

MINUTES NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 4, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Chairman, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Messers. Paul Burke, Joseph Capalbo, G. Nicholas Dawson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. Absent: Mr. Asaff, Mr. Crosby (in military service), Mr. Selden.

Meeting called to order at 8:00 P.M.

Voted unanimously to accept minutes as circulated.

A. Relative to Paragraph F (School Committee contact) in 12/7/70 minutes, Mr. Penney has contacted Supt. Fink by telephone briefly. Mr. Fink suggests that the Recreation Commission make available to him before the meeting is finalized, more detail, as to what they desire to discuss.

1. Items for discussion:

- A. With regard to new high school in process of being built, the Recreation Commission would like to formalize the use of facilities, particularly the pool. (Mr. Burke suggests contacting the new Medford High School where "citizen participation" is invited, to learn how they are handling this.)
- B. Definite proposal to go before the School Committee with. While previous boards - both Recreation and School - have agreed on past proposals and since both groups are changed at present, the question of obligating successive boards exists and the Commission (Recreation) feels it could not expect past solutions to be effective now.
- C. Question regarding various artificial turfs for NHS stadium; whose budget would stand cost of installation? (An estimate for installation at B.C. was \$200,000.00 which is much less than BU, evidently due to production increases and subsequent lowering of cost.

- B. A meeting is to be held jointly with City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen at their request, on January 21, 1971, Room 222 at 7:45 P.M. to again discuss the priorities for the upcoming Recreation Department budget. Since this will probably be a short meeting, the Recreation Commission will plan to meet afterward at some location in City Hall (to be requested by Mr. Capalbo who is generally located at City Hall). The Commission will continue to discuss budget items at that meeting.
- C. Evaluation of meeting held December 10th jointly with Recreation Commission and City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen. Notes provided of this meeting by Commissioner Penney.
- D. Consideration of those items to be included in Capital Outlays for new budget:
  1. Bubble (pool cover) a citizens committee is pushing for this.
  2. Hockey and Skating facility - indoors. A committee of citizens, led by Robert McLaughlin (Youth Hockey President) has held several meetings on this subject. They have discussed various forms of funding, both through City or private funds. They have come to a Recreation Commission meeting and would like to meet with the Mayor - so far - to no avail. The Recreation Commission agrees that this is a most desirable project.

Possibly Government funds, through the B.O.R. may be available, Mr. Dawson suggests Commissioner Penney with the Newton Planning Director, Mike Ferris will contact the State Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Burke felt that the Commission must include this item in this up-coming budget at this time, and that the Recreation Commission would be remiss to omit it. It is possible that it may be cut out by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, but at least, make the effort. To this purpose, Mr. Burke made the following motion: "That the cost of ice-skating rink be included in the preliminary budget and also that the Recreation Commission make contact with Bob McLaughlin. Also, that we obtain information re B.O.R. from Mike Ferris (City Planning Director) regarding the availability of funds." Seconded by Mr. Capalbo, voted unanimously.

- E. Mr. Burke motioned that the Recreation Commission request to sit in with the Mayor and Recreation Commissioner to discuss the Recreation Budget request for 1971. Seconded by Dr. Levine. Voted at follows:

- 5 vote affirmative
- 1 abstained (Dawson)
- 3 absent

Carried, with request to notify Mayor by letter.

- F. Pine-River Street area. Paul Burke motioned that the Recreation Commissioner develop a recreation plan for the entire city-owned land on Pine Street, the former dump site. Seconded by Mr. Capalbo, voted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 P.M.

Next meeting, January 21, 1971 at 7:45P.M. City Hall, City Planning Committee, Board of Aldermen, 8:30 Recreation Commission Meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes February 8, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Messers. Paul Burke Joseph Selden, G. Nicholas Dawson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary (Dr. Burton D. Levine phoned that his car had broken down on the way to the meeting and he was waiting for road service)

Meeting called to order at 8:25 P.M.

Commissioner Penney read Mr. Annis Asaff's letter telling of his resignation from the Recreation Commission. The Commission members requested that a letter be written to Mr. Asaff, expressing their thanks for his work on the Commission and their regrets at his resignation.

- A. Consideration of the January 12, 1971 letter from Alderman David W. Jackson, Chairman of the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen, to Commissioner Penney, requesting the advice of the Recreation Commission concerning several matters before his committee. Copies of this letter, together with recommendations from Commissioner Penney, regarding the items involved, were distributed to the members. Commissioner Penney gave some information in explanation of one of the items.

It was decided to defer further consideration of these matters until another meeting since a quorum was not present at the time. It was noted that this would also give Commission members time to give the recommendations consideration, and, an opportunity to visit any of the sites before voting.

- B. Report by Jason Cortell, Consulting Biologists: After consideration of this report, Commissioner Penney noted that Crystal's visibility has improved the last year (poor visibility at Lake Walden and Rosemary Pond have forced these areas to close). Cortell recommends, in this report, that chemical treatment of aquatic weeds be begun as soon as possible this Spring. Since it has been seven years since the last treatment, it is apparent that treatment is successful. The \$1,200.00 cost has been included in the 1971 budget request.
- C. Stanton Avenue: Cost figures obtained from Assessor's office on land values and from the Engineering Department on development (including a small baseball field) and a recommendation from Commissioner Penney regarding this matter was distributed to the Commission. Action on the recommendation was deferred.
- D. Hockey Rink Meeting: February 1st, another meeting of this group took place at the Horace Mann School. Mr. Burke attended and reported on it.

Commissioner Penney, representing Mayor Basbas, attended a hearing on Senate Bill #156, sponsored by James R. McIntyre, at the State House in Boston. This bill would provide 50% State funding to a city or town desiring to build a skating rink. He testified in favor, on behalf of the Mayor and himself.

Commissioner Penney moved that the Recreation Commission go on record in support of State Bill #156. (copy of Recreation Commission vote to be sent to State Senators and Representatives.) Seconded and voted unanimously, 5 to 0 quorum present.

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It was also decided that Commission members would write individually to State Representatives and Senators, expressing their support of this bill.

Commissioner Penney has ascertained from Mike Ferris, Planning Director of the City of Newton, and Joel Lerner, Natural Resources contact, that funds are available through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for recreational developments, including skating rinks. This would, of necessity, be an outdoor facility - covered by not enclosed or heated.

Commissioner Penney moved that the Recreation Commission recommend to the Mayor that the City of Newton apply to the Department of Natural Resources for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, funds for the construction of an artificial skating rink as a part of the Cold Spring Recreation Park area development. This was seconded and voted unanimously 5 - 0 quorum present.

- E. New resident information on Recreation: Mr. Dawson recommends that the Recreation Department somehow contact new residents in the City in order to advise them of location and appraise them of areas of playground space near their homes. Commissioner Penney noted that this has long been a desire of his and that while we do have available, seasonal lists of programs, which are distributed through-out the City by various agencies such as schools, churches, organizations, the Welcome Wagon, etc., he would like to develop a report giving locations etc. Unfortunately to date, routine duties have precluded the development of this project.
- F. Finance Committee Budget Hearing to be held at City Hall on Saturday, February 20th at 8:00 P.M. on the department's 1971 requests.
- G. Rules and Regulations: Discussed briefly were the suggested rules recently revised and reviewed by the City Legal Department.

It was decided that these be discussed more fully at another meeting. Mr. Dawson raised some questions regarding the advisability of making arbitrary rules that may not be absolutely necessary - or enforceable.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMISSION

March 15, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Messers. Paul Burke, G. Nicholas Dawson, Joseph Selden, Joseph Capalbo, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by chairman at 7:55 P.M.

1. Minutes of January and February Recreation Commission meetings accepted as circulated.
2. Commissioner Penney presented the Commission with the January and February monthly reports.
3. Correspondence:

- A. Letters to Commission from Senator Fishman, Representatives Theodore Mann, David Mofenson and Paul Guzzi, pledging their active assistance for Senate Bill #156 (relative to construction of ice skating rinks in cities and towns of the Commonwealth)
- B. Commissioner Penney advised the Commission of the receipt of a memo from Director of Public Works, Willard Pratt, informing him of a group interested in buying a portion of the land which is part of the Infirmary land and requesting his comments.

It was motioned by Mr. Dawson that Commissioner Penney go on record to Mr. Pratt and city officials, as opposed to sale of this land. Seconded by Mrs. West and voted unanimously.

4. Review of January 21st joint meeting with City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen and consideration of docket items referred to Recreation Commission for advice by letter dated January 12, 1971 from the Chairman, Alderman David W. Jackson. ( a copy of each item considered had been previously provided to each Commission member along with a list of recommendations by Commissioner Penney )
  - A. #292-70 Turner Terrace ( pages 29, 30 Recreation/Open Space Report )  
Motioned by Mr. Capalbo and seconded by Dr. Levine, voted unanimously, and to forward to the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen, the recommendation as follows:

" That although the need for a playlot in this area as pointed out by the Recreation /Open Space Report 1969, is recognized as valid, the area as it is now constituted is not a suitable environment into which to attract children. The Recreation Commission would be in favor of a playlot being included in an overall plan of redevelopment of the area which would also include sufficient space for the vital operations of the Crafts Street Public Works Department Yard. "

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- B. #400 -70 Crescent Street (page 51 Recreation/Open Space Report, Note: Called Circuit Avenue in error) Motioned by Paul Burke, seconded by Mr. Dawson and voted unanimously ( and to forward to City Planning Committee) the recommendation as follows:

" That the remaining portion of city owned land left after Recreation Department maintenance yard space and Myrtle Baptist Church yard be reserved for, and developed as, a children's playlot. That the relatively low cost of getting this area in basically safe condition for children's play gives it a high priority for implementation. "

- C. #699-70 #807-70 (Pine River: ( pages 19,20,21 Recreation/Open Space Report) Motioned by Paul Burke, seconded by Dr. Levine, voted unanimously to accept recommendation as written with the exception of paragraph D , as follows, and forward to City Planning Committee of Board of Aldermen.

" That an extensive area be retained for future development for recreation.

- A. Land be swapped at Albert Road end and land be swapped at Pine Street end - to even off boundaries between City property and private property - to give both private parties more usable lot sizes suitable for housing development. Also, to give more usable piece of Recreation land.
- B. Develop small children's playlot - of approximately three (3) acres oriented to River Street entrance across from William Street. This to replace the abandoned River Street Playlot.
- G. Develop a soccer field and other sports facilities at wide area near Pine Street.
- D. Retain low level swamp areas for water retention and development of paths, picnic area, skating pond, Beautification.
- E. Acquire outright, the drain easement connecting the Burr School Playground to this new recreation area.
- F. That the emphasis here is to reserve the land for recreation rather than the immediate implementation of the development.

5. No. 1 Priority recreation need - Skating facility: Mr. Burke motioned to include, to the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen ( seconded by Joseph Selden, and voted unanimously ) the following recommendation:

" That the Recreation Commission go on record that the construction of a City of Newton owned and operated artificial skating facility at the Beacon Street entrance to the Cold Spring Recreation Park area, is the number one priority over any other recommendations in either the Recreation/Open Space Report 1969, the Allen Organization Master Plans, and recreation items in the Capital Improvement Program.

6. Stanton Avenue: Discussion relative to requests for a play area. Mr. Burke motioned to table this item until after meeting with the City Planning Committee scheduled for April 26, 1971. Mr. Capalbo seconded. Voted unanimously.
7. It was agreed to delay discussion of proposed Rules and Regulations since Mr. Dawson had to leave after previous discussion and these were of particular interest to him.
8. Annual request by St. Mary of Carmen Society for festival on Hawthorn Playground in July. Upon consideration, Dr. Levine motioned and Mr. Selden seconded, the group voting unanimously, to allow this program under the same restrictions, rules and regulations as were presented to them by Commissioner Penney in recent past years.
9. Review of tennis permit fees and consideration of raising adult season rates above the present \$3.00.

Commissioner Penney acquainted the Commission members with rates for permits in surrounding and nearby towns - i.e. Wellesley, 16 or over - \$8.00, Needham, \$3.00 single, \$8.00 per family, Belmont - \$2.00 per hour for lighted courts.

Dr. Levine motioned to increase the adult tennis permit to \$5.00 per season, This was seconded by Mr. Capalbo and voted unanimously to accept.

10. Swimming Pool Fees: Briefly discussed but Mr. Burke suggest that Recreation Commission make no recommendation for change unless requested to do so by the Board of Aldermen.
11. Further Information on Air-Supported Structures for - swim pool, tennis courts, skating rink. Presently waiting for further information and a report from Air-Tect. It may be possible to contract for an air-supported shelter - over a given area, during a portion of the year, without the actual purchase and maintenance, for a rental fee.

There will be more information with slides, and a visual-aid presentation, some time in the near future. Commissioner Penney is in contact with the company.

