

Commission meetings missing from Playground

Commission RECORD BOOK

February to December 1919.

1920

1921

1923

1924

1925

1926

1927

1931

1933

Stolen from

Mr. Hermann's car.

319B



# CARNIVAL AT CRYSTAL LAKE

**FEBRUARY 3rd, 1940**

**(In case of postponement, Sunday, February 4th. For information**

**Call CENTre Newton 5147**

## **INFORMATION FOR NEWTON FIGURE SKATING CLUB MEMBERS**

The parking area at rear of bath-house will be reserved until 2:15 P. M. for members showing proper identification such as membership card.

Dressing rooms for change of costumes will be available in the bath-house for those coming from out of town.

All club members and participants assemble at the rink in the further cove at 2:15 P. M. Please be prompt.

All participants must hand their records for special music to Mr. Carrol G. W. Brown, by 2:15 at the latest.

Participants should enter space back of exhibition area through entrance behind hockey rink. Junior members should give their names to Miss Ruth Wilkie and Miss Fay Kirby. All single and pair participants report to Mr. Roger Flint or Mr. Eric Benedict, in rear at 2:15 P. M.

## **EVENING PROGRAM**

Meet at 7:45 P. M. in the same area at the rear of the rink

Costume ball - grand march followed by dancing and general skating. All club members and friends are expected to participate. Fancy dress or winter sports costumes. Prizes for the most artistic and most comical.

Grand march starts promptly at 8:00 P. M. Be ready with a partner.

**EXTRA**—Dance session at The Skating Club of Boston Rink at 8:00 P. M., **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6th** for all members and friends. Admission, 40 cents for skaters, 25 cents for spectators. First one half hour for figure skating.

NEWTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Quote from First (1915) Annual Report of the Newton Recreation Commission:

Acting under the authority given them by the Legislature (Statutes of 1910, Chapter 508), the Board of Aldermen on March 18, 1912 passed an order No. 36981 which provided: That a Playground Commission be, and the same is, hereby established by His Honor the Mayor. Said appointees shall serve temporarily until a permanent Playground Commission is established by ordinance of said City.

The Board of Aldermen appropriated \$5000 for the purpose of supervision of playground activities.

On April 2nd, 1912, Mayor Charles E. Hatfield appointed the following as members of the Playground Commission: -

William C. Brewer, Chairman, Newton Centre

Charles J. Johnson, Jr., Newton Highlands

Albert P. Carter, Newtonville

William F. Carden, Newton

Mrs. George H. Wilkins, Newtonville

The Playground Commission met for the first time on April 16, 1912. On May 6, 1912, it was voted to offer the position of Superintendent of Playgrounds to Mr. Ernst Hermann of Cambridge. At the request of the Playground Commission, City Forester Charles L. Bachman, acting under the Mayor, designated the following playgrounds as the proper ones to be transferred from the care of his department to that of the Playground Commission: -

Newton Centre

Newton Lower Falls

Newton Upper Falls

Stearns School

Newton Highlands

Cabot Park, Newtonville

Boyd Park, Monument

Wellington Park, Auburndale

Waban

Nest Newton Common

Mr. Hermann, having accepted the offer of the Playground Commission, submitted a plan of supervision for all the above playgrounds, with the exception of Newton Highlands which was not ready for play until September. Subsequently, the playground at Thompsonville was added to the above list. This plan was approved by the Commission and on July 8th, most of the playgrounds were provided with a man and woman supervisor daily, although some deviations from the plan were made as conditions became better known. This plan continued in operation until September when during the fall season supervision was provided on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturdays, the times during the week that the children were not in school. Beginning with the fall season, the playground directors at Stearns School, West Newton Common and Newton Centre were also employed by the School Committee as substitutes.

The following play spaces have been added to the original list and Newton now has sixteen playgrounds under the control of the Playground Commission: -

Eden Avenue

Farlow Park, Newton

Burr School, Auburndale

Fairce School, West Newton

Allison Park, Woburn

The playgrounds at Newton Lower Falls, Eden Avenue and Thompsonville are not owned by the City.

Plans are being made to acquire land in Auburndale and Newton and when this has been done, the City will have playground facilities in each village except Chestnut Hill.

In March 1913, the Board of Aldermen placed the entire responsibility for Playgrounds including development and maintenance, as well as supervision under the control of the Commission. In July the balance of the appropriation for maintenance was turned over to the Commission. The Board of Aldermen have appropriated a sum of money for sanitaries which the Commission hopes will be increased by sufficient contributions to enable the building of permanent, attractive and thoroughly sanitary structures on three, and possibly four of the playgrounds which have no public buildings adjacent.

The temporary Playground Commission recommended to the Board of Aldermen an ordinance creating a permanent commission, which ordinance was passed.....

Commissioners and Commission Members who have served from its inception to the present.

Ernst Hermann, Original Permanent Commissioner (Department Head)  
Appointed May 6, 1912  
Resigned 1939

William C. Brewer  
Albert P. Carter  
Charles F. Johnson, Jr.  
Charles E. Gibson  
Mrs. George E. Wilkins  
Original Permanent Playground Commission, Appointed February 26, 1913

William C. Brewer, Chairman 1912 - 1925  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1925 - Deceased 1925

Albert P. Carter  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Chairman 1925 - 1937  
Resigned 1937

Charles F. Johnson, Jr.  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1932 (Illness)

William F. Castalon  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1913

Mrs. George E. Wilkins  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1914

Charles E. Gibson  
Appointed February 26, 1913  
Resigned 1914

Thomas J. Lyons (unexpired term of Mrs. Wilkins)  
Appointed January 2, 1913  
Deceased 1934

Ralph W. Angier  
Appointed March 12, 1914  
Resigned 1925

Ralph Santiago Henry (unexpired term of Ralph W. Angier)  
Appointed February 16, 1925  
Chairman 1937 - 1939  
Resigned 1939

E. Ray Spore (vacancy of William C. Brewer)  
Appointed May 18, 1925  
Resigned 1935

James B. Melcher (vacancy of Charles F. Johnson, Jr.)  
Appointed April 25, 1932  
Resigned 1933

Lycorn A. Bruce  
Appointed February 5, 1934  
Resigned 1938

Mrs. Louis H. Marshall  
Appointed February 18, 1935  
Chairman 1939 (September 15, 1939)  
Resigned 1944

George E. Kollar  
Appointed January 18, 1937  
Secretary - September 15, 1939  
Resigned 1940 - Deceased 1940

Edward F. Dalton (vacancy of Albert F. Carter)  
Appointed June 7, 1937  
Deceased March 1945

Irving C. Paul  
Appointed February 20, 1939  
Chairman June 27, 1944  
Resigned 1945

Howard L. Rich (vacancy of Ralph G. Henry)  
Appointed August 21, 1939  
Secretary January 8, 1940  
Chairman March 8, 1948  
Resigned March 1, 1950

Reginald W. P. Brown (Acting Department Head)  
Appointed September 15, 1939  
Resigned December 31, 1939

F. Irving Wilson (member & Recreation Commissioner - Department Head)  
Appointed temporary July and August 1939  
Appointed January 1, 1940  
Resigned September 13, 1947

John H. Underhill  
Appointed April 1, 1940  
Chairman April 13, 1945  
Resigned March 1948

Raymond B. Hunting (vacancy of Mrs. Marshall)  
Appointed June 5, 1944  
Resigned March 1948

Rev. Richard P. McClinton (vacancy of Mr. Pral)  
Appointed March 1, 1945  
Secretary March 8, 1948  
Resigned

William J. McCarthy (vacancy of Mr. Dalton - Chairman)  
Appointed June 25, 1945, 1948, 1951, 1954, 1957, 1960

G. Evan Johnson, Commissioner (vacancy of P. E. Wilson - Department Head)  
Appointed September 12, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1955, 1958, 1962

John E. Baraiso (vacancy of Mr. Harding - resigned)  
Appointed March 1, 1948, 1951  
Deceased April 10, 1958

Howard Whitmore, Jr. (vacancy of John H. Underhill)  
Appointed March 1, 1948, 1949, 1952, 1955

Ira E. Covant (unexpired term of Richard P. McClinton - resigned)  
Appointed April 14, 1949, 1951, 1954, 1957  
Deceased July 28, 1956

Mrs. Northing L. West (vacancy of Howard L. Rich - resigned) to present  
Appointed March 1, 1950, 1953, 1956, 1959, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967,  
1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 (Chairman)

James E. Murphy (unexpired term of John E. Baraiso)  
Appointed April 1950, 1951, 1954, 1957  
Resigned June 30, 1955

T. Frank Gopp - 1956, May 1970

Joseph Selden - 1950 to present

John B. Penney (Commissioner) vacancy of G. Evan Johnson - Department Head  
Appointed 1962 to present

Howard Whitmore III - March 1966, January 1970

A. G. Anaff - June 15, 1970, February 8, 1971

Stephen Crosby - November 2, 1970, March 20, 1972

Joseph Cayallo - December 7, 1970, August 1972

G. Nicholas Dawson - December 7, 1970 to present

Paul J. Burke, Chairman February 23, 1970 to present

Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman, April 1969 to present

Francis Rice - September 20, 1971 to present

Frank Fitzpatrick - September 25, 1972 to present

Howard Ferguson - September 25, 1972 to present

Established in 1912 as the Playground Department, the Recreation Department today is under the direction of a Board of nine (9) non-salaried Commission Members who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen for three-year terms. One of the nine is appointed Recreation Commissioner (by the Mayor), and is the salaried Department Head. The Commission members represent all eight (8) Wards of the City, meet at Department Headquarters, 70 Crescent Street, Anuradale, on the 3rd Monday of each month, except July and August. In addition, there is a professional full time staff of four (4) Recreation Supervisors, four (4) Recreation Leaders and four (4) in office staff. There is a permanent staff of thirty-two (32) maintenance men. Part-time seasonal Recreation Leaders, Attendants, Lifeguards, Instructors, Referees, etc., are employed. Basic operational funds for the Recreation Department are appropriated by the Board of Aldermen as a regular part of the City budget. Reimbursement by the State for retarded children's programs is an additional source of revenue.

All City playgrounds, school playgrounds and athletic fields - a total of 335 acres - are cared for by the Recreation Department. School yards and parks are the responsibility of the Forestry Division of the Street Department.

To illustrate the growth of the Recreation Department, these figures prove interesting.

1st Budget - amount appropriated for a year's operation, \$5,000.00.

Today's Budget - \$652,290.70.

"Yesterday's" Playgrounds:

Newton Centre	Newton Upper Falls
Newton Highlands	Newton Lower Falls
Waban	Cabot Park, Newtonville
Islington Park, Anuradale	Rion Avenue
Fairlee Park	Burr School, Anuradale
Pedree School, West Newton	

Today's Playgrounds

Auburndale (Lyons)

West Newton Common (J. W. Hecks)

River Street

Wellington

Albaxale

Northorn

Allison

Boyd

Burr

Cahot

Edwards Park

Newton Centre

Webster

Shoemakerville

Highlands (Joseph Lee)

Upper Falls

Cold Spring

Richardson

Kimola

Charlesbank

Hannowall

Infirmary Land

and twenty-six (26) school playgrounds.

Many of the recreation facilities have been given to the City by generous public spirited citizens.

No report of the Recreation Department would be complete without a notable portion dealing with Crystal Lake, now the only natural swimming area in the City. Known originally as Wiswall Pond, it later was called "Baptist Pond", due to the proximity of the Baptist Church whose parishioners were baptized in the pond, and that name was kept until the turn of the century. In years past, it was possible to enjoy swimming in the Charles River in several areas, (Upper Falls, Allison Pond, Auburndale), but with pollution, this is no longer possible.

In 1917, the Board of Aldermen passed an order requesting an appointment of a select committee of three (3) members to consider the need of bathing facilities in or near Newton Centre and Newton Highlands regarding the relative merits of establishing a bathhouse on the shores of Crystal Lake, or constructing a swimming pool on the Newton Centre Playground. Also, to consider the matter of bathing facilities in other sections of the City, and the question of the legal right of the City to establish bathing in Crystal Lake. Even in those early days, there was concern over building swimming pools and it was not until 1961 that the first such facility was

built on Albemarle Playground. Swimming is enjoyed by more than 5,000 season permit holders yearly at Bath Pool.

Land abutting the lake was given to the City by various owners, and in spite of many petitions protesting against erecting a public bathhouse, one was built in the 1920's, and still stands - and by today's standards, hardly suitable in its size and use.

Some of the "Rules and Regulations" taken from a 1929 report are of interest:

1. No person shall ride or drive any animal or vehicle on the City reservation or the beach of the lake; or bring dogs to the lake except on leash.
2. Bathing during the day until six o'clock in the afternoon is restricted to children of both sexes eighteen years of age or younger, and to parents and guardians or other older people having young people in their charge..
3. All persons bathing in the lake shall use the bathing facilities provided by the City of Newton. A charge of fifty cents will be made to non-residents for use of such bathing facilities each time they bathe in the lake.
4. No person shall bathe in this lake except in proper costume and at a place designated therefor, or bathe at any other seasons or hours than are posted at the designated bathing beach; or bathe on days or during hours not designated for his or her sex and no persons may loiter on or near the bathing beach. Exception is made as to loitering when parents or guardians accompany their children or when nurses or maids or other older persons come in charge of children.

Currently the lake is opened in mid-June and closed within a short time after Labor Day. An equalator was installed in 1963, and since then, the facility has not been closed due to pollution. The most modern diving boards, docks, etc., have been installed, and upwards of 6,000 season permit holders enjoy this bathing area yearly. Because it is a Great Pond belonging to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

all residents of the State are allowed to winter there. But the City of Newton has jurisdiction over the use of the lake and sets proper fees for Newton residents as well as non-residents.

Weather permitting, skating is enjoyed at Crystal Lake, Sullough's Pond, Ware's Cove and various flooded areas throughout the City. Of interest is the fact that Ernst Hermann, the first Recreation Commissioner, pioneered in this aspect of flooding areas for use by small children, and planning to smooth the ice surface on larger ponds.

Remove rod in front of book, take out the sheets to be typewritten and return rod to former position; place written sheets in back of book in consecutive order, and when all are written and thus filed the rods may be broken and the book locked.

**HOBBS & WARREN CO.**  
**STATIONERS & ENGRAVERS**  
34 HAWLEY STREET.  
BOSTON, MASS. U.S.A.

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Name	Title	Date of Appointment	Date of Retirement
Ernst Hermann P.261	Superintendent	May 6, 1912	June 10, 1939
Reginald W.P. Brown P.268	Acting Superintendent	Sept. 15, 1939	Dec. 31, 1939
F. Ewing Wilson P.261	Temporary Superintendent Recreation Commissioner	June 14, 1939 Jan. 1, 1940	Sept. 14, 1939 Sept. 12, 1947
S. Leo Hughes P.210	Supervisor	May 15, 1937	No. 30, 1938
Ragna Hovgaard P.210	"	May 15, 1937	
John F. Donahue P.263	"	July 1, 1939	
John E. Leary P.276	"	July 1, 1939	left for Military Service Nov. 23, 1942
Nicholas P. Tedesco	"	June 1, 1944	

CITY OF NEWTON

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

(1945)

Commissioners

✓ *Ernst Hermann May 6, 1912-1939*  
William C. Brewer, chairman (1912-1925)  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1925 Deceased 1925

✓ Albert P. Carter  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Chairman (1925-1937)  
Resigned 1937

✓ Charles F. Johnson, Jr.  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1932 (Illness)

✓ William F. Garcelon  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1913

✓ Mrs. George H. Wilkins  
Appointed April 1, 1912  
Resigned 1914

✓ Charles E. Gibson  
Appointed February 26, 1913  
Resigned 1914

✓ Thomas J. Lyons (Unexpired term of Mrs. Wilkins)  
Appointed January 2, 1913  
Deceased 1934

✓ Ralph W. Angier  
Appointed March 12, 1914  
Resigned 1925

✓ Ralph Coolidge Henry (unexpired term of Ralph W. Angier)  
Appointed February 16, 1925  
Chairman 1937-1939)  
Resigned 1939

✓ E. Ray Speare (unexpired term of Wm. C. Brewer)  
Appointed May 18, 1925  
Resigned 1936

✓ James B. Melcher (unexpired term of Charles F. Johnson, Jr.)  
Appointed April 25, 1932  
Resigned 1933

Original

Temporary

Playground

Commission

William C. Brewer  
Albert P. Carter  
Charles F. Johnson, Jr.  
Charles E. Gibson  
Mrs. George E. Wilkins

Original  
Permanent  
Playground  
Commission  
Appointed  
Febry 26, 1913

Commissioners -2-

✓ Lyscom A. Bruce

Appointed February 5, 1934  
Resigned 1938

Mrs. Louis H. Marshall,

✓ Appointed February 18, 1935  
Chairman 1939 (September 15, 1939)  
Resigned 1944

George E. Kellar

✓ Appointed January 18, 1937  
Secretary-September 15, 1939)  
Resigned 1940 - Deceased 1940

✓ Edward F. Dalton (vacancy of Albert P. Carter)

Appointed June 7, 1937  
Deceased March 1945

✓ Irving C. Paul

Appointed February 20, 1939  
Chairman June 27, 1944  
Resigned 1945

Howard L. Rich (vacancy of Ralph C. Henry)

Appointed August 21, 1939  
Secretary Jan. 8, 1940  
Chairman March 8, 1948  
Resigned March 1, 1950

Reginald W.P. Brown (Acting Director)

Appointed September 15, 1939  
Resigned December 31, 1939

F. Ewing Wilson (member and Recreation Commissioner)

Appointed temporary (July & August 1939)  
Appointed January 1, 1940  
Resigned September 13, 1947

✓ John H. Underhill

Appointed April 1, 1940  
Chairman April 13, 1945  
Resigned March 1948

Raymond D. Hunting (vacancy of Mrs. Marshall)

Appointed June 5, 1944  
Resigned March 1948

Rev. Richard P. McClintock (vacancy of Mr. Paul)

Appointed March 1, 1945  
Secretary March 8, 1948  
Resigned

Commissioners -3-

William J. McCarthy, (Vacancy of Mr. Dalton)

Appointed June 25, 1945 -1948-51-54 57-60

C. Evan Johnson, Commissioner (vacancy of F.E. Wilson)

Appointed September 12, 1947-1949-1952-55 58

John E. Barwise (vacancy of Mr. Hunting) (resigned)

Appointed March 1, 1948 -51 Deceased Apr. 10, 1950

Howard Whitmore, Jr., (vacancy of John H. Underhill)

Appointed March 1, 1948-1949-52-55

Ira M. Conant (Unexpired term of Richard P. McClintock (resigned))

Appointed April 14, 1949-51-54-57 Deceased July 28, 1956

Mrs. Worthing L. West (vacancy of Howard L. Rich (resigned))

Appointed March 1, 1950 -53-54-55

James E. Murphy (Unexpired term of John E. Barwise)

Appointed April 1950-51-54-57 Resigned June 30, 1955

52-53-56

Soldier 58  
7 Stout 60  
Cory 59

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION OF NEWTON.

March 18, 1912. No. 36981. In Board of Aldermen.

Ordered: That a playground commission be and the same is hereby established to consist of five persons serving without pay and to be appointed by His Honor the Mayor. Said appointees shall serve temporarily until a permanent playground commission is established by ordinance of said city.

Read twice and adopted  
Frank M. Grant, Clerk

Executive Department  
Approved March 20, 1912.  
Charles E. Hatfield, Mayor.

On April 2, 1912 His Honor Mayor Charles E. Hatfield appointed the following as members of the Playground Commission:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| William C. Brewer, Chairman | Albert P. Carter    |
| Mrs. George H. Wilkins      | William F. Garcelon |
| Charles F. Johnson, Jr.     |                     |

March 18, 1912 No. 36974 In Board of Aldermen

Ordered: That the sum of Five Thousand Dollars to be taken from any unappropriated money in the city treasury or from the assessment and collection of taxes for 1912, be and is hereby appropriated and to be expended by a Playground Commission to be appointed by His Honor the Mayor, for the purpose of supervising the public playground of the city.

Read twice and adopted  
Frank M. Grant, Clerk

Executive Department  
Approved, March 20, 1912.  
Charles E. Hatfield, Mayor.

1912

The first meeting of the Playground Commission of Newton was held at the Newton Club on Tuesday, April 16, 1912, with the following members present:- Mrs. Wilkins, Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman. Charles F. Johnson, Jr. was nominated for Secretary by Mr. Carter. Nomination was seconded by Mrs. Wilkins. Elected.

On invitation of the Commission the meeting was attended by Dr. Spaulding, Supt. of Schools, and Mr. Bucknam, City Forester.

The chairman read: 1st. Order passed by the Board of Aldermen creating the Playground Commission. 2nd. Notification of appointments to the Commission by the Mayor. 3rd. Notification of appropriation of \$5000 by the Board of Aldermen. 4th. Letter from City Solicitor Slocum defining powers of Commission. 5th. Letter from City Treasurer regarding the appropriation.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Carter, the Chairman was appointed a committee of one to confer with Dr. Browne of the High School and Dr. Spaulding regarding the possibility of Dr. Browne's acting as head supervisor of Playgrounds.

The meeting adjourned.

The second meeting was held at the Tiffen Club, Boston, on April 25, 1912, with Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

On invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Spaulding and Dr. Browne were present. No action was taken.

The third meeting was held on Monday, April 22, at the Newton Club. All members were present.

The chairman read letters from Mr. O. M. Fisher regarding supervision of Farlow Park, and from Mr. George M. Angier regarding the Waban Playground.

Mr. Brewer submitted a report as committee appointed at the first meeting which included a plan for supervision with Dr. Browne as chief supervisor.

Mr. Garcelon moved that the Chairman and Secretary be appointed a committee to present to the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen the request of the Playground Commission for such sum of money as would be needed up to January 1, 1913. Seconded by Mr. Carter. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved that the chairman be authorized to submit the plan for supervision to the School Committee for the purpose of obtaining their approval of that plan or any part of that plan. Seconded by Mr. Garcelon. Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned.

The fourth meeting was held at the Newton Club on Friday, May 3rd, at 7:45 P. M., with Mrs. Wilkins and Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

On invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Ernst Hermann, head supervisor of the Cambridge playgrounds, was present.

No action was taken.

1912

The fifth meeting was held at the Newton Club on Monday, May 6th, with Mrs. Wilkins and Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins, it was voted: That the Playground Commission of Newton offer Mr. Ernst Hermann of Cambridge the position of Supervisor at a salary at the rate of twelve hundred (1200) dollars per annum, Mr. Hermann to give his whole time during the summer vacation and such time during the rest of the year as may be necessary for the successful prosecution of the work, it being expected by the Commission that about one-third of Mr. Hermann's time would be required outside of the summer vacation.

All present voted in favor of the above and Mr. Carter stated that Mr. Garcelon was also in favor.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins, it was voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to hire a temporary director for the Waban playground at a salary not over two (2) dollars per day.

The sixth meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Brewer on Tuesday, May 29, 1912, with Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was voted to pay \$300 per annum each towards the salaries of three sub masters employed by the school committee, who would devote their time outside of school hours to playground work.

The seventh meeting was held Tuesday, June 4th, at Boston with Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Johnson, it was voted to employ a woman at the Waban Playground.

Mr. Hermann presented a plan which provided for supervision of all Newton's playgrounds.

The eighth meeting was held at the Newton Club on June 18, 1912 with Mrs. Wilkins and Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

It was unanimously voted: to have the Chairman endeavor to provide headquarters for Mr. Hermann at City Hall; to authorize the Chairman to procure a telephone for the house on the Newton Centre Playground; to request the Board of Aldermen to provide a motorcycle for the use of Mr. Hermann.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins, it was voted to pay Mr. Hermann \$150 per month for July and August and \$90 per month for the remaining months of the year.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins, it was voted to request the Board of Aldermen for an appropriation of \$200 for incidental expenses.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins, it was voted that the Board of Aldermen be requested to grant \$1300 for expenses for July and August.

The ninth meeting was held at the Newton Club with Mrs. Wilkins and Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

Mr. Hermann reported on the operation of the playgrounds from the start, July 8th, to date.

No action was taken.

The tenth meeting was held at the Newton Club on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 1912, at 8 o'clock P. M. with Mrs. Wilkins and Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

Mr. Hermann was present and reviewed the summer work on each playground and reported satisfactory results on all.

Mr. Carter moved and Mrs. Wilkins seconded that the Secretary write Mr. Lawrence Bond of West Newton thanking him for his kindness in allowing the children the use of his land during the summer. Passed unanimously.

Mrs. Wilkins moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that Messrs. Brewer and Carter be appointed a committee to draw an ordinance to be presented to the Board of Aldermen creating a permanent Playground Commission. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mrs. Wilkins seconded that the Commission approve the following list of directors for the fall season.

- |                           |     |                    |
|---------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Miss Lucy F. Cooley       | for | Newton Lower Falls |
| " Martha Tappan Rice      | "   | West Newton        |
| " Susan W. Hills          | "   | Newton Centre      |
| Mrs. Hazel Boller         | "   | Stearns            |
| Miss Charlotte R. Kingman | "   | Newton Highlands   |
| Mr. Robert P. Barry       | "   | Newton Highlands   |
| Mr. John F. Donahue       | "   | Newton Lower Falls |
| Mr. Vincent Stuart        | "   | Cabot Park         |
| Mr. Edwin B. Judd         | "   | West Newton        |
| Mr. William H. Crafts     | "   | Newton Centre      |
| Mr. Lester M. Lane        | "   | Stearns School     |

The eleventh meeting was held at the Newton Club on Friday, November 1, 1913, at 8 o'clock with Messrs. Brewer, Johnson present.

There being no quorum no action was taken.

The twelfth meeting of the Playground Commission was held Thursday, December 19th, at the Newton Club with Mrs. Wilkins, Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

Mr. Forbush of the Public Buildings Department of Newton and Mr. Hermann were present on invitation.

An order of the Board of Aldermen requesting the Commission to report before January 1, 1915 on the necessity, advisability and cost of convenience stations on the various playgrounds was read by the Chairman.

The Commission were unanimous as to the need of such facilities, the discussion being centred on whether temporary or permanent structures should be recommended.

On motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Wilkins, it was unanimously voted to ask the Board of Aldermen to provide the latter and that the Chairman should write a letter to the Board to that effect.

Mr. Carter moved and Mrs. Wilkins seconded that the Commission approve for payment bills contracted by Mr. Hermann for material for Stearns School and Upper Falls Playgrounds.

1913

The first meeting of the Playground Commission was held at the Newton Club on Thursday, March 27, at 7:45 P. M. Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson were present.

Mr. Carter moved that Mr. C. F. Johnson, Jr. be secretary for the ensuing year. Mr. Gibson seconded this motion. Mr. Johnson was unanimously elected.

Mr. Brewer read the Playground ordinance creating a permanent commission with amendment thereto defining powers of same.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that the Commission meet at City Hall on the second Thursday of each month at 7:45 P. M. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Gibson seconded that the Chairman be appointed a committee of one to request the City Engineer to furnish the Commission with a topographical plan of the Waban Playground providing same could be done without cost to the Commission. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Gibson seconded that Mr. Hermann be allowed time off in August to attend a Playground Convention at Buffalo. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that the Chairman be appointed a committee of one to confer with the Mayor regarding Mr. Hermann's request to pay for the expenses of his motorcycle in return for the privilege of using it outside the city limits under conditions stated in his letter of January 4, 1913. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Bucknam and Mr. Hermann were present and the former was requested to present at a meeting to be held Thursday, April 3rd, at City Hall at 7:45 P. M., a list of playground developments for 1913 which he contemplated making and for which appropriation had been granted.

The second meeting was held at City Hall, West Newton, on Thursday, April 3, 1913, at 7:45 P. M. with Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson present.

The secretary read the report of the last meeting. On motion of Mr. Gibson seconded by Mr. Brewer the report was approved unanimously.

The chairman read a letter to be furnished the local papers regarding the monthly meetings of the Commission.

The question of public convenience stations on the West Newton, Upper Falls, Newton Highlands and Cabot Park playgrounds was taken up with Mr. Forbush and Mr. Bucknam. Mr. Johnson read the order of the Board of Aldermen appropriating and granting \$2250 for this purpose, and after discussion Mr. Forbush was requested to furnish the Commission with the figures of cost for each building including erection, and report at the next meeting of the Commission.

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to write to Mr. George Angier and other interested parties to attend the meeting of the Commission on April 10, 1913 to discuss the playground situation at Waban. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that Mr. Hermann be allowed to use the motorcycle under the conditions stated in Mr. Hermann's letter of January 4, 1913. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that Mr. Ernst Hermann be appointed Superintendent of Playgrounds at the same compensation and under the same conditions as last year regarding the time Mr. Hermann should devote to the work, this vote applying till December 31, 1913.

Passed unanimously.

The third meeting of the Commission was held at the Tiffen Club, Boston, on Monday, April 7, 1913.

The chairman appointed the following committees:

Legal	Albert P. Carter
Land	Charles E. Gibson
Raising funds	Charles F. Johnson, Jr.

Mr. Gibson was requested to acquire information regarding the present holding of land for playground purposes and the conditions under which same was acquired by the city and the restrictions imposed thereby.

Mr. Carter was requested to secure from the City Solicitor an opinion regarding the use of the land at Waban owned by Mr. Henry B. Day and now used for playground purposes.

Mr. Johnson was requested to furnish the Commission with a plan for raising funds for materials for the ensuing year.

On Thursday, April 10th, Messrs. Brewer and Johnson with City Engineer Rogers met several Waban citizens at the home of George M. Angier.

The meeting was held for the purpose of ascertaining the best course to pursue towards developing the Waban Playground and the advisability of acquiring the land now used as a ball field from Henry B. Day.

Mr. Lewis Bacon stated that the school committee had recommended to the Board of Aldermen that this land be purchased for school purposes and the recommendation had been referred to the Committee on schools.

It was the opinion of those present that a further study of the Playground be made by Messrs. Rogers, Bucknam and Hermann and reports be made at a meeting to be held as soon as possible.

The fourth meeting of the Commission was held Saturday, April 12, at City Hall, West Newton, at 8 P. M. with Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Forbush, Commissioner of Public Buildings, was present and submitted a letter from E. F. Hodgson Company quoting a price of \$435 each for four portable buildings 30 x 36 feet containing two rooms 12 x 12 each and one room 6 x 12, the latter for the use of the Forestry Department.

He also submitted a letter from the H. W. Orr Company containing an estimate of \$140 for installing two Water Closets and two sinks in each building.

After discussion, it was decided to ask Mr. Forbush to secure estimates of cost of buildings with rooms 6 x 9 from the E. F. Hodgson Company, and for buildings with rooms 6 x 9 as well as 12 x 12 from the Springfield Mfg. Co.

The Waban Playground was discussed but no action was taken.

The fifth meeting was held at City Hall on Thursday, April 18, 1913, at 8 o'clock with Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Forbush submitted a letter from the E. F. Hodgson Company in which they quoted a price of \$325 for a temporary building 12 x 12. He also submitted a letter from the Springfield Mfg. Company quoting

He also stated that Mr. Orr's price for two more closets would be \$85.00.

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion to accept

Mayor Hatfield's invitation to lunch on Monday, April 21st, at the Exchange Club. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that general supervision be started May 1, 1913 and end December 1, 1913. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that the Commission approve plan for supervision submitted by Mr. Hermann except that supervision be started May 1st and end December 1st and that one supervisor only be provided for Waban. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that the Chairman write Mr. Bucknam and ask him for the following information:

1st. A list of all grounds under his care in the City and which of these be considered playgrounds.

2nd. The amount of money appropriated by the Board of Aldermen which is to be spent on Playgrounds.

3rd. The plan for carrying on the work between the Forestry Department and the Playground Commission.

Passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that Mr. Hermann be requested to furnish the Commission with a list of activities to be used on the Playgrounds in 1913. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gibson moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Carter. Passed unanimously.

The Commission met with Mayor Hatfield at the Exchange Club, Boston, on Monday, April 23rd at 1 o'clock.

Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson and Public Buildings Commissioner Forbush were present.

After a discussion of the order of the Board of Aldermen

appropriating \$2250 for temporary sanitary buildings on four playgrounds, and the result of the efforts of Mr. Forbush and the Commission in ascertaining the cost and construction thereof, it was decided to advise the Board of Aldermen that in the opinion of the Commission and Mr. Forbush it would be impossible to build four buildings for that appropriation which would be satisfactory to the people.

The sixth meeting was held at City Hall on Thursday, April 24, at 8 o'clock. Messrs. Brewer, Gibson, Johnson and Carter were present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Gibson reported that Mr. Henry B. Day had given his permission to Mr. George M. Angier and to Mr. Gibson that the children be allowed to play on his land at Waban providing Mr. Horne's consent could be secured and that the permission be considered revocable if the land was sold.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Gibson seconded the following motion: In view of the report of Mr. Gibson and upon receipt of a written communication from Mr. George M. Angier to the effect that he has Mr. Horne's consent, the Secretary is directed to notify the City Forester that he has the authority to erect a baseball backstop along Beacon Street front on a place to be agreed upon by him and Mr. Hermann. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Gibson seconded that Mr. Hermann be authorized to write a letter (which should be subject to the approval of the Chairman) soliciting funds for material from

various Improvement Associations and individuals.

Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Gibson seconded, That all money received from individuals, Associations or others for Playground purposes shall be acknowledged in the name of Charles E. Gibson, Trustee for Newton Playgrounds and shall be held and disbursed by him as such Trustee.

Passed Unanimously.

The seventh meeting was held at City Hall on Thursday, May 1st, at 8 o'clock P. M. with Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Bucknam was present and submitted a list of parks, squares and public playgrounds of Newton, not playgrounds, and now under care of his Department.

He also submitted a list of playgrounds which he now considers under the control of the Commission as follows:

Cabot Park	Newton Upper Falls Playground
Boyd Park	Newton Lower Falls Playground
Allison Park	Newton Highlands Playground
Stearns School	Waban Playground
West Newton Playground	Islington Park
Newton Centre "	Auburndale Playground

Mr. Bucknam reviewed the finances of his Department as applying to playgrounds and agreed to submit an itemized list of expenditures on same to April 12, 1913 from January 1, 1913, at the meeting to be held Thursday, May 8, 1913.

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that the City Forester be authorized to erect a wire fence on Boyd Park to prevent balls

from going in the brook. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Gibson seconded that the Chairman be appointed a committee of one to confer with the Selectmen of Watertown relative to the development of Boyd Park.

Passed unanimously.

The St. John's Society of Newton Lower Falls having applied for a permit and having received a letter dated April 26th from Mr. Bernard Early, agent of the Crehore Estate,-

Mr. Gibson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that a permit be granted to St. John's Society for the exclusive use of the Newton Lower Falls Playground on June 17, 1913 and (permission granted to use the grounds before and after June 17th for the erection and removal of temporary stands etc., for picnic purposes, such time to be subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Playgrounds) on their fulfilling the following conditions: 1st. That the Playground is properly policed. 2nd. That the Society assume all liabilities to others during their occupation of the Playground. 3rd. That the grounds be restored to their present condition.

Passed unanimously.

Mr. Hermann presented a list of directors to be employed on the Playgrounds for the spring season. Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Gibson seconded that the list of directors as submitted by Mr. Hermann be approved. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brewer read two letters from Mr. Charles E. Gibson and Mr. Henry B. Day offering land in West Newton for Playground purposes, and same was referred to Mr. Slocum before any action should be taken.

The eighth meeting was held at City Hall on Thursday, May 8th, at 8 o'clock P. M. with Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Chairman reported that he had written to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Watertown but that no answer had been received.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that the City Forester be requested at a total expense of not exceeding three hundred dollars to fill in the cellar hole nearest the school house on the Waban Playground, and to level and grade (so far as said money will permit) the outer baseball field.

Passed unanimously

The ninth meeting was held at City Hall on Thursday, May 15th, at 8 o'clock P. M. with Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Brewer reported that the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Watertown had informed him that the City of Newton had acquired Boyd Park by purchase in 1893.

Mr. Bucknam was present and submitted a list of expenditures on playgrounds from January 1st to May 10th, 1913 totalling \$2979.78

The list of developments for all playgrounds submitted by Mr. Hermann was read by the Chairman to the Commission and Mr. Bucknam.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that the City Forester be authorized to spend \$50 in the purchase of baseball bases including those already ordered. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that the form of permit submitted by Mr. Hermann and approved by the City Solicitor be adopted as the official form of permit for the use of playgrounds. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that in case of rain on June 17, 1913, the permit issued to St. John's Parish be valid for the following Saturday, June 21st. Passed unanimously.

The tenth meeting was held at City Hall on Thursday, May 23rd, at 8 o'clock P. M. Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson were present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Chairman read order No. 38526 of the Board of Aldermen which rescinded order No. 38184 appropriating \$2250 for temporary public convenience stations, and which appropriated \$2250 for permanent public convenience stations to be expended by the Playground Commission under the direction of His Honor the Mayor at a cost not to exceed \$1000 each.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that Mr. Hermann and Mr. Forbush be requested to furnish the Commission figures of cost of a street sanitary building. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that \$500 be appropriated towards the erection of a permanent convenience station on the Upper Falls Playground provided the rest of the cost be raised by public subscription. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that if the consent of the Chairman of the Public Works and Finance Committees of the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor and the City Comptroller be obtained, the Public Buildings Commissioner upon his obtaining consent of the School Committee is authorized to erect a fence in Stearns School basement on plans already discussed at an expense not to exceed \$100 out of appropriation of \$2250, order No. 38526 of Board of Aldermen. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that the City Forester be requested to expend not exceeding \$30 in the construction of temporary additions to the present backstop on the Upper Falls Playground as outlined by Mr. Hermann. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Carter seconded that \$25.00 be appropriated out of money to be raised by Mr. Hermann for shield trophy and badges for the School Athletic Meet to be held June 7, 1913. Passed unanimously.

The eleventh meeting was held Thursday, June 5th, at City Hall at 8 o'clock P. M. Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson were present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Lane, director at Stearns School Playground, was present and argued for the use of the Stearns School Playground by the older boys for Saturday afternoons.

The chairman read a letter from James E. Cannon, President of the Nonantum Improvement Association, showing the attitude of that organization towards the use of the Stearns School Playground and the lawn surrounding the school building, and suggested

Allison Park as the proper field for the use of the older boys. Mr. Hermann read the ordinance passed June 1904 setting aside part of Allison Park for a public playground. It was decided that the Commission meet the Street Commissioner on Friday, June 6th, at 5 o'clock P. M. at Allison Park to determine the limits in Allison Park of the Playground.

Mr. Brewer reported that the Newton Upper Falls Improvement Association would have a meeting on Tuesday, June 11th, regarding the erection of a sanitary building on the Playground.

Mr. Hermann read a letter from J. Wesley Irving of Somerville applying for a permit to use the Newton Upper Falls Playground on June 17th. Mr. Hermann was requested to reply to the letter stating that the Commission was willing they use the Playground providing it was not used by local people and that in case of their using it that they agree to assume the responsibilities which are assumed by the holders of the regular permits.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Gibson seconded that the same arrangements as were made last year be operated at West Newton regarding the employment of a sub master at the Peirce School to succeed Mr. Judd.  
Passed unanimously.

The twelfth meeting was held Monday, June 9th, at the Tiffin Club, Boston. Messrs. Brewer, Gibson and Johnson were present.

Mr. Hermann submitted a list of developments for all playgrounds with estimates of cost of same. After reviewing the list it was agreed to present it to the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen.

The thirteenth meeting was held Thursday, June 12th, at 8 o'clock P. M. at City Hall. Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and Johnson were present.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Gibson reported that the people of West Newton were not in favor of recommending a street sanitary on the West Newton Playground, preferring a larger building.

Mr. Gibson reported that he had conferred with the owner of the land adjoining the Stearns School Playground and that he was willing that the Commission utilize the brook and the land near the swings providing he could qualify a lease he had given for grazing purposes.

The fourteenth meeting was held at City Hall on Thursday, June 26, 1913, at 8 o'clock P. M. Messrs. Carter and Johnson were present.

Mr. Hermann submitted the subject of paying the sub masters employed during 1912-1913 year, and it was agreed to have Mr. Hermann confer with Supt. Spaulding regarding it.

Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Johnson seconded that Mr. Hermann be instructed to change the Archery Court at Newton Centre Playground from its present location to the west end of the Playground, and that the use of the present court be suspended immediately and its further use be authorized only by special permit calling for adequate protection. Passed unanimously.

The fifteenth meeting of the Playground Commission was held on July 9th at City Hall, West Newton. Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Gibson were present.

Upon the motion of Mr. Carter, which was seconded by Mr. Gibson, it was voted that the Superintendent, in the absence of Mr. Johnson, should act as secretary pro tem.

The meeting came to order and as first business invited the Representative Committee of the Newton Archery Club to meet with them. The Archery Club was represented by Messrs. Gray, Switzler, Smith and Bishop. Mr. Gray then spoke about the contemplated changes of the archery court from the Homer Street end of the Playground to the Pleasant Street end. He agreed that such a change was desirable and advisable since the present court was situated opposite a narrow end of the Playground which was one of the main entrances. He had no doubt that a good archery court could be developed at the Pleasant Street end with the expenditure of some money and some time. He expressed, however, the hope that no change would be made this year in view of the fact that a National Archery Meet was to be held late in August in Boston, and that they would have a great deal of practice on the home courts and had also planned an archery meet. In considering the new situation further, he advised the erection of a new bunker some 30 yards behind the target lines, and further made a number of minor suggestions for the development of the new grounds.

Upon request by the Chairman, the Superintendent then explained that a change had already been made, that a court had already been transferred, marked off, lines made, and that the target house had been transferred to the Pleasant Street end. It was explained to them that the compass directions were exactly the same as at the old archery court, that they would be very much quieter, and that they could have a blank permit for every day practice at the new

court, and further, that in case of regular meets the old court could be used by them. Upon this, the gentlemen of the Archery Club expressed great satisfaction and were ready to make a trial of the new field at once. It was understood that no special permits for archery practice would be necessary from now on, but that permits for the old court would be given for special meets, with the provision that the holders of the permit shall provide special guards for the safety of other people using the Playground.

After the departure of the archers, Mr. Carter moved and Mr. Gibson seconded that a permit be given to the archers for continuous use until revoked. It was so voted.

The Secretary pro tem then called attention to the note from the City Clerk notifying the Commission of the transfer of \$2500 from the fund of the Forestry Department to that of the Playground Department. The transfer was accepted.

It was voted that the City Forester be authorized to employ a gang of four men for the care of the Playgrounds.

After a discussion of the budget, prepared by the Superintendent and approved by the Forestry Commissioner and a copy of which is appended herewith, it was voted that this budget be carried out as closely as possible, and that the Forestry Commissioner be notified of this vote.

The Superintendent submitted a list of the instructors engaged for the summer season, July and August, 1913. This list was accepted by the Commissioners.

