking area detail
- Signage plan and location detail

Mr. Walker

- Pathway material – Permeable verse non-permeable
- Visually impaired features

Ms. Mayer

- Truck accessibility
- Wall seating and town specifications (North Union)

Mr. Lasker

- EWF location and use
- Stabilized aggregate installation
- Budget analysis
- Signage location and plan

Public Comment

- More color
- Sponsorship plaques
 - Mr. Connelly to get information from zoning and present at future meeting
- Sensory nodes
- Playground wood material and longevity

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the final design with the following conditions to be looked at further for consideration, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

- Surface color and equipment exact colors to be determined
- Final planting plan to be reviewed
- Additional detail at the stroller parking area needed, possible addition of sensory equipment
- Wall mounted benches to be standardized with current park specifications
- Engineered wood fiber adjacent to tot truck area to be revisited
- Locations for signage be presented for a final approval, including location of the communication board
- Additional seating with the standardized park bench model be added to the Hill Slide area

Menotomy Playground Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the history of the issues at Menotomy Rocks Park and the CPA funding requests.

Mr. Laser supported the plan to remove the playground, use FY24 ARPA funding for design services for renovations and submit a fall CPA application for constructions

Ms. Mayer also supported that action and pointed out the many accessible issues that also exist with the current playground location.

Ms. Rothenberg stated that leaving the playground in place was not an option due to cited safety concerns and make financial investment in the current structure was not responsible.

Ms. Canniff also said we should move forward with a plan for a fully renovated playground without investing funds in repairs of the existing playground.

Ms. Carrier stated that no CPSI would approve of non-certified installer or equipment improvements on this or any playground structure.

The Commission discussed ways to build trust with Ms. Weinberg who is president of the Friends of Menotomy.

Ms. Rothenberg made the following motion:

Remove existing play structure and border with appropriate tree protection

Keep the swings and add appropriate levels of EWF

Use FY24 ARPA Funds for Design

Submit emergency CPA Application for Fall Town Meeting

This motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: 2/28/2023

The minutes of April 11, 2023 tabled.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

Discussion on improving commission communication and notifications to the public

Correspondence Received:

No comments

New Business: N/A

Open Forum – Public Comment:

- Ms. Reisberg
 - Communication feedback
 - Request for hybrid meetings
- Ms. Jones also pointed out the benefits of the hybrid meeting model.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 10:18pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

May 30, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present as was Conservation Commission liaison Susan Chapnick.

Anticipated Speakers: James Hampe, Elaine Crowder

Members of the public: N/A

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission vice chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Friends of Robbins Farm Park Fund Raising Proposal

James Hampe of the Friends of Robbins Farm made a presentation to the Commission for fundraising for the playground. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

The Commission discussed the fundraising options with Mr. Hampe. Issues included

- Location of the sign
- Permanent nature of the donation
- Inappropriateness of including benches
- Temporary verse permanent signs
- Open Space Bylaw Allowance

Mr. Connelly will again reach out to Planning and Zoning for clarification on what is allowed. The Commission leaned toward temp signage on the kiosk for up to two years with other acknowledgement in the form of a banner on opening day.

After Mr. Connelly received clarification on what is allowed in an open space district the FORFO have the green light to begin fundraising with the final design of the acknowledgement sign to be determined at a later date.

Paul Lipsky Bench Donation Spy Pond Park

Mr. Connelly reviewed the location and amended language of the plaque. The Commission was in support of the bench donation.

Invasive Removal Update – Elaine Crowder

Elaine Crowder presented some of the invasive removal work by her dedicated group of volunteers. The Commission discussed the success of the efforts. Ms. Crowder asked that three burning bush be removed by the town and permission be granted to replant natives in the area. The Commission approved the action but Mr.

Connelly will check with DPW on their availability to do the work. Ms. Chapnick stated that Conservation could purchase the replacement plantings if Ms. Crowder's group could do the planting.

Ms. Mayer stated that a commitment should also be made to maintain the new plantings.