12. Commissioner Penney reported to the Commission members that he is having Mr. Hamilton, a Recreation Leader, make up a detailed brochure of Recreation facilities, i.e. playgrounds, play fields, skating, swimming, soft ball fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, etc. This would contain such key information as location of playgrounds, ward, street, etc. with an index or table of contents for ease of location. Commissioner Penney requested Mr. Dawson's cooperation in the completion of this report as he was particularly interested in this project.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

Next meeting on Wednesday, April 21st ( due to holiday on Monday, April 19th)

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 22, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Messers. Paul Burke, Joseph Selden, Joseph Capalbo, G. Nicholas Dawson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Minutes of March meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of March programs were distributed to members. Commissioner Penney reported on activities he is involved with: Youth Commission, Community Relations Commission and, he expects to attend a "Kickoff" dinner for the Garden City Rink Association in early May.
3. NAA Pop Warner group's presentation of proposal for building on Joseph Lee Playground at Newton Highlands: Nick Pasquarosa, representing the group, presented Commission members with the proposed plan of a building to replace the presently inadequate facility on the playground. This building would be funded and built by the group and then transferred to the City. However, before any approval could be given on this project, the various ramifications of legality, site, City Government acceptance, etc., must be checked. It was moved by Mr. Burke and voted unanimously that the Recreation Commission go on record in approval of the concept of the proposed building by the Newton Athletic Association, Inc. pending final plans. They also wished to commend NAA's initiative. ( Note was made by the Commission that the legal aspects must be carefully checked and that a legal instrument, passing the building to the City must be made - being sure that the building passed local building codes, insurance, etc. )
4. May 13th, MRPS Board Members Dinner: The Commission members were reminded of date and requested to reply if they were able to attend. The dinner will be held at the Monticello in Framingham.

Mr. Burke motioned that the Commissioner and staff tickets be paid out of City funds but that Commission members buy their own tickets. Seconded by Mr. Selden. ( Voted: 1 opposed, 2 abstained, balance in favor and motion carried. )

5. Halloween Survey: During the last 2 months, a survey was made of school principals, executive Halloween members, PTA presidents and PTA members. The findings of this group report was presented to Commission members by Mr. Penney. It was motioned as follows: In view of 1971 Halloween survey, that the Recreation Commission has voted to withdraw, for a year, the administration of City-wide Halloween parties. The Recreation Commission, however, encourages schools to handle their own parties on an individual basis. The Commission suggests a notice to the effect "We have a pool of "X" number of dollars on your PTA may draw" ( this dependent upon whether it is grammar, junior or high school - plus a fund for custodial and police costs ) The Commission authorizes Commissioner Penney and Mr. Marr Comptroller, to arrange a schedule to make schools aware of the amount available. ( Voted: 1 opposed, 7 agreed ).



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6. Conservation Commission letter concerning MDC easement on Upper Falls and Infirmary land. While the Recreation Commission is aware that the MDC is concerned about the land along the banks of the Charles, they do not feel that granting an easement will necessarily improve the area. Mr. Selden stated that he is unequivocally opposed. A motion was made by Mr. Crosby that the Recreation Commission is, at this time, disinclined to grant easement for the MDC along riverbank of the Upper Falls playground and Infirmary land. However, if the MDC or the Conservation Commission wish to come to us (The Recreation Commission) to explain the issue, they are welcome to do so. Motion carried and voted unanimously.
7. Conservator's letter concerning Auburndale Development Corporation - Staniford Street. Copies of the Newton Conservators letter to the City Clerk were presented to the Commission by Mr. Penney. Since there is no immediate action necessary on this, the Commission will take it up more fully at a later date.
8. Conservator's letter re-Albemarle Golf Course. Copies of this letter were distributed by Commissioner Penney. (Albemarle Golf Course leased by Mr. W.D. Casey, from Fessenden School) Conservators suggest that, while at present there is no contemplated change, it might be an opportune time for Recreation Commission to confer with Fessenden Headmaster Robert P. Tristram Coffin, Jr. about their long range plans for the course. Fessenden School also hopes to build an ice skating rink within a short time which may be available, on a limited basis, to ice skating groups of the city. This item will be taken up in more detail later.
9. Request for Newton Art Association for Art exhibit and sale and NAA Fair at Newton Centre Playground in June. Since there seems to be no legal problems, it was motioned and voted unanimously to grant this request.
10. Paul Burke's request that the Commission take up matter of electing a Chairman. Mr. Selden stated that in the past, the policy had always been that the senior member of the Commission be chairman. It was voted by the Commission on January 21, 1958 to elect Mrs. Worthing L. West Chairman, of the Recreation Commission at that time, the position she has continued to fill since that time. Mr. Burke's contention is that this year this Commission has become a brand new Commission, with an admonition of the City ordinance instructing them that it is their duty to elect a chairman. With this in mind, he has suggested that since no rules of protocol exist, rules and regulations should be set up and voted upon by the Commission in order to carry out an election. Mrs. West indicated she believed that the Legal Department should review and approve such rules. Mrs. West stated she will shortly appoint a committee of three members of the commission to draw up a proposal for Commission rules. Mr. Selden also noted that, at this time, the Commission is still not complete - a point to consider in setting up new rules. Mrs. West will advise the Commission of her selection.

Adjourned 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 17, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Messers. Paul Burke, Joseph Capalbo, Stephen Crosby, Joseph Selden, Dr. Burton Levine and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

1. Minutes of April meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of April programs distributed to members.
3. Representatives from Franklin School & P.T.A., Mr. Kasabian, Mrs. Antonellis and Miss Nethercoat, Principal, came before the Recreation Commission to present their request and petition for implementation of an after school recreation program for the Franklin School community. It is their feeling that if the youth of this area were allowed in the building to participate in a structured, well balanced program, the present extremely high cost of vandalism and malicious mischief would be eliminated or, for the most part, kept down to a minimum. They pointed out that at the three schools having a pilot program of physical education throughout the fall and winter ( Burr, Carr, and Hyde ), there has been little damage, indicating a dramatic saving to the taxpayers of this City,

Commissioner Penney regretfully reported that while he realized the need for a recreation program existed, the Recreation Budget has been severely curtailed with no allowance for any additional programs. Mr. Penney also explained to them that the three pilot programs which they spoke about are funded jointly by School and Recreation, with no additional programs approved at this time. The main problem is the high cost of custodial services which have increased 8 to 10 % the last few years while the budget funds to pay for these services remain the same.

Their earlier request for shade trees around the perimeter of Franklin School was mentioned by Commissioner Penney, and he hopes to be able to supply these soon through the Forestry Division of the Street Department. He also told them that a summer program, with three leaders, is being planned.

Dr. Levine motioned that the Recreation Commissioner recommend to Mayor Basbas that funds be made available to create an after school program in the fall and winter of 1971, for Franklin School, similar to the present programs conducted at Hyde, Carr and Burr. Seconded by Mr. Burke, voted unanimously.

Commissioner Penney asked the group if they would have a committee from the school that would be willing to work with the Recreation Supervisor to create a suitable program. Mrs. Antonellis assured him that there are qualified people, including teachers, willing and eager, to work with the Recreation Department to map out a program.

4. Representatives of manufacturing and leasing companies for air-supported structure arrived at 9:00 P.M. to illustrate to the Recreation Commission with audio and visual aids, the material, construction, maintenance, use and cost of such structure and a leasing arrangement to cover four

City of Newton tennis courts during the winter months.

A more detailed proposition will be made by the leasing company and sent to Commissioner Penney shortly. At this time, advice by the city legal staff and by the City's Comptroller will be solicited, and the proposal presented to Mayor Basbas for his consideration. The Recreation Commission will consider the further information at the June meeting. The leasing company representative noted that they will need to have a reply by June or July in order to have a contract available for signing, if it is decided to move further, by August 1st.

The Recreation Commission authorizes Commissioner Penney to get such information as possible before the Commission votes a recommendation to the Mayor.

After the group left, the Commission noted that one of the biggest problems would be the fact that this would be a profitable venture for an outside of Newton group, and criticism could result. However, it was noted that with the present trend of no budget increases, this may be a new concept which will find acceptance as a way to increase recreation opportunities without adding to the tax load.

5. Consideration of request by Edward Lamb, Brookline tennis instructor for permission from the Recreation Commission to conduct adult tennis instruction on a Newton court for a fee, and to pay a portion of his profit (10%) to the City. While it is recognized that adult tennis instruction would be a valid program, the Commission felt they could take no positive action at this time, with this particular method. Mr. Penney said he would check to see how adjoining towns handle their adult lessons. Mr. Burke's suggestion, in lieu of adult tennis instructions, (due to lack of funds), perhaps we could have several tennis clinics. Mr. Penney noted that clinics by professionals have been held in Newton.
6. Consideration of request for industrial group for tennis permit and use of court. Nation Cash Register has requested the use of a Newton Highlands court, one day per week from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. for the season.

While this is a Newton company, the tennis players are not necessarily Newton residents. These courts are frequently filled with Newton residents and it was generally felt that Recreation Department could not guarantee one company a private tennis club. With this in mind, Dr. Levine motioned with Mr. Burke seconding it, to deny National Cash Register Company's request for a season tennis permit. Voted - (Selden opposed.) Mr. Selden requested Commissioner to assure company that they were welcome to use tennis courts in Newton in the usual first come - first serve basis.

7. Commissioner Penney reported that three resolutions have been passed by the Board of Aldermen, as a result of the Recreation Commission's meeting with the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen. These are the Cold Springs- so called - Snow-dump site, Pine - River Street and the Crafts Street area.
8. Stanton Avenue play area. After brief discussion, this item was tabled for the time being with no action taken.

9. Mini-bike request received by Commissioner Penney, urging City to provide a track or facility for their use. Nothing presently suitable. Consideration given to requesting space on parking lots of industrial areas off Route 128, but it was noted that the problem would then exist of getting the mini-bikes to these areas.
10. Consideration and report of committee appointed by Mrs. West to consider rules and regulations, plus the election of a chairman. Committee consisting of: Dr. Levine, Stephen Crosby and G. Nicholas Dawson.

Report of the Committee is as follows:

PROPOSED RULES FOR NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

There shall be a chairman and a vice-chairman.

If the chairman cannot preside, the vice-chairman shall conduct the meeting.

If the chairman leaves the Commission before the end of his term, the vice-chairman shall become chairman and a new vice-chairman elected.

Elections shall be in March and are for one (1) year.

Notice of election must be given one (1) month in advance or at the previous monthly meeting.

A quorum consists of five (5) members present.

A majority is needed to elect a chairman and a vice-chairman of the Commission.

The agenda of the meeting must be prepared and in the hands of the members at least three (3) days before the meeting.

The Recreation Commissioner shall prepare the agenda.

The meetings shall be the 3rd Monday of the month, except for July and August.

A special meeting may be called at any time.

The meeting date may be changed with the approval of the chairman and the Commissioner.

A Secretary shall be furnished to take the minutes of the meetings by the Recreation Commissioner.

The Commission can go into executive session only to discuss spending of monies or to discuss personalities - all other meetings are open.

Roberts Rules of order shall prevail at all meetings.

( copy to be provided to all Commission members)

It was noted that Dr. Levine had not been able to get in touch with Mr. Dawson on the preparation of the above proposal.

Mr. Burke motioned that if the Commission does accept the ad hoc committees' recommendations at its June meeting, that an election should be held at that time without further delay. No formal vote was taken on this motion, but the sense of the meeting was to go ahead on this basis.

Mr. Burke also requested that the minutes of the current meeting be in the hands of the Commission members within one (1) week from date of meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

1st Elec. For  
Chairman  
Mrs. West

June 21, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Messers. Joseph Selden, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Paul Burke, Joseph Capalbo, G. Nicholas Dawson, Stephen Crosby and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 8:00 P.M.

- A. Minutes of May meeting accepted as circulated.
- B. Commissioner Penney distributed the May monthly reports.
- C. Commissioner Penney reported on the items previously brought to the attention of the Recreation Commission.
  1. Halloween: It is impossible to just "give" funds to the schools for parties. However, Mayor will approve of the Recreation Department supplying the cost for police coverage to any schools who run their own parties.
  2. With regards to last months visitation from Franklin School representatives, requesting a program similar to that at Carr and Burr, Commissioner Penney noted that he anticipates sufficient funds being available for indoor program, with custodial costs paid by the Recreation Department this fall, on a limited basis.
  3. The company known as "Tennis Management" has provided Commissioner Penney with updated information as to their services. Commissioner Penney advised the Mayor, by name, of this available leasing arrangement but his honor responded, stating that he would not approve this plan. His suggestion being that it be put in next years Recreation budget. Meanwhile, "Tennis Management" contacted the City Legal Department with a new proposal which would not require any city outlay of cash.

This item will be tabled for the time being until further information is available.
  4. Commissioner Penney reported on the two tennis clinics held by the department, one for students and one for adults. Each clinic being a sort of spring-board to the summer tennis lesson programs.
- D. Commissioner Penney reported on the appointment by the Mayor, of Francis Rice, new Commission member from Ward 4, not yet confirmed by the Board of Aldermen.
- E. Commissioner Penney reported briefly on a communication from Boston University regarding the use of baseball fields in Newton in exchange for use of indoor rink by Newton hockey teams. He reported that this would not be an even swap but would involve cross-billing. Proposal, as presented, did not seem advantageous to the Recreation Department, but Commission would reconsider a revised proposal, if made.
- F. Delegate to Community Council - Dr. Burton D. Levine - will continue until Spring of 1972.