It was moved and seconded that the Superintendent be requested to arrange that the use of the Stearns Playground be limited as far as possible to girls and boys not exceeding 12 years of age, or to such children as otherwise deemed best by the Superintendent. It

was so voted. It was understood that the larger boys and the men were to use Allison Park for baseball purposes and that none of the big games were to be held at the Stearns Playground.

The sixteenth meeting of the Playground Commission was held on August 14th at one o'clock at the Tiffin Club, 114 State Street, Boston. Messrs. Brewer, Johnson and Carter were present, Mr. Brewer in the chair.

Upon the motion of Mr. Carter, it was voted that the chairman be authorized to sign all payrolls and bill schedules, and that in the absence of the chairman the secretary should sign such bills. Also, that the weekly payrolls for labor should be signed by the Forest Commissioner and countersigned by the Superintendent.

The Commission then discussed the advisability of having the Superintendent act as recording-secretary for the meetings, and it was so decided.

The advisability of securing proper files and due safety for official records was then discussed. It was decided to get estimates upon such files.

The following expenses were voted: \$50 for completing the fence at Newton Centre on the tennis courts; \$35.00 for the experiment of the Calcium Chloride Treatment on the tennis courts at Newton Centre and Waban; \$25.00 for a bridge over the brook at Newton Highlands.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P. M.

The seventeenth meeting of the Playground Commission was held on September 11th at 8 o'clock P. M. in the Committee Room, City Hall, West Newton. Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Gibson were present.

The report of the previous meeting was read and after slight alterations was approved. Mr. Hermann then reported that the City Comptroller offered the use of some part of his safe to be used by the Playground Commission for the storage of important records and official papers. It was voted to accept this offer, and that the records of the meetings of the Commission and any other papers of sufficient importance be kept in said safe. It was voted that letters and other papers be kept in the office of the Superintendent of Playgrounds at City Hall, and that the acquisition of a complete filing system be deferred for the present.

The communication from the Mayor's secretary, which is herewith appended, was then taken up. It was voted to prepare a budget for 1914, to get all possible data of running expenses and construction expenses, and in addition to the figures which were to be submitted by the Superintendent of Playgrounds and by the Forest Commissioner, to get figures from outside contractors.

Upon the report of the Superintendent that the burning of rubbish at Allison Park had proven a frequent nuisance, the Commission agreed that it would be advisable to see proper authorities who had charge of this sanitary work.

The Commission voted to meet as soon as a preliminary budget had been prepared.

The meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock.

The eighteenth meeting of the Playground Commission was held September 22nd in the Committee Room at the City Hall, West Newton. Messrs. Brewer, Carter and Johnson were present, Mr. Brewer in the chair.

A report of the previous meeting was read and approved. The Commission then proceeded to discuss the Annual Budget for 1914 submitted by Mr. Hermann.

After going over the estimates, item by item, and then listening to the explanations of the Superintendent, it was voted to meet again within a few days.

The meeting adjourned.

The nineteenth meeting of the Playground Commission was held October at the Cafe de la Bourse in Boston at one o'clock. Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Gibson and the Superintendent were present.

The revised Budget for 1914 was further considered and the Chairman was authorized after some alterations were made to submit the final figures to His Honor Mayor Hatfield. A copy of the final letter to His Honor the Mayor is appended.



MAYOR'S OFFICE  
WEST NEWTON

*City of Newton,  
Massachusetts.*

Sept. 2, 1913.

To the Playground Commission,  
of the City of Newton, Mass.

Dear Sirs:-

His Honor the Mayor directs me to call your attention to Section 29 of the Charter which says:- "The School Committee and every officer and board having the expenditure of money shall annually on or before the first day of October furnish to the Mayor an itemized estimate of the money required for their respective offices and departments during the next financial year."

Very respectfully,

*Marie A. Nolan*  
Secretary.



A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on November 21st at State Street, Boston, at one o'clock. Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Gibson and Superintendent Hermann were present.

The commissioners discussed at length the annual report. It was agreed that a report be issued.

The Superintendent was authorized to continue the supervision of the playgrounds until the close of the football schedule which would be on or about the last of November.

The possibility of providing supervision of skating places during December was discussed, but no definite arrangement was made on account of the indefiniteness of the balance of money.

The matter of erecting a fence on the south side of the Waban Playground was then taken up. It was decided to get further light on the question of continuing play on the adjoining private land. The matter was to be further discussed at the next regular meeting.

The twenty-first meeting of the Playground Commission was held on December 11th<sup>1913</sup> at City Hall, West Newton, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Gibson and Superintendent Hermann present.

The records of the previous meeting were read and approved. Mr. W. J. Spaulding, president of the Auburndale Improvement Society, then appeared before the Commission.

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He explained the playground situation in Auburndale as it has existed for some years, and mentioned the disappointment of the Auburndale people when they found out that the execution of the Olmstead Plan for the development of a part of Auburndale

Park would take many thousand dollars and would take a number of years before they could be realized.

He then stated that a substitute plan had been approved by the Playground Committee of the Auburndale Improvement Society for the development of a baseball field in that part of the Auburndale Park at the foot of West Pine Street, a plan which had been suggested by Superintendent Hermann.

Estimates for finishing this baseball field had been made by contractors and by City officials. It would cost from \$2000 to \$3000.

The chairman then read a letter which had been prepared in answer to a letter received from Mr. John P. R. Sherman. After careful discussion it was voted to send the letter with but slight alterations.

The Superintendent was authorized to proceed with preparations for the ice season to commence January 1, 1914.

It was voted to discontinue the employment of the woman instructor at the Stearns Playground at once.

The Commission then discussed at further length the proposed fence for the Waban Playground.

The chairman was authorized to prepare a letter to the Board of Aldermen stating the facts of the case and giving suggestions as to the kind of fence that would be advisable.

not  
asse... safe-  
ty of the ice or for the information be-  
low.

This bulletin is prepared on data be-  
lieved to be reliable.

Farlow Park, Stearns, West Newton,  
Burr School, Newton Centre and Waban  
are flooded grounds.

Bullough's Pond, Boyd Park, and Cab-  
ot Park have varying depths of water  
from two to fifteen feet.

The Commission has no authority over  
Crystal Lake, Hammond's Pond and  
Pulsifer Cove.

"Poor" means not fit for use.

"Good" means the reports received  
indicate good skating.

1914

January 9, 1914.

The regular monthly meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at eight o'clock at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter and Gibson present; also the newly appointed member, Mr. Thomas J. Lyons of Auburndale. Superintendent Hermann was present.

The records of the previous meeting were read and after minor corrections were approved. The Superintendent was instructed to start copying the temporary records as kept by the secretary of the Commission and the recording-secretary into a permanent record book, said permanent record book to be kept in one of the vaults of the City Hall.

The ice activities, the extra expenses incurred in the building of the Boyd Park dam were then discussed; also a more carefully worded "Notice to Skaters" in the newspapers. A proper notice was written out and approved by the Commission, and the Superintendent was ordered to see that it was published. A copy of the printed notice is herewith submitted.

Mr. Ernst Hermann was re-elected Superintendent of Playgrounds for the year 1914 on the same terms and conditions as in previous years.

The Commission voted to purchase an L. C. Smith & Brothers Typewriter.

The Superintendent was authorized to have danger signs made for those playgrounds where rapid travelling of automobiles endanger the lives of the children.

March 2, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter and Lyons present; also Superintendent Hermann.

The records of the previous meeting were read and approved. Communications were read from the Street Commissioner, Charles W. Ross, with regards to coasting on public thoroughfares; from the City Engineer, Edwin H. Rogers, submitting plans and estimates for a permanent dam at Boyd Park, and from the abutters of the Waban Playground requesting the postponement of the erection of a fence at that Playground.

After discussing the development of Boyd Park with special reference to ice activities, and after discussing the plans and expenses submitted by the City Engineer for a permanent dam, it was voted to also get plans and estimates for a different development of Boyd Park. The Superintendent was instructed to request the Engineer to make such plans and estimates.

The Superintendent reported on the preparations for a Grammar School Meet under the auspices of the Playground Department on June 6th. The Commission voted to allow an expenditure of money for this purpose not to exceed \$60.00.

The Playground Commission discussed the use of Claflin Field for purposes other than high school athletics. It also discussed the matter of payment of bills for inter-playground activities during 1913, the bills for which amounted to \$150.00. It was decided to take this matter up at a subsequent meeting.

The Superintendent submitted a synopsis of the proposed Annual Report for 1913 which the Commissioners approved.

March 16, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date in Boston, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons and Gibson present. His Honor Mayor Edwin O. Childs was present by a special invitation from the Chairman, Mr. Brewer. Superintendent Hermann was also present.

The Chairman reviewed, for the benefit of Mayor Childs, the method pursued in past years for the raising of funds for the purchase of play implements. He reviewed the nature of such play implements, and explained that an attempt had been made last fall to induce Mayor Hatfield to enter an item in the annual budget of \$1000 for the purchase of such play implements.

It seemed to be the consensus of opinion of everybody present that the City should provide the necessary funds for the purchase of play material and funds for inter-playground activities. The Chairman and Mr. Carter arranged to meet with the Chairman of the Finance Committee at an early date to discuss with him the advisability of again going before the Board of Aldermen for the purpose of an appropriation for such funds.

Mayor Childs expressed himself very much in favor of such an appropriation and promised to do all he could to secure it. He also assured the Commission that he would be ready to raise the funds from private contributions in Newton and Nonantum if it were found that no city funds could be had.

The expenses for ice activities at Boyd Park were again reviewed, and further plans of development for reducing the annual cost at this playground were considered.

~~The~~ Gibson, as trustee of the playground funds which are raised by private subscriptions, reported the cash on hand as \$37.27.

The Commission adjourned to meet again on March 23rd at City Hall.

March 23, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter and Angier present.

Mr. Brewer, in behalf of the committee consisting of Messrs. Brewer and Carter, reported on their conference with Mr. Pratt, chairman of the Finance Committee, with regards to an appropriation of \$1000 for the purchase of play implements.

The Commission then considered the work to be done on the playgrounds as soon as the weather would permit for the spring cleaning, and it was voted to allow \$300 besides the expenses for the regular gang.

The Commission also authorized the Superintendent to arrange with Mr. Bucknam for the early carrying out of the work of grading the archery court at Newton Centre and the wading pool at the Stearns Playground. They also authorized the work to be done which was laid out for the changes of backstops, swings, etc., according to schedule and to become operative after the passing of the budget.

A set of rules and regulations submitted by Superintendent Hermann to be printed for the use of the playgrounds was considered. The Commission voted to have the set as submitted printed with the addition of the rules printed in the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton 1912 given on pages 55 and 56. Such rules are not to be posted at the entrance of playgrounds, but are to be kept in the box or houses for the use of instructors, caretakers and the police.

The matter of purchasing the land for a playground next to the Horace Mann School was then taken up, also the further levelling of the Waban Playground. The Superintendent was instructed to secure an estimate of the cost of levelling and the necessary fencing for the entire Waban Playground.

The Superintendent then brought the attention of the Commission to some of the complaints received from Newton Upper Falls in regard to the proposed changes in the Playground plan. The commission voted to give the people of Upper Falls a hearing.

March 30, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Communications were read from the Newton Catholic Club, the Newton Lower Falls A. A., and the Stearns Senior Association asking for blanket permits for use of baseball diamonds for the season 1914 on their respective playgrounds. Superintendent Hermann explained how the matter had been handled in past years, and after a discussion the Commission voted a committee consisting of Mr. Lyons, Mr. Angier and Mr. Hermann to make a recommendation at the next meeting.

The matter of improvements for the Allison Playground was left to Superintendent Hermann, and he was instructed to confer with His Honor Mayor Childs.

Mr. Carter then read his report on the Playground situation in Newtonville. His report was adopted and was ordered to be sent to the Public Works committee of the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Lyons then made a report on the playground situation in Auburndale. He submitted a report from the Auburndale Improvement Society and one from Superintendent Hermann.

It was voted to have Mr. Brewer send these two reports with his personal recommendation to the Public Works Committee of the Board of Aldermen. Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

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April 9, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at eight o'clock at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Lyons, and Angier present; also Superintendent Hermann. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Brewer read a letter received from Mr. John A. Gould, president of the Newton Upper Falls Improvement Society, informing the Commission that a delegation from Upper Falls would be glad to come to a hearing on Monday evening, April 13th. The Superintendent was instructed to acknowledge Mr. Gould's letter and to make the necessary arrangements for the hearing.

The Superintendent read a communication from the treasurer of the Newton Mothers' Club informing him of the vote of said Club that the \$125 which they appropriated should be used at the discretion of the Superintendent but for the Nonantum Playground entirely.

The Superintendent reported that His Honor Mayor Childs felt that the developments which are to be made at Allison Park, as set forth in the Annual Budget, would seem quite sufficient and that he felt that the boys of this district would be pleased to have these improvements made.

The Committee appointed at the previous meeting to consider the advisability of season permits for baseball diamonds for Upper Falls, Lower Falls, and the Newton Catholic Club then stated their ideas on the subject. After considerable discussion, the following was suggested by Mr. Brewer:-

"That Superintendent Hermann reserve until May 15th the Newton Upper Falls, Newton Lower Falls and the West Newton baseball grounds for the Newton Upper Falls A. A., the Newton Lower Falls A. A., and the Newton Catholic Club for Saturday afternoons and holidays the

coming season, pending the completion and submission of their schedules; and meanwhile Superintendent Hermann is authorized to give said clubs permits from Saturday to Saturday including April 20th."

After considerable discussion a motion to this effect was adopted.

The Superintendent was instructed to submit a proof of the sign for the entrance of playgrounds to the City Solicitor for his opinion.

The Commission then discussed informally the matter of raising funds for the purchase of play implements and for inter-playground activities since it seems that the amount of \$1000 asked for for that purpose has not been appropriated by the Board of Aldermen. It seemed to be the opinion of the Commissioners present that the Commission should issue a printed call to the citizens of Newton for funds and it was suggested that a copy of the Annual Report be sent with this call. It was decided to take up this matter at the next meeting of the Commission.

The chairman then reported on the development of the Waban Playground and the various problems involved. Mr. Brewer suggested an inquiry into the cost of the adjoining land since it might be possible that the purchase of the land might be a good way out of the present difficulties. The Superintendent was instructed to find out as soon as possible the estimated cost of developing the Waban Playground.

May 14, 1914.

A regular meeting of the Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present; also Mr. Lyons who arrived during the latter part of the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A communication was received from Mr. Arthur C. Melcher of Newton Centre reporting an accident to him on his property adjoining the Newton Centre Playground. A letter written by the Chairman answering Mr. Melcher's communication was approved.

The Annual Report of the Playground Commission and of the Superintendent was approved and ordered to be printed.

The Superintendent was directed to consult with the Sewer Department about the cleaning of the bed of the brook on the Newton Centre Playground.

A resolution, a copy of which is attached hereto, written by the Chairman about the granting of permits for the use of baseball fields, etc., on the Lower Falls, Upper Falls and West Newton Playgrounds was read and adopted, and the Superintendent was directed to send copies of the same to the Upper and Lower Falls Athletic Associations and to the Newton Catholic Club.

The Superintendent was authorized to proceed with the building of the proposed improvements of game courts, enclosures, wading pools, etc. subject to the approval of the City Comptroller of the manner in which the work was to be contracted.

The Superintendent reported complaints received from Mrs. F. H. Lane and others about Farlow Park, and was directed to interview the ladies in question.

*AcB*  
A letter from the Board of Aldermen approving the transfer for the care, custody and control, including police protection, of a part of Auburndale Park so-called from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the City of Newton for playground purposes was received; also an order appropriating the sum of \$2250 for the development of an athletic field at Auburndale Park. This appropriation is subject to the sum of \$500 being placed to the credit of the

appropriation of the Playground Commission by the interested citizens of Auburndale.

The Superintendent submitted a request from the City Engineer for an appropriation of \$100 for putting bounds on the Edmands Playground. The Commissioners thought it unwise to spend any money for this purpose from the 1914 appropriation.

(Copy of Resolution Passed by Playground Commission, May 1914.)

In the issuing of permits for Saturday and holiday afternoons on Newton Upper Falls, Newton Lower Falls and West Newton Playground baseball fields, the Superintendent is directed to give, subject to the usual conditions of the permit, during the baseball season of 1914, the preference to the senior baseball teams of the Newton Catholic Club and the Upper and Lower Falls Athletic Associations.

He is further directed to send to each of the official representatives of each of those organizations and to the Young Men's Christian Association of Newton a copy of the detailed rules and regulations governing the use of and the conduct on the Playgrounds as adopted by the Commission, now so voted, rule 19 or any other rule of similar tenor, is hereby suspended to permit each of the above organizations to appoint one or more persons, wearing a proper badge in plain sight and supplied by the organization concerned, to just preceding the game (duly scheduled) and during the game, solicit money for the support of the baseball team and to sell tickets or score cards for the same purpose.

The Superintendent is also directed to call the attention of each organization to the possibility of an outbreak of lawlessness on the part of one or more individuals where so many people are brought together at one time and to inform the organizations that the Commission places on the local organizations the responsibility for maintenance of good order.

Office of Superintendent,  
Playground Department,  
City Hall.

June 10, 1914.



fixing up the sanitary department of this building.

The Commission discussed these requests at length. Mr. Carter moved, Mr. Johnson seconded, that the Commission vote a sum of \$500 towards the sanitary construction of the proposed playground building on the Newton Centre Playground subject to the approval of the City Solicitor; and if not approved by the City Solicitor that the matter be submitted to the City Board of Aldermen for leave to appropriate \$500 for such purposes. It was so voted.

It was further voted by the Commission that the sum of \$800 be set aside out of the city appropriation of \$2250 for permanent sanitary buildings for such a building on the Upper Falls Playground providing \$200 were raised for such a building by the interested citizens of Upper Falls. The chairman was authorized to have preliminary plans for a sanitary building drawn up by an architect.

The Superintendent submitted plans and specifications for a small wading pool for the Stearns Playground. Mr. Brewer pointed out the advisability of having assurance from the City Engineer that said cement pool was so constructed that winter cold would not damage it.

July 9, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann present. Mr. Carter called the chairman on the telephone and excused his unexpected absence on account of a serious accident to a friend.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

The Superintendent reported the moving of the voting booth from Newton Upper Falls to the Newton Lower Falls Playground at an

expense of \$75.00 for moving and \$10.00 for repairs. The money for this work had been transferred by the Board of Aldermen from the Mayor's contingency fund upon the recommendation of His Honor Mayor Childs.

The Superintendent submitted the following orders from the Board of Aldermen.

#40100      Appropriating the sum of Eleven Hundred Dollars to be expended by the Playground Commission under direction of His Honor the Mayor in fencing the Waban Playground.

June 29th, 1914.

Approved July 1st.

#40108      That from the appropriation of \$2350 made under Order 38526 for the erection of permanent convenience stations on the public playgrounds of Newton the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) be and is hereby granted and authorized to be expended by the Playground Commission for providing the Newton Centre Playground with permanent public convenience facilities on property held in trust by William Claxton Bray et al, Trustees, on the northerly side of Tyler Terrace for Playground purposes.

June 29th, 1914

Approved July 1, 1914.

#40198      That under supplementary budget submitted by His Honor the Mayor, the sum of Thirteen Hundred Dollars to be taken from the assessment and collection of taxes for 1914, be and is hereby appropriated, added to the appropriation for the Playground Commission, and granted therefrom for the purpose of grading the Waban Playground.

June 20, 1914.

Approved July 1, 1914.

Upon motion of Mr. Lyons, the Commission voted to grant permission to the Playground and Social Service League of Newton Centre for moving the Episcopal Church building of Newton Centre onto the Newton Centre Playground on the northerly side of Tyler Terrace.

The Commission instructed the superintendent to ascertain from His Honor the Mayor his wishes regarding the proposed fencing of the Waban Playground.

The Commission then authorized the Superintendent to prepare plans and specifications with the City Engineer for the grading of the Waban Playground and to advertise for bids.

The Superintendent reported the opening of the bids received for the construction of the Auburndale Playground on July 1, 1914 at 10 A. M. Mr. Thomas F. Lyons represented the Commission. The City Engineer, Mr. Rogers, Superintendent Hermann and representatives of the bidders were present.

The bids received were as follows:

Framingham Contracting Co., Carlo Bianchi	\$3540.00
Francis T. Mague, West Newton, Mass.	2445.00
B. Perini & Co., Ashland, Mass.	2300.00
T. Stuart & Sons Co., 222 Pearl St., Newton	2150.00

The Commission accepted the proposal of T. Stuart & Sons Co. of Newton, to prepare the playfield on the Auburndale Playground on receipt of official advice from the City Solicitor that the Metropolitan Park Commission had transferred the land in question to the City of Newton and that it had been accepted by the City, and the chairman was authorized to execute the contract with said T. Stuart & Sons Co. in behalf of the Commission.

The Superintendent was authorized to make further plans for the equipment of the Auburndale Playground.

He was also directed to send a copy of the contract to Mr. Carter for his approval.

A communication was read from Mr. Guy M. Winslow, Principal of Lasell Seminary, offering the free use of two of the school's tennis courts providing they were kept in order by the Commission.

The Commission directed the Superintendent to express its gratitude to Mr. Winslow for his generous offer and to state that on account of scheduled expenditures of funds it would be impossible to make use of his offer this year, but that it would consider this matter when the figures for the 1915 budget were taken up.

The chairman directed the Superintendent to start a book for the purpose of recording items of interest for the 1915 budget.

The Commission then discussed at some length the situation, etc. of the proposed permanent building on the Newton Upper Falls Playground.

August 21, 1914.

At the regular meeting of the Commission held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present, it was voted to accept the bid of the W. A. Snow Iron Works, Inc. for the fencing of the Waban Playground, as per specifications, for the amount of \$1027, subject to the approval of His Honor Mayor Childs of the contract and specifications and his approval of making this contract without advertising for further bids.

August 24, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the August 21st meeting were read and approved.

The business of the meeting was the consideration of the bids received for the grading of the Waban Playground. These bids were received in response to advertisements in the Newton papers and Boston papers. The bids were opened at City Hall, August 20th, 1914 at 10 A. M. Mr. Johnson, Mr. Rogers, City Engineer and Superintendent Hermann and three of the bidders were present.

The bids were as follows:

	<u>Item 1</u>	<u>Item 2</u>
T. D. Sullivan & Sons	\$1250.00	\$100.00
John McCourt Co.	3100.00	270.00
Francis J. Mague	2070.00	200.00
Felix Capobianco Co.	2178.00	325.00
T. Stuart & Sons Co.	2750.00	240.00

After considerable discussion it was voted to postpone any further action upon the acceptance or rejection of the bids.

The chairman was authorized to call another meeting as soon as possible and before the time for the acceptance or the rejection of the bids would expire.

August 31, 1914.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Commission considered again the bids for the grading of the Waban Playground received under date of August 20th.

It was finally voted to accept the bid of T. D. Sullivan & Sons Company of Newton Highlands, the amount of which was \$1250.00.

Superintendent Hermann was instructed to notify the successful bidder, and to return the certified checks to the other bidders, also to prepare all other necessary contracts.

November 18, 1914.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at 8 o'clock at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Angier, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the two previous meetings were read. The date of the last meeting was changed to August 31st. The minutes were approved.

Superintendent Hermann reported that it would be necessary to have two transfers made from the Supervision Account as follows: \$7.22 to the Rent Account and \$100 to the Maintenance Account. The Commissioners voted that a request for these transfers be submitted to the Board of Aldermen.

The Commission voted not to sell the fire wood stored on the Auburndale Playground since it might be possible to use it in our own Department for heating purposes this winter.

The Commissioners then considered the report of the Department's work for 1914, and instructed Superintendent Hermann to add to the statement covering the 1914 work the actual figures of expenditures for each of the playgrounds, these figures to show in how far last year's budget had been carried out.

The Commission then proceeded to consider the budget for 1915, item by item.

The chairman, Mr. Brewer, called attention to the plans and

specifications submitted by Coolidge & Carlson for sanitary buildings on the Newton Playgrounds. The Superintendent was instructed to get copies of these plans and specifications for each of the Playground Commissioners, and to consult the City Engineer and the Buildings Commissioner about the proposed plans and to get their opinions on these plans and specifications.

The meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock to meet again November 23rd.

December 2, 1914.

A regular meeting of the Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Commission proceeded to consider the annual budget for 1915. The items of equipment were taken up in detail. No final decision was reached.

The Superintendent was instructed to consult with the School Department about the desirable co-operation in the school yards.

The preliminary sketches of the Building Commissioner for the proposed sanitary buildings were considered. The Superintendent was directed to request the Building Commissioner to develop these plans further.

December 7, 1914.

A regular meeting of the Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The items of equipment and development were further considered and a reduced list of expenditures was voted.

The Superintendent was instructed to have copies of these changes made, and send these to the absent members.

The meeting adjourned to meet Thursday evening, December 10th.

December 10, 1914.

A regular meeting of the Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson and Superintendent Hermann present.

The remaining items of the 1915 budget were taken up and further modifications were made.

The Superintendent was instructed to have final copies of the budget made and sent to each one of the Commissioners.

December 23, 1914.

A regular meeting of the Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The budget for 1915, as corrected during the previous meetings, was accepted, and it was voted to submit the same to His Honor Mayor Childs. A copy of the same is attached hereto.

The Superintendent was instructed to send copies at once to the Mayor.

It was voted to prepare for skating all possible places as far as the annual Maintenance allowance for 1914 would permit. It was voted to spray the tennis courts on the Waban Playground for skating for the children of the neighborhood.

The Superintendent was authorized to continue some direction for little children and girls at the Stearns Playground after the funds given by the Mothers' Club had been exhausted.

It was also voted to request the Board of Aldermen to grant a special appropriation of \$200 for skating during the remainder of the year 1914.



January 4, 1915.

A regular meeting of the Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Superintendent reported that the request for \$200.00 for ice activities in December had been refused by the Finance Committee.

It was then discussed what ice activities should be carried on during the winter season. It was voted to concentrate as much effort as possible upon Bulloughs Pond. Skating places for children, without hockey playing, were to be maintained at West Newton and Stearns and small skating places at Boyd, Farlow, Burr School Yard, Newton Centre, Waban, Newton Highlands and Cabot.

Mr. Esterbrook of Newton Corner appeared with Alderman Forknall to request the keeping of a skating place as usual at Boyd Park.

The Commissioners listened to Mr. Esterbrook's explanations and ideas on how to dam up the water at Boyd Park.

April 15, 1915.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The first business was the discussion of sanitary buildings. It was decided to appoint a sub-committee to further the plans for such a building. The chairman appointed Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lyons and Mr. Hermann to be a committee on the consideration of sanitary buildings to make a report at the earliest possible date.

The Chairman explained that in former years he had approved the payrolls and bills monthly, but under the new system at City Hall such matters had been simplified. He thought that each member of the Commission should be carefully informed of the financial business of the Department, of the bills incurred and the quality of the same. He further recommended that copies of the monthly statement be made and sent to each member of the Commission, such statements to contain the amount of the balances of each appropriation. It was voted that this be done, and the Superintendent was instructed to see that it was carried out and copies given to each member of the Commission.

A letter from Mr. Daboll, Comptroller of Accounts, referring to the salary of the stenographer and clerk of the Department was read, and the Commission thought it advisable for this year to conform with the demands of the Comptroller.

Mr. Meserve, chairman of the Athletic Committee of the Newton High Schools, appeared before the Commission to plead for extensive repairs of the high school tennis courts. He stated that these

courts were in great need of extensive repairs, and since they were used and could be used more extensively by the general public, he felt that the Playground Department ought to do this. It was explained to him that the Playground Department did not have funds provided in their budget for such repairs. He was advised to submit a letter, stating these claims, to the chairman of the Commission who would forward the same to the Mayor for action. He promised to do so, and it was understood that such repairs were to include the resurfacing, retaping and repair of the tennis posts. Mr. Meserve thought that the repairing and painting of the fence could be done by the man they employed there during the summer when he had nothing else to do.

The matter of employment of laborers directly under the control of the Playground Commission was then discussed, and the chairman and Mr. Carter were appointed a committee to consult with the Mayor regarding this matter.

In view of the fact that \$780 were cut from the annual appropriation for supervision for this Department by the Board of Aldermen, the Superintendent was directed to re-arrange a scheme for supervision for the year 1915.

He was also authorized to prepare plans for better skating facilities at Bulloughs Pond and elsewhere next winter.

The Commission voted to have the Superintendent use the same methods in the control of the baseball fields at Newton Upper Falls, Newton Lower Falls and West Newton Common as were employed in the last year.

The Superintendent reported the condition of the Waban Playground and the sentiments as presented by a committee of the Waban citizens at a meeting at which he was present. The results

from seeding the grounds were so meagre that it seemed necessary to re-seed the grounds, and since such re-seeding and treatment would have to be done in the fall, it seemed advisable to allow the boys to use the baseball field as soon as the backstop was completed. Owing to the recent rain fall it might be advisable to wait another week or two before making the final decision, and if the grass did show decided signs of coming up in good shape, it would not be possible to use the grounds until next fall. The Commission instructed the Superintendent to decide about the use of these grounds as soon as he was satisfied that new treatment was necessary.

The Superintendent explained that the planting of trees, shrubbery and vines would be started at once. He reported that the plan of planting had been agreed upon by the Forest Commissioner and him.

The chairman mentioned that Mayor Childs was interested in plans for the reconstruction of the Newton High Schools Athletic grounds.

April 23, 1915.

The committee on sanitary buildings met on this date, Messrs. Johnson, Lyons and Hermann present.

A sketch submitted by Mr. Stevens, a builder from Newton Centre, was carefully examined. Since these plans were in excess of the appropriation available, it was decided to cut the size somewhat in order to have the building come within the \$1000 limit, but to adhere in a general way to the plan submitted.

Superintendent Hermann was instructed to have some more detailed plans and specifications drawn up. The following facts

were especially noted as desirable:

Sufficient accommodations for males and females.

Ventilation of the building

Ventilation of the urinals.

Fire proof building

Entrances for both sexes from opposite ends

Moderate accommodations for tools and play implements

Strength of structure for future development.

April 30, 1915.

The committee on sanitariums met on this date, Messrs. Johnson, Lyons and Hermann present.

The revised plans for sanitariums were again considered, and since the plans and specifications now came within the \$1000 limit, and since they seemed to embody all the essentials of a sanitary building as considered at the previous meeting, the Superintendent was instructed to have the builder submit final plans which could be submitted to the Playground Commission at their next meeting.

May 20, 1915.

3000

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held at City Hall on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Brewer made a statement about a number of complaints which had been received in regard to people getting permits for the use of baseball diamonds on Saturday afternoons who were in a position to play on other days. It was brought out that the matter had been looked into and that the people who had complained did not even have a regular team or regular time for play.

The report of the committee on sanitary buildings, consisting of Messrs. Johnson, Lyons and Hermann, was submitted. The report was made verbally and it was explained that the plans as now embodied in the blue prints were all that could be done in the line of a sanitary building such as was wanted on the Newton Playgrounds with the money available. These plans were further discussed and certain alterations were suggested. The report of the committee was accepted and a motion was made and seconded to approve the general scheme and to authorize the Superintendent to get figures to check off the estimate of Contractor Stevens, and if the present figure was satisfactory, Superintendent Hermann was further authorized to complete preparations for the plans and to carry out the project.

The monthly financial statement was submitted and a copy was given to each member of the Commission.

A report was then made on the appropriation of \$200 granted by the Board of Aldermen for the resurfacing, etc. of the High School tennis courts, and Superintendent Hermann was instructed to make these repairs on the High School Courts.

The chairman, Mr. Brewer, in behalf of the committee appointed to confer with Mayor Childs on the matter of an athletic field for the high schools reported that the Mayor desired a thorough review of the facilities existing in this matter in greater Boston. The chairman appointed Mr. Angier and Mr. Lyons to act as a committee for the making of such a report.

A petition was received from some citizens near Boyd Park regarding the changing of the swings, teeters and other children's facilities from their present situation to some other part of the Park. The Superintendent was authorized to call a meeting at the Stearns School for the purpose of giving these citizens a hearing on this matter.

The chairman, Mr. Brewer, further reported, at the suggestion of His Honor Mayor Childs, that a survey of the bathing facilities in Newton be made, and Messrs. Carter and Johnson and Superintendent Hermann were appointed as a committee.

The Superintendent was authorized to make the necessary changes in the scheme for supervision for the summer and fall seasons in order to be within the appropriation.

No action was taken on the consideration of compensation for the Superintendent's transportation expenses.

June 10, 1915.

(In room of 8th grade at Stearns School)

A hearing was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter and Superintendent Hermann present.

Mr. Brewer opened the meeting by inviting an open and full discussion of the conditions at Boyd Park.

Mr. Fagan was the first speaker and talked about the nuisances which the conditions caused all night long. He did not find any fault with the ball field, but with the noise and broken windows.

Mr. Grace and others spoke and it was brought out that there was considerable Sunday play and a great deal of vile talk and boisterous language.

One lady criticised the supervisor for not looking after the swings and teeters enough.

It was pointed out that a great many children came down there who did not belong there.

Aldermen Murphy and Forknall spoke about the great good the playground work was doing for the various communities and for that district and hoped nothing would be done to hamper this work. They both stated that they received a great many requests for more swings, teeters and other apparatus.

Mr. Estabrook rather defended the boys and thought that these people were rather hard on "our boys" as he called them.

Mr. Maguire brought up the matter of a fence at his place.

The Playground Commissioners expressed their opinions about the playground work and conditions down there. Superintendent Hermann spoke about the difficulties and what was being accomplished. He thought the suggestion of Mr. Grace's to put the swings under the trees on the embankment was not feasible.

The chairman of the Commission closed the hearing and promised that they would personally look into the matter and bring about the changes if it were possible.

The Commission then adjourned to visit the Boyd Playground.

June 28, 1915.

The Playground Commission voted, in view of the fact that the proposed recreation building on the Newton Centre Playground would some day be a part of the city playground, that they would approve in a general way the plans so far submitted, but that the details, the arrangement, equipment and layout would be subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Playgrounds, Mr. Hermann.

October 14, 1915.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A report was made by the committee on sanitary buildings. Mr. Lyons thought that the building was as small as it could be and still serve the purpose for which it was intended. It was thought that the other buildings should be at least a few feet longer especially on the side of the men's quarters. Mr. Hermann showed some photographs showing how the entrances to each side had been made more private and how, by a little more landscape work, the whole plant had been beautified.

The further erection of sanitary buildings was then discussed, and in the discussion it was brought out very clearly that the West Newton Common and Cabot Playgrounds were greatly in need of sanitary buildings, and that these buildings ought to be larger than the one at Newton Upper Falls Playground.

The Superintendent explained a scheme whereby it might be possible to provide some winter skating at Boyd Park. He

explained that the work which would be needed for such skating would be of a more permanent nature so that the money spent on these grounds would not be thrown away and could serve for the same purpose annually. He stated that permission from the Watertown authorities was necessary. The Commissioners authorized him to proceed further with these plans.

The Superintendent was instructed to see to it that the sanitary conveniences in the building on the Newton Centre Playground were carried out in such a manner that they would be at least equal to the arrangement at Upper Falls.

The chairman then brought up the matter of the suspension of the foreman of the Department, Mr. Cornelius W. Keefe. He said that Mr. Keefe called on him and that he had a very long talk with him. All the Commissioners, who had also been approached by Mr. Keefe, seemed to agree that he deserved a further chance.

The Superintendent then stated the case as it had been since Mr. Keefe was foreman of the laborers, and stated that he would rather give a man one too many chances than one too few, but having had an understanding with Mr. Keefe that on the next offense in regard to drinking he would be laid off and that on the second offense he would be discharged, he did not see how he could act differently and maintain discipline in the Department. The Playground Commission seemed to agree that the matter should rest in the hands of the Superintendent who would, naturally, have to be held responsible for the discipline of the Department.

A letter was read from Mr. Frank L. Cunningham of Auburndale. This letter referred to the bad condition of West Pine Street which is the main approach to the new Auburndale Playground. This street is not an accepted street and any improvements would probably come under the statutes which regulate such matters in the City.

The Superintendent thought that the City being one of the abutters might be able to do something to make this approach better, especially since this street would probably offer the main approach to the playground next year when the playground will be put into operation. The Superintendent was instructed to take this matter up with the Street Commissioner, Mr. Stuart, and report at the next meeting.

The chairman inquired after the reports from the committee on bathing facilities in Newton, and also about the report on athletic facilities for the high schools. Mr. Johnson thought that the special committee would be ready to report on this matter at the next meeting.

Mr. Angier reported, in behalf of the committee on athletic facilities, that he had personally investigated a number of such facilities in towns and cities making up greater Boston.

November 11, 1915.

The regular monthly meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The chairman inquired if Newton Highlands had made any proposition with regards to furnishing money for a sanitary building which would be used in connection with the balance which was left over from the city appropriation for convenience stations.

The Commission then discussed at length the need of further sanitary stations, and it was the unanimous opinion that Cabot and West Newton should be considered in our next year's program.

In connection with this, the discussion of high school

athletic fields was taken up. Since the report on the situation was not finished, no definite conclusions were reached.

The Superintendent then suggested the solution of proper high school accommodations and an enclosed field in the re-arrangement of Cabot Playground by enclosing this Playground with an iron fence and planting heavy shrubbery a few feet inside the fence. He pointed out that the turf at Cabot was exceptionally fine. He was directed to work out some plans in detail in regard to this problem.

The Superintendent then suggested a special scheme for the establishing of a skating rink at Boyd Park. He explained the scheme of a lock over the culvert, and requested that he be allowed to ask permission from Watertown to install such a lock. He was directed to finish the plans and to secure the necessary figures of the expense for the next meeting.

In regard to the improvements of West Pine Street, suggested by Mr. Cunningham in behalf of some citizens in Auburndale, the Superintendent reported that the City Engineer and the Street Commissioner had given their opinion that such improvements could not be made unless with the usual routine which governs the acceptance of streets. The Superintendent was directed to notify Mr. Cunningham of these conditions.

The Superintendent reported on the conditions of the Horace Mann Playground and said that the grounds would probably need further surfacing after they had been allowed to lay in the present condition during the winter.

Mr. Carter then submitted a report on Bathing and Swimming in Newton which was accepted after some changes had been made. It was decided that the changed report be submitted at the next meeting.

Mr. Angier, in behalf of the committee on an athletic field for Newton, stated that a detailed report would be made at the next meeting.

Mr. Angier also suggested that a study be made of the possibility of a small children's playground on the grounds where the old Armory was on Washington Street in Newton. The Superintendent was instructed to report on the situation and the advisability of having a playground at this place.

As the last item of the meeting, the Playground Commission discussed the matter of transportation expenses for the Superintendent. It was pointed out that the Superintendent had used his private machine during the year 1915 and that he thought that a compensation of \$100 would be agreeable to him. The Commissioners voted to address His Honor the Mayor for a special appropriation of \$100 to cover the transportation expenses of the Superintendent.

The Commission then adjourned.

December 4, 1915.

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Commission voted to allow Superintendent Hermann \$100.00 which was voted by the Board of Aldermen for transportation expenses. He was authorized to put in a bill for this amount.

The Commissioners then discussed the skating proposition at Boyd Park. Superintendent Hermann submitted a scheme whereby a dike would be laid half the length of the field extending just up to the backstop and back of the backstop.

He explained that this plan would do away with the danger of too deep water at Boyd Park. If improvements were made now, they would remain and would not be an annual expenditure. He explained that the scheme would cost about \$300.00

In discussing the advisability of using the balance of the money for skating, it was thought that in case of a good frost we would be left without sufficient funds to care for the ice. Therefore, it was deemed advisable to ask the Board of Aldermen for a special appropriation of \$300 for this work at Boyd Park. The Superintendent was instructed to send a letter at once to Mayor Childs making this request.

The Superintendent reported that permission had been received from the Town of Watertown to build the lock at Boyd Park. He read a letter from the City Engineer of Newton with regards to the dangers which ought to be recognized from the erection of such a lock as had been contemplated.

The meeting then adjourned.

December 9, 1915.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The chairman inquired if any further movement had been contemplated by the Newton Highlands people in regard to securing the

balance of money available for convenience stations. Mr. Johnson stated that the matter was still being considered.

The matter of lighting Bulloughs Pond was then considered. It was the unanimous opinion of the Commission that Mr. Stuart be requested to light the street along Bulloughs Pond, Bulloughs Pond Park, which would enable the Commission to make a separate contract for the installation of two arc lights on the Pond.

Mr. Angier then submitted a report from the committee on an athletic field for Newton. This report was accepted and placed on file.

The Superintendent was instructed to find out the legality of using Cabot Park Playground for an enclosed athletic field for the purpose of charging admission.

The Commission then considered the advisability of having a small children's playground at the place where the Newton Armory had been torn down. The project was deemed inadvisable.

The meeting then adjourned.



January 20, 1916.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Johnson, Angier, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann present.

After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, Mr. Brewer asked for a statement of the balances of the 1915 appropriations. This was presented and it was explained by the Superintendent that in order to balance some of the accounts, very small transfers had been requested from one account to another and the same were granted.

The Superintendent then reported the dismissal of the foreman, Mr. Keefe, on account of drinking and insubordination. He reported that he had temporarily appointed Mr. George H. Osborne as foreman since Mr. Osborne had given very satisfactory service for a number of years and was the best informed and experienced man in taking care of the playground surfaces.

The Superintendent then reported that a small fire had been set in the Newton Centre barn belonging to the Newton Centre Social Service and Playground League. He said that in his judgment the fire was of incendiary origin, and that it might have been carelessness on the part of some young people who were trying to build a little fire near the barn. The Chairman, Mr. Brewer, said that this loss was covered by insurance and as chairman of the Newton Centre Building Committee, he authorized the Superintendent to have repairs made and the bill sent to him for transmission to the Insurance Company.

The policy of providing skating for the Newtons was then discussed, and it was decided to further continue the policy of

making Bulloughs Pond the central skating place for all Newton. Small skating places for little children should be maintained at Newton Centre, Farlow Park, Stearns, Waban, West Newton Common and Burr School Yard, and on other playgrounds if the weather for spraying was favorable.

Mr. Brewer read a communication from the Clerk of Committees making inquiries about the Commission's view concerning sanitary stations on playgrounds. The Commissioners discussed this matter at some length, and decided that Cabot Park and West Newton would need a somewhat larger sanitary station costing about \$2000.00 each, and that Newton Highlands ought to have a station of about the same size as the one at Upper Falls. The Superintendent was instructed to prepare some estimates on this matter so that the items could be put in the annual budget.

The Commissioners voted to hold a special meeting on February 3rd for the consideration of the annual budget of the Playground Department.

February 3, 1916.

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Johnson, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Commissioners proceeded at once to discuss the annual budget, a copy of which had been mailed previously to each member.

After deliberating the budget, item by item, it was finally voted that the budget, the total amount of which was \$27,315.10, should be submitted to His Honor the Mayor. A copy of this budget and the original budget is appended herewith.