Poets Corner Playground

Mr. Connelly stated that he has been receiving inquiries as to plans to renovate Poets playground. The Commission discussed the issue now that Belmont Hill has backed out of the partnership. Mr. Connelly stated that a decision was not needed at tonight's meeting but should be in the discussion for next capital/CPA cycle.

The Commission continued to discuss the importance of relooking at the playgrounds and gathering spaces to see what the actual need maybe. Ms. Rothenberg asked that this be placed on an upcoming Commission agenda for a formal discussion. Ms. Mayer stated that a discussion would be helpful but removing play equipment from an existing playground may prove difficult. Mr. Fenollosa and Mr. Walker agreed but stated the discussion of our play spaces is warranted as uses and needs have changed over the last several years.

Mr. Connelly recommended having a town wide discussion. The Commission agreed but suggested this occur after an informal commission discussion. Mr. Fenollosa suggested inviting the Friends of Parks to that Commission meeting for input.

Approval of Minutes: 2/28/2023

The minutes of April 11, 2023 tabled.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings:

Playground and group gathering spaces in our parks capital discussion.

Correspondence Received:

No comments

New Business:

- Shirley Canniff update on Open Space Committee
- The commission discussed investigating the possible purchase of the adjacent archdiocese property to Poets with CPA funds. Ms. Mayer pointed to several missed opportunities in the town's history of purchasing available open space. Mr. Connelly will discuss this option with Deputy Town Manager Jim Feeny and report back.

Open Forum – Public Comment:

N/A

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Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 9:38pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 4-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly

Off Leash Dogs in Menotomy Rocks Park - Request for enforcement and return of signs to Jason Street Entrance/ Notice Board

Mustafa Varoglu <mvaroglu@gmail.com>

Mon 6/5/2023 10:09 PM

To:Sandy Pooler <spooler@town.arlington.ma.us>;Julie Flaherty <jflaherty@town.arlington.ma.us>;Richard Flynn <rfflynn@town.arlington.ma.us>;AnimalControl <animalcontrol@town.arlington.ma.us>;Jen Rothenberg <jrothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us>;Shirley Canniff <scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us>;Leslie Mayer <lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us>;Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

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

Dear all,

There appear to be an increasing number of off-leash dogs in the wooded area of Menotomy Rocks Park in the morning and the rest of the park after off-leash hours. I bike to work from the west side of MRP to the Jason Street entrance on a regular basis and I am increasingly being chased by off-leash dogs in the woods. My most recent event approx. 1 week ago involved being chased by a pair of dogs in the woods. When I stopped biking to save myself from being injured or injuring the dogs, the owner told me that biking was not allowed during the "dog park" hours in MRP, this was in the wooded section where off-leash dogs are never allowed, (between the Ottawa Street and Spring Street entrances). I asked the owner to call her dogs before restarting riding and she was unable to recall one of her dogs despite multiple tries.

The lack of knowledge of where and how to have dogs off-leash and the lack of enforcement seems to have become entrenched.

I know there was no enforcement for a long time, I hope with a new Animal Control Officer there can be morning enforcement in the woods and in the rest of the park during regular hours.

I would encourage improved signage near the Churchill Street entrance to the woods (similar the signs near the back field), and a return of prominent signage to the Jason Street entrance. The sign that was on the Jason Street gate outlining the off-leash hours is now gone and the A-frame sign that appeared at the Jason Street entrance was only there for a few days before disappearing. At Jason Street please install a permanent sign detailing off-leash hours and off-leash requirements (including recall and voice control of off-leash dogs). The best place to put the signage would be on the post for the pedestrian entrance at Jason Street with an additional sign on the notice board. As the notice board signs were attempted in the past and then ripped off (i.e, vandalized) it would be good to find a way to put them on securely.

As always any enforcement would also be welcome so that all the other recreational uses of our wonderful park, including walking, hiking, biking, bird watching, walking dogs on leash, sitting by the pond, fishing, picnics and just gathering with friends and family can occur without harassment and interference. Please stop allowing off-leash dog owners to take extra privileges for their recreation at the expense of other users and increase education and enforcement to create a park everyone can enjoy.

Sincerely,

Mustafa Varoglu
26 Shawnee Rd.