G. Commission Rules and Organization: The rules and regulations as originally reported in May minutes were compiled by a committee consisting of Dr. Levine, Stephen Crosby and G. Nicholas Dawson, at the direction of Mrs. West, Chairman of the Commission.

On the motion of Mr. Selden, it was resolved to amend and accept the proposed rules for Newton Recreation Commission and so moved, to read as follows:

- 
- There shall be a chairman and a vice-chairman
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- If the chairman cannot preside, the vice-chairman shall conduct the meeting.
- 
- If the chairman leaves the Commission before the end of his term, the vice-chairman shall become chairman and a new vice-chairman elected.
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- Elections shall be in March and are for one (1) year and shall be by secret ballot.
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- Notice of election must be given one (1) month in advance or at the previous monthly meeting.
- 
- A quorum consists of five (5) members present.
- 
- A majority of members, present and voting, is needed to elect a chairman and a vice-chairman of the Commission.
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- The agenda of the meeting is to be prepared and in the hands of the members at least three (3) days before the meeting.
- 
- The Recreation Commissioner shall prepare the agenda.
- 
- The meeting shall be on the 3rd Monday of the month, except for July and August.
- 
- A special meeting may be called at any time.
- 
- The meeting date may be changed with the approval of the Chairman and the Commissioner.
- 
- A secretary shall be furnished to take the minutes of the meetings by the Recreation Commission.
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- The Commission, in the matters of executive session and of other matters not covered in these rules, shall be governed by the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Ordinances of the City of Newton.
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- Robert's Rules of order shall prevail at all meetings.
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- H. As directed in May minutes, with a quorum present and voting, an election was held immediately.

At the direction of the chairman, Mrs. West, nominations for chairman were opened. Nominated were: Mrs. West and Mr. Burke. (2 minutes were allocated for candidates, who then cast their votes and left the room). Election was held by secret ballot with Mrs. West carrying the winning ballots for chairman by vote of 5 to 3. Mr. Burke was nominated for Vice-Chairman. No one else being nominated, the secretary was directed to cast one ballot for Mr. Burke as Vice-chairman.

- I. Progress on skating rinks in city: Since the Board of Aldermen have an item on docket regarding the skating rink preliminaries, Mr. MacLaughlin, President of the Garden City Rink Association and Mr. James Cokely, Treasurer, visited the Recreation Commission meeting to see if there was any additional information available.

Commissioner Penney reported Mayor Basbas had made application for 50% funding from the B.O.R. federal agency for a rink at Cold Spring and was requesting funds for architectural fees to proceed forth preliminary plans from the Board of Aldermen. Since this would have to be an open-sided rink according to federal regulations, there was some question whether the Garden City Rink Association would support this proposal; or try to build their own rink. Mr. Burke pointed out to Mr. MacLaughlin that the Garden City Rink Association would have to decide whether or not to support the Recreation Commission plan, which the Mayor is presently pursuing.

- J. Swimming areas open: Commissioner Penney reported that both Pool and Lake are opened on a limited basis at present, but will open full time once school is dismissed for the summer.

- K. Commissioner Penney reported on hoped for, coordination of school and recreation, at the new high school pool. This facility is basically a school facility and school use has priority. Community use nites and weekends, controlled and staffed by Recreation personnel, is proposed by Recreation Commissioner Penney. At a preliminary meeting Commissioner Penney and Mr. Smith, Director of Boys Physical Education agreed on the above arrangement and made plans to set up an appointment with Helen Brivogel, Director of Girls Physical Education, and Coach Sylvia, of Springfield College, a pool consultant to review the proposed pool use plan. Hopefully, a written agreement can be entered into by the School Department and Recreation Department this fall.

This concluded general business with the exception of the two following items:

1. Commissioner Penney asked the members to visit playgrounds in their ward this summer.
2. It is requested that all news releases or information on new programs be sent to each Commission member.
3. It was noted that the recent Pop Warner Carnival held on the 19th was wonderfully well run.



M

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

jfd

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 20, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Paul Burke, vice-chairman, Messers. G. Nicholas Dawson, new Commission member, Francis Rice, Dr. Burton D. Levine and Marjorie Lesbirel, secretary.

Meeting called to order by chairman, Mrs. West, at 7:50 P.M.  
New commission member, Mr. Rice, welcomed to board.

- A. Minutes of June meeting accepted with the following correction: that it be noted that in Item G - Commission Rules & Organization - June, these proposed rules and regulations as originally reported in May minutes, were compiled by a committee consisting of Dr. Levine, Stephen Crosby and G. Nicholas Dawson, at the direction of Mrs. West, Chairman of the Commission.
- B. July and August monthly reports given to members - June report previously mailed.
- C. Commissioner Penney reported on summer activities and programs. Weather being exceptionally good this year, provided many days of excellent playground activity plus ideal swimming conditions. The bacteria count at Crystal Lake, provided each week by the Newton Health Department, was unusually low and well below minimum health requirements - due to the continued use of the aqualator.

Commissioner Penney reported that aquatic weed growth and algae, stimulated by fertilizer runoff on shore, (reported by consulting engineer, Jason Cortell) is now in need of chemical treatment which will be taken care of some time this fall.

In addition to the regular playground activities and swimming, special events were: AAU testing program Frisbee contest (Newton winners went on to win both State & Regional championships - with an all expense trip to Las Vegas during Christmas vacation - for participation in the National contest), sports programs; boys and girls, plus suburban basketball league; 3 soft-ball leagues, 2 baseball leagues for boys and a girl's soft-ball league for the second year. Mr. Burke suggested that a summer basketball league for younger boys - 13, 14 & 15, be formed to serve a growing need in this age bracket.

Plus the sports programs, the Newton Swim team was active in competitive meets and Newton again hosted the Regional Swim Meet at the Albemarle Pool. Carnivals were held throughout the city to earn money for funds then distributed to Cerebral Palsy Association, the Jimmy Fund and Pakistani Relief Organization and Day Camp for Retarded children. The Peabody Day Camp, under

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the direction of Mr. Robert Doherty, came to a close with a cook-out for children and parents. Dr. Levine, representing Mr. Penney, spoke to the parents and children.

Commissioner Penney noted that the Newton Conservators plan a picnic and walk along the shores of the Charles River on October 3rd and Commission members are invited.

The Neighborhood Youth Corp, made available to the Recreation Maintenance Department, ten Newton youths between the ages of 14 and 17. These young men worked with the regular crew, painting fences, equipment, apparatus etc. Funds to pay these young workers came from the Federal Government for Economically disadvantaged youth.

- D. Skating Rink Progress: Money has been appropriated for architect fees and preliminary borings at the Cold Spring site. Commissioner Penney has met with the Building Commissioner, Planning Department and architect. It is anticipated that plans will be completed by the Sept. 20th deadline, to be presented to the Commissioner of Buildings and the Mayor. The plans will then be presented to the State Department of Natural Resources, then Federal E.O.R. If acceptable, they will then be funded to 50% by Federal funds.
- E. "Bubble" According to the August report received, a new proposal is in preparation which will require no appropriation of money by the city. While Mr. Penney was given a review of the new proposal by the law department, it was not a "legal" opinion. Actually this project will not be started, if approved by all necessary City officials, until 1972.
- F. "Snow Dump Site" On September 13th, Commissioner Penney sent a memo to the Chairman of the School Committee requesting Lot 057, Section 54, Block 22 of this area be declared "not necessary for school purposes".
- G. Invitation from Alderman Jackson: Since there was nothing pertinent, the Recreation Commission will not avail themselves of this invitation to meet jointly with the Aldermanic City Planning Committee on Sept. 30th.
- H. Commissioner Penney reported on the Board of Aldermen's housing discussion which related to Recreation. No action planned at this time.
- I. Mini-bikes: Since these small, motored bikes are so popular but illegal to operate on public streets, an alternate solution for operation is being sought. Needham reports to Commissioner Penney, that they use the former Nike site for a regular Saturday morning program with two firemen volunteers.

While the Police are willing to provide some leadership within this program, they will not fund a program of this sort, they report to Commissioner Penney.

Commissioner Penney requested a ruling from the City Solicitor on whether the Recreation Department is liable, if and when a mini-bike program is begun on City land, in this particular case, the Infirmary

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land. He also sent a memo to the Police Department soliciting their opinion on six alternate suggestions for programs. These chose alternate #6 (club supervised by adults plus Recreation department leader).

After consideration of all suggestions on the police memo, Mr. Burke moved in favor of number 6 ideally. However, if this can not be worked out, the second choice will be number 1 (simply allowing the Infirmary land to be used for mini-bikes - no supervision). This was seconded by Mr. Dawson and so moved.

J. Commissioner Penney distributed the new brochure of Playground and Recreation areas, by wards, recently compiled with the aid of Commission member Mr. G. Nicholas Dawson. It will be distributed through the Welcome Wagon for the time being. Possibilities of reaching new Newton residents through the Real Estate Board and the Chamber of Commerce were suggested.

Commissioner Penney reported that he had received a request from the Newton Basketball Association (a group of adult men) requesting the Recreation Department share, on a 50-50 basis, the cost of funding this program.

The Commission recommended that it be recorded that we must regretfully decline.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 18, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Acting Chairman, Mr. Paul Burke, Messers. Stephen Crosby, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Francis Rice, Joseph Selden and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by vice-chairman, Mr. Paul J. Purke at 7:50 P.M.

- A. Minutes of September meeting approved as circulated. September monthly reports of activities and maintenance distributed to Commission members.
- B. Mini-bike report: On October 6th, at the invitation of Commissioner Penney published in the local papers, a meeting was held at the Recreation Department for adults interested in taking active part in supervising a pilot program or club, for mini-bikes, to be tentatively initiated at the Infirmary Land.

Five (5) interested parents attended and some others indicated that they were interested but had previous commitments that particular evening. A representative from the Police Department, Bob Braceland, also attended and several representatives from mini-bike engineering firms nearby, also came.

At the request of Commissioner Penney, Mr. Barry, Recreation Supervisor, obtained all information available as to State Motor Vehicle regulations, suggested rules and regulations and whatever pertinent information he could obtain about these vehicles.

The Recreation Department is primarily interested in providing a suitable, regulated program with safety and enjoyment for riders and as little annoyance to residents as possible. Since there are so many sizes, types and kinds of mini-bikes and Commissioner is still involved in ascertaining relative information, the feeling of the Commission was to authorize Commissioner Penney to regulate standards, sizes, etc. on a test basis. With this in mind, Dr. Levine motioned that the Commission set a target date of Saturday, November 6th, for the beginning of a mini-bike program, to run for one (1) month trial basis, program to be held on Saturday for a three (3) hour period (either morning or afternoon) at the Infirmary land - with the rules and regulations to be set up by Commissioner Penney. It was so moved.

Since this will be a test period, there will be no fee or charge for this one month.

- C. Progress on Skating Rink: Commissioner Penney reported that the architect had made available to him, the drawing for the proposed outdoor skating arena, which he exhibited to the Commission and informed them that the cost estimate was higher than hoped for originally, being in the vicinity of one million for the complete facility but that this would include parking area and landscaping. If this plan is acceptable to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), one half of the cost would be funded by them.

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(The next step will be to present these plans to them for their action and approval.) This facility is planned in a manner which makes possible the future enclosure if this should become acceptable to BOZ.

Mr. Crosby requested that Commissioner Penney communicate with the architect recommending the judicious arrangement of trees and shrubs within the parking area in order to relieve a blank expense of blacktop.

(The question as to where the Commission now stood in regard to the proposed privately funded (or special authority), Garden City Rink Association indoor rink was also brought up. Since the City has made an initial investment of \$16,000.00 in architect fees and borings at Cold Spring, plus the Mayor's commitment, it would seem prudent to continue to pursue federal funds for a Recreation Department rink.)

- D. Upcoming National Congress of Recreation and Parks at Houston, Texas : Commissioner Penney reported that Mrs. West, Chairman of the Commission, has already left to attend, at her own expense, and she will leave on Tuesday morning, October 19th for the remainder of the week.
- E. Request from Commissioner for Advice on Improving Communication with Board of Aldermen and Neighborhoods: The Commission suggested that the Recreation Department make available to the Board of Aldermen all of their press releases from now on. This will give them information on all programs currently being offered by the Department. Mr. Burke suggested that two permits be made available to each Alderman, (and to their families if requested), at no charge. (One is currently provided to each Alderman,) in order for them to inspect and enjoy Recreation programs requiring permits. i.e. swimming, tennis and skating. In addition to these suggestions, it was also proposed that Commission members make themselves available to their Ward Aldermen and neighborhoods on an informal basis, to discuss any potential problems and solutions. Mr. Burke also suggested that we include copies of our monthly report of activities and maintenance.
- F. Response from School Committee on "Cold Spring" lot: In response to Commissioner Penney's letter to the Newton School Committee requesting that they release a certain lot at the Cold Spring area, to the Recreation Department for development of this total site as a multi-use, outdoor recreation and park area, the School Committee responded by voting to release control for this purpose.
- G. Mrs. Moore's land at Albemarle - F.A. Day School: Due to a contracting error, a portion of land belonging to the Avery estate was used for school use. Mrs. Moore has requested a return of some of the Avery land. This land requested abuts her property and would establish more of a buffer zone if made available to her, by the City of Newton. With this in mind, Dr. Levine motioned as follows - that the parcel described below be declared no longer necessary for recreation purposes and to release said land to the City of Newton, and it was so said:

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"Beginning at a point on the southwesterly line of Crafts Street, distant 8.00 feet northwest of the northeasterly tangent point of a curve of 1,156.40 feet radius; thence S.12 15' 19" W., 178.34 feet by land of Florence Avery Moore; thence N. 29 35' 19" W., 57.04 feet; thence N.27 54' .07" E., 141.08 feet to the point of beginning, the last two described lines being over land of the City of Newton, Recreation Department.