April 27, 1916.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, Messrs. Brewer in the chair, Messrs. Johnson, Carter, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Playground Commission considered first the annual budget on account of the necessary changes due to the amount passed by the Board of Aldermen.

The Superintendent reported on the changes necessary in the supervision and maintenance schedules.

The Superintendent reported on the matter of using the athletic field of the so-called Allen School in West Newton. He reported that said field, including the manual training shop, could be used for the payment of taxes (about \$150.00).

He was empowered to do so and transfer the Eden Avenue Playground to that field.

Mr. Brewer read a communication received from Mr. John A. Gardner, 193 Lake Avenue, Newton Highlands, complaining about nuisances from bathing at Crystal Lake.

This lead to the discussion of the bathing situation in Newton which would have to be faced by the Playground Commission if they had to administer the annual appropriation for the maintenance of swimming in Newton. It was thought proper to wait until the Commission had received a communication from His Honor the Mayor to that extent.

The Superintendent was authorized to buy 100 cubic yards of loam from Mr. Timothy D. Leonard.

The meeting adjourned subject to a call for a special meeting to consider the bathing situation.

june 29, 1916.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall at 8 P. M., Mr. Brewer in the chair. Messrs. Johnson, Lyons, Carter and Superintendent Hermann were present. His Honor Mayor Childs was present by invitation from the chairman.

After the reading of the minutes, which were approved, the Commission discussed the bathing situation and authorized the Superintendent to start the systematic use of the shower baths at the Stearns and Bowen Schools.

The Superintendent was authorized to continue the consultation with the Metropolitan Park Commission about the further development of bathing along the Charles River. He was further directed to continue bathing at Upper Falls with the bath house in the old place.

The Superintendent was given authority to erect a simple fence along the front of Mr. McGuire's land adjoining Boyd Park.

The Commission then took up the consideration of bathing at Crystal Lake. The whole bathing situation as it had existed since about the beginning of the bath house was reviewed. The vote from the Board of Aldermen was carefully considered, and the Commission seemed unanimous that bathing ought to be continued at Crystal Lake.

His Honor Mayor Childs strongly urged that bathing be continued and offered to help in every way possible to make the bathing at Crystal Lake satisfactory to all the people concerned.

The chairman, Mr. Brewer, put the following question before the Commission: "Are you prepared to promise that the Playground Commission will not want the bath house at Crystal Lake next year unless something is done to right the whole matter next year?"

He then explained that he had in mind the idea of re-embursing Mr. Miller to the extent of about one-half of the taxes which he paid

for the land which is used for bathing..

The Commission agreed that this should be done. Mr. Brewer tried to get Mr. Miller by telephone but failed so it was left to Mr. Brewer to put this proposition before Mr. Miller the next morning. If Mr. Miller accepted the proposition, the Chairman was to authorize the Superintendent to proceed at once putting the bathing station in the best possible condition and to get the proper men to run it.

Upon Mr. Carter's recommendation, the Superintendent was directed to send letters to individual citizens of Newton Centre and Newton Highlands explaining what was to be done at the Crystal Lake bathing station this season. Mr. Johnson was requested to furnish a list of names.

A communication was read from the Auburndale Woman's Club, Department of Education, which urged the erection of a bathing station near the new playground at Auburndale Park. This matter was left to the Superintendent in connection with his consultation with the Metropolitan Park Commission.

Mr. Brewer then brought the attention of the Commission to the situation of the tennis courts at Waban which were on private land. On account of the matter not needing immediate attention, it was voted to postpone the consideration of the same to a later date.

The Superintendent submitted an invitation from the Playground and Recreation Association of America to the Commission to attend the National Congress of this Association at Grand Rapids, Michigan, from October 2nd to 6th, 1916.

July 27, 1916.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall at 8 o'clock, Messrs. Brewer, Carter, and Superintendent Hermann present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Superintendent reported on the bathing situation in Newton and the work which had been done at Crystal Lake and the arrangements there in supervision, -8 o'clock in the morning until 10 in the evening; also arrangements for bathing for girls on Monday and Friday afternoons and all day Wednesdays at which time a matron, Mrs. Morton, is present. The Superintendent re-appointed Mr. Mullen as life guard and Mr. Waters as director. On account of the noise in the early morning which was complained of, the Police Department now have an officer at the Lake from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock so there is supervision there from 6 in the morning until 10 in the evening. The directors also take turns in being at the Lake more or less on Sundays in order to control the situation.

The Superintendent was instructed to make a comprehensive report on the future development of bathing along the Charles River and at Crystal Lake, such statement to contain what arrangements it would be possible to make in connection with the Metropolitan Park Commission, the whole to include the approximate expense of structures, etc. which would be needed.

The Superintendent reported about the conditions at the Bowen School shower baths, and advised that the School Department be urged to make a similar arrangement with the janitor and a matron to provide for bathing children during the day time.

The Superintendent was further directed to make careful note of the needed changes at the Waban tennis courts on account of their

being on private land. The mistake was made by a former Forest Commissioner who constructed them without regards for boundary lines. These changes would become necessary on account of the owners contemplating the enlargement of their church building. Such changes would probably involve a special appropriation for 1917.

Mr. Brewer stated that Mr. Addison Burnham, who had the matter of the Newton Centre Playground land belonging to the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board in hand, had made an arrangement with Mr. W. N. Davenport of the Water and Sewerage Board whereby the status quo which had existed about the use of their land should be maintained until September when a final settlement should be brought about. This means that the Playground Department shall continue to use the land as it has in the past.

The Superintendent reported on the destruction of the bubbler at Allison Park for the second time since the winter. The bubbler and pipe connections had been broken off and stolen. The Commission authorized the Superintendent to discontinue the repairing of this bubbler and not to replace it unless the boys themselves would raise the money for such repairs.

The chairman then requested a statement from the Superintendent about the director, Mr. Donahue, at the Upper Falls Playground, pertaining to a rumor that he had been involved in the arrest of a number of young men for gambling on the Lord's Day. The Superintendent reported what he knew about the situation which seemed to be that Mr. Donahue had been present when this raid was made but that he did not seem to be involved in the matter personally. The Commission thought that the matter should be investigated further and that it might be necessary

to ask Mr. Donahue to appear before the Commission.

The Superintendent reported on the baseball situation in West Newton and Upper Falls on account of a great deal of criticism which had arisen about favoring the Newton Catholic Club and the Newton Upper Falls A. A. It seemed necessary to bring about a somewhat different management of these grounds on account of the fact that young men's teams are constantly growing up which are also entitled to secure these playgrounds on some Saturday afternoons. The Superintendent was instructed to continue handling the situation as he had in the past, but that next spring the whole matter should be more carefully considered.

The land situation adjoining the Horace Mann School was then considered. The Superintendent called attention to the letters he had received from the Cliff and Campbell Company stating that they contemplated the erection of a number of houses on the adjoining land in the very near future. The Superintendent reported that he had called the attention of His Honor the Mayor to the situation and also to the Improvement Society and other interested parties. The Superintendent was instructed to consult further with the president of the Newtonville Improvement Society.

The Commission then considered the erection of a sanitary station at West Newton Common for which an appropriation of \$2000 is available. The Superintendent was instructed to take up the matter at once with the architect who constructed the sanitary station at Newton Upper Falls and to report at the earliest possible moment.

The Commission deemed it advisable to hold another meeting as soon as the necessary data about the sanitary had been obtained.

The meeting adjourned.

August 18, 1916.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Commission first discussed the bathing situation at Crystal Lake, and thought that matters had run along fairly satisfactory. The chairman was authorized to find out if the bath house could be left in its present location. The Superintendent was instructed to prevent all Sunday bathing as far as possible.

The final plans of the proposed sanitary building at West Newton Common were submitted and after considerable discussion were approved.

The Superintendent was instructed to secure permission from His Honor the Mayor to issue the contract without further advertising if this seemed advisable.

In order to facilitate the erection of the building, the Superintendent was authorized to proceed with the contract, etc. providing the total amount of construction, advertising, etc. would not exceed the appropriation of \$2000.00.

The meeting adjourned.

November 22, 1916.

A special meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The records of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A request from Mr. Miller to move the bath house at Crystal Lake immediately according to our agreement was discussed, and it was voted to instruct the Superintendent to remove it and to use the same, if possible, as a shelter house for the skaters at Bulloughs Pond.

The Commission further voted to grant the Superintendent permission to construct a hockey rink at Bulloughs Pond.

The Superintendent reported on the construction and completion of the sanitary shelter at the West Newton Playground. The report was accepted.

The annual budget for 1917 was then taken up and considered item by item. After considerable discussion, it was voted to submit the budget to His Honor Mayor Childs.

Special attention was given to the matter of the purchase of an auto truck and the construction of proper bath houses for Crystal Lake, Allison Park and Auburndale Playground.

The Commission voted to recommend to the Board of Aldermen that the matter of bath houses for the City of Newton be considered as a separate item apart from the annual budget of the Department.

The Superintendent further reported in connection with the budget that the expenses for shower baths at the Stearns and Bowen Schools would be slightly higher for the coming year on account of the necessity of charging to this item the expenses for heating since the School Department could not properly charge this to bathing as they have no such account for the summer work.

1917.

April 20, 1917.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, West Newton, Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Johnson, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A letter from Mr. Cox regarding some needed changes on the West Newton Playground was read. The letter complained about water which, during the winter frosts and rains, would flow from the Playground onto the Middlesex and Boston Street Railway tracks, occasionally causing considerable nuisance and damage to the tracks. The letter recommended the installing of a special drain. The Commission instructed the Superintendent to make the necessary changes during the year to prevent this nuisance during the coming winter.

A letter from Mrs. Newbert, whose residence adjoins the unused section of the Waban Playground, was also read. The letter complained about weeds on that part of the Playground. The Commission left the matter in the hands of the Superintendent.

The Commission instructed the Superintendent to consult with the people of the Church of the Good Shepherd regarding the removal of the Waban tennis courts on account of their being on land owned by the Church.

The Superintendent reported that a verbal request had been made by Mr. MacDonald, Supervisor of Nature Study in the Public Schools of Newton, for one-quarter acre of land on each of the following playgrounds,- Lower Falls, Waban, Newton Centre; this land to be used for school gardening and some for home gardening.

The Superintendent also submitted a request from the Newton Sub-Committee on Food Production and Conservation for the land which

might be available for planting purposes on the playgrounds, Mr. Colton having made a verbal request for this land to the Superintendent. At the request of the Superintendent, the Forest Commissioner put the whole matter in writing, and the letter was read to the Commissioners.

The Superintendent showed on the plans of the various playgrounds that there were about eight acres of land available,- Upper Falls 13,000 sq. ft., Waban 64,000 sq. ft., Cabot 24,000 sq. ft., Newton Centre 100,000 sq. ft., Newton Highlands 20,000 sq. ft., and Lower Falls 125,000 sq. ft.

After carefully discussing the matter of continuing the playgrounds activities on the Newton Playgrounds as in former years and considering the necessity of co-operating in every way possible with the Newton Public Safety Committee, the following motion was unanimously passed by the Playground Commission:

"The Playground Commission votes to authorize the Superintendent of the Department to issue permits to the Newton Committee on Public Safety for all the available land on the City playgrounds for the year 1917 which is suitable for farming and which is not as yet being used for regular playground work."

The Superintendent was instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the secretary of the Newton Committee on Public Safety, Mr. Morton E. Cobb, and also to inform the secretary of the Subcommittee on Food Production and Conservation of this vote.

The Superintendent was further instructed to notify Mr. Alfred B. MacDonald that the Commission had voted to turn over all the available land on the playgrounds to the Committee on Public Safety. The Commission thought it best not to give a separate permit to the Supervisor of Nature Study believing that the whole matter should be handled by the Public Safety Committee, which would

undoubtedly turn over to Mr. MacDonald such land as he desired.

The Superintendent submitted a letter from Miss Bryson, the clerk and stenographer of the Department, for the consideration of an additional raise in her salary for 1917, making her salary \$15.00 which seemed to be the minimum wage which the clerks at City Hall would receive. The Superintendent was instructed to transfer with the approval of the Commission the letter from Miss Bryson to His Honor the Mayor requesting His Honor if he approved the same to submit the letter to the Board of Aldermen.

The Commission then adjourned.

May 16, 1917.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

Letters from the Public Safety Committee acknowledging with thanks permission to use about seven acres of land situated on the various playgrounds in Newton were read and ordered to be placed on file.

A letter was received from the manager of the Beechwood A. C. asking for a sanitary building for Cabot Park. It was thought in advisable to try and secure an appropriation for a sanitary building and dressing rooms for this Playground this year. Upon the suggestion of the Superintendent, he was instructed to secure a small tent for the use of the baseball players during the summer.

A letter was received from Mrs. Fleu complaining about the throwing of empty bottles and other waste material onto her land adjoining the West Newton Playground. The Superintendent was instructed to place special waste barrels along the fence and to

secure the co-operation of the Police Department in trying to stop this nuisance.

A letter from the Norumbega Park Company inviting the girls' teams of Newton to play on the new baseball field was read and placed on file. The Superintendent was instructed to consult further with the Norumbega Park Company.

A letter from Miss Bryson, stenographer in the Playground Department, was received. The Playground Commissioners did not think it advisable to push the matter further except that the members individually would see what could be done to secure the extra dollar per week.

The Commissioners voted to buy thirty-five (35) copies of Mr. Hermann's "Outline of Physical Education".

A letter from the Mothers' Club was read. The Superintendent was instructed to acknowledge with thanks the donation of \$100.00 from them which was to help towards the furtherance of the playground work in Newton.

The Commission then proceeded to consider the annual budget as passed by the Board of Aldermen. The various changes were carefully noted, and the Superintendent was instructed to carry through the work for the year according to the various appropriations made for the different kinds of work.

The Commission voted the same salary for the Superintendent as in the previous year.

Letters from Mr. Bacon and Mr. Angier referring to the matter of removing the tennis courts off the land now owned by the Church of the Good Shepard were read. The Playground Commission thought it wise to let the matter rest for the time being, as Mr. Angier suggested, hoping that a better solution could be found since it would be cheaper to buy the land than to remove the tennis

courts.

The Superintendent was instructed, if it were possible, to construct two islands in Bulloughs Pond for the purpose of installing removable arc light posts.

The Commissioners approved the plans and specifications for the bath house at Allison Park, requesting the Superintendent to secure all possible co-operation with the Metropolitan Park Commission.

The meeting then adjourned.

June 27, 1917.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Mr. Brewer in the chair. Commissioners Johnson, Carter, Angier, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann were present.

Correspondence, relating to the reports on the water conditions in the Charles River along Allison Playground, from the Metropolitan Park Commission together with copies of a report from the State Board of Health were read and ordered to be kept on file for future reference.

The sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting to consider the plans for the Allison bath house and the sanitary building at Newton Highlands made its report, submitting blue prints showing the layout and details of construction.

A letter from the Metropolitan Park Commission was read giving authority to erect the bath house, but stating their inability to do anything at the present time in co-operating with the Newton Department in developing a beach.

The Playground Commission then considered the plans for the Allison bath house, and approved the plans and location. It seemed

that on account of the great increase in the price of material and labor that an additional \$600.00 would be needed to carry out the complete plans as approved by the sub-committee. The Commission voted to request His Honor the Mayor to submit to the Board of Aldermen a request for an additional appropriation of \$600.00.

The Commission also authorized the Superintendent to request the Mayor to give him permission to ask for special bids on the construction of the bath house at Allison without advertising in order to facilitate the immediate erection of the same.

The Commission then approved the plans and layout of the Newton Highlands sanitary building, and instructed the Superintendent to proceed with the advertising, etc.

The Superintendent then reported on the baseball situation in West Newton which was again somewhat difficult to handle on account of the growing needs of local teams, notably the teams supported by the Neighborhood House. He said that it seemed that the Newton Catholic Club had given up its organization for the year, but that the West Newton A. A. had been formed, which was made up of local talent and members of the local military organizations, and in view of their probably being enlisted in the national service and their removal from this locality, their opportunities for play at home would be few. He asked permission to be allowed to give reasonable preference to this team. This the Commission voted.

The Commission adjourned.

July 18, 1917.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Angier, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann present.

The following orders were received from the Board of Aldermen:-

Order #44771 transferring to the Playground Commission the matter of fitting up the Parks for the use of the public. The Superintendent was instructed to outline a plan, which would meet this suggestion, for the further consideration of the Commissioners at a later meeting.

Order #44771 containing a report from the Public Works on the report of the Efficiency Expert that the matter of playground maintenance be placed in the care of the Forestry Department was noted. The Playground Commissioners discussed the advisability of doing this at some length, but thought it was not necessary for them to express any opinions to go on record at this time.

A letter from Mrs. Mary C. Palmer, President of the Newton Federation of Women's Clubs, thanking the Department for the assistance given them at their field day at Claflin Field, was read. The President at the same time enclosed a check for \$75.00 to be used as a "nest egg" for the construction of a dancing platform for the city of Newton. The Superintendent was instructed to acknowledge the letter and the donation.

The opinion was also expressed that it would be wise to give this matter some publicity, and the discussion further brought out that more publicity should be secured for matters pertaining to the playground work in Newton.

Mr. Lyons was requested to open the bids which would be received at the City Hall on July 19th for the construction of the sanitary at the Newton Highlands Playground.

The Commission then discussed the various bids received for the construction of the bath house at Allison Playground. The bid of F. W. Stevens for \$2425 was rejected and the bid of Richard White for \$2300 was accepted. Mr. White's bid was accepted providing the Superintendent could conclude a contract for immediate erection and completion of the job.

Mr. Brewer read a letter from the Mayor about maintaining a life guard at Crystal Lake as in previous years. The Commissioners were unanimous in believing that the sense of the Board of Aldermen in refusing the appropriation for maintaining bathing at Crystal Lake meant that they should not conduct activities there. The chairman was asked to act as a committee to consult further with His Honor the Mayor about this matter.

The meeting then adjourned.

September 26, 1917.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Superintendent made a report, at the request of the chairman, about Mr. Paul A. Waters, the playground director. The Playground Commissioners expressed their approval of the Superintendent's action in this matter.

The matter of asking for a special appropriation for the grading of the four new lots acquired back of the Horace Mann Playground was then taken up. The Commission thought that if His Honor Mayor Childs thought it advisable to ask for an appropriation this year that such a request should be made. The Superintendent was authorized to consult with the Mayor and if the Mayor should approve such an appropriation at this time, the Playground Commission would stand ready to back his request.

The Superintendent reported on the matter of grading which was to be done at the Newton Centre Playground and for which a special appropriation of \$300 was available. Since the general scheme of grading in front of the Recreation Building could not be carried out, owing to the land being used for war gardens, the Superintendent asked permission to use this money to build a large piazza in front of the Building. The Playground Commission requested the chairman to consult with the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen to ascertain if the Playground Commission could make such a change.

The construction of islands for holding the electric light poles in Bulloughs Pond, and the construction of special hydrants for Bulloughs Pond, Newton Centre and West Newton for skating purposes was authorized providing sufficient money was available.

The Playground Commission approved the sample sign which was erected on the West Newton Playground, and authorized the further erection of this type of playground signs.

The Commission then adjourned.

November 22, 1917.

A special meeting was held on this date at the request of the Aldermen Committee on Bathing Facilities in Newton. Messrs. Brewer and Johnson were present, and Messrs. Allen, Angier and Hapgood of the Aldermen Committee.

The evening was spent in discussing the bathing situation in Newton as it now exists, and a plan which might be followed in gradually developing the splendid opportunities which exist in Newton, especially the situation as it exists at Crystal Lake.

The discussion considered the natural facilities available and also what artificial development might be necessary.

A regular meeting of the Playground-Commission was held on this date, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Upon the motion of Mr. Johnson, it was voted that a committee of three be appointed to consider ways and means of co-operation with the Newton Committee on Public Safety.

Superintendent Hermann reported that a special water connection had been put in at Bulloughs Pond, but that it seemed inadvisable at this time to construct the other hydrants which had been planned for West Newton and Newton Centre.

The annual budget was then considered item by item, and was essentially approved along the prepared lines. After consideration, it was voted to eliminate all items for new construction on account of the war this year. It seemed advisable, however, to at least suggest that an appropriation be made for the grading of the newly acquired land at the Horace Mann Playground, and to leave it to the Board of Aldermen to determine whether this should be done this year.

The Superintendent reported that owing to the fact that we had requests for help from private schools and others in laying out foot ball fields, etc., it might be advisable to have a small charge account. Such an account would also help if the Newton Centre Recreation building were turned over to the City since it might be necessary to charge for some of the activities carried on in this building. The Superintendent was directed to consult with the Comptroller of Accounts about this matter.

Mr. Johnson recommended that a small area at the Newton Highlands end of Crystal Lake be kept clean for skaters of that district; The recommendation was adopted.

Cref



April 18, 1918

On April 18th, 1918, a meeting of the Playground Commission was held, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent present. The Superintendent reported the appropriations from the Board of Aldermen. It was found that the Playground Commission had recommended that the Superintendent was authorized to carry out supervision and maintenance of grounds along the lines of the fall budget as drawn by the Playground Commission in their December meeting. He was instructed to make such alterations according to the changes in amounts granted.

The Superintendent reported upon the War Activities in which the Playground Department assists. He mentioned the co-operation with the Red Cross of Newton, first by helping the Newton Centre Red Cross Chapter, establishing its headquarters in the Recreation Building on the Newton Centre Playground; also that the children were doing handwork such as crocheting, needle work, etc. for the Red Cross Headquarters in Newtonville.

He pointed out that the occupation work during the summer would practically consist only of work for the Red Cross.

He mentioned that the Playground Department was constantly keeping the playgrounds fit for outdoor practice of the Constabulary. He also mentioned that a good deal of the work consisted of work on the school gardens and patriotic affairs; first conducted by the Women's Clubs of Newton.

He further pointed out that the Playground Department assisted in summer concerts and dances which were conducted by the Ladies (Newton) Circle. He further showed where this year, the Playground Department

could plant potatoes and beans on the Waban Playground since all the land was not to be used by local people. He mentioned the fact that a number of employees of the Department have their own gardens.

The Department has designed a Liberty Booth for the Liberty Loan Committee and transported the booth to the different parts of Newton.

The Superintendent read a letter received from Mr. Clark and his answer: The Playground Commission approving the tone of the letter. The Playground Commission, after discussion, voted that no bathing should be conducted at Crystal Lake, but all the other places should be opened as soon as the weather required it.

The Playground Commission adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

November 11, 1918

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held November 11, 1918. Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann were present.

Mr. Brewer reviewed the playground work and condition of the playgrounds in Newton during the past season. This review was to serve as a basis of consideration for the 1919 budget.

The review indicated that the children's corner of Farlow Park should be continued during the next year. The Superintendent was directed to conduct skating on the pond at Farlow Park this winter. It was thought wise to include maintenance and supervision for Burr Playground for 1919 since it seemed probable that the playground would be ready for use in the coming year.

A bathhouse for the Auburndale Playground was given exclusive consideration. The opinion prevailed that such a bathhouse should be our first consideration under the item of new construction since it was in the interest of both Auburndale and West Newton to have supervised bathing in this locality.

The Superintendent reported a harvest of about seventy bushels of potatoes and about two bushels of beans. He asked permission to turn this over to the Poor Department and since most of the workmen of this Department had boys in the service it would be a graceful thing to give to each man about 5 bushels of potatoes, especially since their crop in their war gardens had been a failure. The Commission granted this distribution to our men providing the Mayor would officially endorse it.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
Superintendent of Playgrounds

January 7, 1919

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held January 7, 1919. Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Angier and Superintendent Hermann, present.

The annual budget for 1919 was under consideration by the Commission. The different items were separately considered and separately approved. It was voted unanimously to submit the sum of \$34,363.33 as the total appropriation needed for the year 1919.

The Playground Commission asked the Superintendent to make a verbal report of the condition of the playgrounds; which he did. The Playground Commission approved the changes in the lock of the dike on Boyd Playground which the Superintendent made in December without first submitting the intended scheme of repairs to the Commission.

The Superintendent submitted a letter received from Mr. Johnson calling his attention to the conditions of the sanitary on Newton Highlands Playground. Mr. Johnson explained that the Women's Club of Newton Highlands had called his attention to the damaged conditions of the windows of the building. The Superintendent reported that he had received a similar complaint from the Newton Highlands Improvement Association and read a letter of correspondence between himself and the Building Commissioner. He reported that the building would soon be put into first class condition.

The Commission then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
Superintendent of Playgrounds











January 6, 1922.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date at City Hall, West Newton, Messrs. Brewer, Johnson, Carter, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The commission entered into a general discussion regarding the advisability of general retrenchment this year. It was the consensus of opinion that owing to the public demand and the use to which the playgrounds are being put there could not be any reduction in maintenance expenses.

The Superintendent was authorized to get some estimates on expenses for repairing the trees on all the Newton Playgrounds. The Commission discussed at length the consideration of new tennis courts for Newton Highlands, Waban, Newton Upper Falls and Boyd Playgrounds. They considered the advisability of a Power Lawn Mower and also the proposition of accepting the Public Celebration Account now managed by the Forestry Department.

The Commission agreed that proper buildings were needed; first at Cabot Playground; second at Bullough's Pond and third on Boyd Playground and that the order of need for tennis courts was: 1. Newton Highlands; 2. Waban; 3. Boyd; 4. Upper Falls.

The Commission decided after careful consideration to ask for an appropriation of \$900 for architect's fees and expenses for plans and specifications for two buildings in order to determine the cost of such buildings. The chairman was authorized to make a request for this appropriation to His Honor, Mayor Childs. The chairman informed the Commission that the City Solicitor had given his opinion that the Commission could charge for extra accommodations; that licensing for picnics etc., was a proper function of the Playground Commission, but that the legality of letting privileges was not quite clear.

The Chairman called attention to the necessity of broader planning

for playgrounds in the City of Newton and apportioned the city to different members of the Commission. He also spoke of the need of an inclosed athletic field and pointed out that the triangle made by Commonwealth Avenue and Homer Street and Walnut Street might prove to be a desirable location. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Lyons were appointed a committee to consider the advisability for charging for special privileges and the advisability and law of collection etc., on Playgrounds. The Commission favored the issue of a report to His Honor, the Mayor.

The Commission adjourned to meet January 13th.

January 13, 1922.

A special meeting of the Playground Commission was held at the City Club on this date. Messrs. Brewer, Carter, Johnson, Lyons, Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Commission carefully considered the annual budget item by item. After the completion the superintendent was instructed to forward the revised budget to His Honor, the Mayor. The summary of the budget as approved is herewith appended.

The chairman was requested to find out if the Playground Commission is liable for damage done while performing work for citizens of Newton. This was suggested during the consideration of the charge Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann, Superintendent.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET

Note: Classification on basis of 1921 printed budget.

	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>
<u>SALARIES</u>		
a. Superintendent	1975.00	2200.00
b. Clerk	1000.00	1100.00
c. Temporary Clerk	60.00	180.00
A. Playground Directors	11500.00	13505.00
B. Sunday Sports (in 1921 inc. in Mtncce	1600.00	1600.00
C. Twilight Games (New this year)	---- --	1200.00
D. Bathhouse Attendants	2100.00	2200.00
 <u>OFFICE EXPENSES</u>	 500.00	 665.00
<u>CONCERTS AND DANCING ON THE GREEN</u>	----- --	1250.00
<u>MAINTENANCE OF AUTOS</u>	900.00	1100.00
<u>MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS</u>	19400.00	25494.75
(\$1600.00 for Sunday Sports excluded Skating included, also \$500.00 carried under mtncce-repair(materials) in 1921.		
<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	4224.40	4609.65
<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>	1400.00	----- --
	44659.40	55089.40
Special <u>SPECIAL APPROPRIATION</u>		
<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>		8500.00
<u>OUTSIDE CHARGE ACCOUNT</u>		500.00

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 309

LECTURE 1

LECTURE 2

LECTURE 3

LECTURE 4

LECTURE 5

April 13, 1922

A Playground Commission meeting was held at City Hall at eight o'clock with the Chairman presiding. Messrs. Johnson Angier and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Chairman reported upon his meeting with the Finance Committee in considering the annual budget of the department.

The chairman also reported on an interview with Mr. Dixon, a Field Secretary of the National Playground and Recreation Association of America. The Commission decided not to grant his request that he be given exclusive authority for visiting Newton.

The Playground Commission voted to discontinue the issue of permits for gardening on the public playgrounds with the exception of a permit to one of the tenants of a building on the Newton Centre Playgrounds.

By vote of the Playground Commission the Islington Playground was turned over to the Forestry Department for care and maintenance since there seemed to no need at the present time for a playground in this vicinity, on account of the new Auburndale Playground.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

November 23, 1922

The Playground Commission meeting was held on Thursday, November 23rd, with Mr. Brewer in the chair. Messrs. Johnson, Angier, Lyson and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Superintendent was asked to make a verbal report about conditions pertaining to the Eden Avenue Playground. He reported that in August the Building Commissioner erected a portable building without the permission of the Playground Department and that the new Davis School was planned to take in a foot of the land belonging to the Playground and about 30 feet for a service drive back of the school; that he was asked to inspect the plans of the new school but when he did so the architect informed him that it was too late to make any changes. He reported that upon advice of the Chairman of the Playground Commission that he had called the attention of His Honor, Mayor Childs, to these matters and that he had sent a letter to the Building Commissioner that the Playground Commission would approve the matter of the building on the Eden Avenue Playground this time, but that in the future they requested consultation about such matters; and that the playground should be returned to its proper shape in time for the use of the playground next spring.

The Playground Commission then considered the conditions of the new Hawthorne Street Playground. Owing to the deposit of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet of loamy peat it would be advisable, on account of the value of the material, and because a proper surface could not be made with this peat, to remove this material since it was estimated that there was about 3,850 cubic yards of this material to be removed. The Playground Commission unanimously approved that His Honor, Mayor Childs, be asked for an immediate appropriation

of \$4,000 for this purpose. The Playground Commission believe that in doing this at once it would be a most economical way of developing this playground since the excavated area would offer an opportunity for the deposit of ashes for this district during the winter. This would save money for the Street Department and furnish a proper foundation for a firm surface. This request was to be made at once but was to be subject to a clear title to the parcel of land involved. The Superintendent was directed to specially state this in the request for the appropriation.

The Superintendent reported the matter of a warning received through the Street Commissioner that there might be trouble in the form of damages from the Security Mills if we raised the level of Laundry Brook in order to maintain a skating rink at Cabot Playground. The Superintendent was directed to get the technical details from the City Engineer and legal advice from the City Solicitor.

Before adjournment the Chairman arranged for a meeting of the Commission, November 16th, at eight o'clock at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds



COMMISSION MEETINGS  
1928

January 12, 1928.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held, January 12th, at City Hall, West Newton, Mass., at 8 P.M. Mr. Carter, Chairman, Messrs. Johnson, Speare, Lyons, and Superintendent Hermann, present.

The first business of the meeting was the consideration of asking the City Government for an appropriation of \$1200. for the installation of an extensive lighting system at Bulloughs Pond for two hockey rinks. The Superintendent submitted plans and estimates. These plans were a reduction of the plans submitted a year previously. The Superintendent also submitted a petition signed by hundreds of young men and told the Playground Commissioners that His Honor, the Mayor, would be glad to have the Playground Commission request such an appropriation at this time.

The Playground Commission unanimously voted to submit a request for \$1200. to the City Government for lighting two hockey rinks at Bulloughs Pond.

*Ne Toboggan*

The Superintendent reported on the progress of erecting a toboggan slide on the Newton Centre playground. He reported that the tower for the slide has been erected after the Playground Commission had voted by telephone to use an unexpended balance from the Replacement of Equipment account of \$294. for this purpose.

The Playground Commission now voted unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to finish the toboggan slide by the purchase of a shute and walkway. Estimated cost of this being about \$400.

The Chairman cautioned the Superintendent to consult with the Comptroller of Accounts regarding the Playground Commission's right to make such an appropriation at this time.

*Crystal*

The Playground Commission further considered a number of items concerning the management, etc., of Crystal Lake. The Superintendent submitted letters received from the State Board of Health. The Superintendent further called attention to further encroachments being made by abutters on the shores of Crystal Lake. The Superintendent was authorized to maintain judiciously the responsibility of preventing such encroachments. It was further decided to call the attention of this situation to the newly appointed committee of the Board of Aldermen on Crystal Lake.

Mr. Charles F. Johnson, Jr., called attention to the fact that he had not heard of any progress being made about the exchange of city owned land with the Standard Oil Company Station on the northwest side of the Newton Highlands playground. It was voted that the Superintendent follow this matter up and report upon the progress.

The Playground Commissioners discussed informally the matter of securing for permanent records, photographs of all the past and present Playground Commissioners and the Superintendent was instructed to secure said photographs.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.



February 7, 1928.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held on this date. Messrs. Carter, Chairman; Charles F. Johnson, Jr., Ralph C. Henry, E. Ray Speare, and Superintendent Hermann, present.

It was voted to read the minutes of the previous meeting at the next regular meeting.

The Commission considered at length the request of the City of Newton School Board for permission to place a new Grammar School building on the south end of the Cabot playground.

The Chairman explained the need of the School Board for a new building in that neighborhood. He pointed out that according to the members of the School Board there was no suitable land available in that neighborhood.

The Superintendent, at the request of the Commission, then discussed the possibility of a school building on the Cabot playground, its benefits and the handicaps. He pointed out that a school building placed somewhere in the grove might prove a distinct asset but placed on the south end would involve a very large expense in replacing what we already have, namely, two baseball diamonds, a running track and a football field. Since, if the school building were placed at the south end it would go directly into the diamond, the running track and the football field and because it would further require the changing of the location of the children's playground since a children's playground should be near the school building if it is to be an asset and a help to the school in their physical education plan.

The Playground Commission voted to request a joint meeting with the School Board and the arrangement for such a meeting was left to the Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.



February 10, 1928.

A meeting of the Playground Commission, members of the City Government and other city officials was held on the this date at the City Club, for the consideration of a location of a school on the Cabot playground. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Messrs. Charles F. Johnson, Jr., E. Ray Speare, Thomas J. Lyons, Ralph C. Henry, and Superintendent Hermann were present. The School Board was represented by Messrs. Grosvenor Calkins, George H. Tracy, Superintendent Wheeler, and Mr. George Kellar. The City Government was represented by Alderman Harry W. Fitts as Chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. William B. Baker of the Legislation Committee, Mr. Cecil C. Chadwick, Building Commissioner and Mr. Joseph W. Bartlett, the City Solicitor were also present.

Mr. Tracy of the School Board explained in detail the need for a school building and the difficulties of finding a right location in Newtonville. Mr. Carter presented the attitude of the Playground Commission in regards to using playgrounds for buildings. He expressed the desire of the Playground Commission to cooperate with the School Board in this problem. The Superintendent of Playgrounds was asked to show why the proposed location on the south side would involve an expense of over \$40,000.00 for reconstruction of features already in existence.

Mr. Tracy for the School Board, urged immediate action on this matter since, if the Playground Commission approved of locating a building on the Cabot playground, legislative machinery would have to be put into operation at once.

Mr. Bartlett, the City Solicitor, explained the legal aspects in the matter but did not commit himself as to the legal aspects which might be involved in using the land which was added for the City being used for other purposes than playgrounds. The Commission agreed to meet on the Cabot playground Sunday morning, February 12th at 9:30 to consider the possibilities of vacant lots west of the south end of the Cabot playground.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.



February 12, 1928.

The Playground Commission met with members of the School Board and Alderman Fitts at the south end of the Cabot playground. A study of the immediate environment of the Playground was made. Open lots were inspected, but no agreement was reached.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.



February 14, 1928.

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held February 14th for the consideration of the annual budget. Messrs. Charles F. Johnson, Jr., Thomas J. Lyons, Ralph C. Henry, E. Ray Speare and Superintendent Hermann were present. Owing to the absence of the Chairman, Albert P. Carter, it was unanimously voted to have Mr. Charles F. Johnson, Jr., act as Chairman of the meeting.

Mr. E. Ray Speare offered a vote that the Playground Commission formally disapprove the location of a school house in the south end of the Cabot playground. This was seconded by Mr. Thomas J. Lyons and after some discussion was unanimously accepted. The Superintendent was instructed to notify Mr. Carter as early as possible of this vote.

The Playground Commission then took up the matter of the annual budget and considered it item by item. At the close of the meeting it was unanimously voted to adopt the budget for 1928 as amended by the Playground Commission at this meeting, and the Superintendent was directed to present the budget to His Honor, the Mayor. The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.



September 18, 1928.

A Playground Commission meeting was held September 18th, 1928. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Messrs. Johnson, Lyons, Henry, Speare and Superintendent Hermann present. The Playground Commission considered a number of items of the annual budget which were nearly exhausted.

The Playground Commission decided to wait with a request for a further appropriation for Maintenance and for Supervision in the hope that the present appropriation might be sufficient to carry on with somewhat reduced work.

The Playground Commission unanimously voted to request the City Government for an appropriation as follows:

Worthington Tractor	\$700.00
Grading & Finishing up the Newton Centre toboggan slide	500.00
Replacement of Equipment	500.00

The Superintendent was authorized to make a request for these items to the City Government.

The Playground Commission also unanimously voted to request the City Government for an appropriation for Fencing the whole of the Boyd playground owing to the danger particularly during the skating season. The Superintendent was authorized to make this request for \$2,000.

The Playground Commission authorized the Superintendent to close down bathing entirely and in case of need to consult with the Mayor what best to do.

The Playground Commission upon the motion of Mr. Johnson instructed the Superintendent to study at the earliest possible moment the land in Newton Highlands suitable for a playground west of Walnut Street and the Metropolitan viaduct and to report back to the Commission at the earliest possible moment.

The Playground Commission further instructed the Superintendent to make a general study of all the Newtons with a view of presenting the need of purchasing of playgrounds to the City Government before prices of land values would increase further.

The Superintendent reported the matter of street improvements of West Pine Street leading to the Auburndale playground. It would seem in the interest of the general public that this street be improved without calling upon the few abutters to participate in this improvement since it is the only approach to the playground and ends with the playground.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.

November 14, 1928.

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held this date. Messrs. Carter, Speare, Henry and Superintendent Hermann present. Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Lyons regretted absence owing to unusual pressure of business. The Playground Commission carefully considered the financial needs of the Department. Owing to unusual weather conditions throughout the year both care and maintenance and supervision accounts were exhausted. There is an unusual attendance of children and young people on the playgrounds every day. This makes continuous supervision imperative.

Besides the extra work necessary in grass cutting, repairing washouts and care of the grounds due to intensive use, the Playground Department was forced to expend considerable money for labor in taking care of 20,000 cubic yards of fill which were sent to the Auburndale and the Cabot Playgrounds from cuts which the Public Works Department made at the Williams School in Auburndale and the High School in Newtonville. In order that this fill could be deposited at the Auburndale and the Cabot Playgrounds it was necessary for the Playground Department to do the leveling. For approximately ten weeks the gravel was sent to these grounds at the rate of 200 to 300 cubic yards a day. This has exhausted the funds available for labor and unless money is provided the care and maintenance will have to cease in December.

The Playground Commission unanimously voted to recommend an immediate appropriation as follows:

A. Care and Maintenance--LABOR Materials, gas, light, coal and bills	\$1450.
B. Probable Water Dept's. Charges	2000.
C. Supervision	600.
D. Replacement of Equipment	150.
E. Completing Toboggan Slide at Newton Centre	500.
	Total-----\$4,700.

Mr. Speare urged that the Commission ask again for the completion of the toboggan slide at Newton Centre owing to the demand of the people of that district. He believes that the Playground Commission should try and secure this appropriation so that the slide could be used this winter.

The Playground Commission further considered the matter

of submitting to the City Government a list of areas suitable for playgrounds in order that the City might now acquire the land before the values rose further. The Superintendent reported that his work on this matter had progressed and that he would be ready before the end of the year to submit a list of such areas with recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.

Supplementary notes to Commission meeting held  
November 14, 1928 at the City Club.  
Messrs. Carter, Speare, Henry & Superintendent  
Hermann present. Messrs. Johnson & Lyons absent.

After sending a letter to Mayor Childs for extra immediate appropriations as follows:

A. Care and Maintenance--Labor Materials, gas, lighting, coal, etc.-----	\$1450.
B. Possible Water Dept's. Charges-----	2000.
C. Supervision-----	600.
D. Replacement of Equipment----	150.
E. Completing Toboggan Slide at Newton Centre-----	500.
	<u>Total-----</u>
	\$4,700.

When the letter reached the Board of Aldermen November 19th it was referred to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee met on November 26th at 7:45 and Mr. Carter was requested to appear before the Finance Committee. Both Mr. Carter and Mr. Hermann were present at the Finance Committee meeting. The Committee finally approved our requests as follows:

A. CARE AND MAINTENANCE Labor, materials, and supplies-----	\$1450.
B. SUPERVISION-----	500.
C. REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT	150.
	<u>Total--\$2100.</u>

The Committee disapproved as inexpedient our request for \$500. for Toboggan Slide.

Mr. Collins, Chairman of the Finance Committee requested the Playground Superintendent to send him a reminder of the amounts and items voted upon at the Finance Committee meeting. This Mr. Hermann did, with Mr. Carter's approval and personal signature. At the Board of Aldermen meeting, December 3rd, the above appropriations were passed as approved by the Finance Committee. Mr. Hermann sent a copy of the items as approved to each member of the Playground Commission December 5th, 1928.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
Superintendent of Playgrounds.

EH/P



SPECIAL NOTES ON COMMISSION AFFAIRS  
AND MAIL VOTES DURING THE YEAR 1928  
-----

April 10 -

Letter to Street Department - finishing of grading job where brook was covered at Cabot Playground. The letter was not sent after the Commissioners and Mr. Hermann discussed it.

May 24, -

Letter to the Playground Commissioners announcing supplementary appropriation by the Board of Aldermen of \$500.00 for Newton Highlands grading and other improvements and \$700.00 for a float at Crystal Lake.

Messrs. Carter, Henry, and Speare answered by letter and approved the procedure for these two jobs. Mr. Lyons signified his approval of the matter by telephone. Mr. Johnson's approval was received later.

May 4 -

A Telephone Vote was this day received from the Playground Commissioners individually. All approved the following letter pertaining to a sidewalk along the Lower Falls Playground.

May 5, 1928

Mr. George E. Stuart  
Street Commissioner  
City Hall  
West Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

The Playground Commission requests that a walk be laid along Grove Street within the playground at Lower Falls. We realize that the walk will leave the appearance of being a part of the street and will be used by the general public as a sidewalk but the playground really needs such a walk on its grounds for the safety of the children who use the playground.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF NEWTON, PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

Chairman.

Permission was given for Mr. Hermann to approve plans, etc. for the Newton Centre Garden Club to plant iris, etc. at Newton Centre Playground.

118B  
August 10, 1928

A Mail Vote was approved for Crystal Lake bathing on Sunday between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.

