



Programs & Services Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Special Meeting

Monday, December 16, 2019

Present: Councilors Rice (chair), Krintzman, Brousal-Glaser, Schwartz, Greenberg, Albright, Baker, Kalis

#401-19 **Appointment of Marguerite Connolly to the Parks and Recreation Commission**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Marguerite Connolly, 289 Cherry Street, Newton, as the Ward 3 member of the PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on December 31, 2022. (60 days: 01/07/20)

Action: **Programs and Services Approved 8-0**

Notes: The Programs and Services Committee met with Ms. Connolly on December 2, prior to the previous City Council meeting. There, Ms. Connolly answered questions about why she wanted to join the Parks and Recreation Commission and the goals she wished to meet by joining it.

Councilor Brousal-Glaser motioned to approve the appointment of Ms. Connolly to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Committee voted 8-0 in favor of the motion.

#400-19 **Appointment of Mark Feldhusen to the Parks and Recreation Commission**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Mark Feldhusen, 144 Cherry Street, Newton, as an Alternate member of the PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION for a term to expire on December 31, 2022. (60 days: 01/07/20)

Action: **Programs and Services Approved 8-0**

Notes: The Chair invited Mr. Feldhusen to explain why he wanted to become a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Feldhusen answered that after leaving his full-time job in the business sector, he began to work with Wellington Park. He said that he found that he enjoyed working at the park and as time went on, he wanted to learn more about how the parks are run as he sees them as an important resource in Newton. With more time in his schedule, Mr. Feldhusen said he wanted to use that time to serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

A committee member commented on the need to focus on all aspects of the City's parks, not just

the athletic fields. They asked on behalf of another councilor how Mr. Feldhusen felt about construction on park land. He answered that he was against this practice as since moving to Newton to raise his family he has loved the open space and does not want to see the park space diminish.

A committee member asked Mr. Feldhusen how he would advocate for more resources for the Parks and Rec commission as a member of it. He answered that he has been attending Parks and Recreation meetings since September and has already been thinking of ideas. Both he and the committee members talked about the state of Forte Park as in need of renewal. Mr. Feldhusen described a more effective use of its space as one goal he would have for himself on the Parks and Recreation commission.

A committee member emphasized the parks as a key resource to Newton which need more investment from the City. They said that they were encouraged by Mr. Feldhusen's responses.

A committee member said that the next five-year outdoor recreation plan is under development and advised both Mr. Feldhusen and the committee to be involved and informed about the process.

The chair asked if Mr. Feldhusen had seen Hyde Playground as an example of how a park can be redesigned to be the center of a neighborhood.

There was a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Feldhusen to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The committee voted 8-0 in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. Rice, Chair