The above described parcel of land contains 3,393 square feet and is a portion of lot 3, section 21, block 22 as carried in the books of the City of Newton Assessing Department."

- H. Meeting on Lighting Parking Lot Areas for Students to Gather Informally:  
As Commissioner Penney will be enroute to Houston, he has requested that Mr. Robert Doherty, who will be acting Commissioner during his absence, attend this meeting with the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen on Tuesday evening, October 19th at City Hall. The Recreation Commission is favorable inclined to lighting recreation and sports areas, such as basketball courts, street hockey areas, etc., rather than just a parking lot.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 15, 1971

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Mr. Paul Burke, Vice-Chairman, Messers Joseph Selden, Stephen Crosby, G. Nicholas Dawson, Francis Rice, Dr. Burton D. Levine and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Mrs. West, at 7:50 P.M.  
Guests - 5 young people from Newton Concerned Youth

- A. Distributed to Commission members were: the 1970 Annual Report, October monthly report, and list of November and December Recreation programs.
- B. Mr. Penney and Mrs. West reported briefly on the National Recreation Congress in Houston, Texas, which they attended last month.
- C. Minutes of the October 18th Commission meeting were accepted.
- D. Report on trial Mini-bike Program at Infirmiry land. Continuing for the two final weeks of November, the Mini-bike program has been a success, bringing additional young people into the program each week. About 25 riders now taking part, with additional bikes entered each week.

A trail between 1/4 to 1/2 miles in length is used, with Recreation personnel, plus one police officer, and several volunteers present each Saturday between 1 and 4 P.M. Bikes are limited to 5 horse-power.

Preceeding the program a petition was received from nearby residents of the area protesting this program. However, since the inception of this program, the recreation department has received no protests of any kind. With this in mind, it was suggested that Commissioner Penney contact the petitioners, inviting them to attend this youth-oriented, successful program in action, and note particularly the little noisefactor present.

- E. Plan for joint meeting with School Committee: After consideration, suggested agenda items will be provided in writing to Commission members before the meeting on November 29th.
- F. Lincoln-Eliot School Addition and Parking Lot: While a request has been made to the Recreation Department by the Building Commissioner to transfer land to build an addition and extend the parking lot farther into the playground, it is felt that this request should also be made by the School Committee. After discussion, Stephen Crosby motioned and it was so moved, that the Commission would take Mr. Herbert's communication under advisement, looking into other various areas of use of Recreation land by the School Department, etc.
- G. Parking Lot Lighting; Since all monies for this use are exhausted at this time, the request for additional lighting has been denied. Commissioner Penney reported that funds to keep the lights on at NEWTON SOUTH High School Tennis courts had been exhausted. Mayor and Alderman Jackson and Chairman of Finance Committee agreed that lights would have to be shut off before the end of trial period of youth gathering place.



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- H. League of Women Voters: Open Space study and R<sub>e</sub>creation Report. Commissioner Fenney noted that he has been asked to meet next week with this organization.
  - I. Halloween Report: Paul Burke motioned and it was so moved, that Commissioner Fenney contact all principals of schools, PTA presidents, etc., to survey them as to their suggestions and opinions on Halloween, and have results available at the next meeting in December.
  - J. Commissioner Fenney reported that the Auburndale Development Corp. had contacted him with a request that they be permitted to attend the December Recreation Commission meeting and submit their plans for the land abutting Auburndale Playground. It will be agreeable to the Commission if they attend the December 20th meeting.
  - K. Commissioner Fenney noted that the Mayor's appreciation dinner will be held on December 13th with most of the Commission members attending.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 20, 1971

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Paul Burke Vice Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levin, Francis Rice and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

- A. Meeting called to order by Mrs. West, Chairman, at 8:00 P.M. Paul Burke moved to accept the minutes of the November meeting and it was so voted.
- B. Commissioner Penney distributed the November monthly report.
- C. Halloween Survey: As directed by Commission, Commissioner Penney conducted a survey of all principals of schools, PTA presidents, etc. According to replies received, most were not in favor of evening Halloween parties.

To obtain conclusive evidence of desires throughout the city, Paul Burke moved to hold any final decision at this time, at least until January, and suggested that Mr. Webber (who attended Commission meeting as a representative of the PTA Council) contact all the PTA's during the month; and obtain their recommendation to report to Commission meeting in January. He also suggested that Commissioner Penney contact our new Mayor, Mr. Mann, to obtain his ideas and thoughts upon this issue. It was so voted.

- D. Auburndale Development Corporation visitation re: Auburndale Park. Mr. John McIssac, his lawyer, Mr. Shubow and architect, Paul Carroll: Mr. McIssac desires to gift the city with a portion of land, approximately 4 acres in size, which is presently a portion of his land off Staniford Street where he hopes to build garden apartments and single homes. This area abutts Auburndale playground, and he would intend the four acres to be used strictly for Recreation/Park purposes - for all time.

As Mr. Burke pointed out, the Recreation Commission can make no legal or moral committment at this time.

This company is primarily interested in obtaining city approval for it's housing project, which is a perogative of Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Commissioner Penney feels that it is in the interest of the city and it's citizens to acquire this land for Recreation/Park purposes.

Mrs. Heyn, as a representative of the Conservation Commission, attended this meeting also, at the request of Mr. McIssac. She noted that the Conservation Commission will have no objection to this housing project as long as their recommendations on prevention of erosion and the maintaining of vegetation, and the maintenance of flood plain, are followed out.

Commissioner Penney suggested that a meeting be held to include Mr. Michael Ferris, City Planning Director, Mr. Paul Carroll, Architect

for the Auburndale Development Corp. and himself, to work out detail of boundaries and cut and fill requirements of the construction.

- E. Poly Arts - Robert Gorden - Re/Creation 1972 At 9:15, the originator of Poly Arts described to the Commission, his ideas in creating a Newton summer (or year around) social entertainment program, to reach all ages in Newton. He has been the inovator of similar programs in Cambridge, Fall River and Boston. - These programs can run a gamut from concert down to a child's birthday party.

The program would be operated by a small staff, plus volunteers within the Community and with the participation of many people within the city.

Mr. Gorden wanted to stress that this would be several recreation programs running simultaneously, in a day, throughout the neighborhoods. A complete program for Newton would run about \$19,000.00 he stated. He felt that most of the funds could be raised locally with the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce, provided the City Government gave its sanction. He recommended a starter sum be carried on the Recreation Department budget.

- F. Newton High School Pool Use proposal: Commissioner Penney provided the Commission with a report of proposed General Policies regarding operation and maintenance of the new pool, agreed upon by School Physical Education staff and himself. This report has gone to the School Committee. It is expected that results of this meeting will be available shortly. He presented also a proposed budget for Community (Recreation Department) use of the pool.

- G. Budget Meeting: Commissioner Penney has requested that the Commission . meet at least two times, in addition to the regular Commission meeting in January, to work with him and give him the benefit of their advice on budgetary matters. A January 4th meeting at 7:45 P.M. will be the first. A date for second meeting will be set at that time,

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 17, 1972

Present: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Paul Burke, Vice Chairman, Steven Crosby, G. Nicholas Dawson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Mrs. West, at 7:55 P.M.

Distributed to Commission members were the December monthly report of activities, copies of suggested priority list of Capital Outlays and copies of inter-office correspondence directed to Public Works Commissioner and Public Buildings Commissioner regarding building repairs and improvements at recreation grounds - also estimated costs.

- A. Mr. Crosby moved to accept the minutes as read and it was so voted.
- B. District Changes: Commissioner Penney provided the Commission with copies of the new scheduling of the four recreation districts, changed in order to make them more functional within the current concept of the Recreation Commission - by Wards. Hopefully this will enable each supervisor to work more closely with the Commission members of the related Wards.
- C. Conferences: Commissioner Penney reported that there are two upcoming conferences at which the Recreation Department should be represented. The Charles River Recreation Council will hold a conference at Sherman Union at Boston University, on February 22nd. A portion of the program will be the planning of the 1976, 200th year, celebration.
- On Wednesday, March 1st, at Northeastern's Warren Center in Ashland, "Focus 71" will be held. This is an all day conference focusing on the need for an office for Community recreation within the State Government structure. Mr. Foster was the speaker.
- D. Poly Arts - Robert Gordon: Commissioner Penney spoke to Mayor Mann about the proposed recreation program referred to in the December minutes. While Mayor Mann is interested, no commitment has been made as yet.
- E. Community use for the new Newton North High School pool and indoor Athletic facility: With reference to the tentative plans described in the report provided to the Recreation Commission in December, Commissioner Penney, Helene Brivogel and Warren Huston plan another meeting shortly.- with additional figures.

F.

Capital Improvements - 1972 Priority: Priorities were revised in order of importance as follows:

1. Cold Spring Rink	\$1,000,000.00
Less Fed. Share	500,000.00
2. Bubble Enclosure - Gath Pool	75,000.00
3. Lighted tennis & basketball courts at Newton Centre	19,000.00
4. Lights at Burr Tennis courts	15,000.00
5. Hard surface basketball court at Auburndale (including lights which would be additional security measure)	7,000.00
6. Lighted softball field at Cabot	22,000.00
7. Football practice lights at Burr (also for security)	2,000.00
8. Football practice lights at Newton Ctr.	2,000.00
9. Tennis Courts (Day Jr. High School)	50,000.00
10. Lighted Game Court - Boyd	8,000.00

(Other priorities noted and approved by Recreation Commission at budget sessions were:)

1. General depreciation of inventory of sports, games & craft supplies which need to be built up.
2. Mini-bus (club wagon) vehicle for transporting Senior Citizens and Youth teams.

Due to holiday on regular meeting day in February, the next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on February 14th.

Adjourned 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Recreation Commission Meeting

February 14, 1972

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Chairman, Paul Burke, Vice Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Steven Crosby, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Mrs. West, Chairman, at 7:56 P.M.

It was moved to accept the minutes of the January meeting as circulated.

- A. Commissioner Penney reviewed the January report of the monthly activities of the Recreation Department and the maintenance report.
- B. Report on 1972 Budget: Commissioner Penney reported that he had reviewed the requested Recreation budget for 1972, with his honor, Mayor Mann. The Mayor's cuts have been less severe this year than has been the case for the past several years.

Some of the items originally on the Recreation budget have been omitted, but have been added to other appropriate budgets such as Building or Public Works.

The important Finance Committee on the Recreation Department budget request will take place on Saturday evening, February 26th, at 8:00 P.M. Commissioner Penney will appreciate the presence of those Commission members able to attend. It was suggested also that Recreation Commission members make every effort to contact those members of the Board from their Ward, to affirm their interest in the budget items. Commissioner Penney will send a list of priority items to each Commission member before this meeting.

Commissioner Penney has also reported to the Mayor, the priorities for the Capital Improvement budget. Of prime interest is, of course, the skating rink at the Cold Spring area.

This budget will be printed by the Planning Department after the Mayor has made his changes. It will be presented to the Board of Aldermen who must hold a public hearing on it. Copies of this will be given to all Commission members.

- C. Tennis Management Inc. proposal for air-supported structure. This company plus Air-Tech, the structure manufacturer, is interested in providing this service in the City of Newton. At the time of the original proposal, Comm. Penney requested

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a ruling on various aspects of legality from the City Solicitor. While they have had it under advisement, a finalized answer is not available as yet.

Since this is now in the Executive Department hands, the Recreation Department will have to await the final outcome. Although the Mayor's office is interested, Public Safety, Fire Department, Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as the Board of Aldermen, must be cleared before Newton can enter into the suggested 8 year contract.

- D. Auburndale Development Corporation - plan of land next to Auburndale Park. (Reviewed by Recreation Commissioner and Planning Director) Hearing being held tonight by the Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen. According to State Law, if flood plain land is filled for any purpose, a substitute area must be available as a flood plain. The land which they are suggesting be deeded to Recreation, will be used for this purpose by making a flat area near the tennis courts, below the proper elevation.
- E. Commission Election: According to the Rules and Regulations established by the Recreation Commission on June 21, 1971, notice of election is given, for the meeting to be held in March 1972. Paul Burke suggested that the announcement of this meeting be sent at least two weeks in advance to those members not present.
- F. Other Business: Congratulations were given to Paul Burke, Vice Chairman of the Recreation Commission, upon his election as President to the Newton Community Service Centers, Inc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

Recreation Commission Meeting

March 20, 1972

Present: Commissioner Penney, Vice Chairman, Paul J. Burke, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Messers Joseph Capalbo, Steven Crosby, Joseph Selden, G. Nicholas Dawson, Francis Rice and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Acting Chairman, Paul J. Burke, at 7:50 P.M.