August 29, 1928

A Mail Vote approved giving permission to lease land from the Newtonville Racquet Club at Hawthorne Playground; the rent to be \$35.00 per year.

August 31, 1928

The Commission approved a mail vote for granting the use of the Newton Centre Playground and building to Mrs. Blakemore (W.C.T.U.) for a political meeting. Permission was refused until the Playground Commissioners had discussed this matter at a meeting.

December 17, 1928

The Commission approved a Mail Vote for renewing the request for an appropriation for a toboggan slide.

COMMISSION MEETINGS  
1929

## ORDINANCE NO. 101

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF  
NEWTON AS FOLLOWS:

Chapter XIV of the Revised Ordinances of 1922 is  
hereby amended by adding thereto new sections numbered 132,  
133, 134, 135 and 136 to read as follows:

Section 132. The Playground Commission shall have charge of the care, maintenance and laying out of the City's schoolyards and schoolgrounds except as provided in Sections 133 and 134, No layout of a schoolyard or schoolground shall be made by the Playground Commission until the plan and design of the same has received the written approval of the School Committee.

Section 133. Control of the use of schoolyards and schoolgrounds shall be entirely within the jurisdiction of the School Committee who shall determine the persons entitled to use the grounds and how the same shall be used. The School Committee may, however, during vacation periods of the schools, turn over the control of use of designated schoolyards and schoolgrounds to the Playground Commission, and it may turn over the control of use of any designated portion of such grounds during the school year to the Playground Commission. The release of jurisdiction herein provided for shall only be accomplished if and when the Playground Commission in writing applies for and the School Committee in writing authorizes the same. In the event of the turning over of jurisdiction as aforesaid, the adjoining school building or buildings and the equipment of the School Department shall only be used under such regulations as to use as the School Committee makes.

Section 134. The Street Department shall have the care, maintenance and layout of all ornamental lawns, trees, shrubbery and walks adjacent to schoolbuildings and schoolgrounds.

Section 135. All land held by the City for school or schoolyard purposes until devoted to the use of a particular school, shall be in charge of the Playground Commission both as to care, maintenance and control of use.

Section 136. All ordinances of the City of Newton inconsistent with the provisions of Sections 132, 133, 134 and 135 are hereby repealed.

January 21, 1929.

In accordance with the mail vote of the Playground Commissioners the meeting of the Commission was held this date (January 17, 1929).

Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Speare and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Superintendent submitted six items for the consideration of the Playground Commission.

1. Making a start at limiting skating to ticket holders at Bulloughs Pond, Evenings, Saturday and Sunday afternoons and holidays.

The Superintendent explained that the people from outside the City of Newton are literally crowding our own people and that several times this season owing to the thinness of the ice the skating had to be stopped. Skating could have continued on these occasions if a crowd from outside had not added very materially to the weight on the ice.

The Commissioners discussed the advisability of such a new move and there seemed to be a general reluctance of starting a limitation to ticket holders only. Upon motion of Mr. Johnson it was moved that placards, be printed and posted around the pond calling the attention of the public to the fact that the skating on this pond was for the citizens of Newton.

The Superintendent was authorized to consult with the Middlesex & Boston Street Railway to stop advertising "Skating at Bulloughs Pond" on their cars in the towns and cities adjoining Newton. It was felt that the Street Railway Company might assist in this matter and thereby reduce the number of skaters. The Superintendent was also instructed to consult with City Solicitor, Bartlett, as to the legality of such limitation.

2. Checking Room for Children's Shoes.

The Superintendent gave it as his opinion that their is danger to children's health if they leave their shoes on the beach which forces them to put on ice cold shoes on their hot and moist feet after skating. He believes that this causes a decided shock to the nervous system of the feet. He requested the Playground Commission for permission to erect some simple check room at least

for the use of children. He pointed out that he had advised this for years and mentioned his military experiences and his studies on the care of feet.

The Commissioners felt that there was not sufficient evidence of the danger of such practices but thought if the Superintendent could produce such opinions from medical authorities the Commission would then have something which might help them in determining a check room for this purpose.

3. The Superintendent requested the Commission for an expression of their will as to how much in detail the Superintendent should consult with them regarding matters which might come up under Care and Maintenance and Supervision. He mentioned this because he felt that in the matter of erecting a guard fence lately he ought to have consulted with the Commission before erecting such a fence.

It seemed to be the opinion advanced by Mr. Johnson that the Commissioners did not care for too much detail in this matter.

4. The Superintendent pointed out to the Commission that he could save quite a little money in the purchase of hose and labor if he had a small gasoline pump which he could use for mending the cracks on the skating ponds. This matter of mending cracks on skating ponds is an important matter of care of ice. At Bulloughs Pond since the Water Commissioner changed our water connection to the north end of the pond we are obliged to use over a thousand feet of hose. A small pump which could be inserted through a drilled hole in the ice would materially assist in the handling of this problem. He submitted a few designs which would cost in the neighborhood of \$125. for a small movable gasoline pump. Such a pump would also come in very handy in taking care of our bathing equipment since barrels and pontoons frequently get water soaked. Mr. Carter thought that we should if possible, avoid this expense now but that it better be made an item of the annual budget.

5. Mr. Johnson requested the Superintendent to report on the progress made by the City Committee on Crystal Lake.

Mr. Hermann reported along the lines of the enclosed letter. (See copy of letter to Alderman Bail).

6. Mr. Hermann reported to the Commission the receipt of a considerable petition on maintaining more skating at Pulsifer Cove. This petition also requested the installation of flood lights and a shelter. He thought this matter should be made a part of the annual budget.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
Superintendent of Playgrounds.

EH/P

February 27, 1929.

The Playground Commission meeting was held February 27, 1929, (Wednesday evening) at City Hall, West Newton, Mass. at 7:30 o'clock. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Messrs. Johnson, Lyons, Speare and Superintendent Hermann present. The Commission considered the 1929 budget item by item and unanimously approved the budget which was to be submitted to the Mayor for his approval.

The Superintendent was instructed to submit the budget at once to the Mayor for his approval.

Upon motion of Mr. Lyons it was voted that Mr. Hermann should consult with the City Solicitor, Mr. Bartlett, to see what could be done towards securing control of Pulsifer Cove. It seemed that since the City was using the waters of this cove and in view of the fact that further expenses would have to be met by lighting the cove for evening skating, that we ought to try and secure greater control over this part of the river.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.



May 7, 1929.

A Commission Meeting was held May 7, 1929. Mr. Carter, Chairman, Messrs. Johnson, Henry, Speare and Superintendent Hermann present.

Mr. Speare brought up the matter of the danger of the canyon like rock formation on what is known as Lowell Avenue Pit between Lowell Avenue, Bigelow Road and Valentine Street. The Superintendent was instructed to take this matter up with the Mayor.

The Superintendent, by vote of the Playground Commission, was authorized to pro-rate the items of the Budget to meet the actual appropriations.

The Superintendent was further instructed to bunch the \$7,000. appropriated for New Construction in order to meet the reduction of \$450. in case one of the items would turn out to be a little cheaper and another should be somewhat higher. The Superintendent was instructed to get the Mayor's approval upon this matter.

The Playground Commission, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, confirmed its previous decision that of all things needed for the Boyd Playground a boundary fence was the most urgent and the Superintendent was told to call this to the attention of the Public Works Committee in order that an appropriation be made for this fence at the earliest possible moment.

The Playground Commission approved that a charge of ten cents (10¢) be made for the cost of issuing the season tickets for bathing at Crystal Lake and a charge of fifty cents (50¢) for non-residents. This charge to allow the non-residents one free use of Crystal Lake bathing facilities.

The Playground Commission accepted the ordinances passed by the Board of Aldermen in regard to School playing fields and instructed the Superintendent to prepare a budget for the cost of this work.

The Playground Commission approved the change in name of the West Newton Playground to the John W. Weeks Playground and instructed the Superintendent to use this name after this for the West Newton Playground.

The Playground Commission further accepted the new Thompsonville Playground and instructed the Superintendent to prepare plans for future development.

The Playground Commission informally talked over the advisability of honoring the name of the first president of the Playground Commission, Mr. William C. Brewer, by naming a playground after him.

Regarding the matter of the use of school playing fields the Superintendent was instructed to bring all matters which already were in existence such as the use of the tennis courts after school hours by the general public up to the new requirements of the ordinances. He was authorized to get the approval of the School Board on the change of grades of the Stearns Playground where these grades touch the school property. The Superintendent was instructed to start care and maintenance of school grounds particularly where neglect would cause increased cost of maintenance such as high grass, etc. All this to be subject to an appropriation being made by the Board of Aldermen.

The Superintendent reported that owing to extra work he had to do so far this year that it had been impossible for him to start the necessary preparations for a playground pageant and festival this summer. The Superintendent said that in his opinion it might be well this year to prepare some episodes for a pageant for next year which might perhaps be embodied in a city wide pageant celebrating the tercentenary of Newton. If costumes and other paraphernalia could be made by the children this summer to be used later, the Commissioners approved such summer work.

The Playground Commissioners present signed the new rules and regulations governing the use of Crystal Lake. This signed copy to be forwarded to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds.

EH/P

May 17, 1929.

A Commission meeting was held May 17th, 1929. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Messrs. Lyons, Henry, Speare and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Commissioners unanimously approved that a request be made to the City Government for an appropriation of \$10,500. for the care and maintenance and for materials for all the school playing fields, the Senior High Schools and the Junior High Schools. The Playground Commission further approved an item of \$5,900. for New Construction on the Newton High School fields as follows:

Finishing High School Baseball Diamond	\$1,000.
Backstop for the baseball diamond	1,000.
Levi-Warren Junior High School-- Baseball diamond with backstop	1,500.
Two tennis Courts--Levi Warren Junior High School--	2,400.

It was the opinion of the Playground Commission that the new playground just bought in Thompsonville be named the William C. Brewer Playground in honor of the first President of the Playground Commission of Newton. The Superintendent was authorized to ascertain what steps would have to be taken to bring this about.

The Playground Commission unanimously approved the old policy of issuing permits to organizations for the use of playground playing fields as follows:

First consideration should be given to public schools and local organizations.

Second consideration to private schools.

Third consideration to out of Newton organizations. The issue of permits to outside organizations to depend upon, first, no local requests for permits, secondly, no handicap to unorganized play of neighborhood boys.

A verbal request from the Chairman of the Public Works Committee that the Playground Commission be represented at the hearing of the Claims and Rules Committee towards the end of May was reported by the Superintendent. Since this hearing is in the interest of the exchange of land adjoining the Newton Highlands Playground the Playground Commission voted to request Mr. Charles F. Johnson, Jr., to act as the representative of the Playground Commission at this hearing.

✓ The Superintendent reported that the Mayor would recommend to the Board of Aldermen that the Lowell Avenue gravel pit and the City land adjoining it be turned over to the Playground Commission and that an appropriation be made for a fence to guard the canyon which now offers considerable danger to youngsters exploring this land.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

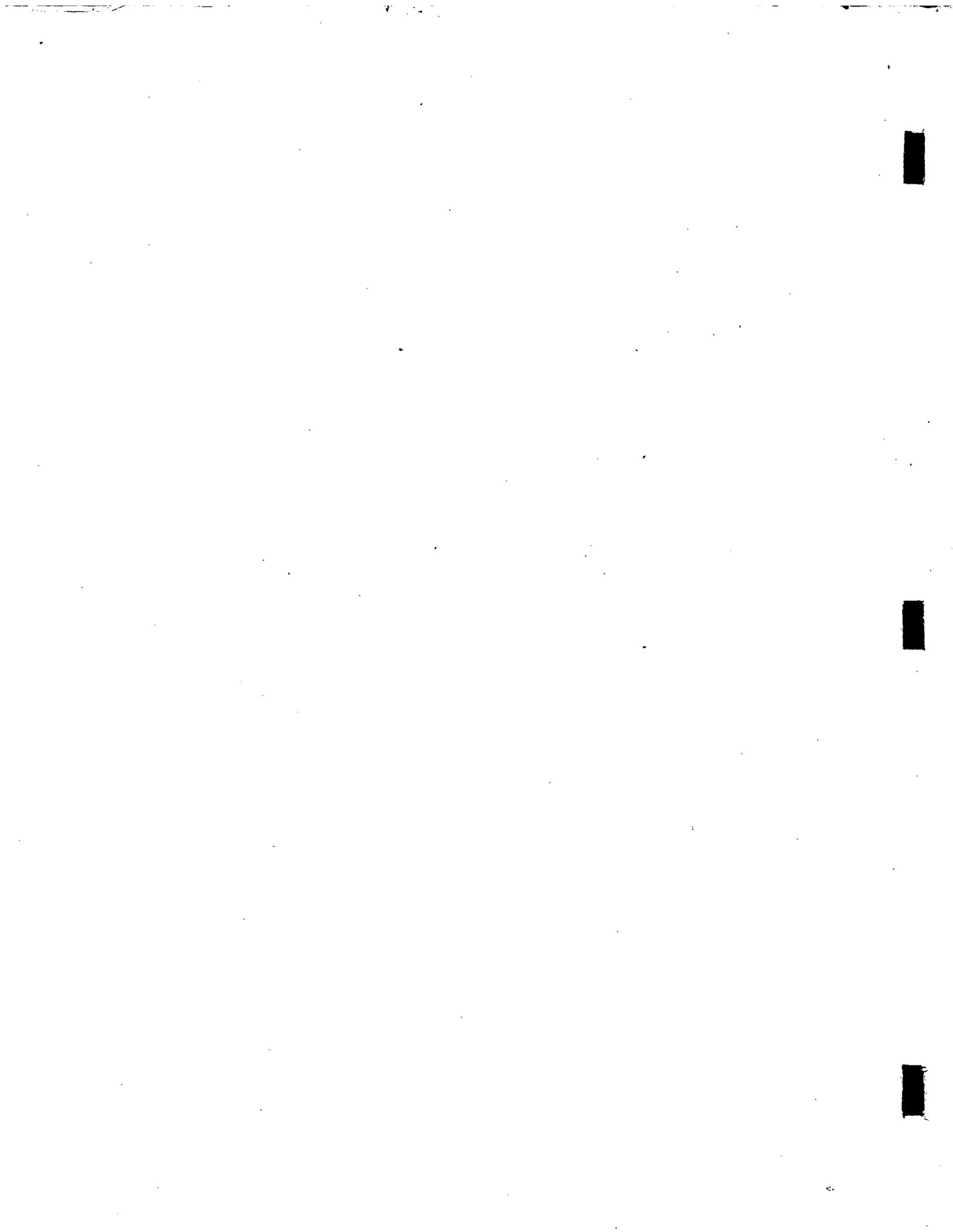
EH/P

Superintendent of Playgrounds.

MAIL VOTES DURING THE YEAR 1929  
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January 10 -

A Mail Vote approved a Commission meeting to discuss the matter of limiting the number of skaters at Bulloughs Pond to ticket holders thereby excluding out-of-town people.



## Mail Votes 1929

- March 6-- Voted to request His Honor, Mayor Childs, and the City Government of Newton to request the Metropolitan District Commission to release the remaining land of Pulsifer Cove to the City of Newton.
- May 10--Mail vote re: Use of baseball diamonds by other organizations and private schools. (Father Haley from the Church of Our Lady and the Bankers & Brokers League)
- June 21--Mail vote asking for approval to send a request to His Honor, Mayor Childs, for an appropriation for Boyd fence not to exceed \$2500. (Request approved by Commissioners but money not appropriated by Board of Aldermen)
- Aug. 3--Letter to Mr. Ball approved by Playground Commissioners approving land in Elliot for playground purposes.
- Aug. 29--Approval of Playground Commissioners received for laying a Tarvia-lithic surface at the Levi Warren Junior High School, West Newton.
- Sept. 16--Approval of Playground Commissioners received to send a request to Mayor Childs for an appropriation of \$2,500. for a concrete foundation for the backstop at the Newton High School athletic field. (Appropriation granted).
- Oct. 10--Letter from Mr. Carter approving that a transfer be made from the Street Department for a fence at the Levi Warren Junior High School. (Request for transfer sent to His Honor, Mayor Childs.)
- Oct. 31--Letter from Mr. Carter approving that a request be made for \$200. for Auto Maintenance.
- Nov. 1---Letter to Mr. Carter asking his permission to ask the Mayor for a request of \$1,000. for Supervision. Mr. Carter felt that we should not ask for an appropriation at this time, but if the Mayor wanted to ask he would approve his asking. (Request was sent in by Mayor Childs but no money was appropriated until a later date and then only \$200. was appropriated.)



Commission Meetings 1930.



Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held  
January 17, 1930.

A Commission meeting was held on January 17th, 1930. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, presided, and Messrs. Johnson, Lyons, Henry, Speare, and Superintendent Hermann were present.

The Commissioners voted to send a letter of appreciation to Ex-Mayor Edwin O. Childs, for his unflinching support of the Playground Commission. The Chairman was requested to send such a letter.

The general policy of initiating movements toward the acquisition of playgrounds was considered at some length, and it was voted to use every possible means to secure vacant land now available for future use as parks and playgrounds.

The Playground Commission particularly recommended the development of the land off Lowell Avenue (which was formerly a stone quarry) for the purpose of relieving the use of the high school athletic field after school hours.

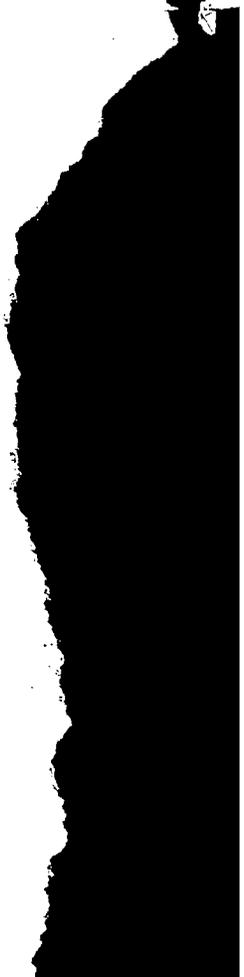
The annual budget was considered item by item, and it was voted to submit it to His Honor, Mayor Weeks, as corrected.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann

Superintendent of Playgrounds.



## Commission Votes 1930.

- Jan. 22--Mail vote on letter from Mr. Harwood requesting that all of Crystal Lake be opened to the public for skating. The Playground Commissioners agreed with Superintendent Hermann that when it interfered with the safety of the public, it would not be wise to open up the whole of Crystal Lake.
- Jan. 22--Mail vote on sending to His Honor, Mayor Weeks, an expression from the Playground Commission as to the advisability of selling to Mr. O'Connell, the former alderman, a piece of land belonging to what is known as Allison Playground. The Commission disapproved.
- April 1--Approval of the Playground Commission received on sending introductory letter to His Honor, Mayor Weeks, as suggested by Mr. Hermann for the annual report.
- Oct. 21--Mail vote on using \$800. appropriated under New Equipment in the annual budget for lighting Pulsifer Cove, for lighting Crystal Lake in the vicinity of the new bathhouse. Playground Commission approved.  
Reason: It was very probable that there would not be enough water in the Charles River to permit skating in Pulsifer Cove during the winter of 1930-31.
- July 8--Mail vote on approving a "No Trespassing" sign to be placed on the Newton High School field, and to be signed jointly by the School Board and the Playground Commission.
- Nov. 6--Playground Commission's approval received on using the money requested by the Mayor as appropriated, namely:
- Constructing Running Track  
at the Newton High School Athletic  
Field \$8,000.
  - Boundary fence between private  
property on Walnut Street and  
the Newton High School athletic  
field-- \$800.
  - Lighting Pulsifer Cove \$800.
- Note:--Due to the objection of Mr. Raymond Tucker, the fence was only erected around Mrs. Clapp's property. Not erected on boundary of the late Mr. & Mrs. Bishop's property, since land, and home is now owned by a real estate concern.







## MAIL VOTES 1931

March 10

Commission's decision on erection of building on Hawthorne or Upper Falls Playgrounds as follows:

Mr. Carter - If extra ground (as proposed) is added to Hawthorne it would be the best place, otherwise the grounds at Upper Falls are much more suitable.

Mr. Lyons - Hawthorne, providing additional land is acquired.

Mr. Johnson - Upper Falls

Mr. Henry - Hawthorne with addition of land. Upper Falls should be done next year.

Mr. Speare - Hawthorne

CONCLUSION: No money was appropriated.

May 9

Commission approved Newton Civic Arts Association, Inc. holding outdoor Pop Concert at Newton Centre Playground.

September 22

Commission approved appointment of Mr. Henry Thayer as trustee of Newton Playground Auxiliary Fund.



COMMISSION MEETINGS

1932

Minutes of the Commission meeting held

January 6, 1932

The annual budget meeting of the Playground Commission was held January 6, 1932. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. Thomas Lyons, Mr. E. Ray Speare, Mr. Charles F. Johnson, Jr., Mr. Ralph C. Henry and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Superintendent submitted the annual budget for the year 1932 with suggestions for a horizontal cut of about 10% all along the line. He further recommended that the appropriation for supervision of playgrounds, skating, bathing, Sunday sports and twilight sports be bunched into one appropriation under the heading of Supervision. The Superintendent felt that with this combining of these various items for supervision the cut suggested would carry us through the year with some additional savings throughout the year.

The Playground Commission, with slight alterations, adopted the budget and approved its presentation to His Honor, the Mayor.

A petition for skating provision on the Boyd Playground was considered. Owing to the financial conditions and the fact that flooding on this playground was costly and not very satisfactory, the Playground Commission voted to recommend to the Mayor that nothing be done this year.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D

## Minutes of the Commission meeting held

July 29, 1932

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held on the Cabot Playground this morning. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. Thomas J. Lyons, Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. J. Bartlett Melcher and Superintendent Hermann, present.

The meeting was to consider the petition presented by Albert D. Robinson, Esq., 1 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts, in behalf of himself and some neighbors.

The petition was as follows:

PETITION

To the Park Department  
City of Newton  
City Hall, Newton

We, whose names are subscribed hereto, property owners and residents adjacent to the park house on Cabot Park, respectfully make the following requests for the purpose of correcting certain undesirable conditions now existing:

1. That all plain glass windows in said park house facing Eastside Parkway be replaced by ground glass so-called;
2. That the doors on each end of the park house be closed at all times, the signs thereon removed from the outside and the entrance to the toilets and showers be had through the center door facing the park. It is nothing less than a public convenience station at the present time for truck drivers, passerbys, workmen and the public generally;
3. That the swings be taken down by the attendant before he leaves for the night. At present they are in use sometimes as late as midnight;
4. That the attendant at all times keep children back of the park house and away from Eastside Parkway when they are at play;
5. That those playing in or about the park after dark be restrained from making unreasonable noise.

In making these requests we believe, if granted, they will not only benefit us but the whole community as well.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. & Mrs. Henry de Montigny  
 John E. Woods  
 Mr. & Mrs. William J. Robinson  
 Mr. I. Kaufman  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Heywood  
 Arthur H. Gorham  
 Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Magee  
 Stuart S. Fuller  
 Mrs. W. N. Jenkins

## Copies to:

The Honorable Sinclair Weeks, Mayor  
 Hon. Albert Howlett, Alderman-at-large  
 Hon. Thomas M. Gallagher, Alderman-at-large  
 Hon. William A. Stroat, Alderman  
*Sproat*

After consideration of all these facts the  
 Playground Commission voted that a letter be sent to  
 Mr. Robinson stating -

1. That the Playground Commission would request the Building Commissioner to make such alterations in window glass as he could make;
2. That it had already been arranged to have the swings and such children's apparatus taken down in the evening.
3. The Playground Commission feels that no other alterations in the building seem advisable; that some of the improvements could be made with more planting of shrubs and trees.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D

## Minutes of the Commission meeting held

December 20, 1932

Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. E. Ray Speare, Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. Thomas J. Lyons, Mr. J. Bartlett Melcher and Superintendent Hermann were present.

The annual budget for the year 1933 was considered and with a few modifications was approved.

The Playground Commission voted to try out a license-ticket system with badges to Newton citizens for skating at Bulloughs Pond. Letters from the Newtonville Improvement Association were submitted urging that something of this nature be done. ✓

A long petition sent from citizens of the neighborhood of Boyd Playground was received. This petition urged that skating be re-established at Boyd Playground. The Superintendent pointed out that owing to the dangers involved formerly the brook was covered and the grounds were re-surfaced. He stated that to maintain a skating surface on this playground would be a very costly affair and would never be satisfactory. He urged that Silver Lake in Nonantum off Watertown Street be acquired for a municipal pond. He stated further that owing to objections of two abutters nothing could be done now although many people urged that this small pond be used for skating.

The Playground Commission voted that unless Silver Lake could be legally used by the City it would be better not to re-establish skating at Boyd Playground.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D



COMMISSION MEETINGS . 1933

## MAIL VOTES

June 19

In view of the fact that the new John W. Weeks Junior High School grounds were used after school hours by many boys and girls without supervision and that several petitions for the use of the baseball diamond had been received from a group of young men of the neighborhood, the matter was set forth in detail in the letter to the Playground Commission by direction of the Chairman of the Commission and a mail vote was requested.

The Playground Commission, by mail vote, voted unanimously to request the School Department for permission to extend the use of the John W. Weeks Junior High School grounds after school hours and during vacation. This request was unanimously granted by the School Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D

COMMISSION MEETINGS

1934

## Minutes of the Commission Meeting held

January 29, 1934

The Playground Commission meeting was held this evening in the office of the Superintendent of Playgrounds at City Hall. Chairman Albert P. Carter, Commissioners E. Ray Speare, Ralph C. Henry, Thomas J. Lyons and the newly appointed member Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, and Superintendent Hermann were present.

The matters of the previous meeting and a record of the mail votes were read and approved. The Playground Commission then, in detail, considered the budget as submitted by the Superintendent of Playgrounds.

The Playground Commission considered the salaries paid to the Superintendent and the clerks. It was their opinion that a recommendation for raises at this time would not be appropriate unless His Honor, the Mayor, first signified his intention of restoring the  $7\frac{1}{2}\%$  cut. It seemed the opinion that several increases were deserved.

They approved the increase in the appropriation of last year under the Supervision Account. They approved the \$300.00 addition under Office Expense for skating permits. They further approved Auto Maintenance and General Maintenance as submitted by the Superintendent - also New Equipment. They omitted the request for a new truck, for the replacement of an ice-sweeping brush and since the appropriation for a Fordson Tractor and a Toro Tractor were made already they omitted these two items.

The Construction Account consists of three tennis courts for the new Wellington Playground with fences, and fences for the Emerson School, Newton Upper Falls Playground and Hawthorne Playground.

The Superintendent's suggestion for the account, Care and Alterations and Improvements of Elementary School Grounds, was approved, particularly in view of the fact that water charged for High School grounds had now to be included and since the school grounds were rapidly demanding more care.

The Playground Commission further decided that a request for fencing of various school grounds and additional tennis courts for the Levi F. Warren School, the resurfacing of the Peirce School, totaling \$12,683.25, be submitted as a special item under the appropriation for Care and Maintenance of Elementary School Grounds with the notice that these items had been requested by the School Department of the City of Newton. They agreed that most of these items should be done at the earliest possible moment.

## Minutes of the Commission Meeting held

January 29, 1934

The Superintendent of Playgrounds was authorized to consult with the owners of the Crystal Lake Ice Company with regards to further expansion of skating on Crystal Lake under favorable weather conditions.

Playground Commissioner Lyons inquired about the supervision of the various Civil Works Administration Projects which were being conducted on the playgrounds. He wanted to know if the cost of these various projects would be charged to the Playground Department. He considered them a waste of money, etc. Superintendent Hermann explained the general set-up of the Civil Works Projects. The Chairman expressed his opinion that the whole matter was not the concern of the Playground Commission except in as much as the construction affected the future development and use of these grounds as playgrounds.

The Superintendent made a report about special improvements which had been made the past year without any special appropriations. He called attention to the re-surfacing of the Emerson Playground and the Eden Avenue Playground.

A letter from Alderman Holden requesting permission for the use of the Newton Centre Playground Building by a group of Jewish citizens for the purpose of a Jewish School was submitted. The Superintendent submitted this letter and also told of the meeting he had had with Alderman Holden and His Honor, Mayor Weeks. He also submitted the legal opinion of the City Solicitor. The Superintendent was directed to seek further detailed information of the use this group of citizens wish to make of this building, the purposes and aims, etc.

The Playground Commission approved the erection of a small building for checking shoes of children and youth at Bulloughs Pond.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D



## Minutes of the Commission meeting held

February 14, 1934

The Playground Commission met this evening to consider the application to the City Government of S. Hardy Mitchell to equip part of the present building at 1379 Centre Street, Newton Centre, as a combination Automobile Laundry and Filling Station. This property is, what is known as, the ice-house at Crystal Lake.

It was the unanimous opinion of the Playground Commission that no such license should be granted without an absolute guarantee that no waste matter from this Automobile Laundry and Garage could enter the waters of Crystal Lake either directly or indirectly through seepage.

They believe that any plans submitted by the petitioner should be carefully studied by both the City Engineer and the Superintendent of Playgrounds since it is their belief that even the slightest seepage of oil or other waste matter would seriously menace the health of the bathers and owing to the sources of the water supply of the Lake could hardly ever be eliminated.

The Superintendent of Playgrounds was directed to convey this opinion of the Playground Commission to the proper City authorities.

The Playground Commission also considered a request from a group of citizens of Jewish Faith for use of the Newton Centre Building for school purposes. This matter was previously considered after a verbal request had been received. The Playground Commission now acted upon this petition since a written request had been received signed by Mr. David Stern, 29 Cotton Street, Newton.

After lengthy consideration of this petition the Playground Commission instructed the Superintendent to write to Mr. Stern that his petition for the use of the Newton Centre Recreation Building on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings for the purpose of teaching the Hebrew language to children of Newton residents was carefully considered but the Playground Commission decided that it was inadvisable to grant this request.

Chairman Albert P. Carter and Commissioners Henry, Speare, Lyons and Bruce and Superintendent Hermann were present.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds



Minutes of the Commission meeting, for a hearing, held

May 21, 1934

The Playground Commission met in the Conference Room adjoining the Mayor's office, Monday evening, May 21st, at the request of His Honor, Mayor Weeks, to hear representatives from the Newton Lodge of Elks, Sgt. Eugene Joseph Daley Post #2384 and the representative of the Veterans' of Foreign Wars Bugle and Drum Corps. The reason being their application for the use of Victory Field Playground for Field Day purposes.

His Honor, Mayor Weeks, City Solicitor Bartlett and Chief of Police Hughes were present. Mr. Albert P. Carter presided and Messrs. Speare, Henry, Bruce and Superintendent Hermann were present.

It was the opinion of the City officials present that it was unwise to use the City playgrounds for any purpose not strictly educational or recreational.

All petitioners were given leave to withdraw.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D



C O P Y

After the hearing Monday evening, May 21, at the suggestion of His Honor, Mayor Weeks, the Playground Commission set up the following rules as a guide for the use of the City of Newton Playgrounds for special purposes:

1. No permit for the exclusive use of a playground shall be granted to any organization if the income is to be for private gain.
2. Unless it is clearly established that the purpose of the field day is for educational, cultural or recreational purposes no permit shall be granted.
3. Gambling devices or games of chance of any kind are entirely prohibited.
4. Permits for the use of playgrounds for field days or other affairs with the privilege of admission charges will be granted only if the affair is of an educational, cultural or recreational nature and if the proceeds will be devoted to charitable purposes only.
5. The Playground Commission will, at its own discretion, terminate instantly any permit which may have been issued if any of its regulations governing the use of Playgrounds for field day purposes are not strictly observed by the organization having the permit.

## Minutes of the Commission meeting held

May 21, 1934

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held this evening at the playground office. Mr. Carter, Chairman, and Messrs. Henry, Speare, Bruce and Superintendent Hermann present.

The use of playgrounds for any other purpose than strictly recreational or educational was discussed at length. Moral influences involved in the promotion of many types of money-making schemes, the great damage done to the grounds and the loss of actual play for the children of the neighborhood were the main reasons advanced in reaching the unanimous conclusion that it would be well to stop the use of playgrounds for special enterprises by private organizations.

The Commissioners voted to attend in a body the joint meeting called by Mayor Weeks to hear the various applicants for the use of Victory Field, i.e., Newton Lodge of Elks, Daley Post #2384, Veterans' of Foreign Wars Bugle and Drum Corps.

A letter of Thomas J. Lyons, Jr., expressing thanks for the tribute paid at his father's death was read.

The Superintendent explained the need for some form of protective envelope for the bathing permit. The Commission approved a metal sample submitted and authorized a request for an appropriation for 16,000.

Sunday tennis was discussed. Since the Massachusetts Legislature passed an act permitting certain out-door sports any time on Sundays it was voted to allow tennis play on Sunday mornings where tennis courts are not in too close proximity of churches. The City Solicitor's opinion regarding tennis on Sunday was submitted.

The Superintendent reported that His Honor, Mayor Weeks, had abandoned the idea of taking over the Albemarle Golf Course as a Municipal Golf Course.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

## MAIL VOTES

1934

November 5

A mail vote of the Playground Commissioners approved the naming of a playground donated by Mr. Edwin S. Webster, as the Edwin S. Webster Playground.

This playground is situated in Ward 6. It adjoins the Hammonds Pond Parkway, at its northwest end, is at the east end of Warren Street and along the south side of the Boston and Albany R. R.

It is still being used as a City dump.

Respectfully submitted

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D

## TELEPHONE VOTES

1934

December 12

A telephone vote of the Playground Commissioners approved the issuing of season permits for non-residents to use Bulloughs Pond for skating.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

1935

## Minutes of the Commission meeting held

January 29, 1935

The Playground Commission met this day at City Hall to consider the Annual Budget. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. E. Ray Speare, Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., and Superintendent Hermann, present.

The Superintendent reported that His Honor, Mayor Weeks, had asked him to tell the Commission that Mrs. Louis H. Marshall would accept an appointment as a member of the Playground Commission. His Honor, Mayor Weeks, will submit her name to the Board of Aldermen at the next meeting.

Previous to the discussion of the budget Mr. Bruce brought up the matter of sliding on the City streets. Attention was called to the fact that in Newton sliding on the streets has been forbidden by street and police regulations for several years.

The budget was taken up item by item and approved by the Commission with certain small alterations. Under New Equipment, \$300.00 was added for permanent apparatus and a backstop for the Thompsonville Playground making the total item for New Equipment, \$800.00.

The item under Construction - Landscape Architects Plans, for the ultimate development of Edmands Park was raised to \$3,000.00. The item of the Nevada Street School grading - \$4,000.00, was transferred from the Construction account of the Playground Department to the special budget submitted for construction requested by the Newton School Board.

It was voted, under the item of Civil Works Projects, that we call the attention of His Honor, Mayor Weeks, to the fact that since late appropriations are not permissible after the tax rate has been established and that, if this work is to continue, an appropriation of approximately \$45,000.00 for the year should be made now. With this suggestion to the Mayor it was also voted to state that the City should, under the National Government Projects, promote also Neighborhood Centers in some districts for the coming year. Attention was called to the fact that committee representing all the Social Agencies of Newton had recommended the establishment of Neighborhood Buildings in Upper Falls, Nonantum and West Newton.

The Playground Commission voted not to have an item for a grandstand at Victory Field owing to the fact that, since it seems possible that Allison Playground is to be developed during the coming year, the major baseball diamond would be established there and naturally the grand-

## Minutes of the Commission meeting held

January 29, 1935

stand ought to be put where the major diamond is. In other words it would be well to postpone the erection of these bleachers until it is decided what will be done with Allison Playground.

The petition for more tennis courts in West Newton was considered. Since the Commission is asking for \$3,000.00 for the development of three tennis courts on the Wellington Playground it is supposed that this would meet the wishes of the petitioners, providing, of course, the appropriation was made by the City Government.

The Playground Commission went on record favoring the purchase of land for a playground and for an athletic field for the F. A. Day Junior High School on land adjoining Watertown Street and part of the old Albemarle Golf Course. The Playground Commission does not favor the land known as the Allen property in Newtonville.

The Playground Commission also went on record as favoring the purchase of land now belonging to the Estate of John T. Joyce adjoining Edmands Park.

The Superintendent was authorized to embody in the Annual Report a statement about the need for expansion of the recreation system in Newton to include Neighborhood Centers.

The Playground Commission adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D



## Minutes of the Commission Meeting held

September 23, 1935

The Playground Commission held a regular meeting at City Hall, September 23rd, at eight in the evening. Chairman Carter and Messrs. Speare, Henry, Bruce, Mrs. Marshall and Superintendent Hermann present.

Mr. Bartlett, the City Solicitor, came to inform the Playground Commission that on account of re-examining the ordinances and statues he had made a new ruling that in the case of takings of land for playground purposes the Playground Commission was the authorized body and not the Board of Aldermen.

He further explained that it was urgent to take certain parcels of land in the Oak Hill district for playground purposes to complete an extensive neighborhood center which would also contain land for schoolhouse purposes, land for parking purposes and land for business development.

He said he had prepared a vote to be passed by the Board of Aldermen requesting and authorizing the Playground Commission to take by eminent domain, in the Oak Hill section of Newton, near Parker, Greenwood and Dedham Streets, Ward 5, a certain parcel of land shown on plan #25477; parcel marked "D" on the City Engineer's Plan.

He urged that the Playground Commission before adjourning, but after the Board of Aldermen had passed the vote, would pass a vote authorizing the taking of this land.

It later on developed that the vote was not taken early enough and that the proper papers were not ready. \*The Playground Commission then voted to meet at City Hall on Thursday morning at 8:30 to pass such a vote if possible. Mr. Bartlett further wanted it understood that if later on the City would want to use a part of this land for other city purposes such as streets that there would be no complication.

The minutes of the previous meeting, January 29th, were read and approved. The Telephone Vote of July 1st, was also read and approved.

\*

The Playground Commission met Thursday morning at 8:30 but certain necessary papers were not yet ready. The Playground Commission agreed therefore to meet at Mr. Bartlett's office in Boston, September 26, at 4:30 in the afternoon.

Superintendent Hermann read a letter to the Mayor regarding the choice of an architect for the planning and further development of Edmands Park. He read the note from the Mayor, suggesting Mr. Bradford Williams, 62 Bellevue Street, Newton. After some discussion the Commission authorized the Superintendent to approach Mr. Bradford Williams on this matter and to suggest that if he cared to undertake this project to meet with the Playground Commission for the discussion of the type of development that might be desirable.

Superintendent Hermann explained that it seemed now wise to eliminate some of the playground workers who had come into the service of the Playground Department during the past few years on account of the economic situation. He said that he would like to conduct a playground institute of one or two weeks previous to next summers main playground season; in this way the playground workers would receive certain playground instruction that might be helpful and an examination at the close of the institute might eliminate those not adapted to playground work. The Playground Commission approved this but suggested that the Superintendent submit a somewhat more detailed plan.

*Re: Circuses  
Horseshows*

The Playground Commission considered again the matter of circuses, horseshows, etc., on public playgrounds. Owing to the recent experience of objections to the use of playgrounds by a well known organization, the Superintendent suggested that the President of the Board of Aldermen be approached to really ascertain whether there was a decided feeling against this practice. It was thought that the City's representatives in the Board of Aldermen might know the feelings of the City better than the recent experience really revealed. This was approved.

Owing to some slight criticism of tennis play at Burr Playground tennis play at these grounds on Sunday mornings was brought to the attention of the Playground Commission. Since the conduct of certain players had been greatly improved during the season no further action seemed to be necessary.

After discussing the pros and cons of baseball on Victory Playground, Sunday afternoons, the Playground Commission authorized the Superintendent to issue permits for Sunday afternoon play. The Superintendent explained that this playground was excluded originally when the Sunday Sports Act went into effect. At that time, owing to some objection on the part of neighbors, it was decided inadvisable to have Sunday afternoon games on the Victory Playground. This objection seems to have now disappeared.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent the application for a float in Crystal Lake was deemed inadvisable at this time.

The Playground Commission then entered into a discussion of more meetings to be held by the Playground Commission. Mr. Bruce felt that he needed more information and that he interpreted his duty as a Commissioner to be more informed about details of the work of the Playground Department. Mr. Henry thought that it should be a "movable feast" rather than a "fixed affair". Mr. Carter explained the meetings of this Commission and how they had developed during the existence of the Playground Department. He felt that the chairman, anyway, had been thoroughly informed about all affairs. Mrs. Marshall was recorded as in favor of regular meetings since in all the organizations with which she had anything to do they found it necessary to have them. Mr. Speare thought that it ought to be given further careful consideration since the matter involves extra overhead expense and much extra work for the Superintendent.

The Superintendent reported upon the desirability of gradually discontinuing hard baseball play on the Boyd Playground and said that he had tried out, last season, barring hard baseball from Boyd Playground and substituted soft ball which is becoming a much more popular game than hard baseball for the average man.

Mr. Bruce spoke in the highest terms as did Mrs. Marshall of the playground work as conducted in the City of Newton. He presented a study of many other cities in comparison with Newton, showing Newton in a rather favorable light. This report included - acquisition of playground land, amounts spent from emergency service funds, attendance, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D

## Minutes of the Commission Meeting held

September 26, 1935

The Playground Commission met at the office of the City Solicitor, Joseph W. Bartlett, in Boston on September 26, 1935 at 4:30 in the afternoon. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr. and Superintendent Hermann were present.

The Playground Commission met to take action on the taking of land in Oak Hill for the purpose of a public playground as authorized by the Board of Aldermen in Order #73042. It was moved and seconded that the Playground Commission adopt the order and a unanimous vote resulted.

The Playground Commissioners present signed the order and the Superintendent was instructed to secure the additional signatures of Mr. Henry and Mr. Speare.

Upon request of the Chairman, Mr. Carter, the City Solicitor ruled that Mr. Hermann would be the certified agent for the Commission since he was duly elected as their secretary some time ago. The secretary was instructed to transmit a certified copy to the City Clerk. The order is herewith appended and a copy of the order as passed by the Board of Aldermen is also appended.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:KH:D

C O P Y

CITY OF NEWTON

September 26, 1935.

Playground Commission.

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Playground Commission of the City of Newton, the public necessity and convenience require that the parcel of land hereinafter described be taken for the purpose of a public playground, and

WHEREAS The Board of Aldermen of the said City by order #73042 have appropriated the sum of fifty (\$50) dollars for the purpose of acquiring the aforesaid property, it is therefore

ORDERED Under the authority of General Laws, chapter 45 section 14, and section 129 of the Revised Ordinances of 1929 of the City of Newton, and all other authority conferred by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the ordinances of the City of Newton, that the following described premises be and hereby are taken for the purpose of a public playground.

