

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes-On-line Meeting
7:00 p.m. – Monday, February 27, 2023

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chair, Commissioner Banks, Dr Michael Richardson, Beth Wilkinson, John Rice, Gloria Gavis, Randy Johnson, Mark Feldhusen, Jack Neville, Ted Chapman

Meeting began: 7:01pm

1. Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2023 – Approved 8-0

2. Lion’s 5K- NSHS – May 21, 2023 – NSHS -Informational

- Teri Ginsburg & Lars Dietrich of the Newton South Booster Club presented the application for the May 21, Lions 5K Fundraiser event at NSHS.
- Ms. Ginsburg commented the Boosters mission is to support NSHS athletics. Last year’s event raised \$30,000.00.
- Commissioner Banks commented this event has grown since last year, the fields and courts will be closed, and following the Outdoor Special event policy, requires the group appear before the Commission. It will also allow the abutters to comment on the event and work out any issues such as traffic delays.
- Chairman Magni asked if there will be police details assigned and road closures. Mr. Dietrich replied, last year the NPD told them they do not need to close roads and there are details if available.
- Commissioner Banks requested the group contact NPD and confirm the details of the safety plan, and have the plan ready for the public hearing next month.

Ms. Gavis made the motion to move the special event application to a public hearing. Ms. Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0

3. Commissioner’s Report

- Reoccurring Special Events
 - Nonantum Village Day-June 4- Coletti-Magni Park – Lois Margaret Dominique, Terry Sauro
 - This will be the 11th annual Nonantum Village Day. There are no significant changes from last year, the music will be moved away from the abutters, same as last year, (Thank-you John Rice for your assistance). The Association listens to the public and adjusts the event accordingly.
 - Commissioner Banks commented the abutters were very grateful for the relocation of the music last year.
 - This Special Event application will move to a public hearing.

4. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee -B. Dunker
 - ◆ Commissioner Banks reported for Mr. Dunker
 - ◆ The Gath Pool project has moved forward for a final budget hearing.
 - ◆ Next up for CPC is an update on the field’s projects of Burr, McGrath, and Albemarle. Community members submitted a petition to the City Council for no further turf work, the Council voted No Action Necessary. The Council will be taking up the topic at an upcoming

meeting. CPC does not fund artificial turf; the turf component of the Albemarle project will have to be funded separately.

Mr. Chapman commented we should follow through with the concerns regarding the artificial turf and the request to perform a study. Commissioner Banks replied that the Council has approved the NSHS fields, the next step is a plan for the NNHS field, second pull together data for youth sports and school sports. Studies have been done and we are currently looking at materials that are better than what is currently at NSHS. PFAS is in everything, and we are looking at products that provide a safe surface and meets the needs of the community. PFAS is being tested for independently, but there are no industry standards.

- ◆ The CPC will be meeting to discuss funding strategies for the pool and field projects.
- ◆ Mr. Johnson commented he has heard concerns regarding the depth of the new lap pool's shallow end, specifically the 4' end and younger children diving from this area. Commissioner Banks commented the plan has gone to the design review committee for review and she met with the swim team representatives on this issue today. The pool has many uses and this plan addresses all the needs, there are the swim meets, recreational swimming, swim lessons, camps, a diving board and zero entry entrance and other programs. Some of these other activities such as swim lessons require the 4' depth for participants to touchdown on the bottom while in the pool and the 4' depth is necessary for the accessible ramp. The deep end is 12', the younger kids can learn to dive in the deep end and once an instructor feels the child is ready to dive in the 4' end under supervision it would be allowed if the swim team prefers to continue starting events from the shallow end rather than move them to the deep end like other teams in the league do. The design follows state regulations and no other pool in the state where the shallow end is deeper than 4'. This plan balances needs and maximizes space which will also increase attendance at the pool.
- Urban Tree Commission – B. Wilkinson
 - ◆ The two proposals revising the tree protection ordinance are still under review. If the override passes in March, the Forestry Division will receive an additional \$500K/year.
- Farm Commission – B. Wilkinson
 - ◆ February 16th the solar panels were installed and are in the process of being connected.
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – Commissioner
 - ◆ No update
- Arts & Culture – G. Gavris
 - ◆ Ms Gavris reported in 2022 there were 110 Outdoor Special Event applications/permits processed. Shout out to Robin McLaughlin for processing and managing the applications. This is a smooth process and is good to know what is scheduled and who using the different areas.
 - ◆ Winterfest was a big success in January. Thank-you John Rice for a great event at the Hyde.

5. New Business

- No New Business

Meeting Adjourned 7:54pm
Respectfully submitted,
Robin McLaughlin
Commission Secretary