A. It was moved to accept the minutes of the February Recreation Commission meeting as circulated.

B. Commissioner's report on activities and maintenance were distributed to members.

Note: It was suggested that, if possible, Commission members within a given Ward, be made cognizant of Recreation programs within that Ward.

Commissioner Penney said that he would advise the Recreation Supervisors of each Ward, to make this information available to the respective Commission members within that district.

C. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: As directed previously, notice was sent to Commission members one month in advance, that an election would be held at this meeting, for Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

At Mr. Burke's request as acting Chairman (in the absence of Mrs. West, Chairman), Commissioner Penney called for nominations to be made for Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

A nomination for Paul Burke was entered. Since no further nominations were made, nominations were closed. The Commission then voted unanimously by secret ballot, to elect Paul Burke to the position of Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Penney then called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

A nomination for Dr. Burton D. Levine was entered. No further information being made, nominations closed. The Commission then voted unanimously by secret ballot to elect Dr. Burton D. Levine to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Commission.

Newly elected chairman, Mr. Paul J. Burke commented that he hoped that the Recreation Commission will become more active with constructive ideas and meaningful suggestions. He suggests that each member jot down and bring to the next meeting, any suggestions or notes he may have regarding the Commission which would be helpful to the Commission and to the City of Newton. Since each ward of the City is represented, he feels that members have a natural identification with their ward which should be communicated to the Commission.



D. Department budget progress: Since the Newton Board of Aldermen have not voted upon the Recreation budget at this point, progress is difficult to assess. Commissioner Penney reported that the Board of Aldermen had voted to include funds for the "bubble" cover at Gath Pool in the Public Buildings budget.

E. Aldermanic, City Planning Committee, interest in River Street lot and Pine Street Dump area.

- 1. River Street lot: Alderman Jefferson has entered on the Aldermanic docket an item requesting the Recreation Commission to re-establish the former River Street playground on a "tot lot."

This area was discontinued as an active playground some time ago, 11/18/68, due to the problems of vandalism and rowdiness after dark. The Recreation Department keeps the area clean and the grass cut, but provides no leadership and has indicated by vote of the Commission that this area be declared surplus when the new Burr School playground opened. No final disposition of this land, however, was ever made by the Board of Aldermen.

The Commission members agreed that no action could be taken at this time.

- 2. Pine Street Dump area: Commissioner Penney reported that City Planning Committee chairman Jackson is moving to put in action the Recreation Commission's recommendation of a year ago regarding this land.

F. New Business:

- 1. Stephen Crosby announced tonight that due to the press of business he will have to resign from the Commission.
- 2. Request for permit for St. Mary of Carmen, annual Festival at Hawthorn Playground from July 12 to July 16. It was voted that the Society be allowed to again have their Religious Festival with the stipulations and rules as provided to them by Commissioner Penney.
- 3. Request for use of field by Boston University for 8 baseball games to be played at Newton Highlands field. Mr. Selden motioned to allow use of the field with the stipulation that they must provide their own personnel to groom and mark the field before each game. It was so moved with 1 member opposed.
- 4. Request for use of field by Mass. Bay Community College for practice 5 days a week on Newton Highlands field. Since no maintenance will be necessary, no charge would be made, but it would be necessary for them to give way if local teams were scheduled. Mr. Dawson motioned and it was so moved, with one member opposed, to allow this use.

*use of field*

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5. Invitation from Newton High School to Commissioner Penney for winter sports Banquet on April 5th. Mr. Penney will be unable to attend, but Mr. Burke, who also has an invitation, will attend and represent the Recreation Commission and Commissioner Penney.
  6. Question of what disposition could be made of past Commission members pictures as there is no room to display them in the limited space available. Consideration was given to a composite picture of all past members, but due to excessive cost involved, it was decided to return the pictures to the families of the members. Mr. Rice motioned to return these pictures to the families and take group pictures of the Commission in the future. It was so voted.
  7. Commissioner Penney announced that Mr. Joseph Capalbo, Recreation Commission member, has assumed the duties of Athletic Director for Our Lady's Help of Christians School.

Mr. Rice noted that at the hearing recently held before the City Planning Committee, that the Auburndale Development Corp. claimed that they had the approval for housing in this area, from the Recreation Commission. The Commission noted that although they were in favor of accepting the gift of land from the Corporation, they would not take a position on the merits of the housing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Preliminary Meeting of Recreation Commission with Committee of the

Board of Aldermen

April 24, 1972

As requested, previous to the regular Recreation Commission meeting, members of the Commission met with the Mayor, City Planning Director, Building Commissioner, and the "Kendrick Committee" of the Board of Aldermen in the Executive Suite at City Hall.

A small scale model of the architect's design for a multi-purpose, open sided skating and sports complex proposed for the ColdSpring area and costing about a million dollars was displayed. Present was the architect to answer any pertinent questions.

Consideration was given this complex since, in order for the City of Newton to qualify for matching funds of \$500,000.00 from the BOR, a decision by the Board of Aldermen to accept or reject, was necessary for a May 29th deadline set by BOR.

No action was taken at this meeting but the general tone did not appear to be favorable.

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 24, 1972

The regular meeting of the Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Paul Burke at 9:45 P.M. In attendance was: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Joseph Selden, Francis Rice and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

1. Dr. Levine moved to accept the minutes of the March meeting as circulated, and was so voted.
2. Two groups were present and requesting a hearing.
  - A. Chairman Burke suggested that the West Little League president, Michael LeConti be invited to speak first.

Mr. LeConti announced that he, as president, represented 330 children from the ages of 8 to 12 and claimed that he had received complaints from Little League managers, parents, coaches, etc., regarding the conditions of the Little League fields. His demands include, in addition to regular conditioning and marking as normally done each year by the Recreation Department before opening day, complete renovation of several of the Little League playing fields, plus new protective fencing in several areas, additional drains, re-sodding, grading, additional bleachers for spectators.

It was explained to him that neither the money nor manpower was available for the major work which he requested, and while the Recreation Department was aware that some of his demands were legitimate, it was not possible to fulfill them at this time, since West Little League is only one of the five Little Leagues throughout the City, and all must share the limited funds.

Protective fencing could only be installed when appropriations by the Board of Aldermen were available. (Lyons Park in Auburndale being one which funding had been requested in the budget, but had been cut out this year.)

Alderman Jackson was present and noted that the installation of a chain link fence in some of the areas would certainly limit the use of fields to only Little League where presently, other sports such as Soccer, Football and Baseball are additional functions.

Some bleachers will be available this year, but these are slated for Lincoln Field in Waban.

The field at Franklin is in need of rough grading and the Recreation crew will make every effort to put this into playing condition, as they normally do each Spring, before opening day of Little League.

At 9:40 P.M. Mr. LeConti left.

- B. Second Group: Robert Worden, Recreation Leader at Newton Centre, and representing a newly formed group at Newton Centre, called the Playground Association of Newton Centre, spoke to the group. They will publish a paper (copies presented to Commission) begin several new programs, plus develop a lounge area for the young people in this vicinity which will be furnished and equipped at no cost to the Recreation Department. They request permission to install a Coke machine. They have investigated previously - no cost to Recreation, not responsible for breakage, damage or vandalism to machine. The profits of this venture would be utilized to purchase a radio, TV, paint for the lounge, uniforms for teams or whatever was needed. The Coke would be in cans, not bottles, and they will guarantee there will be no cans on the playground.

Mr. Worden also complained vigorously about the use of the Newton Centre Fieldhouse several times a week by the Judo Club, run by Sol Sidman. His objections were, damage to the building caused by the constant slamming on the floor, (damage to light fixtures and ceilings), dangerous conditions of heavy mats - and how they are stored, and the general untidiness of the building after each program. He suggested that perhaps they would be better suited in a school where the floors are actually planned for wrestling and judo. He also felt that the cost of the program was excessive.

Mr. Sidman, representing the Judo group, was also present and replied that, far from excessive profit, in fact, only the cost of the 7 black belt instructors was covered, and that many of the participants do not pay, once they are registered.

Mr. Sidman felt that it was unlikely that there was any damage done to the building. He did note that they do not plan on a profit and that if they are obliged to pay custodial fees in a school, they will not have the funds.

No decision on this subject was made at this time.

3. Mini-Bike Program Resumption:

A report of last falls successful experimental mini-bike program was supplied to Commission members.

Tonight in attendance was Safety Officer Robert Braceland who worked last year with the program. He felt that this was a very successful program and advocated renewing this year and conveyed the approval of the Police Chief. Several others interested in the program also attended, a member of the Youth Commission and interested parents. One person opposed the program on the basis of too much noise made by the motorcycles in the area. Since the big bikes - or motorcycles - are not involved in the mini-bike program for youngsters from 10 - 16, her objection did not seem relevant.

Officer Braceland suggested that if possible, more parent volunteers be recruited. Officer Braceland also suggested that signs posting the land against the use of other vehicles in this area would permit enforcement by the Police Department of use of area.

It was moved and seconded to re-instate the Mini-Bike Program this spring. It will again be limited to 5 horse-power bikes and for boys or girls, ages 10 - 16, with registration by the Recreation Department, and include a fee. This program is to be held at the Infirmary Land. It will begin May 6th and continue on each Saturday afternoon from 1:00 - 4:00 P.M., until October 31st. Rules, regulations and conditions to continue the same as last fall's trial program.

Voted as follows: 3 approved, 1 opposed, 1 abstained. Vote carried to continue program.

It was also moved that this area of the Infirmary land be posted, prohibiting use of this area, except for the use during an accredited program and to also call attention of the Police Department of the posting.

It was so voted.

4. Consideration of Additional Fee for Reserved Court Use @ 50¢ per hour. It was moved that in addition to initial \$5.00 per person, tennis permit, that a service fee of 50¢ per hour per person be charged. This will be in effect at the 3 court areas - Burr, Newton Centre and the night lighted courts at Newton South High School during the time when an attendant is on duty and reservations limited.
5. Consideration of Arrangement for Allowing a Tennis Instructor to Use the Public Courts and Charge a Fee. Commissioner Penney told the Commission that the budget did not make available any funds for adult tennis instruction. He has received requests for tennis instruction on the courts for private instruction (fee to be paid directly to instructor). His feeling is that this is not legal and he has requested a ruling from the Law Department.

It was moved that the Recreation Department do not allow any Newton tennis instructor to give lessons on city courts and charge a fee. It was so voted.

6. Response to Request for a Soft-Drink Machine for the Newton Centre Fieldhouse to be operated by the Playground Association and the funds received to be used by them for the benefit of the Association, as requested earlier in this meeting.

It was moved to allow a soft-drink machine - the profits of which are to go to the Newton Centre Playground Association. (Provided that it be made clear that the City or Recreation Department is not liable for breakage, stealing, vandalism, etc.)

Voted: 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

7. Annual Board Members Dinner: Commissioner Penney reminded the members of the May 9th date for this annual dinner at White Cliffs, Northboro. He requested that they let him know as soon as possible if they will be guests at this affair. (by May 3rd).
8. The next meeting will be held on the 4th Monday, May 22nd, due to the New England Recreation Conference from May 14th to 17th.

Meeting adjourned at midnight.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 22, 1972

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Present: Commissioner Penney, Commission Chairman, Paul Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. C. Nicholas Dawson, Francis Rice, Joseph Selden and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Burke at 8:00 P.M.

1. Minutes of April Recreation Commission accepted as circulated.
2. Commissioner Penney distributed to each Commission member a regular monthly report of Recreation Department activities.
3. Reconsideration of Tennis Fees: Several Newton residents opposed to the proposed additional charge of fifty cents per person, per reserved hour, system, voted upon by the Recreation Commission in April, attended the meeting.

They questioned the justification of this assessment of an additional fee and felt that as the funds go directly to the City, the money could not go to the actual maintenance of the courts or to the cost of attendants.

They also protested that this fee would prove to be a discriminatory fee, penalizing the playing of doubles on the courts. They felt that this was not only economically regressive, but philosophically harmful and would have the effect of limiting a public recreation facility.

A petition requesting that the Commission rescind the 50¢ fee was given to the Commission.

On a positive note, they did indicate that an increase of a flat tennis permit fee, over and above, the present tennis permit fee - to be levied at the start of a season would find more acceptance and meet with no serious resistance from the tennis public.

After consideration by the Commission members, it was moved by Mr. Rice to remove the 50¢ additional tennis fee for the 1972 season - but to take into consideration a new proposal, prior to the opening of the 1973 tennis season, and was so voted.

(Note: It was suggested that the total costs of the tennis program; cost of maintenance, reservations, etc., plus the permits sold, be compiled and this information be included in a letter to Commission members along with a request for their thoughts - prior to the 1973 season).

4. Reopening River Street Playground: (copy of petition attached) On May 22nd, Commissioner Penney and Chairman Burke attended a hearing held by the Board of Aldermen regarding this petition by the neighborhood, to re-establish playground at the River Street site.

As a direct result of this hearing, a resolution by the City Planning Committee recommends that the Recreation Commission re-establish this playground.