Oct. 1st,  
1935  
A True Copy  
Attest  
Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
Secretary of  
Playground Commission

Beginning at a point at the northwesterly corner of a parcel of land to be taken by the City of Newton for School and School Yard purposes, all as shown on a plan signed by the City Engineer of Newton and filed in the office of the City Engineer of said City, numbered and entitled as follows: Plan No. 25477 "City of Newton, Massachusetts, Oak Hill School Site - Parcel C - Land taken for School and School Yard Purposes - Parcel D - Land taken for Playground Purposes" at land of Esther Ann Higgins; thence N. 21°39'50" E. 469.33 feet over said land of Esther Ann Higgins, across Parker Terrace, over other land of said Esther Ann Higgins and over land of Frank A. Hurley & Daniel W. Hurley (City of Newton Tax Title); thence by a curve to the right of 477.84 feet radius, 271.06 feet; thence by a curve to the right of 4705.01 feet radius, 715.75 feet; thence N. 62°52'54" E. 344.04 feet, the last three described lines being over said land of Frank A. Hurley et al (City of Newton Tax Title); thence by a curve to the right of 210.00 feet radius, 448.06 feet over said land of Frank A. Hurley et al (City of Newton Tax Title) and over land of Robert H. Holt & Theodore L. Badger Trustees; thence S.5°07'43" W. 188.68 feet; thence by a curve to the left of 537.27 feet radius, 197.74 feet; thence S.15°57'31" E. 512.57 feet over said land of Robert H. Holt & Theodore L. Badger Trustees, over a parcel of land taken by the City of Newton for a main drain easement under order No. 43404 approved June 29, 1916 and over land of Robert H. Holt et al Trustees, the last three described lines being over said land of Robert H. Holt et al Trustees; thence S.72°22'23" W. 337.71 feet; thence by a curve to the left of 437.07 feet radius, 219.75 feet, the last two described lines being over said land of Robert H. Holt et al Trustees; thence by a curve to the left of 893.79 feet radius, 280.91 feet over said land of Robert H. Holt et al Trustees and over land of Doris B. Norris; thence S.25°33'12" W. 69.50 feet over said land of Doris B. Norris; thence northwesterly 80.50 feet by the division line between said land of Doris B. Norris and land of Anna G. Barry; thence southwesterly 24.00 feet by the division line between said land of Robert H. Holt et al Trustees and said land of Anna G. Barry; thence westerly 380.80 feet by the division line between said land of Anna G. Barry and lands of Robert H. Holt et al Trustees and Arnold Hartmann Trustee; thence northwesterly 631.00 feet over said lands of Arnold Hartmann Trustee and Esther Ann Higgins to the point of beginning; said parcel containing 37.688 acres (1,641,687 square feet) of land.

Oct. 1st. 1935  
 A True Copy  
 Attest  
 Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
 Secretary of  
 Playground Commission

CITY OF NEWTON

The following are the names of the persons whose property has been taken or who may be otherwise entitled to damages on account of the taking of the above parcel of land so far as known to the Playground Commission.

NAME.

Arnold Hartmann, Trustee

Esther Ann Higgins

Frank A. & Daniel W. Hurley,

City of Newton, Tax Title

Robert H. Holt &

Theodore L. Badger, Trustees

Dorris B. Norris

A True Copy  
Attest  
Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
Secretary of  
Playground Commission

CITY OF NEWTON

And the said Playground Commission does assess and award as the damage sustained by the following persons the amounts severally set against their names.

<u>NAME.</u>	<u>AWARD.</u>
Arnold Hartmann, Trustee	None
Esther Ann Higgins	None
Frank A. & Daniel W. Hurley	
City of Newton, Tax Title	None
Robert H. Holt &	
Theodore L. Badger, Trustees	None
Doris B. Norris	None

Playground Commission of the  
City of Newton.

Albert P. Carter

Teresa G. Marshall

L. A. Bruce, Jr.

Above order was read and adopted  
by unanimous vote of all present  
2 members absent

Oct. 31st  
1935  
A True Copy  
Attest  
Ernst Hermann (Signed)  
Secretary of  
Playground Commission

## Minutes of the Commission Meeting held

November 5, 1935

The Playground Commission met this morning at eight o'clock in Edmands Park. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. Henry, Mr. Bruce, Mrs. Marshall and Superintendent Hermann were present.

At the invitation of the Commission, Mr. Bradford Williams of 62 Bellevue Street, Newton, a landscape architect recommended by His Honor, Mayor Weeks, was present to give to the Playground Commission his ideas of what type of development should be undertaken in Edmands Park.

He recommended naturalistic development and said that what had been done could easily be adapted to this type of landscape architecture. He explained at some length some of the features of such a development and pointed out that as far as possible the work finally should resemble unspoiled nature and that man-made structures should be minimized and that where houses, etc., were visible from within the park these should be hidden by appropriate planting. He felt that such an idea would not interfere with the park being used for winter sports such as tobogganing, skiing and skating.

He strongly urged the Playground Commission to consider the acquisition of the hills on the east side of the playground towards the Harriman property and the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart. This should be done in order to insure a greater natural effect and to prevent if possible the erection of buildings which would interfere with the naturalistic setting.

At the request of the Commission for his terms Mr. Williams suggested that he thought it would be best to go ahead with a general plan for the development of this park. He felt that the usual charge of \$5.00 per hour for his time plus office expenses would be the best possible business arrangement rather than setting a fixed sum which might be based on commission.

Since the work of the E. R. A. was to be continued for some time it was agreed that the general plans should be prepared as soon as possible and after the Playground Commission had accepted this plan that it be submitted to the City Government for its approval in order to prevent hasty changes being made later on.

The Playground Commission voted unanimously to engage Mr. Bradford Williams as their architect for the planning of this naturalistic park and accepted the terms of \$5.00 per hour for his time and office expenses it being

understood that for the current year only \$1,000.00 were available.

The Superintendent stated that he would communicate with the City Solicitor to draw-up some form of contract.

The Playground Commission agreed to meet again as soon as Mr. Bradford Williams was ready to submit his first tentative plans:

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:D

## Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held

December 20, 1935

Messrs. Carter, Chairman, Speare, Henry, Bruce, Mrs. Marshall and Superintendent Hermann were present.

Mr. Bradford Williams presented his suggestions for the development of Edmands Park and with the help of two large prints explained at some detail the proposed development. He explained that the terrain was ideally adapted for a naturalistic park. In such a development it would be of importance to eliminate the possibility of man-made structures such as houses dominating the vistas which would be created. Such construction as the present dike, the concrete over-flow, etc., could easily be adapted by adding some rough stone work.

He particularly pointed out the significance of the hill on the northeast side of the present property. This hill dominates the whole park and if houses are built, as they are likely to be since a street has already been laid out, it would seriously affect the whole scheme.

Upon question of one of the Commissioners if the proposed development of the city owned land could not be carried out without the hill being included, he said that this development could be made but that the hill would enhance the whole scheme greatly.

The Playground Commission by unanimous vote approved the preliminary plans submitted by Mr. Williams. The Playground Commission also voted that it is important for the future of this great property that the hill on the northeast side as indicated on Mr. Williams' plan be acquired by the city and also that Colby Road should be closed for public uses.

The Playground Commission also voted to have the Superintendent of Playgrounds consult with His Honor, the Mayor, about the advisability of acquiring this hill and the necessary steps to be taken to accomplish this. The Playground Commission also unanimously voted and instructed Mr. Williams to proceed with the detail planning of the north end of the park which included the grading and reshaping of the pond and the grading of the proposed parking area.

The Commission adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann

Superintendent of Playgrounds

## TELEPHONE AND MAIL VOTE

1935

## July 1 TELEPHONE VOTE

On the first of July 1935 Superintendent Hermann personally called each Playground Commissioner regarding the use of Cabot Playground for Circus purposes on July 6, 1935, by the Newton Lodge of Elks #1327. Mr. Hermann explained that the circus was in every way a first-class affair and that the Newton Lodge of Elks would get a percentage of the income of this Circus for use in their charitable work.

Each Playground Commissioner approved, with the provision that the applicants were made thoroughly familiar with the rules set-up on May 21, 1934. These rules cover the use of playgrounds for special affairs.

## November 6 MAIL VOTE

On November 6, 1935 a mail vote was requested by the Superintendent after he had forwarded to each of the Commissioners a copy of the minutes of the meeting held November 5, 1935 with Mr. Bradford Williams at Edmands Park.

Each Playground Commissioner approved Mr. Hermann's interpretation of Mr. Williams' terms, etc., at the meeting at Edmands Park.

EH:K



COMMISSION MEETINGS

1 9 3 6

Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held February 17, 1936

The Playground Commission met February 17, 1936 at City Hall. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Messrs. Henry and Bruce and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The annual budget, as submitted by the Superintendent, was then considered item by item and in a general way the Superintendent's budget was approved.

The main recommendation of \$3,000.00 for supervision was especially discussed. The Superintendent explained that it was high time that a few all year round permanent directors be engaged. There are now several experienced and well trained directors on the playground force who under the present system of part-time, recurrent, employment receive about \$1,000.00 a year. By starting with a rate of about \$1,600.00 for all year round employment, it was Mr. Hermann's opinion that we could meet the new problems of the youth of Newton by using these directors a few evenings a week in practically every district of Newton.

Mr. Bruce argued against the expansion of supervision at this time. It was finally decided to ask for an additional appropriation of \$1,000.00 which would enable the Department to put two directors on the year round employment list.

The Playground Commission also voted to submit to His Honor, the Mayor, the request of the School Department for various kinds of new construction totaling approximately \$20,000.00 as a supplementary budget without comments.

The Playground Commission also discussed at length the necessity of sanitary buildings on all playgrounds. The policy of adding such buildings annually as they were needed was interrupted owing to the general business depression some years ago. It was felt however that such extraordinary construction should not be part of the regular annual budget. It was decided that if the Committee on the Mayor's Address had passed on the recommendation for a sanitary building for Hawthorne Playground favorably the Playground Commission might then make a special request to the City Government for an appropriation for a sanitary building.

The Superintendent reported on the request of the National Youth Administration to establish some part-time recreation centers in various parts of the City to help in putting young men and young women to work who needed employment.

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held February 17, 1936

The Superintendent explained that there were some demands in several parts of the City for such work. With the help of the National Youth Administration in Boston a number of young people with certain qualifications to carry on these activities have been selected. The Youth Administration allows only people in need to be employed but they do allow one trained supervisor who does not necessarily need to meet the requirements of those needing financial assistance.

The Superintendent has recommended Mr. Shaughnessy to be the supervisor for this project. It was explained that two or three evenings a week recreational activities would be conducted in the Nonantum Boys' Club, the Hamilton School in Lower Falls, the Newton Centre Recreation Building, St. Mary's Hall in Upper Falls and West Newton Community Centre at the Davis School.

Mr. Bruce doubted the effectiveness of this whole scheme since it required the employment of untrained leaders. He further doubted its value on account of limited continuity and the uncertainty of its being carried on for any length of time.

The Commission did not take a vote on this matter but it seemed to be the opinion of the majority that some good might be accomplished.

The Superintendent submitted several plans from Mr. Bradford Williams, the chosen architect for the designing of Edmands Park. The plans showed the development of the north end of the park which will have to serve more or less as the parking area. The Playground Commission approved these designs and expressed itself unanimously in favor of continuing the planning of this valuable tract of land.

An item for Architect's Expenses of \$2,000.00 was entered in the budget. The Superintendent explained that with the acceptance of these plans and the payment of the bill of \$950.00 for the first contract the further planning would have to cease until a further appropriation is made.

The Playground Commission considered the acquisition of further land adjoining the Allison Playground which would make practically a continuous playground by joining Allison and Victory Playgrounds. Since the Committee on the Mayor's Address had not yet reported it was decided to take this matter up at a later meeting.

The Playground Commission authorized the Superintendent of Playgrounds to send to Mr. Frank L. Richardson a unanimous vote of the Playground Commission gratefully accepting the offer of land between Beethoven Avenue and Allen Avenue. Before doing this the Superintendent was instructed to consult again with Mr. Bartlett, the City Solicitor, and with Mrs. George Angier whose property would be directly opposite this playground.

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held February 17, 1936

The Playground Commission also voted to take the necessary steps for the acquisition of additional land particularly the hill dominating the Edmands Park property on the west side and to close Colby Street to regular traffic.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:K

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

The Playground Commission met at City Hall at 7:30 this evening. Messrs. Carter, Henry, Bruce, Mrs. Marshall and Superintendent Hermann present. The minutes of the previous meeting, a copy of which had been mailed earlier to every Commissioner, were approved.

Mr. Carter told the Commissioners that it would be in order to elect a president, explaining that there might be a change in ordinances which might in the future have the City Government designate the Chairman of the Playground Commission. Mr. Bruce moved and Mrs. Marshall seconded the nomination of Mr. Albert P. Carter for Chairman of the Playground Commission. Mrs. Marshall put this motion to a vote and Mr. Carter was unanimously elected.

The Playground Commission then considered in some detail the various communications from the Board of Aldermen which are as follows:

To the Members of the Playground Commission;

Gentlemen:

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Newton, on recommendation of the Select Committee on Mayor's Address, voted to refer the following matters to the Playground Commission:

- A. Enlargement of the Allison Playground, with the recommendation that the necessary steps be taken to acquire land, with estimate of cost, and request for appropriation.
- B. Enlargement of the playground of Day Junior High School, with request for estimate of cost and request for appropriation.
- C. Service Building for Hawthorne St. playground, with recommendation that a definite proposition be submitted to the Public Buildings Committee with estimate of cost and request for appropriation.

Very truly yours,

FRANK M. GRANT (Signed)

City Clerk.

FMG:KEK

To the Members of the Playground Commission of the City of Newton:

Gentlemen:

- D. The Board of Aldermen, at meeting held on March 16, 1936,

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

voted to refer to the Playground Commission Petition No. 73632, signed by a large number of residents of Newton Upper Falls Playground a building to house the social and recreational affairs of that community, or that the City purchase and maintain the building known as The Pettee Inn on Oak Street, Ward 5, for the same purpose.

The Board requests that you make a study of this matter, and report to His Honor the Mayor.

The above action was taken on the recommendation of the Committee on Public Buildings.

Very truly yours,

FRANK M. GRANT (Signed)

FMG:KEK

City Clerk.

**A. ENLARGEMENT OF THE ALLISON PLAYGROUND:** The Playground Commission unanimously voted to recommend the acquisition of the following parcels of land #1, 2, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and the closing of Rustic Street as a public highway to a line opposite lots #2 and 26.

The acquisition of this land will unite what is now known as the Allison and the Victory Playgrounds making it possible to develop a good sized park playground for Nonantum.

The Superintendent called attention to the possibility of the Metropolitan driveway being extended from the Watertown bridge through Nonantum towards Waltham. Since one of the plans would carry this highway along the Charles River the possibilities would be that this would not only reduce the area of this playground but would also take away the safe recreation of children and adults along the water-front and thus spoil the last opportunity for Nonantum to have a fair-sized recreation park.

The Playground Commission unanimously recommended that the necessary steps be taken by the City to prevent this project being executed by the State.

**B. ENLARGEMENT OF THE PLAYGROUND OF DAY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:** The Playground Commission instructed the Superintendent to prepare a detailed report with plans covering this project of the enlargement of the Frank A. Day Junior High School including a possible recommendation for the acquisition of land adjoining the Albemarle Golf Course.

**C. SERVICE BUILDING FOR HAWTHORNE ST. PLAYGROUND:** The Superintendent submitted various ideas on the location and type of building. He showed sketch plans prepared by the Building Department. He pointed out that there is in existence a building approximately 80 x 35' made of concrete blocks which formerly

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

was a machine shop and later on was used as a service building and is now used as a repair shop. The Superintendent submitted figures showing that this building could be made into a very serviceable building and give at the same time a fair-sized playroom at a cost of about \$8,000.00.

He also submitted figures about the lot and the building quoting that the lots could be bought for about \$400.00 and the building for about \$1,000.00.

The Superintendent further pointed out, showing blue prints of the parcels of land which make up the Hawthorne Street Playground, that this whole playground was rather irregular in size and shape and that in consequence there is a badly hidden corner. He also stated that the building in question was troublesome since it had a large expansion of windows along the playground side. He said that in order to protect these windows he had to erect a very large wire screen since the building was not owned by the City. This wire screen had to be put parallel to the outside of the building. If the building were owned the screen could hug the side of the building. The Playground Commission voted unanimously to acquire this land with building and when more detailed figures regarding the purchase etc. are available the Commission will request an appropriation to cover the completion of this project. In the matter of planning, erection and maintenance of buildings the Playground Commission also voted unanimously that it would continue the practice of many years of having its buildings planned, erected, and maintained by the City of Newton Building Department.

(Before dictating the minutes of this meeting this morning the Superintendent in thinking over the whole of this project during the intervening time came to the conclusion that the figures given for the building and lot could not possibly be right. In taking this matter up again this morning with the Board of Assessors it was found that an error had been made. The Assessors having a number of parcels of land and buildings owned by the same party placed a figure of \$1,000.00 for the building in the wrong column. The Superintendent then found out that the assessed valuation of the building is \$6,000.00 and the lot \$500.00. The Superintendent will call the attention of the Playground Commission to this error at their next meeting, Thursday, April 9th.)

D. COMMUNITY BUILDING ON THE UPPER FALLS PLAYGROUND: The Playground Commission voted unanimously to have the Superintendent make a report on the location of such a building and the approximate cost. Such report and recommendations to include the possibility of a comprehensive plan but with a view of erecting part of such a building with additions to be made in later years.

The Superintendent read a communication from the School Board which is as follows:

"Before granting the application of the American Legion

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

for the use of the high school field on July 4, the School Committee would like the opinion of the Playground Commission as to the desirability of such use, and information as to the activities which are to be carried on and as to where the responsibility is to be placed for the re-conditioning of the grounds or any other damage which may be caused."

"We would appreciate your placing this matter before the Commission, and would like as early a reply as possible."

Very truly yours,

GEORGE KELLAR (Signed)

GK:GB

Secretary

He also explained in detail what the American Legion intended to do on this Fourth of July celebration. He also gave a list of activities to be conducted by the American Legion.

The Playground Commission unanimously voted to send the School Board a copy of the rules and regulations pertaining to the use of playgrounds for special purposes and than an opinion as to the damages which might result to the field be added.

In the reading of the minutes of this meeting at the next subsequent meeting Thursday evening, April 9th, the Playground Commission suggested that the letter sent to Mr. George Kellar, Secretary of the School Committee be made part of this record. The letter is as follows:

Dear Mr. Kellar:

"In reply to your communication regarding an application of the American Legion for the use of the High School field on July 4th, the Playground Commission desires to call attention to the rules which were formulated some time ago in respect to the use of playgrounds for special purposes.

I am requested to submit to you a copy of these rules and regulations.

Since the American Legion, Newton Post #48, sent this department a letter explaining the various set-ups which they intend to make on this occasion and since they have submitted with this also a list of booths and their purposes, I am enclosing a copy of their proposed activities, some of which may come under the heading of games of chance.

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

As far as the damage done to the field is concerned the Playground Commission believe it to be a minor factor since it will involve the use of an area of Claflin Field which has not yet been reconstructed.

According to information received directly from ~~the~~ the American Legion, Newton Post #48, the Post would place all its structures in conformity with the suggestions of the Superintendent of Playgrounds and in places where they would do but little damage.

Respectfully yours,

ERNST HERMANN (Signed)

Secretary,  
Playground Commission

Encs:  
EH:K

The Superintendent then read a communication received by him from the Secretary of the School Committee of the City of Newton which reads as follows:

"Mr. Warren probably informed you in his recent conference with you that we have been operating a general department of the Trade School in the Peirce School building for the past two years. This group is composed of those pupils who cannot successfully carry on a regular junior high school program and must be provided with some type of practical education.

It has been very successful but has unfortunately outgrown its accommodations which, at best, have never been adequate.

In searching for larger and more adequate housing facilities, the School Committee feels that the Hamilton School offers the best opportunity for this work. This school at present is operated at less than one-half of its capacity and has no prospects of any particular growth in the future.

It will be necessary, however, to have basement space for shop activities in order to carry on the program and the School Committee has voted to request you to grant to them the use of basement space at the west end of the building. The amount required would take in the two small rooms at the west end and approximately sixty feet in length of the basement room. Under this arrangement, the School Committee will take over the care of the two toilet rooms.

If this request can be granted, it will be greatly appreciated by the School Committee and will allow them to carry on in a proper way what they consider a very valuable service.

An early reply will be appreciated inasmuch as we have considerable work to do in order to prepare the building for

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

occupancy before the close of the present school year."

Yours very truly,

GEORGE KELLAR (Signed)

GK:GB

Secretary

The Playground Commission voted unanimously to cooperate to the fullest with the School Department and its present needs, believing, that it would be only a temporary loss of space for recreation purposes.

Since the use of the toilet facilities on one end for boys and men and on the other end for girls and women is of great importance during recreation hours the Playground Commission recommends that a plan be worked out between the Superintendent of Playgrounds and the Superintendent of Schools which will insure the use of these facilities during playground hours.

The Chairman, Mr. Carter, then addressed the Commission on the matter of W. P. A. projects. He explained that there seemed to be in his own mind and in the mind of others the idea that perhaps the Playground Commission was not fully responsible for the relief work going on on various playgrounds. The Superintendent briefly gave the history of these various types of undertakings which started originally as projects under Mayor Weeks' Relief Administration. The Superintendent felt that there had never been any doubt in his mind as to the full responsibility of the Playground Commission for these projects; that all the planning had always been prepared by the Playground Department just like all the other construction and other problems which have been prepared and executed by him in the past as far as playgrounds were concerned. He explained that the selection of the foremen, the laborers, timekeepers, etc. was in charge of Mr. Young. He prepares estimates, secures all necessary figures for the tools, materials, trucks, etc. from the heads of the City Departments. He submits the projects involving various departments to the Mayor who decides which projects are to be submitted to the W. P. A. Mr. Young had a very large force of clerks. The pay for labor was entirely a matter of the government and Mr. Young was handling that part also for the government.

The Superintendent of Playgrounds had held himself entirely responsible for the carrying out of the various projects believing that this was the procedure under which he had always worked by authority of the Playground Commission. He explained that the selection of the projects had been a matter entirely attended to by the former Mayor. Many of the projects were chosen, first, because the Playground Commission had available

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

lands; second, the Playground Commission had plans for the development of these various parcels of land at the time the emergency arose; third, the Playground Commission had the reputation of getting work done.

Although the selection of the laborers, foremen and time-keepers is entirely in the hands of Mr. Young and his department, the Superintendent of Playgrounds had supervisory authority and had decided influence on the continuing of men, etc.

Estimates for tools, materials, etc. were always requested, in many instances hurriedly, by the former Mayor and the recommendations for the appropriations had always been made by the Board of Aldermen directly at the request of Mayor Weeks and only in one instance was the Superintendent called in to explain the figures submitted for materials, tools, etc.

The Playground Commission voted to familiarize itself with some of the details of the various projects now in operation. They will meet Thursday, April 9th, on the Allison Playground and then continue around over the various projects.

Mr. Bruce during this discussion injected some pertinent facts about the approach to the Auburndale Playground by way of West Pine Street. The Superintendent explained that this was an unaccepted street and that legally no improvements could be made by any Department of the City of Newton. Since this whole matter of the Auburndale Playground involved the development of a parking area he suggested that the Playground Commission vote for additional land and if additional land were approved a safer approach to the Auburndale Playground could be easily made.

The Superintendent then explained a new W. P. A. project and requested the consideration of the Playground Commission involving this survey of the City of Newton recreational facilities and a study of delinquency. He said that he hoped that such a survey would either prove or disprove the influence of organized recreation on delinquency. He explained that the government was very anxious to put to work men and women of the so-called white collar class. He read a communication from Mr. Harold Young, the agent of the W. P. A. in Newton and submitted a detailed outline of this project as far as the cost is concerned. He pointed out further that Mr. Young had already secured the Mayor's approval of this project. Several Playground Commissioners expressed themselves in favor of this project and the Commission voted unani- mously their approval of this project. The whole project is to be under the direct control and supervision of the Superintendent of Playgrounds.

In considering the matter of additional land on the east side of Edmands Park the Playground Commission felt that it had previously decided and voted that necessary steps be taken for the

Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 6, 1936

approval of Mayor Childs to extend the probable cost of purchase of this additional land also that a recommendation be sent to the Mayor closing Colby Street as a public highway.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:K

## MINUTES OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING HELD APRIL 9, 1936

Messrs. Carter, Henry, Bruce, Mrs. Marshall and Superintendent Hermann were present Thursday, April 9th, when the Playground Commission met at the proposed parking area in Edmands Park at 4:00 in the afternoon.

After an inspection of the new pond, dike and the new slope, being developed, the Playground Commission were taken by Mr. Carter on a trip of inspection.

At the first project W. P. A. #65-14-3195, at Cold Spring, the Superintendent explained in detail what had been done. He also pointed out the boundary and what would probably be done under the present approved project. He showed also how a saving of \$4,500.00 in material had been made by salvaging a great amount of loam and reshaping one of the hills to get gravel fill. The Superintendent also expressed his opinion on the need for further acquisition of land on the north end. He called attention to the fact that Mr. Ryder, through his real estate agent, has offered the City about six acres adjoining the present city property.

The Playground Commission then visited the Upper Falls playground making on the way down a casual inspection of the Pettee Inn. Mr. Bruce during the trip had called the attention of the Commission to the fact that he had received inquiries about the unfinished job of the lower area of the Upper Falls Playground where the sewer construction had been apparently completed. The Superintendent said that as soon as the Engineer gave the word the Playground Commission would loam the area through which the sewer had been built and seed it again to grass. He said that this was one of the most successful children's and girl's playground and should be returned to the use of the children as early as possible since it was a most natural lay-out in beauty and utility and far superior for summer play than the playground adjoining the Emerson School.

The Playground Commission then looked over the playground which was developed back of the Emerson School.

The Commission then went to the Auburndale Playground. On the way they passed the Hamilton School on the Newton Lower Falls Playground. The various improvements, additions, etc., to the Auburndale Playground were then inspected and the Playground Commission discussed further the possibilities of a better and larger parking area. This would involve additional land - a strip on each side of West Pine Street. Mr. Bruce told the Commission that he had received inquiries about making improvements on West Pine Street. The Superintendent mentioned the fact that no improvements could be made by any Department of the City on unaccepted streets. He further cautioned against making the road through the Auburndale Playground a regular automobile road. Should it be developed and become a legal through-way or a regular approach to the playground it would endanger the play of the children in a recreation park which is already somewhat narrow. The Playground Commission felt

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 9, 1936

that these improvements should be kept in mind as a necessity for finally getting the best possible use out of this valuable property.

On the way from the Auburndale Playground, by way of Commonwealth Avenue, the Playground Commission paid a visit to the Wellington Playground, the Eden Avenue Playground and then casually inspected the land adjoining the Albemarle Golf Course along Albemarle Road which might be considered as an athletic field for the F. A. Day Junior High School.

The next inspection was the playground back of the new Nevada Street School. The Superintendent explained the main features of the proposed development. The Playground Commissioners complimented Mr. Henry as the Architect of the Nevada Street School on the beauty of the building.

The next visit was made to the Allison Playground starting at the end of Rustic Street and first looking over the proposed parcels of land to be added to the playground in order to make one continuous park playground of Allison Playground and Victory Field. The Playground Commission noted particularly the narrow strip owned by the Metropolitan District Commission.

The last visit was made to the Hawthorne Playground where the proposed purchase of a small shop adjoining the playground was considered.

The Commissioners then returned to the starting place and adjourned to meet again after supper.

ADJOURNED MEETING HELD AT CITY HALL APRIL 9, 1936, 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. Bruce, Mrs. Marshall and Superintendent Hermann present.

The Playground Commission considered the probable cuts to be made by the Board of Aldermen on the Annual Budget and authorized the Superintendent to make the necessary adjustments wherever such cuts appear. On the item of New Construction which was cut in half by the Finance Committee and which had already previously been cut by His Honor, Mayor Childs, the Playground Commission reserved further decision believing that it might be well to ascertain from the Finance Committee their intention how the cuts were to be applied.

The Superintendent called attention to an error made in the estimate of the probable cost of the lot and building adjoining the Hawthorne Playground the purchase of which was previously recommended for a sanitary building. Through some error in the numbering of the property in the Assessor's books

Adjourned Meeting Held at City Hall April 9, 1936 - 8:00 p.m.

the valuation given was faulty. The valuation is as follows:  
Land \$500.00 Building \$6,000.00.

After discussion the Playground Commission voted again to recommend the purchase of this land and building and its development along plans suggested by the Building Commissioner as a sanitary building.

The Superintendent called attention to the Playground Institute which is being held in Boston under the National Recreation Association, National Youth Administration and the Works Progress Administration. He said that he had sent circulars of this institute to every director, assistant director and apprentice; that a large percentage of the instructors were taking one or more courses and therefore he deemed it inadvisable this year to have our own institute. The Playground Commission approved this.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:K



CITY OF NEWTON  
In Board of Aldermen

74025

May 4, 1936

ORDINANCE NO. 112

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF NEWTON AS FOLLOWS:

Section 129 of the Revised Ordinances of 1929 be  
and is hereby amended by adding the following new sentence;

"The Mayor shall designate the Chairman of the  
Commission, subject to confirmation by the Board of  
Aldermen."

So that said section as amended will read as  
follows:

Section 129. The Playground Commission shall  
consist of five citizens to be appointed by the  
Mayor, which commission shall have and exercise the  
powers provided by law. The Mayor shall annually  
appoint such number of members of said commission  
as shall equal the number of members whose terms  
expire in the following March, each such person to  
be appointed for the term of three years beginning  
with the first Monday of March in the year of the  
appointment and until their respective successors  
are appointed. The Mayor shall designate the Chair-  
man of the Commission, subject to confirmation by  
the Board of Aldermen. Vacancies may, in like man-  
ner, be filled for the unexpired term.

Approved as to form and legal character:

JOSEPH W. BARTLETT, City Solicitor

Under suspension of rules  
Read twice and ~~adopted~~ passed to be ordained,  
21 yeas

Approved May 6, 1936

Edwin O. Childs, Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON  
In Board of Aldermen

74025

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JOSEPH W. BARTLETT, City Solicitor

Under suspension of rules

Read twice and ~~adopted~~ passed to be ordained,

21 yeas

Approved May 6, 1936

Edwin O. Childs, Mayor

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held May 4, 1936

The Playground Commission met at the office of the Department at eight o'clock in the evening of May 4, 1936. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall and Messrs. Henry and Bruce and Superintendent Hermann present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Commission considered the budget item of \$2,000.00 allowed for new construction. The Superintendent reported that it seemed to be the intention of the Finance Committee that this appropriation be used for the construction of tennis courts on what is known as the Wellington Playground in West Newton. He referred particularly to a letter he had received in answer to his inquiry of Mr. Bowen, Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Since the appropriation does not cover the cost of three tennis courts the Superintendent pointed out that from figures received the amount of \$2,000.00 would not be sufficient to construct two tennis courts and that it might be done only if he constructed them with his own help as far as the surfacing were concerned. The fencing would of course have to be done by one of the fence makers in Newton. The Superintendent gave somewhat detailed information why two courts could not be constructed as cheaply as three, raising the cost per court.

The Superintendent further pointed out the value of tarvia lithic surface when compared with clay surface: The initial expense is about the same but the maintenance cost is from six to eight times as high on clay courts as on tarvia lithic courts. The resiliency is not quite the same as clay but it has proven a splendid substitute for clay. He further pointed out that the number of play days per year were more than quadrupled on tarvia lithic courts when compared with clay courts since the matter of fall frost and the frost coming out of the ground in the spring would not influence tarvia lithic surfaces. He mentioned particularly that a great many young people had to be accommodated and the number of playing days should materially affect the consideration of the type of surface. There are however in every district now some young people who are quite proficient in tennis and they naturally prefer clay courts since most tournaments are still held on clay courts. The number of such players in a district is of course small when compared with the number using the courts regularly.

The Playground Commission unanimously expressed itself in favor of tarvia lithic surface but on account of public opinion in West Newton they thought it would be well to ascertain from the Aldermen most familiar with public opinion in West Newton what kind of surface were wanted. The Superintendent was authorized to consult with the Aldermen of West Newton and if they also agreed that the tarvia lithic surface should be installed, to go ahead with the construction.

It was agreed that since the existing tennis court at Levi

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held May 4, 1936

Warren Junior High School had tarvia lithic surface which extended into the second court already that this set should be entirely tarvia lithic.

The Playground Commission approved the charitable Horse Show to be held on the Newton Centre Playground on the north end, May 16th.

Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Marshall stated that they were very frequently approached by candidates for positions on the directing staff of the Playground Department. It was pointed out that the Commission had always referred any such matters to the Superintendent of Playgrounds. Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Marshall both stated that they had referred such applications to the Superintendent of Playgrounds and might add statements about the applicant's training and qualifications if they knew about them.

The Superintendent reported progress on the planning and the estimating of a Neighborhood Building on the Upper Falls Playground. He pointed out that such a building should be planned as had been the custom by the Building Commissioner and in talking with him he said that he had no funds to engage an architect and he advised the Playground Commission to ask for an appropriation of \$500.00 for the making of tentative plans and estimate of probable cost.

The Commission unanimously voted to request the City Government for an appropriation of \$500.00 to be made to the Building Department for the purpose of planning a recreation building for Upper Falls.

Mr. Bruce mentioned that he had been at a meeting of about fifty prominent ladies of Newton at which definite criticism of some of our personnel had been made. He mentioned that he had told the Superintendent about this before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted;

ERNST HERMANN (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:K

Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held June 22, 1936

The Playground Commission met at the call of the Chairman at City Hall this evening. Mr. Carter, Chairman, Mrs. Marshall, Mr. Bruce and Superintendent Hermann present.

The meeting was called to discuss in a general way some recommendations which were made by members of the City Government that there ought to be an Assistant Superintendent in the Department.

The Superintendent reported that there is no formal vote on the part of the Board of Aldermen or the Finance Committee recommending the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent and that in the opinion of His Honor, the Mayor, there was no reason for doing so at this time and no funds available for this year.

The Superintendent explained in detail the history of the present set-up and its workings. He pointed out the great economy by having part-time workers and men and women available at any time when the need for extended supervision arises.

The practice of engaging school men was started twenty years ago when the School Department was in need of men for the upper grammar grades and the School Board and the Playground Department jointly hired men for the schools and for the playgrounds Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturdays all day.

The Superintendent read a number of records of supervisors, directors and assistant directors who had been in the department for many years. He said that a list of their personal and educational history was constantly kept up to date and that these factors about the employees of the department were at all times available.

The Playground Commission considered at some length the present set-up for supervision and the need of a far-sighted policy which would insure the continuity of the present set-up. No final decision was reached.

The Superintendent was requested to furnish to members of the Playground Commission the dates of playground festivals and other events which might be conducted during the summer season.

The Superintendent explained the request of the Newton Centre Women's Club for the use of the north end of the Newton Centre Playground; the proceeds to be used for charitable work. The request was originally for June 26th, but at the present time it seemed as though this date might have to be postponed. The Playground Commission approved a permit being granted to the Newton Centre Women's Club for this purpose.

Mr. Bruce called attention to the fact that the Chamber of Commerce was trying to get the City to dispose of about one quarter of a million dollars worth of property which the City holds

Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held June 22, 1936

on tax titles, etc. The Playground Commission thought that it might be well for the Superintendent to ascertain where these properties were located and if a study of some of this property proves that it would materially enhance the playground development in Newton to make a report which might influence the City Government to hold such lands against future public needs for playgrounds.

Respectfully submitted,  
ERNST HERMANN (Signed)  
Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:K

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held October 26, 1936

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held this evening at 7:30 in the office of the department. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. Lyscom a Bruce, and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present.

The first item of business was a consideration of the orders #74643 and #74792 of the Board of Aldermen. These orders read as follows:

#74643

ORDERED

That the Playground Commission be and is hereby authorized to accept deed of gift of land from Mr. Frank L. Richardson, containing about 130,000 square feet, located between Allen Avenue and Beethoven Avenue, Ward 5, shown on the Assessors' Plans as Section 57, Block 11, Lots 3 and 4, for park and playground purposes with conditions expressed in the deed and deed to be in form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

It is hereby further ORDERED that His Honor the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to convey to Mr. Richardson thanks of the City for this generous gift.

ORDERED

#74792

That Order No. 74643, adopted by the Board of Aldermen September 23rd, 1936, be and is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:

"And it is further ORDERED, that the City assume the taxes on said land assessed as of January 1st, 1936."





## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held October 26, 1936

The Playground Commission next considered the petition from the Horace Mann District Association, Newtonville, Massachusetts in which William J. Hannon, Ernest Sullivan and others request the establishment of a larger playground which is to serve the district as well as the F. A. Day Junior High School. The Playground Commission unanimously voted that a communication be sent to the Association stating that the Playground Commission is heartily in favor of such a project and that it will be given most careful consideration. The Playground Commission agrees that a reasonably sized playground in the vicinity of the Horace Mann Playground and the F. A. Day Junior High School is a public necessity.

The Playground Commission discussed the letter of complaint of Mr. Carl L. Grip in which he severely criticizes the placement of horse shoe pitching courts on the Horace Mann Playground. The Superintendent reported that he had taken this matter up verbally and in writing with Mr. Grip and that the above petition made by the Horace Mann District Association was an outcome of these complaints of Mr. Grip. The Superintendent believes that for the time being no further steps need to be taken. He also stated that the members of the association individually and collectively cooperated most heartily with the playground department to minimize the "nuisance" of horse shoe pitching contests of which Mr. Grip complained.

The Superintendent reported upon the matter of vacant land and tax title land which was brought to the attention of the Playground Commission at a previous meeting. On October 3, 1936 the Superintendent consulted Mr. Bartlett who said that he, with the chairman of the Board of Assessors, was trying to get a W. P. A. project to make a survey of tax title land, etc., in Newton.

Mr. Bartlett stated that this survey was to include the charting of all these parcels of land in Newton; second, that it was to evaluate them; third, that it was to list them; fourth, that the survey was to make a report to all department heads. They were to study the parcels and to advise if such parcels could be used now, in the near future, or in the distant future. Mr. Bartlett agreed with the Superintendent that there was no need for separate study on the part of the Playground Commission at this time.

Mrs. Marshall expressed her strong conviction that a playground in the vicinity of the Ward School was necessary. The Playground Commission requested the Superintendent to bring in a report as to possibilities of a playground being acquired in this region.

The Playground Commission also agreed that plans should be started for the development of the Webster Playground in Newton Centre. The Superintendent reported that Alderman Jamieson had inquired about the status of this playground and he also inquired about a fence on the West side of the John W. Weeks Jr. High athletic field.

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held October 26, 1936

Mr. Bruce brought up the matter of the statement in the paper purporting to come from Alderman Cronin regarding some matters affecting the Lower Falls Playground. The Playground Commission thought that the Superintendent's letter to Alderman Cronin in answer to his inquiry was all that seemed to be needed.

The Superintendent reported briefly that the Allison, Nevada, and Edmands Park W. P. A. projects on the Auburndale and Cold Spring Playgrounds were temporarily suspended. The fencing on the Newton Centre Playground along Tyler Terrace was also a W. P. A. project sponsored by the Street Department. A new floor is being laid in the Newton Centre Playground House. This is sponsored by the Building Department. The inside and outside painting in the Crystal Lake Bath house was a W. P. A. project also under the sponsorship of the Building Department.

The Superintendent submitted a tentative list of major developments on the Newton Playgrounds during the year 1936 to date made by the labor force of the department. He stated that this list was not complete. He thought it would be of interest to see what had been accomplished this year in the improvements of the various playgrounds in lay-out and equipment. He said that this work was being done during the months when the regular maintenance work is less intensive.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann (Signed)

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:EE

## TELEPHONE AND MAIL VOTES

1936

May 19, 1936 TELEPHONE VOTE

The Playground Commission approved going ahead with original plans to finish the two courts at the Levi Warren Junior High School and build two courts at Wellington Playground instead of adopting Mr. Hutchinson's suggestion of building three courts at Wellington and completing only one at Levi Warren Junior High School.

September 2, 1936 TELEPHONE VOTE

The Playground Commission approved a permit being given to Bernard D. Farrell for a baseball game with softball and with a flood lighting system on the West Newton Playground on Wednesday Evening, September 9. The vote of the Playground Commission taken over the telephone by Mr. Hermann was unanimous.

November 25, 1936 MAIL VOTE

The Playground Commission approved asking for an additional appropriation of \$500 for skating supervision.

December 19, 1936 MAIL VOTE

The Playground Commission approved asking for an additional appropriation of \$700 for Maintenance.

EE



COMMISSION MEETINGS  
1937



## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held February 25, 1937

The Playground Commission meeting was held on February 25 at 4 p. m. at the City Hall, office of the Superintendent. Chairman, Mr. Albert P. Carter, Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present.

Mr. Kellar, because it was his first meeting with the Commission, was heartily greeted by the members of the Playground Commission.

It was voted to postpone the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting to the next meeting of the Commission.

It was voted to authorize the Superintendent to urge the planting of trees on all our playgrounds where needed this season. The Superintendent pointed out that the planting and care of trees comes under the Forestry Division of the Street Department and that he had previously seen Mr. Rogers, the Superintendent of that department. Mr. Rogers assured him that he had again placed an appropriation for new trees in his budget. The Superintendent was directed to send a special letter to His Honor, Mayor Childs urging the planting of trees on the Newton Playgrounds.

The Webster Playground in Newton Centre was next considered. It was voted to authorize the Superintendent to stop dumping on this area providing sufficient fill had been deposited. The Superintendent was requested to prepare some plans for further development of this playground.

The matter of a wider approach to the Cold Spring Playground by way of Duncklee Street was then considered. The Superintendent submitted the plan and suggestions for the widening of the right-of-way now in existence from 8' to 24' according to plans made by the City Engineer. The Superintendent pointed out that the Board of Aldermen would first have to approve and appropriate the money for this purpose. The City Solicitor has recommended that this right-of-way be bought as a part of the playground and not as a part of the street system.

The matter of regular meetings was again brought up by Mr. Bruce. It was agreed that some regular time for meetings might be planned but that further consideration be given to this matter at the next meeting of the Commission. The next meeting was tentatively planned for April 8 or 15 at 7 p. m. depending on the annual budget being passed by the City Government.

The Playground Commission considered in detail the budget for 1937 as submitted by Mr. Hermann. The following budget was approved by the Playground Commission:

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held February 25, 1937

PLAYGROUND DEPARTMENT	1937 Department Rec.	Actual Appropriation* April 9, 1937
Salaries:		
Superintendent	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Clerical Assistance	2,547.50	2,547.50
Temporary Clerk	300.00	300.00
Directors	32,000.00	32,000.00
Office Expenses	785.00	785.00
Travel Expenses out of State	200.00	200.00
Auto Maintenance	1,200.00	1,200.00
Maintenance	37,320.36	36,320.36
Replacement of Equipment	3,280.00	3,280.00
Construction	10,426.00	10,426.00
New Equipment	1,700.00	900.00
Outside Charges	35.00	35.00
Care and Alterations Elem. Sch. Grounds	<u>7,100.00</u>	<u>6,550.00</u>
	\$99,893.86	\$97,543.86

\* The 1937 appropriation which was passed by the Board of Aldermen April 9 is herewith added for convenient comparison.

