

# Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

## Meeting Minutes-On-line Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Monday, June 26, 2023

**Attending:** Arthur Magni, Chair, Commissioner Banks, Beth Wilkinson, John Rice, Gloria Gavis, Randy Johnson, Midge Connolly

Meeting began: 7:00pm

### 1. Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2023 – Approved 6-0

### 4. Commissioner's Report-

- This agenda item was moved up, Commissioner Banks was required to attend the City Council Finance Committee meeting to request authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) from acct # 5503R602-590001 B.A.A. Marathon to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account to fund playground improvements.
- Commissioner Banks gave condolences to the Community for the tragedy that took place in Nonantum over the weekend. Chairman Magni commented this was too close to home and has impacted the Our Lady's Parish deeply.
- This is a busy time for the department. Camps and Programs are underway. The camps provide affordable fees the registration numbers are good. Scholarships are available.
- Crystal Lake and Gath Pool opened two weeks ago with a pre-season schedule and today the summer hours begin, the aquatics team did a great job opening for the season with the support of PRC Maintenance and the Public Buildings Department.
- Farmer Market opens this week. Tuesday at 1:30 there is an event with the Friends of Cold Spring Park celebrating the new pollinator garden.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Morning activities in Newton Centre Playground then the celebration moves to Albemarle Playground from 1pm -10pm
- Cabot Pavilion grand opening took place June 3<sup>rd</sup> along with the Cabo PTO spring fair event.
- Gath Pool design and funding have been approved. Project will go out to public bid soon.
- Levingston Cove project is in process, scheduled to reopen in August.
- Newton Centre playground resurfacing project is in process.
- NSHS Turf replacement starts this week.
- NNHS lights project starts after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### 3. Susan G. Komen 3-day Event – Public Hearing- Meredith Parker

- Meredith Parker, representative of the Komen 3-Day, commented this event is a 60 mile walk with approximately 800 attendees. The date is earlier this year, August 18. Street closures and traffic mitigation is not required. One difference this year is there will be one lunch stop at City Hall. Last year there was a second stop in Newton Centre Playground.
- There were no public comments.

*Ms. Connolly made the motion to approve the event as presented. Ms. Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.*

#### 4. Wellington Free Little Library – Public Hearing- FoWP, Ted Kuklinski & Terry Lerner

- Park Parks & Open Space has been working with the Friends of Wellington Park (FoWP) to add a second Little Free Library (LFL) to Wellington Park and has submitted the following notes. The proposed Little Free Library (LFL) will be the second Little Free Library at the park and will contain books for adults.
- The LFL will be placed immediately adjacent to existing “Little Free Library” at the park and a path near Kilburn Road. The proposed height will be maximized at 48”.
- The LFL will be provided and installed by the FoWP.
- The LFL will be managed and monitored by the FoWP.
- formal gift letter has been provided by the FoWP to Newton PRC
- Mr. Kuklinski (FoWP) commented during the informational meeting in May the question was asked how people will identify the children’s library and adult library. The FoWP have decide to label the Childrens library, “KIDS’ and the adult library “GROWN UP’s”. There is also an email address posted on the LFL for people to send concerns or ask questions.
- Ms. Lerner commented she has spoken to many adults who want the adult LFL.
- Ms. Connolly commented this is a great park that is highly utilized.

*Ms. Connolly made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Ms. Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0*

#### 5. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee -*B. Dunker*
  - No report
- Urban Tree Commission – *B. Wilkinson*
  - Review of tree ordinance continues, there may be a public hearing in the next few months.
- Farm Commission – *B. Wilkinson*
  - CSA program is going well.
  - There was the theft of plants last month, it made the local news.
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – *Commissioner*
  - Ms. McLaughlin reported there was an OLAWG Friday June 24.
  - The meeting schedule for next year was confirmed.
  - Neighbors of Edmands Park attended the meeting and there was discussion of the off-leash dogs in Edmands Park
- Arts & Culture – *G. Gavis*
  - Live music begins this summer:
    1. Newton Centre Bowl summer Concert Series. Stage will be set up facing towards the west from tennis backboard.  
Ms. Wilkinson asked if there will be a porta potty available.  
July 21 & 22 is the Festival of the Arts at Hyde Playground
    2. Artful Pianos are out.

#### 6. New Business

- Plan for Meeting Format
  - All members present agreed to switch to Hybrid meetings beginning in September.
- Reoccurring Outdoor Special Events
  - Proposal for re-occurring outdoor special events:  
December: confirm with event organizer the event is scheduled for 2024.  
January: Present a list of outdoor special events scheduled. Organizer is not required to attend  
Public Hearing will be scheduled, organizer required to attend.

- Commissioner Banks returned to the Finance Committee meeting and reported the Finance Committee supported the playground funding.
- Commissioner Banks responded to Ms. Wilkinson's question regarding the porta potty in Newton Centre Playground for the concert series. Commissioner Banks reported Paula Gannon and Stephanie Lapham are working with the Tennis contractor to share the porta potty tennis provides for the Clay Court members. The placement would be next to the ADA pathway near the tennis courts.

*Meeting Adjourned 7:40 pm,*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Robin McLaughlin, Commission Secretary*