This playground was closed four years ago by a vote of the Recreation Commission. This was partially due to the establishment of the new Burr School playground, which it was thought at the time, would replace this area. Also, the playground had been a trouble spot, with constant complaints from abutters and the neighborhood due to vandalism and abuse of equipment, after dark misuse, drinking and the general harassment of neighbors.

However, the people in this community now feel that the trouble-makers of that period are now grown up and have left the area.

In addition, they say that Burr is too far and the streets too busy for the small children who are currently living in this area to cross.

It was moved by Dr. Levine that the Recreation Commission re-establish the River Street Playground as a Tot-lot within the 1972 Recreational season by the installation of such equipment and supervision as is immediately available - and it was so voted.

Recommendation was also made that a letter be sent to the petitioners telling them of the Recreation Commission action and also suggesting that it would be a good idea to form a neighborhood committee - or association - to help keep this area in good order.

5. Summer Plans: Commissioner Penney reported that the Youth Center has planned additional programs for the summer - with Newtonville possibly being the site of a "Storefront" drop-in center, some movies planned, band concerts, drama, etc. in various different areas.
6. Tennis badges have been distributed to most Commission members (other will be mailed), and also to the Mayor. A letter was sent to the Board of Alderman asking them how many tennis permits they would like - but having no response, two tennis permits will be mailed, as usual, to each Alderman, for their use during the 1972 season.
7. Mini-Bike Program: Renewal of this program is now operating successfully on the Infirmary land on Saturday with an approximate enrollment of 20.
8. Review of Skating Rink Situation: Since it is evident that the Aldermen were not in favor of the architects proposed skating rink concept, plus the additional cost beyond the original amount allocated, the necessity now exists for finding an alternative plan. Under consideration will be various plans such as MDC and other community structures, now building at lesser costs.

Chairman Burke suggested a committee to thoroughly research ice-skating rink information in other areas and this committee to then submit their information to the Recreation Commission upon completion of their study. With the approval of the Commission, a committee consisting of Commissioner Penney, Dr. Levine and Mr. Rice as chairman, will begin this study.

9. Review of Air-Supported Structures for Pool and Tennis: While an appropriation of \$100,000.00 is in the hands of the Building Department for the pool cover, there are still many problems to overcome before reality. Approval from sources such as Legal Department, plus approval of building codes are necessary. It is felt that due to the time element, it is important that the Recreation Commission obtain information as to the action being taken by the Building Commissioner, as to his study and recommendations on this air-supported structure.

With this in mind, it was moved that at the recommendation of the Recreation Commission, a report from the Building Commissioner, as to the statue of the bubble over the Harry Gath Memorial Pool, be made available by the June Recreation Commission meeting.

Included was the recommendation that a carbon copy of this request be sent to the Mayor and to the president of the Board of Aldermen - and was so voted.

It was also moved that Commissioner Penney request a clear-cut written, legal opinion by the City Solicitor as soon as possible, as to the legality of the proposed contracts for the enclosed tennis structures. It was so voted.

10. Community Council's request for Delegates: Discussed - no action taken.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



61 children Alden Place  
Cottage Place  
Smith Court

PETITION

"Petition to Open River Street Playground"

We, the undersigned residents of the City of Newton, request that the River Street Playground in West Newton be opened once again as a Tot Lot, combined with benches for our Senior Citizens; an instructor for our children, two (2) sets of swings, (one for the older children, and one set of baby swings), a slide, a jungle gym, parallel bars, water bubbler, and some pieces of tot equipment that the Newton Centre Playground has.

We are not only concerned parents of 12 year olds and under, but we feel the need is great for this recreational facility in this most densely populated neighborhood.

5/22/72

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MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 19, 1972

Present: Commissioner Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Mr. Francis Rice, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

1. Minutes of May Recreation Commission Meeting accepted as circulated. Copies of Recreation activities and monthly reports distributed to members.
2. A Delegation from Burr Park Area, with Alderman David Cohen as spokesman, attended this meeting to protest the planned installation of night lighting of the tennis courts in this area (plans being drawn by Electrical Engineer now).

Representatives feel that the additional confusion of parking, players at night and the lights would be unpleasant for the three or four homes that face the tennis court area.

Since, at present, the engineering plans are incomplete, they requested that they be notified when plans are available. They do however, favor security lighting in the Burr Park area. Commission consensus was that when engineering plans are complete, that neighbors, Alderman Cohen, Nick Dawson and other Commission members view them.

As there was not a quorum present, no action could be taken at this time anyway. A special meeting can be called if necessary, when the Engineers report is ready.

3. Pool Cover: Mr. Raymond A. Shamel, representing Environmental Structures, gave the Commission a detailed report of proposed structure, heating, ventilation systems, etc., and presented each Commission member with a brochure. This particular structure would cover the bathhouse area and could be left in place the year around with good outside visibility and temperature control inside. Construction would take from 10 to 12 weeks.
4. Tennis Management, Inc.: As a result of a request from Commissioner Penney to the legal department, he was informed that, according to the Law Department, a one year period would be the extent of time the City could enter into a contract - and - the City cannot use profits or shares of this venture to aid in paying for this program.

Commissioner Penney has informed the two interested companies to see if they are still interested on this basis.

5. Matter of Road in from Crafts Street to Day Junior High School: There has been a request for an additional fire and access road in from Crafts Street to the new Day School. The Commission sees no objection but feels that a chain (which should have been installed by contractor), would prevent unauthorized access.

At this time, it was also noted that the tennis court space is still available.

Commissioner Penney also called to the Commissions attention that there must be no parking space on the so-called "Avery-Moore" land, according to conditions set forth by heirs.

6. Regulation Prohibiting Alcoholic Beverages on Playgrounds: Commissioner Penney brought to the attention of the Commission the increasing problem of alcohol on the playgrounds. The Commission recognized the concern. The concensus of opinion of the four members present at this meeting was, that Commissioner Penney write a proposed ordinance prohibiting the use or possession of alcoholic

beverages on the playgrounds and recreation areas of Newton, unless by written permission from the Commissioner of Recreation; and this is to be sent to the Mayor asking that this become a docket item.

7. Letter and Plan for Hunnewell Playground by Neighborhood Group: Since there are no funds existing in the current budget for this, nothing can be done until request for budget funds are made next year.
8. Letter from Reginald Smith Regarding the Retention of Building #3 at Newton North High School: In response to this letter, the Commission was polled on the question. An informal vote of those four members present was that they go on record that Building #3 should be torn down.
9. Request from Fred Rosen, Eliot Church, Co-ordinator of "Beginnings" for a Mini-Bike Program: Commission members suggest that a letter be sent to Mr. Rosen inviting him to join the present mini-bike program in progress at the Infirmary land. For the six bikes, cost would be \$30.00 with no charge for individual registration as is usually made.
10. Scuba Program Request for Private Instruction to be Offered: Concensus of opinion of Commission members being that as in the past, no private program can be acceptable on City areas. They suggest that they might join the Fire or Police Scuba teams. Contact with these groups can be made through Gil Champagne.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

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SPECIAL MEETING

August 7, 1972

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Joseph Capalbo, Francis Rice, G. Nicholas Dawson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

New Recreation Commission candidates appointed by the Mayor, attended the meeting. They will be eligible to vote at the close of the 60 day period. Frank Fitzpatrick will represent Ward 1, and Howard V. Ferguson will represent Ward 2.

1. Action on Land for Lincoln-Eliot School - The Building Commission has formally requested that the Recreation Department release 31,030 square feet of land (approximately 3/4 acre of Boyd Playground), to the Newton School Department for an addition to the Lincoln-Eliot School and parking area. His letter, which it is understood, Mayor Mann approves, was read and accompanying plan O-85 was shown.

While the Recreation Commission recognizes the necessity, some reluctance was evident, in general, to relinquishing more Recreation lands. In this case the need was urgent. It was moved by Mr. Rice to release the requested land for the school addition and parking facility at the Lincoln-Eliot School. Voted unanimously.

2. Lights at Burr - and Opposition by Neighbors - Pursuant to objections by neighbors and petition, Ward 7 Commission member, Nick Dawson, went to the Burr area to poll the tennis players and neighbors. Over 50 tennis players signed a paper in favor of the lights; only 2 did not. He talked with some neighbors but not immediate abutters who had previously petitioned. He encountered no opposition to the lights.

Generally, the concern that the additional lights would shine into homes could be alleviated by light shields which have been included in the design. Dense shrubbery along the street side of the courts will blanket reflection too.

The Commission is most anxious to cooperate with the neighborhood in preventing any annoyance to them. It was left to Commissioner Penney and Mr. Dawson to make arrangements for the use of and hours of operation of the night lights.

It was moved to install lighting at Burr Park for tennis and football as funds allow. Voted unanimously.

3. Decision for Building Department on Type of Bubble to be Considered for Harry Gath Memorial Pool - Commissioner Penney reported that because of the complications of State regulations regarding public building bidding procedures, it was necessary to decide between a single skin and a double skin type bubble, so that the Building Commission could have the proper plans and specifications prepared. People in the Building Department who had been studying the different type, are of the opinion that the double skin type bubble had advantages in insulation, heating and ventilation, that would better serve the City. Commissioner Penney recommended that the double skin type be selected. It was moved and seconded that the Building Commission be informed that, with the approval of the Mayor, plans and specifications should be drawn for the double skin type bubble. This was voted unanimously.

4. Mayor's request or Suggestions for a more Active Recreation Commission - After a meeting on August 3rd, with Commissioner Penney and Chairman Paul Burke, the Mayor communicated with Commissioner Penney and Chairman Paul Burke by memo, directing them to begin an evaluation of Recreation in order that the Recreation Commission be familiar with all elements of Recreation. In this way, they will be more able to fulfill their function of advising him on financial matters of recreation.

He directed Chairman Burke to appoint a sub-committee responsibilities to study various areas such as maintenance, staffing, programs, capital improvement, equipment and all other factors governing expenditures of money in the department.

Chairman Burke will be in contact with Commission members by letter very shortly, assigning responsibility for committees. He feels that the four general categories should be:

1. Communications
2. Administration
3. Maintenance
4. Programming

Arrangements for committee meetings will be worked out after assignments are made.

Commissioner Penney informed the members that he, or the Recreation staff, will be available to aid in whatever way is necessary.

5. Other Business

- A. A vote of thanks was given to Joseph Capalbo, retiring Recreation Commission member from Ward 1.
- B. The secretary was requested to provide a list of the new, complete Recreation Commission, according to Wards - to be mailed to members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

September 25, 1972

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Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Francis Rice, Joseph Selden, G. Nicholas Dawson, Howard Ferguson, Francis Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

1. Minutes of June and August Commission Meeting Accepted as Circulated.
2. August monthly report provided for Commission members - July report and Maintenance report will be available at October meeting. (These were not completed due to shortage of clerical help - due to illness).
3. Report of Capital-Construction Projects to Date - Commissioner Penney reported to the Commission members on those projects completed and in progress. Baseball backstop at Horace Mann School, rebuilt diamond at the Peirce School Little League Field, arranged with Street Department to install drainage at Newton South High School Baseball diamond on the left field (Street Department will bill Recreation Department for this). The question of tennis lights at Burr Park involved so much controversy as many residents were not in favor - also the original request in the budget for \$14,000.00 was cut to \$12,000.00 and the actual bid came closer to \$16,000.00 that this project has been halted. A fence between the basketball court and the river at Upper Falls has been completed. There will be a new basketball court for Auburndale. Hamilton tennis courts are being repaired and resurfaced with asphalt, making them again available for tennis and suitable for flooding in the winter for skating. Burr Basketball Court is also being redone. Lighting for Pop Warner and Newton Athletic Football is in process also. Included will be practice football lights at Hawthorn and Burr. Funds for south side of City include Newton Centre and Oak Hill. Lights at Boyd - Lincoln-Eliot will begin - bids and contracts awarded. A water bubbler is in consideration for Stearns, but needs a manhole by Public Works Department. A fence at Horace Mann, along the street is presently being installed. Bids are being taken for a play apparatus area for Auburndale.
4. Group representing Burr Park area and Hawthorn area on the subject of lighting included Bill Chisholm, Mr. Richard Conboy, Mr. Max Schlefin (Burr area) and John Webber and Dave Berkeley from the Hawthorn area.
5. Security lighting at Burr was declared a necessity by the above group, citing instances of vandalism, robbery, burglary, drinking, etc., as the result of the lack of light in this dark area. In addition to security, installation lights would also serve athletic area for football, etc.
6. As Commissioner Penney pointed out to them, the Recreation Department has repeatedly requested lighting in this area - at least 5 years. Mr. Conboy stated that 3 years ago, at the nudging of area residents, the Board of Aldermen passed an order to install lighting, but Mayor Basbas did not initiate request for funds, the necessary action to go ahead.

Mr. Conboy and Mr. Schlefin both emphasized that the safety of the local people is involved and feel that the Recreation Commission should again reiterate the need for lighting to the Mayor as soon as possible. They also requested that a copy of this action be sent to Mr. Conboy and Mr. Schlefin.

Mr. Dawson motioned, and it was so moved, that security lighting at Burr Playground once again be recommended to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. Voted unanimously.