The item of Directors which showed \$3,500 over the same item for 1936 was given considerable attention. It was voted to request this as one item for the purpose of developing neighborhood centres during the winter months in Upper Falls and Thompsonville. This sum would also enable the department to make some slight additions in the daily wage schedule of the directors who deserve some consideration owing to long and faithful service. Some of the money might also be used for assistance to the Superintendent.

The item under Maintenance which included an additional \$500 for rental and janitor service, if the N. Y. A. work is to continue another year, received some special discussion. Mr. Bruce made the statement that on some visit he made and other information he had that this work was not properly supervised. The Superintendent pointed out that it might be well if we had an additional appropriation for supervision to have one of our trained workers on each one of these projects.

He further stated that since the N. Y. A. spent approximately \$6,000 for salaries which benefited the white collar class and since some good results were obtained we should continue it if possible. He further stated that one could not judge the success of playground attendance or attendance at N. Y. A. centres by casual visits but that our regular reports contained data which were of interest.

Incidentally, the Superintendent stated that \$3,556.83 was paid in by citizens for bathing, tennis and skating licences during the year 1936.

## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held February 25, 1937

The Superintendent reported that an unexpended balance for the regular department budget of \$922.80 was turned back to the City Treasurer at the end of the year 1936. Also that \$14,496.88 was turned back to the City Treasurer as an unexpended balance of the appropriation made for W. P. A. Projects.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:EE



## Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 15, 1937

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held April 15, 1937 at 2:30 p. m. in the office of the Superintendent. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Mr. George Kellar and Superintendent Hermann were present. The Playground Commission approved the minutes of the previous meeting but voted to add the actual details of the budget which they approved and for ready comparison the figures of the budget as passed by the Board of Aldermen April 9, 1937.

It was voted that the records of the future meetings should record mainly the actual votes passed by the Playground Commission with only brief references to the facts on the subject voted and that the details of discussion be omitted.

After discussing the cuts made by the Board of Aldermen on the budget submitted by the Commission and approved by His Honor Mayor Childs, the Commission voted that the thousand dollars deducted from the item of maintenance be left to the Superintendent for adjustment covering the details of the maintenance appropriation.

It was voted on account of the deduction of \$800 from the item of New Equipment that the contemplated extension of the lighting system at Auburndale and Crystal Lake skating places be omitted this year.

It was further voted that the \$550 deducted from the item of Care and Alterations of School Grounds be left to the Superintendent for adjustment.

The Playground Commission discussed a verbal communication from His Honor, Mayor Childs regarding rules governing the use of playgrounds for special purposes.

The Commission voted to have the chairman, Mr. Albert P. Carter together with one member of the Playground Commission appointed by him serve as a committee to wait upon His Honor the Mayor to ascertain his wishes and suggestions.

The chairman then presented a petition he had received from the Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association. This petition contained the names of 196 people. The Playground Commission voted to have the Superintendent submit at the next meeting of the Commission an estimate of the cost of construction of two tennis courts for the Newton Lower Falls Playground together with the type of surface which he deems best. It was also voted to make the petition a permanent record of the meeting of the Commission. The petition in substance reads as follows:

We, the members of the Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association, and other residents of Newton Lower Falls, respectfully request that tennis facilities be provided at the Lower Falls Playground by the construction of four permanent clay courts at the north side of the school.

We were led to believe by Mr. Ernst Hermann that these courts would be provided for in your budget and now find that this has not been done. As the present courts are only of temporary

construction and very unsatisfactory, and the Lower Falls Playground is the only one in the city where permanent courts have not been installed we trust that you will give our reasonable request your earnest consideration.

The Playground Commission next considered the extension of neighborhood recreation in Thompsonville and Upper Falls and other matters pertaining to the playground staff of directors and supervisors. It was voted that two members be appointed by the chairman to act with the Superintendent to investigate and recommend to the Commission the desirability of:

1. Creating the position of Assistant Superintendent.
2. Employing a full time supervisor of Community Centre activities. With recommendation of individual for position and salary.
3. Employing a full time supervisor of Boys' activities with recommendation of individual for position and salary.

A report to be made at the next meeting of the Commission. The chairman appointed Mr. Henry and Mrs. Marshall to serve on this committee.

The Playground Commission voted that the Superintendent submit to the Commission for their approval a list of members of the supervisors and directors staff together with their salaries and their duties, also any changes in salaries contemplated. In case of emergency, the Playground Commission authorized the Superintendent to make such changes in the staff as he deems necessary; such changes to be subject to the approval of the Playground Commission at its next meeting.

It was further voted to authorize the Superintendent to begin neighborhood activities in the Emerson and Bowen Schools if and when in his judgement this could be started.

The Playground Commission considered the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding the wider use of school buildings and future school buildings for this purpose.

The Playground Commission voted to send His Honor Mayor Childs the following letter;

Honorable Edwin O. Childs  
Mayor of Newton

Dear Sir:

Owing to the ever increasing needs and the constantly growing demands of the general public for neighborhood centres, we would suggest that this problem be given consideration in the planning of the new district school in West Newton.

The wider use of the school plant has been a matter of deep concern of recreation executives and social agencies in America for many years.

If a plan for a joint building could be worked out by the school and playground departments, it would probably result in giving the school department a more complete set-up for their health and physical and crafts program and give the neighborhood a real neighborhood center. A carefully planned combination school and neighborhood center would probably be the most economical solution in the long run.

We believe that a plan can be worked out which would prove satisfactory to all educational groups in Newton.

Respectfully yours,

City of Newton Playground Commission

by ERNST HERMANN (Signed)

Secretary to the Commission

In forwarding this letter to His Honor Mayor Childs it was voted to request his Honor to send a copy of this letter to the school board of Newton.

The Superintendent submitted a list of projects which might be undertaken as W. P. A. Projects in the future.

The Playground Commission voted its approval of these projects.

The list as submitted by the Superintendent is as follows:

1. Webster Playground, Newton Centre
  - Grading, etc.
  - Construction Playfields
  - Drains
  - Loam
  - Planting

\$ 6,000.00
  
2. Boyd Playground, Nonantum
  - Sanitary Building
  - (by Building Dept.)
  - Approximate cost

\$12,000.00
  
3. Hawthorne Playground
  - Field House
  - (by Building Dept.)
  1. Plan
    - Buy adjoining land and building.
    - Probable purchase price

\$ 6,000.00  
to \$ 8,000.00

2. Alterations of building		
Sanitary for Girls		
Sanitary for Boys		
Directors' Room		
Storage Room		\$ 8,000.00
Small play hall and meeting room		
4. Newton Centre Playground		
Tennis Courts		
Regrading embankment		
Retaining wall		
Fencing		
Estimated total cost		\$ 1,500.00
5. Newton Centre Playground (by Street Dept.)		
Drain to connect certain street storm sewers with brook.		?
6. Newton Lower Falls Playground		
4 tennis courts		
Blue Clay Subsurface		
Approximate cost (Labor)		\$ 3,000.00
(Materials)		4,000.00
7. Upper Falls Playground		
Neighborhood Building (by Building Dept.)		
		\$50,000.00
	to	\$75,000.00
8. Allison Playground		
Extension of Project leading to final completion		
(Labor)		\$10,000.00
(Materials)		\$ 6,000.00
	to	\$ 8,000.00
9. Oak Hill Neighborhood & School Playground		
Clearing	Rough Estimate:	
Draining	Labor	\$30,000.00
Grading	Materials	\$15,000.00
Filling		
10. Auburndale Playground		
Waterline below frost depth by way of West Pine Street through parking area to Bath House.		\$3,000.00
Waterline, etc. on Commonwealth Avenue end.		\$2,000.00
11. Cabot Playgrand		
Regrading football field and south diamond.		\$ 8,000.00

Minutes of the Playground Commission Meeting Held April 15, 1937(cont.)

12. Cold Spring	
Completing	
Filling	
Grading	
Surfacing	\$10,000.00
4 tennis courts	\$ 5,000.00

The Superintendent submitted some suggestions for the acquisition of the property at Crystal Lake formerly occupied by the Crystal Lake Ice Company. The Playground Commission voted that the Superintendent submit a detailed study of this proposed development.

The Superintendent submitted a request from the Misses Marcey of Upper Falls that a division fence between the playground and their property be erected. The Commission voted to consider this matter in making up the next annual budget.

The Superintendent submitted a plan showing a large area of land along Quinobequin Road. The plan shows that the city holds on tax titles most of this area except a few lots, and that the lots not held by the city could be bought at a reasonable cost.

The Superintendent explained that this was a suitable location for a playground. The approach would be particularly good since the children would not have to cross a main highway. The Commission voted the approval of further consideration of this land for playground purposes.

A letter from the corresponding secretary of the Newtonville Women's Club was read. It was voted to make this a part of the minutes of the meeting. The letter reads as follows:

Newtonville Woman's Club  
Newtonville, Mass.

April 14, 1937

City of Newton  
Playground Commission  
Mr. Lyscom Bruce

Dear Sir:

As members of the executive Board of the Newtonville Woman's Club, as well as mothers, we wish to ask again, why Newtonville children are subjected to such poor playground facilities? We refer particularly to the Frank A. Day Jr. High School.

It seems to us imperative that the resurfacing of the present inadequate playground be done without delay, and we solicit your earnest cooperation in this project.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs. Ralph W.) Ruth Gilman Conant

Cor. Sec.

77 Kirkstall Rd.

The Superintendent explained that a costly new surface ought not to be contemplated at this time since plans were on foot to provide a new playground for the Frank A. Day Junior High School and for the district. He said further that with the overhauling the grounds had now received and the care it was now possible to give, the nuisance complained of would practically be eliminated.

The Commission voted to hold the next meetings on May 11 and June 8 at 7:30 p. m. at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

EH:EE

Superintendent of Playgrounds

Report of Committee on Assistant Superintendent, etc.

April 28, 1937

The committee appointed by the chairman April 15, 1937 to act with the Superintendent to investigate and recommend to the Commission the desirability of:

1. Creating the position of Assistant Superintendent.
2. Employing a full time supervisor of Community Centre activities with recommendation of individual for position and salary.
3. Employing a full time supervisor of boy's activities with recommendation of individual for position and salary.

Met in the office of the Superintendent this morning and recommends the following.

- ✓ 1. It is inadvisable to appoint an Assistant Superintendent at this time. *accepted*
2. We recommend the employment on a full time basis with an annual salary of \$2,200.00 beginning with the date of this special assignment of Mrs. Bagna Novgaard as Director of Community Centre Activities.
3. We recommend the employment on a full time basis with an annual salary of \$2,100.00 beginning with the date of this special assignment of Mr. S. Leo Hughes as Director of Boys' Activities.

In making these recommendations the committee is aware that an opinion may have been expressed that the additional appropriation for supervision was intended by the Playground Commission to go in part towards the salary of an Assistant Superintendent. This expression was not made at the time Mr. Henry and Mr. Hermann were before the Finance Committee. In consulting with the chairman of the Finance Committee at the request of Mr. Carter, Mr. Bowen expressed the view that there was no reason why the Playground Commission needed to change its intentions.

The Playground Commission has also expressed its opinion during recent discussion during regular meetings that nothing should be done which later interfered with a free choice of a successor to the present Superintendent.

The committee also considered the Civil Service requirement. An Assistant Superintendent would come under Civil Service rule. If it were the intention of the Playground Commission to create this position, the Civil Service Commission would probably conduct an

examination and the department would have to make a choice from their certified list.

This same would probably hold true if positions were created involving new titles. The two persons recommended are now classified as part-time recurrent employees with the titles of Directors and in our recommendation these titles would continue except that they would now be engaged on a full time basis.

Since these two employees are already earning about \$1,500.00 a year, an additional sum of \$600.00 to \$700.00 each would only take \$1,300.00 from the new appropriation of \$3,500.00. This would leave \$2,200.00 for increased employment of other part-time directors to make a good beginning in neighborhood centre work in Upper Falls and Thompsonville, thereby bringing other good and experienced men and women nearer a full-time basis. It would also allow slight increases to deserving directors.

The Committee also recommends that Mr. Lane be continued on his present basis as a part-time recurrent director ~~acting as an assistant to the Superintendent.~~ This would make it possible to have Mr. Hughes continue his really fine work during the summer months at our Crystal Lake bath house and his work in charge of Sullouge Pond Skating. Mr. Lane would only be on full time during July and August i.e., the intensive summer season. He would remain in charge of our Twilight Baseball League, etc.

The recommended appointment of two full-time directors would strengthen the Playground Department's efforts in guiding boys and girls all over Newton who, during off seasons, are without recreational resources. Then boys and girls could be guided into some activity carried on in some neighborhood center. It may even be possible to start other boys' and girls' clubs where needed.

....., Chairman

.....

.....

Accepted

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held May 11, 1937 in the office of the Superintendent. Mr. Albert P. Carter, Chairman, Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, and Mr. Ernst Hermann, Superintendent, were present. The chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p. m.

1. The chairman asked Mr. Harvey, the City Engineer, who had been invited to be present, to advise the Playground Commission on the various possibilities of a permanent and adequate entrance to the Cold Spring Playground.

It was voted to request Mr. Harvey to prepare plans and estimates for the various suggestions of entrances to the Cold Spring Playground.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting of the Playground Commission were read and approved with the deletion of one sentence in the petition of the Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association.

3. Voted: That on account of urgent need supported by a petition from the Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association the Playground Commission ask for an appropriation of \$3,000 for the construction of two first-class tennis courts with special construction of surface to allow flooding in winter for skating of small children.

4. The Commission expressed itself in favor of the acquisition of the land of the Crystal Lake Ice Company at Crystal Lake for recreational purposes as soon as the finances of the city would allow and that a letter should be sent to Alderman McKay advising him of this.

5. Mr. Henry reported the substance of the conference held with His Honor, Mayor Childs, regarding changes in the rules and regulations governing the special uses of playgrounds. It was voted that no further action or revision is necessary at this time.

6. Mr. Henry presented a written report of the committee on Assistant Superintendent, etc.

The Playground Commission voted to accept the report deleting all reference made to Mr. Lane as Assistant to the Superintendent and also with the condition that before the plans were put into operation the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen be approached by the chairman of the special committee to ascertain from him if this plan would meet with the approval of the finance committee. The written report of the special committee is as follows:

The committee appointed by the chairman April 15, 1937 to act with the Superintendent to investigate and recommend to the Commission the desirability of:

1. Creating the position of Assistant Superintendent.
2. Employing a full time supervisor of Community Centre activities with recommendation of individual for position and salary.

3. Employing a full time supervisor of boy's activities with recommendation of individual for position and salary.

met in the office of the Superintendent, April 28th at 9 a. m., recommends the following:

1. It is inadvisable to appoint an Assistant Superintendent at this time.
2. We recommend the employment on a full time basis with an annual salary of \$2,200.00 beginning with the date of this special assignment of Mrs. Ragna Hovgaard as Director of Community Centre Activities.
3. We recommend the employment on a full time basis with an annual salary of \$2,100.00 beginning with the date of this special assignment of Mr. S. Leo Hughes as Director of Boys' Activities.

In making these recommendations the committee is aware that an opinion may have been expressed that the additional appropriation for supervision was intended by the Playground Commission to go in part towards the salary of an Assistant Superintendent. This expression was not made at the time Mr. Henry and Mr. Hermann were before the Finance Committee. In consulting with the chairman of the Finance Committee at the request of Mr. Carter, Mr. Bowen expressed the view that there was no reason why the Playground Commission needed to change its intentions.

The Playground Commission has also expressed its opinion during recent discussion during regular meetings that nothing should be done which later interfered with a free choice of a successor to the present Superintendent.

The committee also considered the Civil Service requirement. An Assistant Superintendent would come under Civil Service rule. If it were the intention of the Playground Commission to create this position, the Civil Service Commission would probably conduct an examination and the department would have to make a choice from their certified list.

This same would probably hold true if positions were created involving new titles. The two persons recommended are now classified as part-time recurrent employees with the titles of Directors and in our recommendation these titles would continue except that they now be engaged on a full-time basis.

Since these two employees are already earning about \$1,500.00 a year, an additional sum of \$600.00 to \$700.00 each would take \$1,300.00 from the new appropriation of \$3,500.00. This would leave \$2,200.00 for increased employment of other part-time directors to make a good beginning in neighborhood centre work in Upper Falls and Thompsonville, thereby bringing other good and

experienced men and women nearer a full-time basis. It would also allow slight increases to deserving directors.

The Committee also recommends that Mr. Lane be continued on his present basis as a part-time, recurrent director acting as an assistant to the Superintendent. This would make it possible to have Mr. Hughes continue his really fine work during the summer months at our Crystal Lake Bath house and his work in charge of Bulloughs Pond Skating. Mr. Lane would only be on full time during July and August i.e., the intensive summer season. He would remain in charge of our Twilight Baseball League, etc.

The recommended appointment of two full-time directors would strengthen the Playground Department's efforts in guiding boys and girls all over Newton who, during off seasons, are without recreational resources. Then boys and girls could be guided into some activity carried on in some neighborhood centre. It may even be possible to start other boys' and girls' clubs where needed.

Ralph C. Henry, Chairman  
Mrs. Louis H. Marshall  
Ernst Hermann

7. It was voted that the title of Assistant to the Superintendent be abolished.

8. The Superintendent presented the list of supervisors, playground directors, and so forth with their placements and positions and their compensations.

9. The Playground Commission voted to enter again a contract with Mr. Bradford Williams, 237 Park Street, Newton to continue the planning of Edmands Park.

10. Voted: to ascertain from Mr. Joseph W. Bartlett, City Solicitor, what steps would be necessary to change the name of the Playground Department to that of Recreation Department.

11. Voted: that the monthly financial statement be sent to each Playground Commissioner.

12. Voted: that the request of Mrs. Harold R. Noden for the cessation of Sunday baseball play at Boyd Park be left to the consideration of the Superintendent.

13. A letter was read from Mr. Christopher H. Gifford to His Honor Mayor Childs. No action was taken.

14. Voted: that Mr. Henry be appointed to draw up a resolution to express the appreciation of the Playground Commission for the long service of Mr. Albert P. Carter as a member and chairman of the Playground Commission and that a copy be sent to Mr. Carter and the resolution be spread upon the records of the department.

15. Voted: the next meeting of the Playground Commission will be held June 8 at 7:15 p. m. in the office of the Superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

EH:EE

Superintendent of Playgrounds



The Playground Commission has also expressed its opinion during recent discussion during regular meetings that nothing should be done which later interfered with a free choice of a successor to the present Superintendent.

The committee also considered the Civil Service requirement. An Assistant Superintendent would come under Civil Service rule. If it were the intention of the Playground Commission to create this position, the Civil Service Commission would probably conduct an examination and the department would have to make a choice from their certified list.

This same would probably hold true if positions were created involving new titles. The two persons are now classified as part-time recurrent employees with the titles of Directors and in our recommendation these titles would continue except that they would now be engaged on a full time basis.

Since these two employees are already earning about \$1,500.00 a year, an additional sum of \$600.00 to \$700.00 each would only take \$1,300.00 from the new appropriation of \$3,500.00. This would leave \$2,200.00 for increased employment of other part-time directors to make a good beginning in neighborhood centre work in Upper Falls and Thompsonville, thereby bringing other good and experienced men and women nearer a full-time basis. It would also allow slight increases to deserving directors.

The Committee also recommends that Mr. Lane be continued on his present basis as a part-time, recurrent director acting as an assistant to the Superintendent. This would make it possible to have Mr. Hughes continue his really fine work during the summer months at our Crystal Lake Bath house and his work in charge of Bulloughs Pond Skating. Mr. Lane would only be on full time during July and August i.e., the intensive summer season. He <sup>would keep</sup> ~~could keep~~ in charge of our Twilight Baseball League, etc.

The recommended appointment of two full-time directors would strengthen the Playground Department's efforts in guiding boys and girls all over Newton who, during off seasons, are without recreational resources. <sup>They could be guided into</sup> ~~They could be guided into~~ some activity carried on in some neighborhood center. It may even be possible to ~~conduct special~~ <sup>start other</sup> boys' and girls' clubs ~~where needed~~ <sup>other</sup>

....., Chairman

.....

## Report of Committee on Assistant Superintendent, etc.

April 28, 1937

The committee appointed by the chairman April 15, 1937 to act with the Superintendent to investigate and recommend to the Commission the desirability of:

1. Creating the position of Assistant Superintendent.
2. Employing a full time supervisor of Community Centre activities with recommendation of individual for position and salary.
3. Employing a full time supervisor of boys' activities with recommendation of individual for position and salary.

Met this morning in the office of the Superintendent and recommends the following.

1. It is inadvisable to appoint an Assistant Superintendent at this time.
2. We recommend the employment on a full time basis with an annual salary of \$2,200.00 beginning with the date of this special assignment of Mrs. Ragna Hovgaard as Director of Community Centre Activities.
3. We recommend the employment on a full time basis with an annual salary of \$2,100.00 beginning with the date of this special assignment of Mr. S. Leo Hughes as Director of Boys' Activities.

In making these recommendations the committee is aware that an opinion may have been expressed that the additional appropriation for supervision was intended by the Playground Commission to go in part towards the salary of an Assistant Superintendent. This expression was not made at the time Mr. Henry and Mr. Hermann were before the Finance Committee. In consulting with the chairman of the Finance Committee at the request of Mr. Carter, Mr. Bowen expressed the view that there was no reason why the Playground Commission needed to change its intentions.

By vote all appointments

all changes or transfers, etc. have  
been left to the judgment of the  
superintendent.

---

Changes and transfers have to be  
made quite frequently on short notice  
because of shifting attendance

---

also on account of resignations and  
illness

---

political aspect

---

Social situation (unemployment & needs)

---

Some students get good experience  
while preparing themselves to be teachers.

Commission  
p212d

TELEPHONE VOTE MAY 19, 1937  
RE: ACTING CHAIRMAN OF PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

Owing to the resignation of Mr. Albert P. Carter as chairman of the Playground Commission, it became necessary to have an acting chairman and upon the advice of the City Solicitor, Mr. Bartlett, Miss Howard, in the absence of the Superintendent, Mr. Hermann, asked the following commissioners, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr. , Mrs. Louis H. Marshall and Mr. George Kellar if they approved Mr. Ralph C. Henry as acting chairman of the Commission. These Commissioners voted their approval by telephone and herewith attach their signatures.

*J. A. Bruce, Jr.*  
.....  
*Mrs. L. H. Marshall*  
.....  
*George Kellar*  
.....

*Attest  
Ernst Hermann  
Secretary to the  
Playground Commission.*

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held June 8, 1937 at 7:30 p. m. in the office of the Commission. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman; Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

2. The letter which Mr. Henry wrote to Mr. Carter reads as follows:

June 8, 1937

To Albert P. Carter:

The Playground Commission, speaking not only in its own behalf but also in behalf of all other citizens of Newton, desires to express its profound regrets that you can no longer actively continue the noteworthy public service you have rendered the cause of recreation in this city.

This service has been an outstanding contribution to the development of wholesome recreation for children and adults alike. It has also been a pre-eminent contribution to the development of the physical means through which properly equipped and modern playgrounds have been made available to all our citizens.

For this service we wish to convey to you our deepest gratitude. Your natural aptitude, exquisite tact, conspicuous ability and breadth of view have secured to you wide spread and lasting recognition. We appreciate, also, your interest and leadership in every good cause. Our regrets are in some measure alleviated by your assurance of the continuance of your interest when time allows.

You carry with you our warmest affection, our wishes for your continued prosperity and happiness and our conviction of your ever-expanding success in whatever public service you may find the opportunity to enlist.

3. The telephone vote of May 19, 1937 re: acting chairman of the Playground Commission is as follows:

Owing to the resignation of Mr. Albert P. Carter as chairman of the Playground Commission, it became necessary to have an acting chairman and upon the advice of the City Solicitor, Mr. Bartlett, Miss Howard, in the absence of the Superintendent, asked the following Commissioners, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall and Mr. George Kellar if they approved Mr. Ralph C. Henry as acting chairman of the Commission. These Commissioners voted their approval by telephone and herewith attach their signatures.

L. A. Bruce, Jr.  
Terese G. Marshall  
George Kellar

Attest  
Ernst Hermann  
Secretary to the Playground Commission

4. It was voted to ascertain from the City Solicitor if some of the revised ordinances pertaining to construction of new playgrounds were in accordance with the City Charter.

5. Mr. Kellar and Mr. Hermann were appointed a committee to communicate with the Newton School Committee regarding matters pertaining to the ten year school building program, copies of this letter to be sent to Professor Mather, chairman of the joint committee and Mr. B. J. Bowen, Chairman of the special committee of the Board of Aldermen. The motion read as follows:

The Playground Commission respectfully requests that the special committee in its deliberation of the ten year school building program give consideration to the recreational needs of the neighborhood and what is known as community centres as part of the building program, the features needed for a neighborhood center to be according to the recommendations of a special committee of the playground commission made up of Mr. Kellar and Mr. Hermann.

6. It was voted to address the school committee to ascertain its opinion regarding the suitability of the taking of land between Beacon Street and what is known as Cold Spring Playground west of the ice company property for playground and school building purposes.

7. It was voted to convey to the School Committee the desirability of cooperation between that body and the Playground Commission whenever sites are being considered for playground and school purposes, because much value would come to the City of Newton from closer cooperation of the School Committee and the Playground Commission.

8. The Playground Commission voted to convey to the school committee that in its opinion the land off Derby Street in West Newton is a most favorable location for a new school house and furthermore that it is exceptionally suitable for a recreation centre for that community.

9. It was voted to request the city solicitor for an opinion of what first steps are necessary to acquire the land in Newtonville off Watertown Street for playground purposes. A plan of the land desired by the playground commission to be attached to the request.

10. It was voted to ascertain from Mr. Frank L. Cunningham, 79 West Pine Street, his bona fida price for thirty thousand square feet of land adjoining the Auburndale playground.

11. It was voted to grant the Newton Centre Woman's Club a permit for the holding of a small circus on the Newton Centre Playground. This permit to be in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the use of playgrounds for special purposes.

12. It was voted to approve the W. P. A. concerts this summer.

13. It was voted to have Mrs. Marshall address a letter to the Hurley family in relation to the death of Miss Hurley.

14. It was voted to approve the list of playground employees submitted by the Superintendent.

15. It was voted to ascertain who is responsible for the enrolling of new employees in the city pension system.

16. Mr. Henry reported his visit to Mr. Bowen, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen.

17. It was voted to hold the next regular meeting of the Playground Commission July 12th at 7:15 p. m. at the City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Secretary

EHPEE

## MINUTES OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 2, 1937

A regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held November 2, 1937 at 7:30 in the evening in the office of the Playground Department at City Hall. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, the chairman, presided. Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mr. George Kellar, Jr., Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present. Mr. Henry welcomed the new member, Mr. Dalton.

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Henry, the Commission voted to send a congratulatory letter to Mr. Leo Hughes upon his recent marriage.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, copies of which were mailed to all the members of the Playground Commission.

Mr. Charles B. Floyd, president of the Board of Aldermen, called and was invited to sit in with the Playground Commission. Mr. Floyd desired to present to the Playground Commission the advantages of acquiring a playground in the west side of Auburndale off Grove Street. In explanation of the petition of some 200 citizens of Auburndale which he had previously mailed to the Superintendent of Playgrounds, he called attention to the fine geological features which this tract possesses particularly the esker which is one of the finest examples in this part of the country. He called attention to a small pond in this proposed area which served as a natural sump for the surface water of the surrounding lands and that if this pond were filled in, the city would have to spend about \$10,000 to drain this region. He also called attention to the fact that Mr. Ernest L. Hersum, the owner of part of this land, had presented a petition to the City Government for removing these hills.

He mentioned that Miss Mable T. Eager, who owned considerable of this land, had made some definite promise that she would aid this project by giving some of her land if certain conditions could be carried out. He urged that the playground commission take action so that the matter could be referred to His Honor, Mayor Childs.

It was voted that the Playground Commission approve the taking of the land off Grove Street for playground purposes.

Mr. Floyd promised to send a letter with definite statements regarding the offers which Miss Mable T. Eager had made. It was voted to make the petition and the blue print of the City Engineer regarding this property dated February 27, 1931 a part of this record. The petition reads as follows:

We, the undersigned residents of Ward Four, desire to call the attention of the Playground Commission to the urgent need of a playground in our village, on the west side located near the Auburndale-Lower Falls boundary.

At the present time there is an area there of about fifteen and one-half acres lying principally on the south side of Grove Street and extending to Aspen Avenue which in the opinion of the Superintendent is proply located, contains the desired acreage and is adaptable for the purpose of this petition.

The land is in two lots owned by the Boston Consolidated

Gas Company and Ernest L. Hersum and is the last unoccupied tract available for a playground in this locality.

We respectfully request your commission to take this land for the purpose mentioned. (Petition signed by 171 citizens)

The Playground Commission deferred action upon the offer of Mr. Robert L. Ryder of a parcel of land, about seven acres, adjoining the Cold Spring Playground.

It was voted to take the necessary steps to acquire one lot of land off Winchester Street adjoining the Newton Highlands Playground. This lot is situated between two lots which the city already owns.

It was voted to acquire a lot of about 30,600 square feet of land adjoining the Auburndale Playground off West Pine Street, the land belonging to F. L. Cunningham.

It was voted to take the necessary steps to acquire two additional parcels of land in addition to the parcels of land already recommended for purchase off Albemarle Road. The parcels are marked A. and K. on a blue print prepared by the City Engineer and made a part of this record. *See Blue print files.*

It was voted that the taking of approximately three acres of land adjoining the Thompsonville Playground offered by Walter Channing Inc. is inexpedient.

It was voted to gratefully accept the \$800 presented to the Playground Commission by the Newton Circle Inc. for the use in connection with the recreational activities on the Thompsonville Playground and to take the necessary steps to get official approval of the acceptance of this gift from the city government.

It was voted to send a communication to the Newton Circle Inc. expressing the gratitude of the Playground Commission.

The Superintendent was instructed to consult with the president of the Newton Circle regarding possible use to which this money could be put.

It was voted that the chairman and Mr. Dalton be appointed a committee to work with the Superintendent in investigating the desirability of establishing a definite program over a period of years for the construction of Community Center buildings when needed throughout the city on playground property.

It was voted to change the name of the Playground Department to Recreation Department and to send to His Honor, Mayor Childs the suggestions regarding this change made by Mr. Joseph W. Bartlett, the City Solicitor for his approval.

It was voted to add framed photographs of Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mr. George Kellar and Mr. Edward F. Dalton in the office of the Playground Commission.

It was voted to continue the services of Mr. Bradford Williams for the planning of Edmands Park to the extent of the appropriation made for that purpose.

It was voted to continue to use the 1936-37 skating permits for the 1937-38 season and to allow some 1700 permits issued last year to continue this year on account of the very few days of skating last winter.

No action was taken under consideration of entrances to the Cold Spring playground since no report of progress was made by the City Engineer.

The Superintendent submitted typewritten schedules of activities for the Stearns, Upper Falls and Thompsonville neighborhood centers and the activities under National Youth Administration auspices.

It was voted to continue the activities under National Youth Administration auspices two months.

It was voted to limit the skating on the new tennis courts on the Newton Lower Falls Playground to children up to nine years of age and that the lighting for skating was inexpedient.

The chairman appointed Mrs. Marshall and Superintendent Hermann to represent the Newton Playground Department in the Newton Community Council. In case of Mr. Hermann's inability to attend, he is to delegate someone to take his place.

The Superintendent presented the petition received from the parents of West Newton Hill regarding supervision at the Pierce School. The Superintendent informed the Commission that this work was started after the close of the summer season just previous to the receipt of this petition.

The Playground Commission voted to consider the conduct of a playground on the Ward School Playground the coming summer.

It was voted to authorize the Superintendent to build a fence on the Lowell Avenue Playground above and around the steep cliff if money from the regular appropriation is available.

It was voted to pay an annual fee of \$10.00 to the Boston and Albany Railway in return for permission to use a triangular lot owned by the Boston and Albany Railway on the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Rowe Street, Auburndale.

It was voted to hold regular meetings every second Tuesday of every month.

The Commission adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Secretary to the Commission

EH:EE



The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held December 14, 1937 at City Hall. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Hermann were present. The minutes of the previous meeting with a slight correction were approved.

1. It was voted that the purchase of three acres of land adjoining the Thompsonville Playground offered by Walter Channing Inc. at the sum of \$500 was inexpedient.

2. Voted: to consider a re-arrangement of the lay-out on the John W. Weeks Junior High School playground during the coming year.

3. Voted: to authorize the superintendent to install more flood lights along Pulsifer Cove on the Auburndale Playground for the purpose of enlarging the supervised skating area.

4. Voted: to return the check of \$800 to the Newton Circle Inc. and to write Miss Simpson and also to the Newton Center School Committee that a sub-committee of the Playground Commission is making special study of neighborhood centers.

5. Voted: to ascertain from the City Solicitor the liability of the Playground Department for placing life saving apparatus on private land adjoining Hammonds Pond.

6. Voted: to approve the suggestion of the Superintendent for a slight shift of emphasis of supervision from summer to fall and winter months.

Mrs. Marshall made an extended favorable report on her visits to N. Y. A. club work and Mr. Kellar remarked that in substance the work was much better than formerly.

7. Voted: that there be a sub-committee of three members of the Playground Commission to make a study of adapting program and personnel of the Playground Department to present day recreation needs of the people of Newton. The chairman appointed Mr. Bruce, Mr. Kellar and Mrs. Marshall to serve on this committee.

8. Upon the recommendation of Mr. Bruce it was voted to write to the Newton Community Council that the Playground Department will cooperate in any study the Community Council may want to make of the Stearns Neighborhood Center. Mr. Bruce stated that a letter making such a request would be transmitted to the Playground Commission.

A copy of the letter received from the Community Council and the Playground Commission's answer are as follows:

NEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL, 93 Union Street, Newton Centre, Massachusetts

To the Playground Commission  
City of Newton, Massachusetts

The Newton Community Council has been requested by the Department of Public Health and the Stearns School Center to study recreation and health programs carried on by City Departments and the Stearns School Center at the Stearns School in Nonantum.

It would be the purpose of this impartial study by a community-wide and disinterested group of civic-minded people to find facts which would enable the Council, or its proper Committee, to make recommendations to the fore-going three organizations to the end that effective coordination of programs now carried on at the Stearns School would result, with corresponding benefit to the people of that Village.

It is the policy of the Newton Community Council not to proceed with such studies without the written approval of all organizations concerned.

Would the Playground Commission co-operate with the Newton Community Council, or a sub-committee designated for that purpose, in making such a study?

Very sincerely yours

L. A. Bruce, Jr. (Signed)

L. A. Bruce, Jr.  
Executive Director

Newton Community Council  
93 Union Street  
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

Attention: Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Executive Director

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 14 in which the Newton Community Council asks if the Playground Commission would cooperate with the Newton Community Council and a sub-committee designated for that purpose in making a study of the Stearns School Center at the Stearns School in Nonantum.

I am directed by the Playground Commission to let you know that the Commission will cooperate in any study the Newton Community Council may want to make of the Stearns Neighborhood Center.

Respectfully yours,  
City of Newton Playground Commission  
by ERNST HERMANN (Signed)  
Secretary

EH:EE

9. The Playground Commission voted to furnish a piano player for the Emerson and Bowen Centers and to provide help in moving chairs when needed.

10. It was voted to raise the age limit for skating on the Lower Falls Playground Skating Rink to elementary school age, i. e. the age of 12 years.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:EE

Secretary to the Commission



COMMISSION MEETINGS  
1938



Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Hermann were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Mr. Francis Tanner and two members of the Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association presented some suggestions for the Care and Maintenance of the Newton Lower Falls skating rink. The Playground Commission voted that since the whole matter was one of administration that it was for the Superintendent to do all he could to meet their wishes.

Owing to further communications from Walter Channing, real estate agent, urging the Playground Commission to acquire a parcel of land adjoining the Thompsonville Playground, the Playground Commission re-considered this matter but voted to confirm the previous vote as not favoring the purchase of this land.

The Playground Commission rescinded its vote of November 2 regarding the purchase of one lot adjoining the Newton Highlands Playground.

Mr. Henry, in behalf of his committee on Neighborhood Centers read a report. It was voted that this report be accepted. The report is made a part of this record.

The Preliminary Report of the Sub-Committee on Program, composed of Mrs. L. H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar and Mr. L. A. Bruce, Jr. Chairman, was submitted by its Chairman. A signed copy of that Preliminary Report is attached to these Minutes.

Following a most thorough discussion of that Report, especially of Item 3, Mr. Bruce, as Chairman of the Sub-Committee, MOVED that the Report be accepted by the Commission.

The motion was duly SECONDED. However, the Chairman of the Commission refused to put the motion before the Commission, stating that neither the Chairman, nor members, of any Sub-Committee had the right to move that any report of such a Sub-Commission of the Playground Commission be accepted by the Playground Commission.

Since neither the Chairman of the Playground Commission nor Mr. Dalton would make a motion to accept the Preliminary Report of the Sub-Committee, it was not accepted.

Thereupon, Mr. Kellar MOVED and Mrs. Marshall seconded that the Sub-Committee on Program be discharged.

The Chairman of the Commission refused to put the motion on the same grounds that he refused to put Mr. Bruce's motion to accept the Preliminary Report of the Sub-Committee.

Thereupon, Mr. Dalton MOVED that the Sub-Committee on Program be discharged. The motion was seconded, put and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernst Hermann

Superintendent of Playgrounds  
Secretary to the Commission



THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, consisting of Mr. Henry, Mr. Dalton and Mr. Hermann, met to discuss the Neighborhood Centers in general and the further development of such centers in Newton.

Mr. Henry called upon the superintendent to tell the committee what he knew about neighborhood centers. Mr. Hermann gave a brief historical review, pointing out that the neighborhood center movement is over thirty years old and that it was an outcome of the play movement. The play movement had been very successful in proving its value in the development of physical, mental, moral and social health but that it soon became evident that the seasonal conduct of playgrounds alone is not enough and that a great deal of the good done during the playground season is lost on account of the lack of follow up work and of continuous opportunities for a wholesome recreation.

Many studies of juvenile crime have been made throughout the country by leading social <sup>agencies</sup> and educators and in every instance it was shown that organized recreation has a tremendous influence upon delinquency. There are statements available from good authority which point out that juvenile delinquency is greatly reduced by all-the-year-round recreation opportunities.

Many years ago the National Education Association passed a resolution which urged that school boards make their buildings available for neighborhood recreation and emphasized that the gathering of neighbors had an essential influence in the development of democracy and civilization.

Civilization and democracy have had their best growth through group gatherings. These gatherings gained in size and social significance as communities grew. They developed the most important

social attribute, cooperation. This, in turn, developed democratic leadership.

Probably the best neighborhood life still exists in small communities and where the town government is still in operation, the citizens have opportunities to meet and to discuss community problems. We know from experience that long winter and fall evenings have distinct bearing upon delinquency. Where seasonal types of recreation, such as skating and other winter sports can be conducted, they have always been tremendously popular; and when such opportunities are missing, juvenile delinquency increases.

One great factor in crime has been the fact that gradually young women have been drawn into gainful occupations. Under the biological urge they naturally find their boy friends. Both being earners, they enjoy a wholesome and interesting life when they are "going with each other". Under the powerful biological urge, and on account of the creative instinct, they decide to marry. They start their home making with enthusiasm and faith. They save money, they go to shows, and they may even own automobiles. Soon the family arrives and the young wife must give up her gainful occupation. This frequently splits the income in half. The family still grows and soon they have to give up everything which formerly made life interesting and sweet. Pretty soon, because the house is too small, and since home chores and other home opportunities for active recreation are lacking and because frequently the man is in the way with the small children, the man seeks diversions alone. He cannot afford to go to nice entertainments nor has he a place to go where he could enjoy the companionship of interesting companions, he joins the corner gang.

Much wrong doing may be traced to this one phase of a young man's life. Naturally he feels that life penalizes him in following his biological instincts and he soon becomes dissatisfied with *existing* social *conditions*.

In neighborhood centers where such people could meet their neighbors, it would be a great boon to him if he could enjoy opportunities for arts and crafts, or music or drama or discuss municipal affairs. Unless a man is well-to-do and can join one of our many fine private clubs, there is nothing for him to do but go on the street. With all its great deteriorating influence the former barrooms were in a measure a meeting place or club and a place of recreation for many men.

In Newton we can be proud of a fine system of playgrounds, of ample supervision and of fine equipment, but all these playgrounds can only be doing their work when the weather is favorable.

Many worth while teams and clubs with a number of activities are being formed during the summer months. Boys and girls learn home rule, cooperation, and develop leadership. As soon as the playground season is over or in seasons of inclement weather, these organizations and groups are broken up and re-organization becomes necessary.

The physical health value of playgrounds is much more permanent. The development of cooperative spirit and the opportunities for development of leadership are promoted and probably continue, but the social value of organized recreation are lacking.

The small American home with an absolute absence of interesting chores and tasks cannot give our young men and women an interesting life, and idle hands have always been the greatest danger in society.

That neighborhood centers are needed in Newton is recognized by many petitions from many social groups presented during the past few years.

Mr. Dalton and Mr. Henry gave much of their personal experience. Mr. Dalton pointed out the marvelous development of recreation centers in Europe.

The committee seem to be unanimous that the playground commission should formulate a long term plan for the development of recreation centers in Newton.

To make a worthy start it was decided to prepare a brochure to further the case of neighborhood centers, to print this and distribute it and to plan for a large meeting. It was thought best that such a meeting should be planned as soon as possible and that the Board of Aldermen and the School Board and representatives from social agencies be invited.

There is an imperative need to acquire larger open spaces for the most ideal development of the community center.

There is virtually no activity pertaining to the normally recognized curricula of either indoor or outdoor education of children and adolescent youth which does not find its counterpart and logical continuation in adult education.

If the constituted school and college authorities are the acknowledged custodians and promoters of the former, the Recreation Commissions must ask themselves whether they are not, indeed, largely the obvious and responsible agencies of the latter until such time, at least, as the more formal groups in primary and secondary education recognize that intelligent, <sup>aggressive</sup> ~~expressive~~ charge of recreation is an indispensable function for the school

and college authority.

This will not be recognized at once and in the interval such promotion is placed squarely upon the shoulders of the Recreation Commissioners of municipalities.

1. Richardson Playground in Waban: The sewer to take care of storm water was completed. The entire ground was filled and with the exception of a space for two tennis courts, the whole area was loamed six inches deep.

This Playground is ready for seeding early in the spring.

According to some promises connected with the deed the coming years should see these grounds made available for play. In other words some fences, some play apparatus will have to be erected this coming year. There should also be some planting.

2. The Nevada Street Playground in connection with the Carr School has been completed. This playground also needs some playground equipment in order that it might be used the coming year. This is now a very interesting lay-out and it should prove very successful for both school and neighborhood purposes.

3. Allison Playground: A major baseball diamond has been finished and can be put into use the coming year. The back stop is up, the bleachers have been transferred from Victory Playground. On the south and west side the playground is finished. Most of the area outside the batting radius will be loamed before the year is over. This will need to be seeded the coming year. Some work will still have to be done in the coming year and if the gravel pits on the west side are acquired, we should undertake construction which will combine the Allison and Victory Playground into one park playground.

4. At the Auburndale Playground some five hundred park benches have now been finished. They have been placed all over the city on playgrounds and public squares. The main filling on this playground has been completed. Some work will still have to be done in loaming over one area which has been filled but needs loam and grass later on. There is no immediate need for further development here.

5. Cold Spring Playground: The entire area now owned by the city has practically been filled in. Some four to five acres will have to be loamed as soon as the sub-fill has settled sufficiently. It is possible that some further fill may be needed should the settling be more severe than usual.

This playground will be one of the finest playgrounds in the city. The water lines have been laid, storm water has been taken care of. There is an area prepared for five tennis courts. The surface of these tennis courts with fencing should be built soon and a sanitary building should be erected.

WPA

Aub.

6. Edmands Park: Very little was done at Edmands Park this year. Work has, however, been resumed lately. It would be well to continue annually to improve this most valuable property. The W. P. A. work should be continued and approximately \$5,000.00 should be available for material for this project this coming year.

It would be well to consider the completion of all the W. P. A. particularly where filling and grading is concerned.

Further desirable projects could be developed soon. They could be W. P. A. projects or could be done by the city:

1. Lowell Avenue Playground: the children on West Newton Hill have no handy playground and the upper level of the Lowell Avenue Playground offers an opportunity for playing fields for small children and boys up to nine years of age.

2. The so called Webster Playground in Newton Centre is still a tremendous ash heap. The disposition of rubbish has been stopped. This would be a first class W. P. A. project. Approximately \$4,000.00 worth of materials would be needed for this initial development.

3. At Newton Centre there are two tennis courts of a set of five which are short. A retaining wall of concrete will have to be built. \$1,500.00 would be needed for this.

There are storm drains running into the playground and the brook running into the playground should be looked after by the Street Department. I would recommend that this be made a W. P. A. project.

4. The development of the large area of land in connection with the Oak Hill School which was to serve as a neighborhood center should be started. Cleaning the woods, a certain amount of drainage, some filling and grading is needed. Ultimately this development will run into a good many thousands of dollars. For immediate development it would prove a splendid W. P. A. project. It is hard, without making definite plans, to estimate amounts of materials needed.

5. We have only a temporary water line laid in the entire Auburndale Playground. The laying of a new water line to serve the entire playground would probably cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000.00 to complete. It could be made a W. P. A. project.

In making these suggestions I am not unmindful of neighborhood building and I am wondering if Your Honor would not consider the construction of neighborhood buildings under W. P. A. auspices. If you favor this, it would be well to have the Public Buildings Commissioner include some of this in his projects.

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held February 8, 1938 in the office of the Commission. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton, and Superintendent Hermann were present.

1. It was voted to postpone the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. The Playground Commission authorized that permission be granted to a prospective buyer of the house adjoining the highschool if the buyer wanted to move the house across the highschool athletic field to Lowell Avenue with the proviso that a contract be made covering all possible damages, etc.
3. The Playground Commission voted that it would give to the Newton Girl Scouts Organization represented by Mrs. Craig Pattengill, 294 Cabot Street, Newton all possible cooperation in planning a day camp for Newton Girl Scouts but that permission be withheld until all details for such day camps had been approved.
4. The Playground Commission considered in detail the department's annual budget for 1938 and approved the following items:

	Estimated 1938
SALARIES	
1. SUPERINTENDENT	\$ 3,000.00
2. Clerical Assistance	2,595.00
3. Temporary Clerks	300.00
4. Directors	32,000.00
5. Office Expense	850.00
6. Travelling Expense Out of State	125.00
7. Auto Maintenance	1,475.00
8. Maintenance	37,270.36
9. Replacement of Equipment	4,616.90
10. Construction	2,950.00
11. New Equipment	1,470.00
12. Outside Charge Account	35.00
13. Care & Alterations & Improvements of Elementary School Grounds	5,950.00
	\$92,637.26

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Secretary to the Commission

EH:EE



## MINUTES OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 8, 1938

Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mr. George Kellar and Superintendent Hermann were present. The minutes of the meeting of February 8 were approved as read. It was voted to consider the minutes of the meeting of January 18 at a subsequent meeting.

2. Action on the advisability of putting the assistant foreman on a straight salary basis was postponed until further information about similar positions in other departments was presented to the Commission.

3. It was moved by Mr. Bruce, seconded by Mr. Kellar and voted that the chairman sign the orders authorizing the taking of land for the new Newtonville playground off Albemarle Road and the taking of land with building adjoining the Hawthorn Playground.

In the discussion about the new Newtonville playground, it was the unanimous opinion of the Commission that the playground as defined by the present takings will not prove of fullest value to the pupils of the Frank A. Day Junior High School because of the lack of means for direct and convenient access.

It was therefore moved by Mr. Bruce, duly seconded and voted that Mr. Joseph W. Bartlett, the City Solicitor, be requested to take steps to acquire additional land to provide suitable access to the new playground from Minot Place in order to make possible effective use of the new playground by pupils of the Frank A. Day Junior High School in their program of physical education.

4. The Playground Commission voted to defer action approving alterations and construction of indoor facilities in the building acquired at the Hawthorn Street Playground until more detailed plans and cost estimates are available.

5. It was voted to ask the advice of Mr. Joseph W. Bartlett, City Solicitor, as to what steps should be taken to insure the re-appropriation, if needed, of the money set aside under a contract made November 19, 1937 with landscape architect, Mr. Bradford Williams.

6. The Playground Commission considered the various W. P. A. construction projects on a number of playgrounds submitted by the superintendent.

It was voted to approve the following projects:

1. Construction of concrete benches with oak slats.
2. Reconstruction of the south half of Cabot playground.
3. Construction of a new set of tennis courts at the highschool field.
4. Continuation of the development of Edmands Park.
5. Continuation of the development of the Allison and Victory playgrounds.
6. Improvement of the south side of the Newton Centre tennis courts.

7. Upon motion of Mr. Kellar it was voted to continue the N. Y. A. projects to December 31, 1938.

8. The Playground Commission considered a suggestion made by Mrs. Spencer of the Board of Directors of the West Newton Community Service Inc. that they be allowed to add two rooms to the playground building.

Upon motion of Mr. Bruce it was voted inexpedient to approve the adding of two rooms to the portable building in the rear of the Davis School, West Newton.

9. After consideration of the report by the superintendent on work being done by the Metropolitan District Commission on the Auburndale Playground, it was voted upon motion of Mr. Kellar that the chairman of the Playground Commission be authorized to protest on behalf of the Newton Playground Commission to the Metropolitan District Commission on work being done on the road at the Auburndale Playground, with the suggestion that the chairman state that the understanding of this commission from previous conference with the Metropolitan District Commission was that only re-surfacing of the present road-way was contemplated by the Metropolitan District Commission and that use of the avenue by automobiles was to have been prohibited in any event.

It was the sense of the meeting that the Playground Commission must be fully informed by the Metropolitan District Commission of the latter's intentions in this connection in order that no impairment of present physical aspects or functioning of the playground be caused by any contemplated changes.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Secretary to the Commission

EH:EE

MINUTES OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING HELD AT CITY HALL  
APRIL 12, 1938

Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton, and Superintendent Hermann were present.

1. The minutes of the March 8 meeting were approved except that on motion of Mr. Bruce it was voted to rescind the third paragraph of number three and that it is the sense of the Playground Commission that as soon as feasible, the Playground Commission shall take the necessary steps to acquire additional land for the new Newtonville Playground in order to provide a short approach to the playground for the pupils of the F. A. Day Junior High School.

2. It was voted to delete the last paragraph of the minutes of the meeting of January 18 as originally written and to substitute the following:

The Preliminary Report of the Sub-Committee on Program, composed of Mrs. L. H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar and Mr. L. A. Bruce, Jr., Chairman, was submitted by its Chairman. A signed copy of that Preliminary Report is attached to these Minutes.

Following a most thorough discussion of that Report, especially of item 3, Mr. Bruce, as Chairman of the Sub-Committee, MOVED that the Report be accepted by the Commission.

The motion was duly SECONDED. However, the Chairman of the Commission refused to put the motion before the Commission, stating that neither the Chairman, nor members, of any Sub-Committee had the right to move that any report of such a Sub-Commission of the Playground Commission be accepted by the Playground Commission.

Since neither the Chairman of the Playground Commission nor Mr. Dalton would make a motion to accept the Preliminary Report of the Sub-Committee, it was not accepted.

Thereupon, Mr. Kellar MOVED and Mrs. Marshall seconded that the Sub-Committee on Program be discharged.

The Chairman of the Commission refused to put the motion on the same grounds that he refused to put Mr. Bruce's motion to accept the Preliminary Report of the Sub-Committee.

Thereupon, Mr. Dalton MOVED that the Sub-Committee on Program be discharged. The motion was seconded, put and carried.

3. Upon the reading of a letter received from the Boston & Albany Railroad regarding a triangle on Rowe Street it was voted to postpone further consideration of this piece of land for play purposes.

4. A letter from Mr. Pierpont Delesdernier regarding re-construction and re-location of the road through the Auburndale Playground was read and the receipt of a petition regarding this same matter was reported by the superintendent.

5. The chairman, Mr. Henry, explained in detail the various conferences with the Metropolitan District Commission and its chairman, Mr. Hultman.

Mr. Henry, in some detail, explained the plans of the Metropolitan District Commission in regard to re-location, width and so forth of the road running through the Auburndale Playground. He stated the legal rights of the city of Newton in regard to this playground and quoted the advice that Mr. Bartlett, the City Solicitor, had given. Mr. Bruce moved and it was seconded and voted that the road from Commonwealth Avenue along the Charles River through the playground towards the City of Waltham be kept in its present location and that the Metropolitan District Commission be requested to resurface and maintain this road. If necessary, the chairman is empowered to name a sub-committee to wait upon the Metropolitan District Commission to attain this end. If the Metropolitan District Commission declines, the chairman is empowered in the name of the Commission to request the City Government to authorize the Playground Commission to take over the entire care and maintenance and control of this road.

6. The superintendent reported a request from the Tudor Village Kennels Inc. for permission to use a playground for the training of dogs. He reported this to be a private enterprise. No further action seemed necessary.

7. It was voted to request His Honor, Mayor Childs and the City Government to re-appropriate \$835 to meet the contract which the Playground Commission made in 1937 with landscape architect, Bradford Williams.

8. It was moved by Mr. Bruce that the chairman be authorized to appoint a sub-committee consisting of Mrs. Marshall, Mr. Kellar, and Mr. Bruce to make a study of adopting program and personnel of the Playground Department to present day recreation needs of the City of Newton. Mr. Kellar moved to amend the vote requesting that he be dropped from the committee because of the inadvisability of having a majority of the Commission on a sub-committee. Mr. Bruce accepted the amendment. The motion was duly seconded, put and carried.

9. The Superintendent reported letters received from the School Department and the Buildings Commissioner advising the discontinuance of dancing in the halls of the Emerson School in Upper Falls and Stearns School in Nonantum.

10. It was voted to approve a W. P. A. project of alterations at the Hawthorn playground building when acquired and after further plans have been submitted.

11. Mrs. Marshall moved that the neighborhood center work be continuous from mid-October to mid-May beginning with the 1938 season and that the sum of \$8,000 be budgeted for that purpose. It was so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Secretary to the Commission

The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held May 10, 1938 at the office of the Playground Department at City Hall. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present.

2. Mr. Bradford Williams, landscape architect engaged by the Playground Commission for the development of Edmands Park, presented additional plans which he explained at some detail. He again recommended the abolishment of Colby Street as a road within the park limits and recommended the purchase of the hill east of Edmands Park.

By motion of Mr. Bruce it was voted to take steps to acquire without cost to the city the land on the east side of Edmands Park and to close Colby Street from the west side of the park within park limits.

3. The Playground Commission signed an application prepared by Mr. Bartlett for the termination of an agreement with the Metropolitan District Commission affecting the entire Auburndale Playground between Commonwealth Avenue and the City limits of Waltham. This matter has the approval of his Honor Mayor Childs and the Board of Aldermen.

4. The Playground Commission at the suggestion of Mr. Dalton considered the matter of publicity of all matters pertaining to the Playground department. Upon motion of Mr. Kellar, seconded by Mr. Bruce, it was voted as follows:

Such information as contained in the records of the Playground Commission meetings which the Commission deems to be of public interest shall be made available to the public and press immediately after the close of each meeting.

5. Upon motion by Mr. Kellar and seconded by Mr. Bruce the Playground Commission voted to authorize the Superintendent to take the necessary steps to carry out the projects calling for new tennis on the Newton High School athletic field and the improvements on the Cabot Playground.

6. The Superintendent mentioned that His Honor Mayor Childs suggested, after a meeting held with the national representative of the W. P. A. that plans for a proper shelter building at Bulloughs Pond be revived. The Playground Commission voted to prepare such plans and also to prepare plans for sanitary stations for playgrounds which are without sanitary accommodations.

7. Mrs. Marshall recommended that a study be made of furnishing an easier access to the Newton Highlands playground from the south end.

8. Upon motion of Mr. Bruce which was seconded by Mr. Kellar it was voted to request the Board of Aldermen to transfer from the item in the budget, Replacement of Equipment, amounting to \$1,086 to erect a fence between the Marcy property and the Upper Falls Playground.

9. Upon motion of Mr. Bruce, seconded by Mr. Kellar, it was voted that the Superintendent be instructed to write the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission that the position of Assistant Superintendent of the

Playground Department of the City of Newton be abolished and that Mr. Lane be notified in writing and that motion be referred to the City Solicitor for ruling of legality of situation covered by the motion.

10. Mr. Bruce, in behalf of the sub-committee on program, presented a written report of the meeting of the sub-committee held Wednesday, May 4. This is made a part of this record.

\*The report of the Sub-Committee on Program and the suggested Rules and Regulations for the Playground Commission were referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

EH:EE

Secretary, Playground Commission

\* #1 June 22 meeting.

410  
~~#12~~

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM  
of the PLAYGROUND COMMISSION of the City of Newton

Wednesday, May 4th, 1938

Appointed at the regular meeting of the Playground Commission  
on Tuesday, April 12, 1938.

PRESENT: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall and Mr. L. A. Bruce, Jr.

- 1 - L. A. Bruce, Jr., was named as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.
- 2 - Interpretation of the Job.

The Sub-Committee interprets its tasks and responsibilities  
as follows:

to make a thorough study of the present program, in all its  
phases, carried on by the Playground Department; of all  
personnel and their responsibilities, activities and rate  
of pay; of the recreation needs of the citizens of Newton  
and of the facilities available to meet those needs.

All this to the end that there shall be a complete and well-  
rounded recreation program in Newton to meet the leisure-  
time needs of all ages.

The Sub-Committee shall gather facts and information from  
all possible sources available and shall be free to call  
upon the staff of the Playground Department, through the  
Superintendent to provide figures and information listed in  
this report.

It shall also have the right to call upon any organization  
or individual, recognized as experts in the field of  
recreation by reason of the nature of the organization and  
of the position and experience of the individuals consulted,  
providing there shall be no cost to the City of Newton or  
to the Playground Commission for such assistance.

3 - Figures and Statistics

The Sub-Committee will call upon the Playground Department  
for the following information:

- a - Cost of Playground Supervision, by areas, in 1937;
- b - Cost of skating supervision, by areas, in 1937;
- c - Cost of Community Center supervision, by centers, in  
1937.

"Supervision" shall be interpreted to mean all costs for  
personnel in what ever capacity they served in 1937.

d - Distribution of time and costs, and totals of both in all cases, of

Mr. Hermann  
Mrs. Hovgaard  
Mr. Lane  
Mr. Hughes

In addition to salary and wage figures, the Sub-Committee will also request actual 1937 mileage for Departmental purposes in case of the above persons, including the total costs for automobile mileage or rent or maintenance.

c - Attendance Records

The Sub-Committee will also request full information from the Department for the following:

- (1) total number of different individuals served at all Playground areas, skating and bathing areas, community centers in 1937, with sex and age in each case;
- (2) total attendance at all such areas and centers in 1937;
- (3) attendance at activities at all such places, such as classes, clubs, swimming classes, with sex and age in each case.

- Conclusion

The Sub-Committee, like the other members of the Playground Commission and the Superintendent, is moved solely by the sense of its heavy responsibilities for carrying on a complete and well-balanced recreation program in Newton which shall meet the needs of all and which assures our citizens that every dollar expended gets a dollar's worth.

The Sub-Committee does not question the value of what is being done, or the need for it, from its present knowledge. It is only aware of the fact that the Playground Commission must keep constantly abreast of the times and keep itself so fully informed that there is never a question in the mind of any of its members about the completeness, within its budgetary allowance, and effectiveness of the program and conduct of the Department.

Respectfully submitted

*L. A. Bruce, Jr.*  
L. A. BRUCE, JR.  
Chairman

TERESA G. MARSHALL  
(Mrs. L. H.)

*Teresa G. Marshall*

Present

- Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman
- Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr.
- Mrs. Louis H. Marshall
- Mr. George Kellar
- Mr. Edward F. Dalton
- Mr. Ernst Hermann, Superintendent

1. The minutes of the meeting of May 10, 1938 were read and approved with the last sentence "No action was taken" stricken out and the following sentence was substituted:

The report of the Sub-Committee on Program and the suggested Rules and Regulations for the Playground Commission were referred to the Committee of the Whole.

2. It was moved by Mr. Bruce, seconded by Mr. Kellar and voted!

That the Rules and Regulations of the Playground Commission approved by the Committee of the Whole on June 6, 1938 be revised according to the recommendations in the letters from the City Solicitor, dated June 22, 1938 and that the chairman of the Playground Commission be empowered to request the approval of the Mayor to paragraph 8 a.

3. It was moved by Mr. Bruce, seconded by Mrs. Marshall and voted:

That Mr. Lane's compensation for the year 1938 shall not exceed the sum of \$800. This move is taken in the interest of economy. The Massachusetts Civil Service Commission and Mr. Lane shall be notified of both motions concerning him within twenty-four hours of this meeting.

4. It was moved by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Bruce and voted:

That the list of playground directors, etc., as recommended by the Superintendent for the July and August season 1938 be approved.

5. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

EH:EE

Secretary



PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 1938 AT CITY HALL

Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present.

1. The Reverend Mr. Farrar of St. Pauls Church, Newton Highlands, addressed the Playground Commission in the interest of a newly formed football league including six teams from various parts of Newton. He told how they had organized, had elected the Rev. Mr. Farrar president and Mr. John E. Leary of the Playground Department their general manager. They had formulated rules and regulations for the conduct of the league.

Rev. Farrar, in behalf of the league, requested that the City of Newton Playground Department take charge of this league in the same manner in which the Twilight Baseball League was managed by the department. He stated that the players did not request any help in uniforming but would like to have the Playground Department furnish some new balls and at the end of the season some prizes for the winning team. They also requested that the last game be played on the highschool athletic field.

The teams are made up of boys from 18 to 25 years of age. The proceeds of the final game are to be turned over to the City of Newton to cover some of the expenses involved.

It was moved by Mrs. Marshall and seconded by Mr. Dalton that the Playground Commission heartily support this league and that Mr. Dalton be the contact man with the league representing the Playground Commission.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting which were mailed to the Commission were approved.

3. Upon motion of Mr. Bruce and seconded by Mr. Dalton it was moved that the Playground Department prepare plans and estimates for the development of the Lowell Avenue Playground.

4. The Superintendent explained that with the covering of the brook north of the tennis courts on the Newton Centre Playground a retaining wall on the south side of the two easterly courts seemed unnecessary. Such a retaining wall would be very unsightly besides costing at least \$1,600 for materials, etc.

Instead of building this retaining wall the two easterly courts usually marked 1 & 2 could be moved north over the brook.

The Playground Commission approved of this change as a W. P. A. project.

The Playground Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the City Government the naming of the following playgrounds:

The playground known as the Newton Highlands Playground to be named the Joseph Lee Playground in honor of Joseph Lee of Boston, the father of the playground movement in America.

The playground known as the Auburndale Playground to be called the Thomas J. Lyons Playground in honor of a citizen of Newton who for many years was a member of the Playground Commission and who throughout his life in Newton was an active supporter of sports for boys.

The playground known as the Oak Hill Playground to be named the Gobinet Hurley Playground. It was due to her interest that some land was given by the Hurley family towards this playground. She was also active in the interest of this community centre.

The playground known as the Newton Centre Playground to be named the William C. Brewer Playground in honor of the first chairman of the Playground Commission. Mr. Brewer was instrumental in establishing the first supervised playground in Newton Centre. Through his efforts a special commission was appointed in 1912 by the City Government to study into the possibility of a playground department. He was the chairman of the committee. His recommendations resulted in the establishment of a Playground Commission. Mr. Brewer served as chairman of this commission from 1912 until his death in 1925.

The playground known as the Wellington Playground in West Newton to be named the Wellington Playground after the donor Mr. J. Frank Wellington.

The playground known as the Richardson Playground in Waban to be named after Frank L. Richardson who presented the land to the City of Newton.

The playground known as the Waban Playground adjoining the Angier School to be named the George Angier Playground. Mr. Angier was instrumental in the purchase, establishment, and development of this playground and through his efforts a recreation room was added to the new Angier School.

6. The Playground Commission considered the request from the Italian War Veterans for the use of the Hawthorn Playground on October 11 and 12. The Playground Commission voted to notify this association that a permit would not be granted another year if they did not strictly observe the rules and regulations of the playgrounds.

7. The Superintendent read the letter received from Mr. Harold S. Piper, the director of the Newton Highlands Village Association urging more supervision for the Newton Highlands Playground. The Playground Commission voted to do all possible within the limits of their appropriation and also to bring about the best cooperation with the Police Department.

8. The Commission received from Mr. Eldridge Wason, president of the Newton Figure Skating Club, a petition for an artificial skating rink. It was deemed impracticable to build such a rink at this time.

9. It was moved by Mr. Dalton and seconded by Mrs. Marshall that Mr. Leary be given a salary as a full time employee of \$25.00 per week and that this be made retroactive to June 22, but that this arrangement continue only through the remainder of this year.

1HTGZ

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 1938 AT CITY HALL (cont.)

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10. Mr. Bruce, in behalf of his committee to study program and personnel submitted a written report which is made a part of this record. The Playground Commission voted to accept this report.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

EH:EE

Secretary to the Commission



PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

Report of the Second Meeting of the Sub-Committee to study Program and Personnel. Wednesday, September 7th, 1938, at 30 Vista avenue, Auburndale, Massachusetts, at 4:30 P. M.

All members of the Playground Commission and the Superintendent were invited to be present, to meet with Mr. Weaver W. Pangburn, assigned without cost, to make a study in co-operation with the Sub-Committee, by the National Recreation Association.

Present: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Weaver W. Pangburn, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Ernst Hermann and L. A. Bruce, Jr., Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

Absent: Messrs. Ralph C. Henry and Edward F. Dalton.

Mr. Pangburn was introduced to the members present by the Chairman.

In order to make clear the purpose of the work of the Sub-Committee, Mr. Bruce re-iterated the statements made in the first report of the Sub-Committee.

Mr. Pangburn asked various questions to clear up questions in his own mind. He then stated that

first; it would be impossible to make a fully detailed study of all recreation in Newton in the two-weeks period, but could do quite a bit towards that end if the sub-committee would get him information about the work and programs of the private agencies. This the members agreed to do.

second; his survey would touch rather lightly on the physical lay-out and condition of playgrounds. Members agreed that they felt this was not necessary because of their confidence in the Superintendent's ability and success in that field.

third; that, through the Superintendent, he would like to have access to the Minutes of the Commission, the attendance records and financial statements and budgets. These present agreed to the reasonableness and need of his having such information and would so recommend to the Commission.

The survey will probably be made during the period of October 15 to October 31st.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

*L. A. Bruce, Jr.*  
L. A. BRUCE, JR.

## PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14, 1938

The Playground Commission met at City Hall at 8.45 a. m. Monday, November 14, 1938. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present.

The superintendent explained the existing shortage of funds for supervision which resulted in severe criticism of the superintendent. After some discussion Mr. Dalton moved that the Playground Commission ask for an additional \$2,800 for supervision and \$250 for Auto-Maintenance. Mr. Kellar seconded the motion and it was carried.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Secretary to the Commission

H:E

17



November 9, 1938

## Re: Request for Additional Appropriations

Our weekly payroll for supervision is still about \$400. Of this amount \$175 is spent on neighborhood centers, although a full program has not as yet been established. Normally our fall supervision would have been cut down more but the exceptionally fine weather has brought children regularly to our playgrounds. We are, however, considerably below what we spent in former years. The program for spring supervision was also greatly curtailed. In other words we made a strong effort to cut down on playground supervision in order to liberate funds for neighborhood center work.

On November 1 our balance for supervision was \$995. With the exception of about \$100 this will be exhausted by the end of this week. We need \$400 a week to carry on what supervision of playgrounds is needed and for a somewhat more elaborate program of neighborhood center work. There are seven weeks remaining. This makes a total of \$2,800 we need for supervision. If skating starts early, this amount would not be sufficient.

When I submitted the supervision schedule for July and August I stated that the payroll for this would exceed by about \$1,400 what we really should spend for supervision but that it might be possible to accomplish some savings. Although we did manage some savings here and there we had to pay more as in the case of Mr. Simmons.

Since then we have had a number of extras some of which were authorized by the Playground Commission such as:

Mr. Leary's increase in salary	\$156.00
Ward School	75.00
Officials for Football League	100.00
Additional Supervision at Cold Spring	100.00
In the spring we furnished supervision for the Sesqui-centennial Pageant	150.00
Fall weather required more than would be normally expended	500.00
The week after the storm the schools were closed and on account of fallen wires and trees, etc. extra supervision was needed	200.00
	<hr/>
	\$1280.00

The skating season of 1937-38 was forty-two days.

By the middle of April we had already spent approximately \$7,600 for all kinds of supervision.

I am attaching herewith expenditures for supervision in 1936, 1937, 1938.

Re: Request for Additional Appropriations

We need in addition about \$250 more for Auto Maintenance. The use of our automobiles, particularly the trucks, has been unusually heavy and the Playground Commission approved my estimate for this item which was \$275 more but the Board of Aldermen cut it \$275.

Against this we may place unexpended balance under Replacement of Equipment, Truck \$1086.90 and general saving which we deliberately tried to make during the year of \$300 making a total of \$1386.90. If the Playground Commission approves, we could promise its return to the City Treasury at the end of the year.

There are several unexpended balances on W. P. A. projects:

Cabot	\$2300.00
Allison	\$2000.00
Some projects not yet authorized but money appropriated, as for instance, High School Tennis Courts	\$9500.00

SUPERVISION

Neighbor-  
hood centers

Week Ending	Play-grounds			\$30,000.00 1938	\$32,000.00 1937	\$28,500.00 1936
Jan. 1	\$47.54		\$14.50			
8	382.14		183.75			
15	497.01		221.01			
22	422.71		218.88			
29	<u>423.38</u>	1772.78	<u>262.51</u>	900.65	2,673.43	780.39
Feb. 5	343.50		225.26			
12	356.26		234.51			
19	304.88		215.13			
26	<u>207.26</u>	1211.90	<u>249.51</u>	924.41	2,136.31	1,227.02
Mar. 5	197.51		233.01			
12	181.75		239.01			
19	163.38		229.01			
26	144.37		222.01			
Apr. 2	<u>112.50</u>	799.51	<u>257.51</u>	1180.55	1,980.06	995.03
Apr. 9	116.88		232.51			
16	172.50		223.01			
23	243.25		226.51			
30	<u>206.51</u>	739.14	<u>232.38</u>	914.41	1,653.55	1,287.69
May 7	215.63		217.76			
14	227.50		204.51			
21	231.13		210.38			
28	<u>220.75</u>	895.01	<u>208.76</u>	841.41	1,736.42	1,591.16
June 4	319.88		199.01			
11	403.50		128.01			
18	471.26		73.01			
25	589.90					
July 2	<u>665.28</u>	2449.82		400.03	2,849.75	2,275.82
July 9	1519.17					
16	1578.64					
23	1434.03					
30	<u>1584.02</u>	6115.86			6,115.86	8,078.20
Aug. 6	1549.25					
13	1603.04					
20	1501.02					
27	<u>1092.37</u>	5745.68			5,745.68	7,150.07
Sept. 3	794.64					
10	613.52					
17	447.55					
24	387.62					
Oct. 1	<u>370.37</u>	2613.70			2,613.70	3,200.09
Oct. 8	353.30					
15	359.73		45.18			
22	<u>289.83</u>	1002.86	<u>90.88</u>	136.06	1,138.92	1,437.77
Nov. Rec.						
					1,653.36	1,041.88
					2,322.63	1,191.14
					<u>31,999.23</u>	<u>28,494.41</u>

Present: Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr.,  
Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F.  
Dalton, Superintendent Ernst Hermann.

Absent: None

1. Mr. Henry read a communication from Mr. Donald McKay, Chairman of the Finance Committee.
2. Upon motion made by Mr. Bruce, duly seconded by Mr. Kellar, the Commission voted to turn over some eighty cords of fire wood to the Welfare Department for disposal. This wood is piled on the Newton Centre Playground and was brought there from the various playgrounds where storm damaged trees and trees injured beyond recovery were cut and split into cord wood.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting as submitted in writing were approved.
4. Upon motion made by Mr. Bruce, duly seconded by Mr. Dalton, the Commission voted that the Superintendent, in submitting his proposed budget for the Department for the year 1939 shall provide the following information with regard to supervision:

a break-down for the last three years for itemized costs for year-round supervision, bathing, skating, community center work, twilight league baseball and for playground direction and supervision.

Similar information shall also be provided for all other items in the budget.

The 1939 budget shall be established under "Supervision" according to the above break-down.

5. Upon motion of Mr. Dalton, duly seconded by Mr. Bruce, the Commission voted to set aside a certain sum for emergency purposes.
6. Upon motion made by Mr. Bruce, duly seconded by Mr. Dalton, the Commission voted that the City Comptroller be requested to submit to the Playground Commission a suggested system of book-keeping for the control of Playground Department budget expenditures.
7. Upon motion made by Mr. Bruce, duly seconded by Mr. Dalton, the Commission voted that the Superintendent submit a complete financial statement at each monthly meeting of the Playground Commission, showing in full detail, by budget items, annual budget, expenditures for each preceding month, for the year to date (end of the preceding month) and balances available for the rest of the year. This statement shall also include the current incurred liabilities under the proper classifications.

8. Upon motion made by Mr. Bruce, duly seconded by Mr. Dalton, the Commission voted that the Superintendent shall submit to the Commission at each of its monthly meetings a complete proposed pay-roll for the succeeding month, giving the names of employees, positions, assignments, rates of pay, total estimated pay for the month under consideration. The Commission shall take such action as it deems proper and no additional expenditures for pay-roll shall be incurred in any month once the Commission has voted on it except for emergencies or conditions obviously beyond the control of the Superintendent and such overages shall be submitted at the next meeting of the Commission for approval. In considering the pay-roll for the months of July and August and September complete information as cited above shall be submitted to the Commission not later than its regular May meeting.

9. Upon motion made by Mr. Dalton, duly seconded by Mr. Bruce, the Commission voted that the Playground Commission submit a request to His Honor the Mayor and the City Government for the sum of \$1,386.90 for Playground supervision for the rest of the year.

In making this request the Playground Commission respectfully requested the City Government to take into consideration that in the item of Replacement of Equipment there will be a balance at the end of the year which can be returned to the City Treasury of \$1,386.90. This is due to the fact that the Playground Department did not buy a new truck this year and that a further saving of \$300.00 was made under this item which would ordinarily be spent for replacement of small play equipment.

10. Upon motion of Mr. Bruce, duly seconded by Mr. Kellar, the Commission voted that the Playground Commission approve a schedule for a basketball league submitted to the Superintendent by Rev. Mr. Farrar with Mr. Leary in sole and direct charge of the league and that, if possible, one evening a week at the John W. Weeks Junior High School be devoted to basketball for girls, providing the revised budget of the department will permit this program.

11. The Playground Commission by vote approved the organization of a course in public speaking for one evening a week to continue fifteen weeks in the Frank A. Day Junior High School and that a letter of thanks be sent to the following gentlemen who have signified their willingness to conduct this course free of charge:

Mr. Richard Dunn, Mr. John Spalding, Mr. Wallace Strathern,  
Mr. Howard Murdock, Mr. Dwight Morton.

It was understood that no extra expenses would be involved.

12. Upon motion of Mr. Bruce, duly seconded by Mrs. Marshall, the Commission voted to send copies of the minutes of this meeting to His Honor Mayor Childs, Mr. Charles B. Floyd, President of the Board of Aldermen, Mr. Donald D. McKay, Chairman of the Finance Committee and to Mr. Daniel White, the Comptroller of Accounts.

The meeting adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
ERNST HERMANN  
Secretary to the Commission

## MINUTES OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING HELD DECEMBER 29, 1938 AT CITY HALL

Present: Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mr. Lyscom A. Bruce, Jr., Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton, and Superintendent Ernst Hermann.

The minutes of the November 17 meeting were approved.

The Reverend Mr. Shedd, Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Randall appeared before the full Playground Commission in the interest of the Newton Upper Falls neighborhood center. Upon the question asked by Mr. Bruce, "Why are you here?", Reverend Mr. Shedd said that they thought "somebody might throw a monkey wrench into the program". He said that the neighborhood center was not ideal but the program carried on was most pleasing so far. He thought the drama, singing, and glee club were valuable for older people.

Captain Veduccio of the Newton Police Department and Mr. J. Edward Theriault from Nonantum were also present and urged the continuation of the Stearns Playground work and neighborhood center. Captain Veduccio felt strongly that they continue at least as good a program as had been carried on for years. Both Captain Veduccio and Mr. Theriault expressed their belief that there was an astonishing decline in delinquency. Mr. Angino who is doing boys work in Nonantum seconded all that Captain Veduccio and Mr. Theriault said. Captain Veduccio urged that if we planned a building that it contain plenty of shower baths and, if possible, a pool.

The Playground Commission considered the annual budget for 1939. In considering the first item SALARY OF SUPERINTENDENT, it was urged to defer the consideration of this item for the time being. The Playground Commission upon Mr. Dalton's motion, moved to consider this item. Mr. Bruce, in behalf of the sub-committee on program presented a written recommendation which is made a part of this record. Copies of these reports on the part of the sub-committee were given to each member present. The Commission finally voted to request an opinion from the City Solicitor as to the status of Superintendent Hermann as head of the department and deferred action on this item until a ruling had been received. The Playground Commission considered the other items of the budget for 1939 in detail and approved the following:

SALARIES	
1. SUPERINTENDENT	\$3,000.00 (not yet approved)
2. CLERICAL ASSISTANCE	2,647.00
3. DIRECTORS	32,000.00
4. TEMPORARY CLERKS	300.00
5. OFFICE EXPENSE	850.00
6. TRAVEL EXPENSE OUT OF STATE	-----
7. AUTO MAINTENANCE	1,475.00
8. MAINTENANCE	36,945.36
9. REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT	3,430.00
10. CONSTRUCTION	8,275.00
11. NEW EQUIPMENT	810.00
12. OUTSIDE CHARGE ACCOUNT	35.00
13. CARE & ALTERATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUNDS	6,125.00
	<u>\$95,892.36</u>

## 14. W.P.A. PROJECTS To be considered later.

Upon motion of Mr. Kellar and seconded by Mr. Bruce it was voted that in purchasing gasoline, oil or other material from any source for the Playground Department the individual making such a purchase shall return a voucher, signed by him, showing the material received, the amount and the purpose for which material is intended, and shall return such voucher to the Playground Department office immediately after receipt.

The Playground Commission did not take final action upon a request for an appropriation for a W.P.A. project on the Lowell Avenue Playground.

The Superintendent submitted the request from the Newton Figure Skating Club for an ice carnival to be held on January 28 and if weather is not favorable, on February 4. The Commission voted to have the department aid in this carnival but that expenditures for extras should not exceed the sum of \$100. The request of the Newton Figure Skating association to install a skate sharpening shop at the Crystal Lake bath house was deemed inadvisable. It was also deemed inadvisable to have an instructor in fancy skating.

The recommendation of the Superintendent for permission to engage referees for the basketball league was not approved. It was the opinion of several members that volunteer referees could be secured.

The Superintendent reported to the Commission that Mr. John Shaughnessy, who had so far been in charge of the N.Y.A. work in Newton and who had been recommended to the N.Y.A. administration some years ago by the superintendent has been promoted to a better job and he requested the approval of the Playground Commission for his recommending Mr. John F. Donahue for this position. It was so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

EH:EE

Secretary to the Commission

MAIL VOTE

1938

September 8, 1938

The Playground Commission approved the immediate purchase of the Cunningham land and a request for an appropriation of \$3,000 to develop this land.



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COMMISSION MEETINGS

1939



The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held February 14, 1939 in the office of the Playground Commission at City Hall. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Ernst-Hermann were present.

The changes in the city ordinance regarding the organization of the playground department were discussed at length. Mr. Dalton moved and Mr. Kellar seconded a motion that the Playground Commission recommend the adoption of the proposed city ordinance. The vote resulted in a tie; Mr. Henry and Mr. Dalton voting yes, Mr. Kellar and Mrs. Marshall voting no.

It was decided that each side submit, through the chairman, a statement to the Claims and Rules Committee giving the reasons for their vote.

It was voted to transmit to the City Solicitor the condolences of the Playground Commission and the best wishes for a speedy recovery.

It was voted to authorize the superintendent to furnish the necessary officials for the City of Newton Basketball League at the lowest possible cost. This vote was to amend a previous vote taken which did not permit the superintendent to employ officials.

Upon recommendation of Mrs. Marshall it was voted to use the term "Neighborhood Centers" instead of Community Centers or other designations now used.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The superintendent was authorized to study the Franklin School building as a possible neighborhood center when its use was terminated by the School Department.

Upon motion of Mr. Kellar, seconded by Mr. Dalton it was voted to approve a W. P. A. project, if possible, for the preparation of photostatic plans of all the playgrounds in the City of Newton.

The superintendent was authorized to continue for four weeks a softball league after the basketball season closed.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Secretary to the Commission  
Superintendent of Playgrounds

EH:EE



The regular meeting of the Playground Commission was held at City Hall, March 25 at 3.30 p.m. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Irving C. Paul and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present.

Mr. Henry, in behalf of the Commission, heartily welcomed Mr. Irving C. Paul and expressed the hope that he would enjoy his new office as Playground Commissioner.

1. It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. The Playground Commission considered the various cuts which were suggested by the Finance Committee. The cuts were:

	Cuts	Actual Appropriation
Directors	\$ 4,000.00	\$28,000.00
Temporary Clerk	100.00	200.00
Office	100.00	750.00
Auto Maintenance	100.00	1,375.00
Maintenance	3,945.36	33,000.00
Replacement of Equipment	230.00	3,200.00
Construction	7,800.00	475.00
New Equipment	500.00	310.00
Care, Alterations & Improvements of Elementary School Grounds	1,125.00	5,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$17,900.36	

In addition the Playground Commission noted a cut made by His Honor, Mayor Childs of \$7,000.00 for New Construction, making a total of Cuts \$17,900.36.

The Playground Commission accepted these cuts except the item for Temporary Clerk and authorized the Superintendent to request the chairman of the Finance Committee to return the cut of \$100 to this item.

3. The Playground Commission considered a petition presented by Mr. Kenneth Tiffin, Alderman from Ward 3, for more tennis courts at the John W. Weeks playground. Mr. Kellar moved, Mrs. Marshall seconded and it was voted to notify the petitioner that there was no appropriation available for additional tennis courts on the J. W. Weeks playground but that the Playground Commission would consider an item for this purpose on the 1940 budget.

4. No action was taken by the Playground Commission upon the report of the Superintendent that a petition had been presented to the Board of Aldermen for a new playground in Auburndale.

5. Upon the report of the superintendent on matters pertaining to the Newton Highlands Boys Club referring to a letter received from Mr. Churchill, principal of the Hyde School and other reports made by Mr. Tedesco and Mr. Shaughnessy, the Playground Commission approved the appointment of a temporary paid leader for this group.

6. The superintendent made a report on the management, etc. of the basketball league and submitted a report on the expenses. This included a report on the N. Y. A. activities.

7. The superintendent reported upon the possibilities of the Franklin School being used as a neighborhood center after the School Department has transferred its activities to the new school on Derby Street. He pointed out that if an annex with a hall containing a stage were added to the Franklin School, this layout would offer splendid opportunities for neighborhood centre activities. He submitted estimates made by the Public Buildings Commissioner of \$25,000.00 for such an annex. The Commission instructed the superintendent to study the matter further and to report estimated cost of setting up a community recreation program in this building.

8. The superintendent reported a meeting with Mr. Richard B. Carter in behalf of the Stearns School Centre Association and their interest in the Elliot School when this school is discontinued by the School Department and the new school at Pearl and Gardner Street is completed.

In view of the fact that the department maintains a neighborhood centre at the Stearns School and that the accommodations in the new school building at the corner of Pearl and Gardner Streets will offer good opportunities for the conduct of neighborhood centre activities, the Playground Commission voted that there was no need to use the Elliot School as a municipal neighborhood centre.

9. The superintendent reported upon the vandalism to the old building acquired lately for the Hawthorn playground. He submitted plans and estimates made by the Public Buildings Commissioner amounting to \$19,500.00 for alterations in the building and \$3,500.00 for sewer. The Public Buildings Commissioner at the same time recommended the razing of the present building to be replaced by a new building at the cost of \$19,500.00. The superintendent was authorized to continue negotiations with the building commissioner.

10. The Playground Commission voted to consider, later in the year, a repetition of the course in public speaking.

11. The superintendent was authorized to consult with Mr. Bartlett regarding matters pertaining to the new Newtonville playground.

12. The Playground Commission authorized the superintendent to inquire from the city solicitor the status of the legality of the right-of-way into the Cold Spring Playground from Duncklee Street.

13. The superintendent reported an application from the Maria S. S. del Carmine Society for permission to use the Hawthorn Street Playground for its annual festival July 15, 16, 17. It was the unanimous opinion of the Playground Commission that the department should carefully check on the sale of liquor within the legal distance of the playground and also check on the type of fire-works and the time of setting off this display before issuing a permit.