The representatives from the Hawthorn area, Mr. Webber and Mr. Berkeley stressed the need of both security and athletic lights at this playground - saying that parents of children who normally would enjoy programs at this center, hesitate to let them go there after dark. Mr. Webber also mentioned the need for a new floor. This floor warps constantly after any dampness, and should be replaced.

Commissioner Penney reported that he had met with Frank Fitzpatrick, Commission member from Ward 1 and several representatives of the area. At that meeting, various means of lighting were discussed. Money exists in the Recreation Budget to provide at least one light - possibly between the Soccer field and the children's playground. Mr. Pelligrini, at the meeting, felt he might be able to obtain a donation of poles, etc., from the Boston Edison Company and they are presently awaiting to hear about this.

Commissioner Penney is presently checking with the electrical contractor who would do the actual wiring. There is a possibility of practice lights this fall.

Mr. Webber and Mr. Berkeley also requested that the voting machines, which are in the way at Hawthorn, be removed. As there seems to be no other place to put them, nothing could be done about them at this time. Mr. Penney noted that he has requested an addition to enlarge the Child's Recreation Building for many years.

5. Pop Warner Group Interested in Lights for Albemarle Field - Frank Fitzpatrick reported that there are approximately 450 boys in uniform of the Pop Warner organization now using the football field at Albemarle. (area also used by Day Junior High School). The Mayor attended opener and reported that he found some glass and some low spots - since corrected by the Recreation Department.

Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that if the Pop Warner group can get "light bulbs and permission", they will get poles set, free of charge - plus electricians willing to volunteer the work.

It was reported that Fred Delicandro, President, agrees that this is the case, but wanted assurance from the Recreation Department, that they would be able to use them, once they were installed.

A legal instrument would have to be drawn up between the Pop Warner Football Association and the City of Newton, conforming to all ordinances. The installation must conform to all building code and would become the property of the City of Newton - no strings attached.

Commission agreed that Pop Warner can have priority to continue to use, unless conflict with school use, occurs.

Mr. Fitzpatrick feels that the legal ramifications can be worked out. When information is available, action can be taken at that time.

6. Report of Judo Club - Using Newton Centre Playground Field House - The Judo Organization would like to continue using the Newton Centre Field House on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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Last summer objections to their using the area were voiced by the leaders at this area, citing damage to the building as the reason. After checking, apparently the only damage was to light bulbs, (the Judo Club has replaced any they have been aware of). Mrs. West mentioned an additional advantage of the neighborhood feeling more secure with the "Black Belt" Judo experts in the area, for nine years. Mr. Penney noted that this is a non-profit group, and represents no expense to the Department.

Dr. Levine motioned that the Judo Club be allowed to continue at Newton Centre Playground Field House and it was so moved. Unanimously voted.

7. Group picture of Recreation Commission was taken at 9:00 P.M.
8. Commission Evaluation - Sub-Committee Reports - Preliminary reports of the following committees were made:
  1. Administration - Dr. Levine and Mr. Rice, 9/21/72
  2. Programming - Mrs. West and Mr. Seldon, 8/15/72
  3. Maintenance - Mr. Dawson and Mr. Ferguson, 9/11/72
  4. Communications - Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Burke, 9/22/72

Detailed reports will be presented for final consolidation of report, if possible, at the October 16th meeting.

9. Alcoholic Beverages in Playgrounds - After reviewing the problem, Mr. Ferguson moved that a recommendation be made that an ordinance be passed prohibiting the use of alcoholic beverages on all Recreation areas and it was so moved. 5 affirmative, 2 opposed.
10. Old Business
  - a. Pool Bubble - Out for bid now, bids will be opened on October 3rd. However, contract would not be awarded at that time, as bids cover only actual "bubble" structure", no heating, motors, etc. This invitation to bid would be considered an inquiry bid only.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of October 16, 1972

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mfs. Worthing L. West, Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

- I. Minutes of September meeting accepted as circulated.
- II. Monthly reports for July and September also maintenance report for summer, were distributed to Commission members.
- III. Recommendation of Public Building and Purchasing Department heads concerning the proposed Gath Pool bubble.

Upon request, John Sullivan, Public Buildings Engineer, came to the Recreation Commission meeting to report the technical findings on the various types of pool covers currently available.

Due to existing State Laws governing bidding procedure, it was not possible to accept bids for the complete "ready to operate" facility, so sub-bids will have to be invited for the cover, heat, light, electrical service, foundation, etc.

Bids for bubble skin and motors were recently opened (Oct. 11th) at the Building Department - result below:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Air-Tect (single skin)                 | \$57,950.00 |
| 2. Bird-Air (single skin)                 | \$69,180.00 |
| 3. Environmental Structures (double skin) | \$78,201.00 |

Mr. Sullivan emphasized the point that, in addition to original cost of skin, etc., must be added, the costs of foundation work, heat and ventilation, winterizing the bathhouse and heating it, electric lighting, electrical wiring, plumbing, etc. Since the pool water is presently heated by gas, logically, the facility could be heated by gas. However, upon investigation, the Gas Company claims that they would be unable to accept additional gas-heating burdens for another two years. Therefore, provision for oil heat must be made.

If the double-skin type of bubble were to be used - and this seems to be the most efficient due to insulation bonus, plus the ease of lighting, an approximate additional cost, over and above the original amount of \$100,000.00 appropriated by the City of Newton, would be estimated at another \$50,000.00.

The single-skin types would be approximately \$30,000.00 and \$45,000.00 over the \$100,000.00 appropriation.

Another alternative was considered also - a permanent, enclosed structure with sliding transparent panels in the roof for summer use. Since this is a permanent structure, the possibility of 50% Federal funding could be utilized. However, Mr. Penney observed that the proposed 85 foot wide building would not be suitable for the Gath Pool.

An alternative to a positive stand, at this time, allowing for more investigation of those structures of this type already in working condition, is to contact the Canton, Ohio YMCA and a similar structure - but used for horticultural purposes, Wright's Roses, in Cranbury, New Jersey.

Dr. Levine moved that the action on this bubble be tabled for the present in order that more study and research be done before the next meeting - and it was so voted.

Mr. Ferguson moved that Commissioner Penney and Chairman Paul Burke meet informally with the Mayor, bringing him up to date as to the current information, and it was so voted.

- IV. Ward 1 Commission member, Frank Fitzpatrick, again brought before the Recreation Commission the representatives of the Pop Warner organization, Fred Dalicandro, President, Bill Chisolm, Joe Coakley, and John Webber. They are interested in installing lighting for football at the Albemarle Playground, at their own expense - to then be turned over to the City.

This group, in September, had come to the Recreation Commission with a plan for lights and had been advised by the Commission, to obtain a legal opinion from the City Solicitor. A legal instrument is to be drawn up between the Pop Warner Football Association and the City of Newton conforming with all ordinances. The installation must conform to all building and electrical codes and would then become the property of the City of Newton.

This, they advised the Commission, has now been accomplished, and they have received permission from City Solicitor, Melvin Dangel, to proceed. The legal department advised them also, that they must obtain permission from the Recreation Commission, to proceed.

They plan to install six light poles with eight quartz lights on each pole, directed in toward the field, from the service road. They will provide all liability during the installation, It would be understood that lights would be turned off in the evening at 10:30 P.M.

It was moved and seconded, that with the agreement of the City Solicitor, that Pop Warner Football Association be granted permission to install lights and poles at Albemarle Field at their own expense and that it be understood that this will become a City owned installation. It was so voted.

Mr. Ferguson then moved, that Newton Pop Warner, have priority in scheduling lighting for their football games - and it was so voted.

- V. At 10:00 P.M., Mrs. Nadeau, Principal of the Underwood School, and representatives of PTA, Work/Study Group, and Mr. Terry D'Eugenio, consultant, came before the Commission with a request for "moral support" from the Recreation Department for their proposed installation of a new type of inovational playground equipment at the Underwood School. Since the playground apparatus is made from salvaged material, there is little cost beyond pulleys, nails, etc., used to install and put it together. The actual labor will be provided by parents, teachers, and children who are ready and willing to go to work.

Commission members questioned them closely on legal liability during installation and also liability for children using this facility after installation.

Mrs. Nadeau asserted that Jerry Angino will advise them on legal questions as to installation. They feel that teachers and parents will assume a natural liability once the equipment is an accomplished fact.

They anticipate little vandalism as this will be a community project with all ages involved.

It was moved to go along with this idea, subject to the approval of the City of Newton Legal Department on the question of liability - and inspection by the Recreation Department - so voted.

- VI. Historical Report: Mrs. West reported that she and Mr. Murphy will be completing this report shortly and will have it available for the next Commission meeting.
- VII. Since several items on the agenda had not been reached, it was decided to have a special meeting of the Commission on October 30th, at which time the sub-committee reports on the Recreation Department could be presented and the preliminary budget work begun.

Dr. Levine moved that the meeting adjourn at 11:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

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November 20, 1972

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. Joseph Selden, Francis Rice, Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

- A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 1972 MEETING accepted as circulated.
- B. MONTHLY REPORTS of Recreation activities and programs distributed to members.
- C. Post 440, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Alan Licarie, was invited to come before the Recreation Commission at the request of Mr. Frank Fitzpatrick, to describe the new facilities which will be made available to the Community upon completion of the new Post 440 building, sometime in March or April this spring of 1973.

The building is located on what was formerly Victory Field, on California Street in Nonantum. Mr. Licarie described the facility as being very much community oriented, the building itself being 100 x 160 feet in size and built on 83,000 square feet of land.

The building is two stories in height and on the upper level is located a ballroom accomodating about 250 people, a kitchen and bar facility to serve this area, a large gym, a community room - available for various meetings of groups, a so-called "Cerebral Palsy" room with a ramped entrance to accommodate physically handicapped persons, another smaller gym for various children's sports (this to be made available to the Recreation Department at no charge) for basketball, volleyball, etc. On the lower level will be the private Post 440 quarters, a 24 hour custodian's office, a utility room, a common room for Senior Citizens to meet and socialize in - at no charge also, a small room suitable for a bridal room, a banquet facility which will probably be available for rental to either luncheon or evening groups.

Much of this building will be available, at no charge, for the use of the Citizens of Newton, according to Mr. Licarie. Mr. Licarie suggested a program for pre-teen girls and Commissioner Penney said that Recreation Supervisor, Fran Towle, will investigate this use.

- D. LITTLE LEAGUE REQUEST: Michael LeConti, President of the West Little League, repeated his visit of last April, to again demand that the Recreation Department make major and minor improvements in the various West Little League areas. His letter, presented to each Commission member, recommended that the following areas be renovated and that the cost of these repairs be included in the 1973 Recreation Department budget:

- 1. Franklin School - West Newton
- 2. Williams School - Auburndale
- 3. Burr School - Auburndale
- 4. Lyons Field - Auburndale
- 5. Davis School - West Newton

In addition to these repairs, he would like to have the Recreation Department provide \$2,500.00 for helping to defray the cost of Little League umpire fees - and would also recommend that a pole with a Mercury Vapor Lamp be installed at Lyons Field to minimize vandalism and relieve the tension and fears of the neighbors.

Mr. LeConti requested that the Recreation Commission notify him, in writing, as to those items which will be included in the 1973 budget.

Following Mr. LeConti's comments, Mrs. LeConti, Mrs. Donaghue and Mr. Whelan, also called to the attention of the Commission the fact that there was a problem at the Franklin School. Adults are using the area that is intended for young children. They are also driving onto fields with cars and motor bikes. Commissioner Penney pointed out to them that the School Department was in charge of that playground and could make any regulations. Chairman Paul Burke commended them for their interest.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. Gigleo of Ward 4 from the Pine Street area, visited the Recreation Commission to inquire as to the present - or future - status of the Pine Street dump area. Mrs. Gigleo wanted direction as to what that community could do about encouraging recreation use of this area. Mr. Burke, Chairman suggested that she write to Alderman David Jackson and ask the present status of this area.
2. Proposed Ordinance #870-72: Commission members were provided with copies of this proposed ordinance covering the release or transfer of municipal lands and also a copy of the memo from David W. Jackson, Chairman of the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen, requesting review and comments in writing from the Recreation Commission, before the November 30th meeting of the City Planning Committee.

On Dr. Levine's motion, it was voted that the Recreation Commission go on record concurring with the proposed ordinance #870-72.

3. F. A. Day Meeting: Commissioner Penney notified the Recreation Commission that there will be a meeting at the new Day Junior High School on Minot Place on December 12th, at 8:00 P.M. to discuss a second access road. Commission members were requested to attend if at all possible.

F. BUDGET FOR 1973: Commissioner Penney prepared and distributed to the Recreation Commission members, copies of partial budget sections, for their examination and recommendation.

Since the Commission generally, is not really familiar with the budget process or with the individual accounts and divisions, Commissioner Penney familiarized them briefly, with the aid of the above mentioned sheets. He stressed that the Mayor wanted the budget pared to the minimum, in all areas. Commissioner Penney presented a proposal of cut backs to equal anticipated increases, so that there will be "zero" increase in the total 1973 budget request, over the 1972 appropriation.