14. Upon the motion of Mrs. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Paul, it was voted that Mr. Kellar be appointed a member of the special committee on program and personnel.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

Superintendent of Playgrounds  
Secretary to the Commission

EH:EE



A meeting of the Playground Commission was held May 24 in the office of the Playground Commission at City Hall. Mr. Ralph C. Henry, Chairman, Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Edward F. Dalton and Superintendent Ernst Hermann were present.

Mr. J. Edward Theriault appeared before the Commission to explain his views and the views of the citizens of his district on the proposed purchase of a vacant lot adjoining the Stearns School west of the Stearns family home. Mr. Theriault read a statement containing a number of suggestions. He agreed to send a copy of this statement to the superintendent for the files of the department. Mr. Theriault's statement is made a part of this record.

It was unanimously voted that the Playground Commission recommend to the Board of Aldermen the taking of the Stearns property on Watertown Street for recreational purposes.

The Playground Commission voted to approve a permit being issued to the Maria S. S. del Carmine society for a field day with the proviso that the lodge agrees to limit its fireworks display to the time between 10.15 and 10.45 p.m.; that the society further agrees to make a contract with the fireworks manufacturer that all extremely noisy display be eliminated, this to include the toning down of all the sky-rockets in their final explosions and that the detonation of the final mass-barrage be omitted.

The Playground Commission unanimously voted to recommend to His Honor the Mayor that an appropriation of \$16,000 be made to the Public Buildings Commissioner for the purpose of altering the newly acquired building at the Hawthorne Street Playground for a field house containing a play hall, directors room, sanitariums, shower baths and dressing rooms as per plans submitted by the Buildings Commissioner providing that this could be made a W. P. A. project in which case the city's appropriation would be less than the \$16,000 recommended by the Buildings Commissioner.

Upon the request of the Board of Aldermen submitted by the City Clerk, Mr. Frank M. Grant, that the Playground Commission furnish an opinion on the matter of taking some of the Cunningham land in Auburndale for playground purposes and that an appropriation be made of \$2,500 for incidentals, the Playground Commission unanimously voted that it reaffirm the opinion expressed in a communication to His Honor Mayor Childs September 18, 1938 to the extent that the Cunningham land be bought and that an appropriation of \$2,500 be made for incidental expenses in connection with the proposed W. P. A. project.

It was the sense of the meeting that the Playground Department cooperate with the School Department in staging the twilight games of the Legion's junior baseball club on the High School baseball diamond this summer.

The Superintendent was authorized to consult Mr. Bartlett, the City Solicitor, about an entrance from Duncklee Street to the Cold Spring Playground.

Respectfully submitted,

ERNST HERMANN

EH:EE

Secretary to the Commission

260A  
Newton, Mass.  
May 24, 1939

Mr. Chairman and Members of the  
Newton Playground Commission:

At the very beginning, let me express the thanks of my Pastor, Father Robichaud, whom you have already met, and all my neighbors in Nonantum, for the courtesy of this hearing, thus allowing me to present to you, their case, regarding the acquisition of the former Stearns property in Nonantum and which we shall now refer to as the "Proposed Warehouse Site".

I shall endeavor to show to your Honorable Commission that the revival of one of the most attractive, interesting and yet very inexpensive activities of our Playground Program is to be lost to us, unless we can show to our Board of Alderman that the last communication of His Honor, Mayor Childs, meets, for the present, economic conditions and we shall keep in abeyance the other ideals we may have in mind.

To us the acquiring of this land is most important---not as a charitable gesture and not to prevent business expansion, for we have the highest respect for the young men who are standing by before pressing their building program. There are in the village some who can remember back 25, 45, yes 50 years and who have seen this lot vacant so long that it would seem that a part of the School-Playground heritage were being taken away. It was here, a few years before I went into the Army in 1917 that I had my little garden with lettuce, radishes, some beans and tomatoes. This very lot was given free use of, to the early Playground Organization by the Stearns Family and it was a most interesting and most active part of the then program.

We readily admit that there are other Playgrounds in our Village or bordering on it but I ask you to take note that in Nonantum our ratio of population is over 8000 persons per square mile of area.

We offer the following suggestions as uses for the area---

1-Revival of the Small Gardens

2-Later, the setting-up of additional tennis court facilities or a youngsters play green.

3-Eventually, (when economic conditions will permit) a modern Community Centre Building

4-But not least, a park or a croquet green which will maintain a vista to the school and eliminate a dangerous crossing over the sidewalk where many of the children attending the three schools must pass.

I have three sketch exhibits and a general area tracing--

Exhibit #1- simply shows the plot plan of construction and layout as proposed by the owners and is presented to you for a general impression, as residents of Newton, of the lot coverage by the present owners and how it will prevent the re-establishment of the small gardens in our village.

Exhibit #2-You have here our plan for the immediate use of the land in question, the revival of the childrens gardens which we think can be developed as follows---

Item #1--The taking of the land

Item #2--Plowing of the land (One days work.)

Item #3---Raking, sodding and levelling-off, which would be done by the children at no cost.

Item #4--Place a small wood fence around from the Playground Warehouse with four or more

"No trespassing police signs" placed in important main locations. (note approx. distances to school. )  
 Exhibit #3--This is our suggestion for the future or at any time that the economic conditions will permit such a development. Although no exhibit is shown we offer as an additional mental picture, the eventual erection on the lot of a modern Community Centre Building, suitable to the cosmopolitan population of our village with its many needed and much appreciated public services.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Marshall and gentlemen of the Playground Commission, let me before I take my leave thank you for your kind attention and consideration. If you have any questions I shall be pleased to try to answer them.

Signed *J. Edward Theriault*  
 for himself and his neighbors in  
 Village of Nonantum.

Remarks made at the May 24th, 1939  
 meeting of the Newton Playground  
 Commission, at the Playground Office  
 City Hall, Newton Centre, Mass.

A meeting of the Newton Playground Commission was held on June 12, 1939 at City Hall, Newton Centre, Massachusetts, with the following members present: Mrs. Marshall, Messers Henry, Paul and Kellar.

On motion of Mrs. Marshall it was voted to elect Mr. Kellar as Secretary Protem.

On motion of Mr. Paul it was voted to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 24, 1939.

The next business to be presented to the Commission for its action was the appointment of a temporary Superintendent of Playgrounds to fill the position of Mr. Hermann, retired as of June 10, 1939. A number of names were considered for the position, both within and outside the department. It was the consensus of those present, however, that the appointment should be made from outside the present employees. Mr. Paul suggested the name of F. Ewing Wilson and Mr. Wilson was invited to meet with the Commission. After discussing the position with him, he was excused and on motion of Mr. Paul it was voted to appoint Mr. Wilson as Temporary Superintendent of Playgrounds at a salary of seventy-five dollars a week to start on June 14.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m. until June 22 at 7.30 p.m.

GEORGE KELLAR

Acting Secretary.



## MINUTES OF THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION MEETING HELD June 22, 1939

A meeting of the Playground Commission was held at City Hall, Newton Centre, on June 22, 1939 with the following members present: Mrs. Marshall, Messers Paul and Kellar.

On motion of Mr. Kellar the rules were suspended.

On motion of Mr. Paul it was voted to elect Mrs. Marshall as temporary chairman.

On motion of Mr. Paul it was voted to approve the minutes for the meeting of June 12, 1939.

Mrs. Hovgaard, Mr. Tedesco, Mr. Lane and Mr. Donahue were invited to meet with the Commission. The Commission stressed to them the necessity of cooperation and loyalty to the acting head of the department and to the commission, and stated its stand definitely against the use of any alcoholic beverage on playgrounds and during working hours.

A communication was received from Joseph Randall, Secretary of the Newton Upper Falls Community Centre, in which the association condemned the conditions existing at the Upper Falls playground. On motion of Mr. Kellar it was voted to refer the letter to Mr. Wilson for reply and action in conformity with the recommendations.

The first of summer employees was presented to the commission for its approval and on motion of Mr. Paul it was voted to accept the recommendations of the Superintendent as regard the number of employees and salaries.

On motion of Mr. Paul it was voted to request Civil Service to certify John Donahue as permanent supervisor at a salary of Forty dollars a week and to increase the salary of John Leary to thirty dollars a week.

Adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

GEORGE KELLAR

Acting Secretary.



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION HELD AT  
CITY HALL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1939

4266

A meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was held at the City Hall Friday, September 8. Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. George Kellar, Mr. Irving C. Paul and Acting Superintendent F. Ewing Wilson were present.

Upon motion of Mr. Kellar and seconded by Mr. Paul the Recreation Commission voted to request that the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen take proper steps to acquire the Pillion land for a right-of-way to the Cold Spring Playground.

The Commission discussed and approved the purchase of the Cunningham land in Auburndale. This purchase was discussed and voted on at a previous meeting.

On motion of Mr. Kellar the Recreation Commission voted an expression of deep appreciation for the excellent and efficient manner in which Mr. Wilson took over a difficult and arduous task and carried it through to a very successful conclusion. It is the feeling of the Commission that Mr. Wilson cannot be too highly commended for his tact and ability to mold a harmonious staff.

F. Ewing Wilson

Acting Superintendent



## MINUTES OF MEETING OF NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

A meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was held on September 15, 1939 at City Hall, Newton Centre, Massachusetts, with the following members present: Mrs. Marshall, Messers. Paul, Rich and Kellar. Mrs. Marshall presided as Acting Chairman.

Due to the fact that this was the first meeting of the Commission under the new ordinance it was necessary to elect a chairman. On motion of Mr. Paul, duly seconded, it was voted to elect Mrs. Louis H. Marshall as Chairman. On motion of Mr. Rich, duly seconded, it was voted to elect George Kellar as Secretary.

Mr. Morse of the Engineering Department presented plans of the proposed land in Newton Highlands for an entrance to Cold Spring Playground, stressing particularly the need of widening Duncklee Road from 20 to 40 feet. The Commission, while favoring such action, felt that it did not properly come within the scope of its authority and suggested that the matter be taken up with His Honor the Mayor.

On motion of Mr. Paul it was voted to authorize the Chairman to write to the Mayor expressing the complete satisfaction of the very excellent work done by Mr. Wilson during the summer as acting Superintendent of Playgrounds.

Adjourned at 6 p.m.

George Kellar  
Secretary

A meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was held at City Hall, Newton Centre, on September 22, 1939 at 4.30 p.m. with the following members present; Mrs. Marshall, Messers. Paul, Rich, Kellar and Acting Commissioner Brown. Mrs. Marshall presided as Chairman.

On motion of Mr. Paul it was voted that whereas, in the opinion of the Recreation Commission of the City of Newton, the public necessity and convenience require that a parcel of land bounded by Beverly Road, Duncklee Street and the Cochituate Aqueduct as shown on Plan 26201 in the office of the City Engineer, should be taken in fee simple for municipal purposes, to wit, for an entrance to a public playground, that the Recreation Commission hold a Public Hearing on September 29, 1939 at City Hall, Newton, Massachusetts, for the purpose of hearing all such persons as are interested in the above taking.

On motion of Mr. Kellar it was voted that at the same place and same time a hearing should be given to all those interested in the taking of the so-called Cunningham land in Auburndale, adjacent to the Auburndale Playground, such taking to provide for enlargement of the said playground.

On motion of Mr. Kellar it was voted that the Acting Commissioner make a study of the resurfacing of the Day Junior High School and Mason School playgrounds and present to the Commission at least two alternatives for such surface together with costs. This to guide the Commission if it be decided to include such work in the 1940 Budget.

Adjourned at 6 p.m.

George Kellar  
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
September 29, 1939

A meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was held at City Hall, Newton, on September 29 at 9.15 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Mr. Irving C. Paul, Mr. Howard L. Rich and Acting Director Reginald W. P. Brown. Mrs. Marshall presided as Chairman.

On motion, duly seconded, the following vote was taken and passed, and one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750.00) awarded for the purpose:

CITY OF NEWTON

Recreation Commission

September 29, 1939

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Recreation Commission of the City of Newton, the public necessity and convenience require that a certain parcel of land on West Pine Street, Auburndale shown on the Assessors books as part of Section 41, Block 1, Lot 29 and as shown on Plan #27200 in the office of the City Engineer, hereinafter more particularly described, should be taken in fee for municipal purposes, to wit: for a public playground and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the said City by order #79410 have authorized the said taking and have appropriated the sum of one thousand, seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750.00) for the purpose of acquiring the said property, it is therefore

ORDERED, under the authority of General Laws, Chapter 45, Section 14, and Section 129 of the Revised Ordinances of 1929 of the City of Newton, and all other authority conferred by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the ordinances of the City of Newton that the following described premises and the fee therein be and the same are hereby taken for municipal purposes, to wit, a public playground:

DESCRIPTION OF LAND TAKEN

Beginning at a point in the northeasterly line of West Pine Street, distant 50.83 feet northwesterly from an angle point in said northeasterly line of West Pine Street at land of Helen L. Cunningham; thence northwesterly 165.00 feet by said northeasterly line of West Pine Street; thence northeasterly 218.00 feet by lands of the City of Newton, Auburndale Park and Mary Cunningham (City of Newton Tax Title); thence southeasterly 115.00 feet by land of Mary Cunningham; thence southwesterly 236.90 feet over land of Helen L. Cunningham to the point of beginning, the last four described lines being over said land of Helen L. Cunningham, said parcel containing 30,840 square feet of land.

On motion, duly seconded, it was voted to approve a W. P. A. project for the development of the above described Cunningham land and to request the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that the sum of

three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00) be appropriated for said development, said sum to be offset by the cancellation of a like amount from the balances remaining on the Allison, Nevada Street and Cabot Park W. P. A. projects.

Adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

Reginald W. P. Brown  
Secretary pro tem.

The meeting was called to order at 7.40 p.m. by Mrs. Marshall, Chairman. Also attending were Messrs. Brown, Paul and Rich.

In the absence of Mr. Kellar the Chair appointed Mr. Rich as Secretary, pro tem.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mrs. Marshall read a communication from Mr. Bartlett concerning the Cunningham and Cold Spring properties.

It was voted to hold a meeting of the Commission on Tuesday, November 7, 1939 at 4.15 p.m., and to notify Mr. Bartlett of this meeting in time for him to prepare the paper for the Commission to sign.

It was voted that Mrs. Marshall should prepare a list of rules to govern the Commission meetings and submit it to the Commission on November 7.

The matter of the Mayor's appointment of Mr. F. Ewing Wilson was then introduced. At the suggestion of Mr. Rich, the Chair asked Mr. Brown to withdraw. After a prolonged discussion it was unanimously voted to go on record as favoring the appointment of Mr. Wilson.

At 8.20 p.m. the meeting was adjourned and the Commission went before the Board of Aldermen meeting in executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD L. RICH

Secretary, pro tem.

November 7, 1939

Meeting called to order at 4.15 p.m.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Messrs. Reginald W. P. Brown, Irving C. Paul, Howard L. Rich.

It was moved, seconded and voted that Miss Forbush and Mr. Hamilton be authorized to attend the Second New England Puppetry Institute on November 10, 11 and 12, and that their tuition of \$2.50 each should be paid by the Department.

It was moved, seconded and voted that

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Recreation Commission of the City of Newton, the public necessity and convenience require that Lot 8 bounded by Beverly Road and Duncklee Street as shown on Plan #26201 in the office of the City Engineer hereinafter more particularly described, should be taken in fee for municipal purposes, to wit: as a part of the Cold Spring Playground and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen of the said City by order #79518 have authorized the said taking and have appropriated the sum of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) for the purpose of acquiring the said property, it is therefore

ORDERED, under the authority of General Laws, Chapter 45, Section 14, and Section 129 of the Revised Ordinances of 1929 of the City of Newton, and all other authority conferred by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the ordinances of the City of Newton that the following described premises and the fee therein be and the same are hereby taken for municipal purposes, to wit: as a part of the Cold Spring Playground:

#### DESCRIPTION OF LAND TAKEN

Beginning at a point in the northwesterly line of Beverly Road, distant 20.00 feet northeasterly from the intersection of said northwesterly line of Beverly Road with the northerly line of Duncklee Street at land of Newton Cooperative Bank; thence by a curve to the right 38.40 feet by said northwesterly line of Beverly Road and said northerly line of Duncklee Street; thence westerly about 85.00 feet by the northerly line of said duncklee Street and by a sewer easement taken by the City of Newton; thence northeasterly about 130.00 feet by the Cochituate Aqueduct; thence southeasterly about 92.00 feet by a right of way to a point in the northwesterly line of Beverly Road; thence southwestly 25.00 feet by said northwesterly line of Beverly Road to the point of beginning, the last five described lines being over said land of Newton Cooperative Bank, said parcel containing 7200 square feet of land. The above described parcel is shown as Lot 8 on a plan of land in Newton Highlands by E. S. Smilie dated January 1, 1931 and recorded July 3, 1931 in the Middlesex South District Deeds Registry Book 5573 end.

Rules and Regulations for the Recreation Commission  
of the  
City of Newton, Massachusetts

1. Authority

The Recreation Commission derives its full and complete authority from the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 45, Section 14, and from the ordinances of the City of Newton; revised 1939.

2. Officers

- a - Chairman - appointed by the Recreation Commission.
- b - Secretary - Appointed by the Recreation Commission.
- c - Recreation Commissioner - appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Board of Aldermen.

3. Duties of the Officers

- a - Chairman - Shall preside at all meetings of the Commission. In his absence the members of the Commission present at such a meeting shall elect a Chairman pro tempore, who shall have the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Chairman. The Chairman shall approve all purchases and sign bills, invoices or vouchers for such purchases before submitting them to the Comptroller of Accounts. Shall sign the weekly pay-roll.
- b - Secretary - Shall keep minutes of all meetings, send out notices and do all other things rightly pertaining to the work of a Secretary.

The Recreation Commission shall advise the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in relation to matters pertaining to sports and recreation in the City of Newton and the amount of money to be spent annually by the department and shall exercise the powers of eminent domain conferred by Section 14 of Chapter 45 of the General Laws.

Quorum - Three members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Meetings - Meetings of the Commission shall be held monthly except during July and August, upon a day and at a time and place agreed upon by a majority of the Commission

The following are the names of the persons whose property has been taken or who may be otherwise entitled to damages on account of the taking of the above parcel of land so far as known to the Recreation Commission.

NAME

Newton Cooperative Bank

And the said Recreation Commission does assess and award as the damage sustained by the following persons the amounts severally set against their names

NAME

AWARD

Newton Cooperative Bank

\$400.00

The above described parcel of land is shown on a Plan signed by the City Engineer of Newton dated September 29, 1939 and recorded with the Engineering Department as Plan #26201.

And it is further

ORDERED, that the trees upon, fences, buildings and other structures attached to the real estate are hereby taken.

Recreation Commission of the City of Newton

- (Signed) Terese G. Marshall, Chairman
- " Irving C. Paul
- " Howard L. Rich
- " Edward F. Dalton

It was moved, seconded and voted that the secretary send a letter to Mr. Kellar expressing regret at his continued illness and hope of his speedy recovery.

It was moved, seconded and voted to adopt the Rules and Regulations as proposed by the Chairman, copies of which were given to each member at the meeting.

It was moved, seconded and voted to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 1939, at 4.15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOWARD L. RICH  
Secretary pro tem.

The meeting was called to order at 4.20 p.m.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman; Mr. Reginald W. P. Brown, Acting Director; Mr. Howard L. Rich; Mr. Irving C. Paul and Mayor-elect Paul M. Goddard.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Mr. Brown reported that the W. P. A. had started an inventory but that no values had been set for the various items.

Mrs. Marshall reported on several buildings:

1. Bulloughs Pond - The Maintenance Department has done some work in making this building safe.
2. Auburndale - Toilets very bad.
3. Burr - Craft room has been cleaned up.
4. Allison - The shelter has twice been burned and any new building should be at another location.
5. Hawthorn - Awaiting W. P. A. appropriation.

Mr. Rich and Mr. Paul were appointed by the Chair to study the possibility of a program of buildings.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the department purchases a Badminton set.

It was moved, seconded and voted that we do not flood the John W. Weeks, West Newton playground for skating this year.

Mr. Brown reported that at the present rate it looked as if the department would stay within its budget.

The meeting adjourned at 6.20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD L. RICH

Secretary pro-tem.

The meeting of the Recreation Commission was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman; Mr. Reginald W. P. Brown, Acting Director; Mr. Irving C. Paul and Mr. Howard L. Rich.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mrs. Marshall read the following communication to be sent to Mr. Jones of the Taxpayers Association:

Mr. Charles B. Jones  
Locke Road, Waban

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have read with amazement the article in the Newton Transcript of December 14 which clearly indicates that the writer is ignorant of the plans of the Recreation Commission and wholly misunderstands the meaning of Community Centers as advocated by the National Recreation Association. The Recreation Department conducts already Community Centers at the Emerson School, Newton Upper Falls, at the Bowen School in Thompsonville, at the Stearns School in Nonantum, and will in January conduct one at the new Eliot School in Newton. Through cooperation with the School Department we have had excellent privileges in these schools for handcraft, dancing, dramatics, basketball, public speaking and similar activities.

There is no intention on the part of the Recreation Commission to propose the building of separate Community Centers. What we do hope to accomplish is safe and sanitary conditions of our shelters and toilet accommodations. Many of these are sadly in need of repair especially the toilet facilities. Surely no member of the Taxpayers' Association would object to such facilities for our summer playgrounds and winter skating. Any member of the Recreation Commission will gladly give to your group at any time accurate information of their plans.

It was the sense of the meeting that we should cooperate with the Newton Figure Skating Club in the planning of their carnival to be held at Crystal Lake January 27, 1940. It was also the sense of the meeting that any plans of the Club should be under the direction of the Commissioner.

Mr. Brown reported that the expected cost of maintaining the new Community Center at the Eliot School would be approximately \$72.00 a week. Mrs. Hills was suggested as the director.

Mrs. Marshall read a communication from Mrs. Hovgaard regarding the Public Speaking Group.

December 18, 1939

Mrs. Marshall read a letter from Mr. Cassady of the Lower Falls Men's Club asking the department to furnish janitor service and supervision at the Hamilton School for two or three nights a week. It was moved, seconded and voted that this request be granted for two nights to take effect some time after the first of the year.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the new director take inventory of all equipment belonging to the department and submit a plan for a perpetual inventory by February 1, 1940.

It was moved, seconded and voted that Mr. Donahue and Mr. Leary be appointed full-time workers at a salary of \$40.00 each per week.

Mr. Brown reported on the recent meeting of the Finance Committee.

Consideration of the budget was begun.

The meeting adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD L. RICH

Secretary pro-tem.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

1940

January 8, 1940

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman;  
Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner;  
Mr. Irving C. Paul and Mr. Howard L. Rich.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

Mrs. Marshall read a letter of resignation as secretary of the Recreation Commission from Mr. George Kellar.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the resignation be accepted with regret.

Mr. Wilson called attention to a bill of \$150.00 contracted with the New England Toro Company in 1938 for a snowplow.

The meeting adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD L. RICH

Secretary.

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held January 19, 1940. The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m. with Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Recreation Commissioner; Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman; Mr. Irving C. Paul and Mr. Howard L. Rich present.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mr. Wilson went over the budget items in detail. After prolonged discussion it was moved, seconded and voted that the sum of \$94,475.18 be requested as the 1940 budget figure for the department.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD L. RICH

Secretary.

HLR:EE

## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD - FEBRUARY 14, 1940

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held February 14, 1940. The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m. with Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Recreation Commissioner; Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman; and Mr. Howard L. Rich present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Wilson read a communication from Mr. Nicholas P. Tedesco. This was discussed but it was decided to wait for a larger committee before taking action.

The matter of sick leave for employees was discussed and it was decided that Mr. Wilson should see Mr. Bartlett before action could be taken.

A further break-down of the budget was submitted by Mr. Wilson.

Mrs. Marshall reported that the inventory was being made.

Mr. Wilson reported that he has talked with Civil Service and that they suggested talking with the City Solicitor before taking action on non-resident employees.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich

Secretary

HLR:EE

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P. M.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman; Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner; Mr. Irving C. Paul

Since Mr. Rich was absent it was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

The 1940 budget was discussed but since there has been no final approval by the Board of Aldermen, no action was taken.

Mrs. Marshall read a letter from Mr. Dalton requesting that the commission meetings be held in the evening. In view of Mr. Dalton's letter it was voted that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:30 o'clock.

Mr. Wilson reported on the revision of the Civil Service List. No action was necessary.

A list of machinery was submitted by Mr. Reimer. This list was considerably more extensive than it is possible to purchase at the present time and action upon the purchase of any part of it was deferred until further investigation.

The request of Mr. Antonio Accetullo for a permit for the Upper Falls Playground on June 29, 30 and July 1 was discussed; but due to the fact that we did not have a full commission, action was deferred until the April meeting.

It was decided that, at least for the present, any community activities at the new Lincoln-Eliot Center would be confined to afternoons.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Ewing Wilson

Recreation Commissioner  
Secretary pro tem

FEW:EE

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p. m.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, chairman; Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner; Mr. Irving C. Paul; Mrs. Edward F. Dalton; Mr. Howard L. Rich.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to Mr. Kellar expressing regret at his resignation.

It was moved, seconded and voted that an annual salary of \$2080.00 be paid to Mr. Leary and also to Mr. Donahue for the year 1940.

Mrs. Marshall called attention to a conference of the Society of Recreation workers of America, New England Division at the Hotel Bond, Hartford, Connecticut, April 25, 26, 27, 1940.

Mrs. Marshall called attention to a publicity meeting to be held Tuesday, May 7, 1940 at 8 P. M. in the Workshop, Newton Highlands. Mr. Wellington of the National Recreation Association will probably be the speaker.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the permit requested by Mr. Antonio Accetullo for the use of the Upper Falls Playground on June 29, 30 and July 1 be granted subject to the rules laid down for the use of the Newton Playgrounds.

There was discussion on the machinery requested by Mr. Reimer.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the building on the Hawthorne Playground be inexpensively equipped with toilets, heat and used as a shop and storage room by the department. This could be done as a W. P. A. project.

There was discussion on a more general use of the sanitary facilities of public buildings. The Commission was in agreement that the policy of the School Department in denying its facilities to our department was extremely shortsighted.

Mr. Wilson reported that there had been a request for Book Reviews sponsored by the Recreation Department.

Mr. Wilson reported that he had written Mr. Lupien of the Civil service Commission asking for a conference to attempt a classification of workers.

It was agreed to meet next on May 14, 1940 at 7:30 P. M.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich  
Secretary

HLR:EE

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P. M.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman;  
Mr. F. Ewing Wilson; Commissioner;  
Mrs. Edward F. Dalton; Mr. John H. Underhill

In the absence of Mr. Rich, Mr. Wilson acted as secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Underhill, it was voted that the Commissioner receive suggestions as to names for unnamed playgrounds.

On motion of Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Underhill, it was voted to approve permits for the Maria S. S. del Carmine Society for a carnival to be held at the Hawthorne Playground July 19, 20, 21 and 22. This permit was granted under the same conditions as the carnival of last year, namely:

1. That fireworks cease at 11 p. m.
2. That the manufacturer of the fireworks be instructed to eliminate bombs producing excessive loud noise.
3. That no intoxicating liquors or beer be sold on grounds.
4. That the grounds be turned back to the department in the same condition in which they were received by the committee

On motion of Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Underhill, it was voted that a permit be granted to the Italian Benevolent Society, Filippo Corsi, together with the Thompsonville Improvement Association for a celebration at the Thompsonville Playground under the same conditions as those mentioned above governing the carvival to be held at the Hawthorne Playground.

Upon request of Mr. Accetullo of the St. Michael Society, June 28 was approved as an additional day for the celebration at the Upper Falls Playground.

In order to clarify the records of the department it was voted that Ragna Hovgaard be engaged on a yearly salary of \$2,200.00 and the Commissioner was instructed to take necessary action.

A sub-committee composed of Mrs. Marshall, Mr. Underhill and Mr. Wilson was appointed to select a time and place for a hobby show.

Mr. Reimer, Mr. Scully, Mrs. Hovgaard, Mrs. Teschner, Mrs. Hills and Mrs. Parker attended the meeting at the invitation of the Commissioner to set before the Commission the desires of the playground workers in regard to rate of pay and the number of days which they hope to be employed. While the Commission was entirely in sympathy with the workers, the Commissioners felt it was impossible for them to take any definite action at this time and suggested that the workers state their case directly to the Mayor with the approval of the Recreation Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

F. Ewing Wilson Secretary pro tem  
Recreation Commissioner

It is with deep regret that we record the recent death of our beloved colleague, George Kellar.

For fourteen years with the School Department and more than two years with this Commission, he showed himself to be an energetic and able public servant. His loyalty to his city was matched only by his loyalty to the whole Recreation movement as he envisioned it.

All who met him recognized his forthright nature. He was direct and decisive. He had abundantly the courage of his convictions.

Yet with all these positive qualities, it is as a friend that we remember him best. His cheerfulness and quiet good humor enlivened every discussion. His untimely going is a great loss to us all.

It is resolved that these sentiments be spread upon the records of this Commission and that a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD JUNE 11, 1940

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p. m.

Present were: Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman  
Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Recreation Commissioner  
Mr. Edward F. Dalton; Mr. Irving C. Paul  
Mr. Howard L. Rich; Mr. John H. Underhill

The minutes were read. On motion of Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Underhill, it was voted that the Recreation Commission act as a committee of the whole to study the matter of a hobby show. The minutes were approved as amended.

On motion of Mr. Underhill, seconded by Mr. Dalton, it was voted that the Commission sponsor a performance of "The Mikado" for the benefit of the Red Cross.

On motion of Mr. Dalton, seconded by Mr. Underhill, it was voted that the next meeting be held September 10, 1940. In event of important business the Commissioner and Chairman are empowered to call a special meeting.

Mr. Wilson reported that he had made the following regulation:

"No person shall drive a motor vehicle upon that part of Forest Grove Road located within the limits of Thomas J. Lyons Playground in Auburndale."

(Signed) F. Ewing Wilson  
Recreation Commissioner

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Underhill and seconded by Mr. Paul it was voted that the Commission approve the action of the Recreation Commissioner in making the foregoing regulation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich

Secretary

HLR:EE

## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD September 10, 1940

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p. m.

Present were: Mr. Irving C. Paul, Acting Chairman  
Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner  
Mr. Edward F. Dalton; Mr. John H. Underhill  
Mr. Howard L. Rich

It was moved, seconded and voted that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be omitted.

Mr. Wilson reported on the 1940 summer season.

There was informal discussion on the matter of the carnivals run on the playgrounds during the summer.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the secretary draw up resolutions on the death of Mr. George Kellar and present them at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich

Secretary

HLR:EE

The Recreation Commission met at the High School in joint session with the School Committee and the Mayor. We were represented by:

Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner  
Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman  
Mr. Howard L. Rich; Mr. John Underhill.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p. m.

There was general discussion of the wider use of school buildings under the sponsorship of the Recreation Department. The School Committee concurred with us in the desirability of the greatest possible use of public buildings.

It gradually became apparent that the chief obstacle was a matter of bookkeeping. The School Committee felt that light, heat and janitor bills incurred by other city branches did not properly belong in their budget.

This viewpoint was agreed to by the Mayor and the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Goddard then stated that he would accept an increase in our 1941 budget to cover the costs of these services and would arrange to repay the School Department for extra services in 1940.

The School Committee then voted to approve the following applications of the Recreation Commission:

1. Ward School for women's conditioning class.
2. Hyde School for metal craft calls.
3. Warren School gymnasium for badminton.
4. Bigelow School gymnasium and showers for the basketball league.

At 9:45 p. m. the Recreation Commission adjourned to a private room for our regular monthly meeting:

The minutes of the September meeting were read and accepted.

The following resolution was read and accepted. (copy attached)

Mr. Wilson read a brief of his coming Department report for the year 1939.

Mrs. Marshall read the Commission's report for the same year.

It was agreed by all that we should like to get away from the cut and dried annual report and advertise our work more extensively.

Mr. Underhill suggested that our report be distributed among the churches, fraternal organizations and clubs as part of this campaign to be understood.

Mr. Wilson reported on the possibilities of a greater use of the Albemarle land.

Mr. Underhill reported on the relation of the Bray Estate to the Newton Centre Playground.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich

Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD November 12, 1940

Present were: Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner  
Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman  
Mr. Edward F. Dalton; Mr. Irving C. Paul  
Mr. Howard L. Rich; Mr. John Underhill

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p. m.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

Mr. Wilson reported that the Cold Spring entrance from Duncklee Road was now completed.

Mr. Wilson reported on the work at the centers. There are three metal working classes now being held under the instruction of a man furnished by the Massachusetts Federal Arts Project. There is a growing demand for this activity. Two badminton classes are being conducted at no expense to us. Basketball is being conducted four nights a week at the Bigelow Junior High School.

There was a general discussion on ways and means for supplying tools for handcraft activities.

Puppetry under Miss Forbush has progressed remarkably well.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the financial statement for October.

There was discussion on the use of the Watertown Street end of the Albemarle land for Recreation Department activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich

Secretary

Present were: Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner  
Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman  
Mr. Edward F. Dalton; Mr. Irving C. Paul  
Mr. Howard L. Rich; Mr. John Underhill

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p. m.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mrs. Marshall reported that tools had been purchased with funds raised by the Newton Lodge of Elks and a group of citizens in Ward 7.

It was the sense of the meeting that Mr. Underhill and Mr. Rich should present the anniversary booklet to Mr. Allston Burr.

The question of a settled policy on carnivals was discussed. The Commission agreed that two days be the limit of time, that concessions be limited to local people, that fire works must end at 11 p. m. It was voted to invite representatives of local societies to attend the February meeting.

There was discussion on the Albemarle playground development. It was pointed out that the fill could be taken from the Franklin School on Derby Street. Mr. Dalton moved that the Commission recommend the development of that part of the Albemarle property adjacent to the F. A. Day Junior High School and that the required fill be obtained from the property adjacent to the Franklin School on Derby Street. The motion was seconded by Mr. Underhill. It was so voted.

The Commission then began consideration of the 1941 budget. It was voted to keep the Office Expense item the same as in 1940. It was voted to grant more leeway in the Auto-Maintenance item. It was voted to ask for \$37,233.00 for Maintenance of Playgrounds. It was voted to ask for \$3500.00 for replacement of Equipment. It was voted to ask for \$250.00 for the purchase of new equipment. It was voted to ask for \$5000.00 on the Care and Alterations of Elementary School Grounds. It was voted to ask for \$100.00 towards the travelling expenses of the Commissioner.

There was discussion on the sanitary facilities on the playgrounds.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich

Secretary



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C O M M I S S I O N M E E T I N G S

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Present were: Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner  
Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman  
Mr. Irving C. Paul; Mr. Howard L. Rich  
Mr. John Underhill

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p. m.

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

There was discussion on the projected February meeting with the local societies regarding carnivals. It was voted that the Commissioner should write to these societies inviting them to attend, informing them of the reason for the meeting.

The Newton Figure Skating Club asked for the use of Crystal Lake on the afternoon and evening of February 8 with February 9 as an alternate in case of bad weather. The request was granted.

Mr. Wilson reported on his and Mrs. Marshall's meeting with the Committee on salaries.

It was voted to accept the following report and incorporate it in the 1941 budget:

In the request of the Recreation Department for increased salaries to the instructional staff, two groups are submitted. The first group is composed of 9 persons who have been in the department from 4 to 15 years. No one of them receives more than \$4.50 per day and their total pay from the city ranges from \$237. to \$976.50 in 1940. The increases recommended for these 9 employees would cost the city \$908.50. if each person worked the same number of days in 1941 as they did in 1940. In arriving at this amount of increase, length of service, education, experience, and value to the department has been taken into consideration.

For the second group who are employed only during the summer months it is proposed to establish a starting rate of \$2. per day and to increase at the rate of 25¢ a day for each two years of service and not to exceed \$3. per day, except in the case of life-guards who would start at \$2.50 per day and be increased at the rate of 50¢ a day each year with a limit of \$4. per day. The total increase for this group in 1941 would be \$550.00. For both groups the total increased cost would be \$1,458.50.

Based on an increase of 25¢ per day for each two years years with a maximum of \$3. for 38 person the average number to receive this increase would be 19 or \$4.75 per day for not more than 50 days, or a total of \$237.50 per year. In actual practice it would be less than this amount because of a turnover of about 25% thus decreasing the \$237.50 total to \$178.10. This amount being decreased after certain persons receive the maximum amount of \$3. If 50% of this group remain for 9 years to reach the maximum of \$3, a fair estimate of the ultimate additional cost to the City would be \$950 more in 1949 than in 1940, add to this 10 life-guards who would be increased at the rate of 50¢ per day until a \$4. maximum was reached there would be an addition of \$5.00 per day for 50 days or \$250.00. Here again a 25% turnover would decrease the amount to \$187.50. If 50% of the life-guards reached the maximum of \$4., the increased cost in 1949 over that of 1940 would be \$650.

The total increased cost for summer supervision in 1949 as compared with 1940. would be \$1600.

It was voted to recommend that the Commissioner's salary be raised to \$4,000.00.

There followed a consideration of the budget as submitted by Mr. Wilson.

It was suggested that the Department ask to have the building at the Hawthorn Playground reconditioned.

It was voted that the secretary write Mr. Underhill expressing thanks for the woolen goods received by the department.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD L. RICH

Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p. m.

Present were: Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner  
 Mrs. L. H. Marshall, Chairman  
 Mr. Irving C. Paul; Mr. Howard L. Rich;  
 Mr. John Underhill

It was voted to omit the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting.

Mr. Wilson reported on the following communication from Mr. Francis Newhall, City Treasurer.

Playground Commissioner February 7, 1941  
 City Hall  
 Newton Centre, Massachusetts

Dear Sirs:

We have received from the Executors of the will of Ada Pitman Harding, One Thousand Dollars(1000.) under Clause Twelve, which reads:

"Twelfth. To the City of Newton, aforesaid, the sum of one thousand dollars, as a memorial to my grandchildren, Carol and Elena Ellison, to be expended by the Playground Commission of said city at its discretion for permanent improvements in any existing playground in that part of Newton called Nonantum or to be added to funds which may be or become available for the purchase or equipment of a new playground in said locality."

Yours very truly,

/s/ Francis Newhall  
 CITY TREASURER

/s/ L. R. Ellice

It was voted that the secretary should acknowledged the gift with our gratitude.

Mr. Wilson reported on the Hawthorn building and the broad problem of community centers in Nonantum were discussed.

The Commission then received delegates from:

Mutual Benefit Society St. Mary of Carmen  
 Post #6 Italian veterans  
 Newton Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Society Filippo Corsi

and the question of carnivals was discussed.

Mr. Vitti of the Mutual Benefit Society of St. Mary of Carmen said that the proposed two days would seriously handicap their activities.

Mr. John Tresca of the Society Filippo Corsi said that they would prefer the three days. Four days were definitely too long. This society is a mutual benefit society.

Mr. Guzzi spoke for the Post #6 of Italian Veterans of Newton. Two days would be enough for his organization.

Mr. Hennrikus of the American Legion Post said that his organization would not use the playgrounds for carnivals this year.

Mr. Vitti also thought that to prohibit the use of sound trucks would be a hardship.

Mr. Guzzi asked that some provision be made to cover inclement weather coming on dates arranged.

The delegation then withdrew.

It was voted to adopt the following addition to the rules, the form to be decided by the commissioners.

1. No permit will be granted for more than three days.
2. Fireworks are to end not later than 11 p. m. and all activity shall cease before twelve midnight.
3. All loud bombs shall be eliminated.
4. If sound trucks and amplifying devices are used the volume must be such that it will not constitute a nuisance to the neighborhood.
5. No concessions, with the possible exception of swings, ferris wheels and merry-go-rounds, operated or owned by non-residents will be permitted.

The revised 1941 budget of \$86,404.11 was then presented. It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept this as the official budget of the department.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich

Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 19, 1941

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p. m.

Present were: Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner; Mrs. Louis H. Marshall, Chairman; Mr. Irving C. Paul; Mr. Howard L. Rich; Mr. John H. Underhill.

The minutes were read and approved as corrected.

Mr. Wilson reported on the skating season. The following is a list of the skating days:

Edmand's Pond	53	Auburndale(Weir's Cove)	49
Crystal Lake	37	Bullough's Pond	33

The ice was rather poor this season and difficult as well as expensive to maintain. For the most part we were able to do the work with Department men.

Mr. Wilson then read a communication from the Newton Figure Skating Club thanking the Department for its cooperation. The suggestion was made that the Department supply instruction in Figure Skating.

Mr. Wilson reported on the Community Centers. Nine schools and two playground buildings are in almost daily use for recreational activities.

Mr. Paul brought in some plans for a sanitary building from the Pittsfield Playground Department. There was general discussion of this matter and the advisability of a W. P. A. application.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the use of Hawthorn Playground be granted the Mutual Benefit Society, St. Mary of Carmen for July 19, 20, and 21st.

It was the sense of the meeting that for the time being no further free janitor services be furnished Scout organizations.

It was moved, seconded and voted that Mr. Rich be continued as Secretary of the Commission.

It was moved, seconded and voted that Mrs. Marshall be continued as Chairman of the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich,

Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD APRIL 8, 1941

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M.

Present were: Mrs. L. H. Marshall, Chairman  
Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner  
Mr. Edward F. Dalton

The secretary's report was waived.

The Thompsonville W. P. A. project was discussed.

Mrs. Marshall reported on the visit of Mr. Stevens from Greenwich, Connecticut. He is the instructor in the Recreation Institute being held in Boston.

Mr. Wilson reported that the budget had been passed as approved by the Commission.

There was a discussion regarding the present housing of our neighborhood centers.

The suggestion was made that outdoor fireplaces be built at Thompsonville, Edmand's Park, Upper Falls and Cold Spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Dalton  
Secretary, Pro tem.

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## MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD MAY 21, 1941

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P. M.

Present were: Mrs. L. H. Marshall, Chairman,  
Mr. F. Ewing Wilson, Commissioner; Mr. Irving  
C. Paul; Mr. Howard L. Rich; Mr. John H. Underhill.

The minutes of the March and April meetings were read and approved.

Mr. Wilson reported on the work being done at the Albermarle Playground.

Mr. Wilson read a communication from the Newtonville Improvement Association urging that the new field be name the "Horace Mann Memorial Playground."

It was moved, seconded and voted that this matter be tabled until the next meeting.

Mrs. Marshall spoke of the inadequacy of the Newton Center Field House.

Mr. Wilson reported that Mr. C. C. Colby, president of the Hunnewell Club, Newton, had offered their tennis courts to the Department in return for putting them in commission.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the Department accept the proposition of the Hunnewell Club to put their tennis courts in shape and maintain them for one year. No one under 16 years of age shall use the courts. Members of the club shall receive no special privileges in the use of the courts. No tennis shall be played on Sundays until 1P. M.

It was moved, seconded and voted that a vote of thanks be given Mr. Underhill for two bundles of plush remnants for use in the centers.

It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the plans of the Building Department for alterations to the old garage at the Hawthorne Playground and urge that action be taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Rich  
Secretary