Chairman Paul Burke suggested that the members take this information provided to them by the Recreation Department on programs, new equipment, School and Recreation contractual services, Administrative and Maintenance costs, etc. home to study so that they can make considered recommendations when the group next meets. It was also decided that a sub-committee with Frank Fitzpatrick as Chairman, work together with Mr. Burke and Mr. Penney, at a date to be determined later, and report their recommendations to the full board at the next regular meeting.

One item that some members of the Commission strongly recommended be a separate item, in fact, on a motion by Mr. Ferguson, it was voted to make the expense of custodial and pool personnel for the new Newton High School pool, a completely separate item in the new budget for 1973.

- G. CHRISTMAS PARTY: The annual Christmas party for the Recreation Department, retirees and Commission members will be held on December 14th, all have been requested to let Mrs. Lesbirel know if they can attend, as soon as possible.
- H. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M. Next regular meeting on December 18th.

Respectfullt submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

December 18, 1972

Present: Commissioner Penney, Acting Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Messers. G. Nicholas Dawson, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Francis Rice and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

- A. Minutes of November 20, 1972 meeting accepted as circulated.
- B. Monthly report of Recreation activities and programs distributed to all members.
- C. Suggestion from Alderman Richmond that Silver Lake be used for skating - that rights to use it by the public and maintain it for skating be obtained from the private party that owns it - in exchange for a proportional tax abatement.

Upon consideration, some members of the Commission had briefly seen this area. Generally, however, only those within the neighborhood know where it is. Commissioner Penney reported that it has trash thrown into the shallow area and this shows above the surface. This would need a lot of salvage work done before it could be used. It was also pointed out that the area is surrounded by bullrushes, an indication of shallow, muddy edge, unsuitable as it is, without a hard edge, to bring any kind of equipment for work with the ice.

Commissioner Penney has also requested more information on this area (value, etc.) from the City Assessor's Office.

Upon Mr. Dawson's motion, it was voted to table this item until more information as to the possibility and cost of removing the trash, the general cost, and the legality, could be ascertained.

Afterward it was decided to amend this motion by adding "to the next meeting" and it was so voted.

- D. 1972 Budget Information: Commissioner Penney provided each Commission member with descriptive budget breakdown for Capital Improvements and total budget figures which Commission studied together. After concentrated consideration and discussion, on a motion by Mr. Rice, it was voted unanimously to accept the Capital and budget figures as presented at this meeting.
  - 1. Also on a motion by Mr. Rice (in response to a letter from Mr. LeConti, President of the Newton West Little League, demanding certain improvements be included in this year's budget) a letter will be sent to Mr. LeConti advising him as to those improvements which will be included in this upcoming budget, and was so voted.
- E. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M. Next meeting on January 15, 1973.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 15, 1973

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Acting Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, J. Nicholas Dawson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

- A. Minutes of December Recreation Commission Meeting accepted as reported.
- B. Monthly Reports of December Recreation activities distributed to members.
- C. Proposed Silver Lake Skating Area: Since the original suggestion from Alderman Richmond in November, 1972, to consider this area as an additional skating site, research has determined that several factors exist that could limit the use of this area.

It had been assumed that this area was owned by only one party. It now appears that it is owned by three - or more. Access to the area may be unsuitable as it is over a construction company storage area - a potential source of danger for curious children.

The site itself, as reported by the Recreation Foreman, is at present, unsuitable for either skating - due to debris in the water - or for maintenance of the area. The shore is a muddy one and would have to be improved to make a hard, gradual slope in order to facilitate use of equipment for clearing and maintaining ice. The Foreman also says that about an equal amount of outside space beyond the skating area itself, is necessary, for removal and storage of snow and the maneuvering of trucks. If this was accomplished, an ice skating surface area of the approximate size of two tennis courts might then be available for the neighborhood.

The Commission members, on Mr. Ferguson's motion, voted that no action be taken at this time but recommended that Commissioner Penney contact Alderman Richmond by phone or letter, appraising him of this situation.

- D. Visitors from Burr School PTA Association: Mr. Dan Silverman, President of the Burr PTA and Mr. Goodale, PTA Building Chairman, visited the Commission meeting. Their purpose being to find out what funds might be available for playground equipment in this area and the general procedure to follow in requesting equipment.

Mr. Sullivan said that it was their understanding that the last installation of equipment at Burr School was made in 1970.

Their visit was mainly one of inquiry since they felt that the Recreation Commission could best advise them as to the manner in which they might request consideration for the Burr School area.

Commissioner Penney informed that the Principal of the school should first indicate his interest (as well as the PTA as the Recreation Department can maintain - but not install equipment - without the permission of the Principal of the school. Mr. Penney explained to them that the Recreation budget for this year does contain a request for playground apparatus - in the amount of \$4,000.00, but, that this amount, must be spread throughout the various areas of the City so that this entire amount would not be available exclusively to the Burr School area. He also told them that present plans for Burr School include the raising of the backstop fence and that Capital Improvement plan for the future, contains two tennis courts.



The Recreation Commission suggested that they bring back to the Commission meeting, specific plans as to the needs of the area, and present them, in the near future.

They were cordially invited to remain and observe the remainder of the Commission meeting.

- E. New Newton High School Swimming Pool Plans: Present plans seem to indicate that the new pool facility will not be open for general use until approximately September 1973. The Recreation Department will have the use of the facility on nights and weekends. Miss Towle of the Recreation Department, and Mr. Ben Merritt of the School Department are currently meeting to arrange a compatible program. They hope to confirm a presently tentative program, upon completion of their current conferences, for the consideration of the Commission. Fees have not been set as yet.
- F. Joint programs using school gyms and Community Schools: Currently some of these programs are operated jointly and some separately.

This is a complex issue and Commissioner Penney feels that the Recreation Department should be an integral part of the Community School system. In a similar program called - School/Recreation, school gyms and facilities are used, staffed by students (Northeastern Coop) as leaders. Recreation pays 50% of student and custodial costs, school pays balance. They also sometimes provide some additional supervision.

Schools recently have been enlarging these programs. However, limited Recreation budgets have limited Recreation expansion. The schools in disadvantaged areas also have had additional government monies available to them. Hopefully, Recreation will be able to participate in these broadened programs if additional funds could be obtained.

Mr. Ferguson requested that the Commission go on record approving an active part by the Recreation Department in any Community School program. All members concurred.

- G. Tennis Court Fees: Since Paul Joyce, Former tennis leader, has indicated his willingness to return this coming season, it was suggested by the Commission members, that he be invited to attend the next Commission meeting in February and make some suggestions as to fees and programs, for this new year. Commissioner Penney will contact him by phone or letter, inviting him to this next meeting.
- H. Lenox International Circus: Information was distributed to Commission members on the availability of this circus but no action was taken at this meeting.
- I. Next Commission Meeting: will be held on February 26th, instead of February 19th, the regular 3rd Monday - in this case, a holiday. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 26, 1973

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Joseph Selden, G. Nicholas Dawson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

- A. Meeting called to order at 7:50 P.M. by Chairman Burke. Minutes of January accepted as distributed.
- B. Monthly reports for January Recreation activities - plus maintenance reports from October to February. Distributed also to members were the current news releases, current weekly activity schedules and supervisors weekly schedules.
- C. Tennis Court Fees: Paul Joyce, tennis resource person, invited to attend the Commission meeting and give possible recommendations based upon his former tennis experience, both as player and attendant at the Newton Centre courts.

Mr. Joyce's general feeling - he actually polled tennis players who normally use the Newton Centre courts, plus his personal experience, is, that tennis fees could very acceptably be increased since the courts are well maintained, a reservation system exists and the courts are controlled as to play, by an attendant (Similar conditions are present at Burr Courts, Newton Corner, and the night-lighted courts at Newton South High School) during the tennis season.

His recommendation was to increase the tennis permit fee from \$5.00 to whatever the board felt acceptable - but no more than \$15.00, for a season. He also felt strongly that something should be done for the youngsters who buy permits, but under the present system, must give way on a court if an adult wishes to use that court. He felt that they should be allowed - on a day to day basis, to reserve and use a court, on that day.

Additionally, he recommended that Newton residents who were only occasional players and would not normally purchase a season permit, be allowed to use a court for a given fee, at that time, for a one-time use, and that a regular guest fee be levied on any out-of-Newton person who accompanied a regular Newton resident permit holder.

The Recreation Commission discussed the various suggestions, taking into consideration guest fees, children, etc. On Mr. Dawson's motion, the Commission voted 6 to 3 (opposed Burke, Levine, Penney), to increase the adult tennis permit fee for the season to \$10.00; children's permit to be \$5.00; Newton resident, one-time user, \$2.00 per hour, per court; guest fee (accompanied by a Newton resident holding a regular tennis permit) \$1.00 per person per hour. Mr. Burke expressed opposition to any increase since it could not be used directly for tennis maintenance but would go to City Income, and in any case would have such a minute impact on City finances.

The Commission recommended that the methods of administration be worked out by Commissioner Penny, following those suggestions of Mr. Joyce's regarding children's use of courts and special court fees. It was also the understanding that

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these policies would be in force while the tennis courts were supervised i.e. from 5:00 P.M. on weekdays and all day Saturdays and Sundays, during the tennis season. Additionally, the Commission recommended closer supervision, by supervisors of district, to enforce rules.

- D. Method of handling requests for adult tennis lessons: Since the Recreation Department does not have a budgeted amount for adult tennis lessons, Commissioner Penney solicited the advice of the Commission as to how this much requested program might be accomplished. Mr. Rice suggested that possibly an accomplished tennis player within the summer playground staff might be willing to take on a series of adult tennis lessons, possibly before the regular playground season began. This appears to be a legitimate way of handling this program, the Commission felt.
- E. Fees and use of NNHS Pool: It now appears that the original time allocated to Recreation by the School will be lessened (Saturday mornings), Mr. Ferguson, however, still feels that it is not too late to regain this time and suggested Mr. Penney again speak with Miss Brivogel of the Physical Education Department. Commissioner Penney will again confer with school personnel before the deadline date of March 12th, when the School Committee will finalize the use of this area.
- F. Silver Lake - use for skating area: In December, 1972, Alderman Richmond requested that the Recreation Commission look into the feasibility of utilizing Silver Lake in Nonantum for skating - and obtaining permission from private owners in exchange for proportional tax abatements.

In January, 1973, the Recreation Commission again took this under advisement. Research revealed that this area was owned by several people and that access through a construction company storage area would be hazardous. The site is small, would require a great deal of renovation to even be available for maintenance and would produce a skating area not any larger than 2 tennis courts. At this January meeting, the Commission voted that no action be taken but that Commissioner Penney appraise Alderman Richmond of the facts - which he did.

On February 13th, Commissioner Penney again received a letter from Alderman Richmond pressing him to utilize this area. Alderman Richmond did not feel that any of the problems encountered would be of impediment to the public use of the area, and urging the Commissioner and Commission to be more aggressive in utilizing existing recreation opportunities now present within the City.

Commissioner Penney went to the property owners in question, (Cedrone, Miller, and Belli). None want to allow access over their land, even with the offer of a tax abatement. They are opposed.

The Commission, on Mr. Ferguson's motion, voted unanimously to authorize Commissioner Penney to reply to Alderman Richmond's letter stating his findings upon research in the area. (1. Impractical, 2. Property owners object, 3. Board had voted to take no action), and also inform him that he is welcome to come to the Commission meeting if he so desires.

- G. Request for use of playground for fund raising carnival: Commissioner Penney is in receipt of a request for a benefit carnival to be held on a city recreational site (Angier) was mentioned by Mrs. Robinson - who later by phone, represented the group. The request is from the Friends of Massachusetts Residential Programs, a non-profit charitable organization involved in treatment and rehabilitation of young people (some from Newton-Wellesley area) - with

drug and delinquency problems, and they state, approved by Newton-Wellesley area Mental Health office.

They would like to contract a professional carnival company to come in and operate a program. They are also willing to assume responsibility for liability insurance coverage, clean-up of area, on site police coverage, if necessary, etc.

Commissioner Penney informed the Commission members that according to old records, the area in question, Angier Playground, did indeed come within the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department.

Recreation Commission members recalled that with one exception of a special ethnic, religious carnival at Hawthorn, sponsored by the St. Mary of Carmen Society, it had not been the practice to allow any money-making carnivals on Newton Recreation areas.

After consideration, it was voted unanimously by the Commission members on a motion by Dr. Levine, to take no action at this time.

Chairman Paul Burke suggested that the three aldermen from Ward 5 (in the Angier School area) along with Mr. Selden, Commission member, and Chief of Police Quinn, be contacted before the next Commission meeting, for their reaction and comments. It can then be brought up at the next Commission meeting on March 19th, for further consideration and disposition.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

MINUTES OF RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 19, 1973

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Mrs. Worthington L. West, Messers Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 8:55 pm by Chairman Paul J. Burke.

- A. Minutes of February meeting accepted as circulated.
- B. Election of officers: Although there was a quorum present with Mr. Burke voting, members of the Commission felt that it would be more suitable if the election could be postponed until April in order for all members to be present and voting.

Mrs. West moved, and it was voted to postpone election until the April meeting.

- C. Monthly report of Recreation Department activities distributed to all members.
- D. Reactivation of Youth Centers: Commissioner Penney reported on the renewed opening of the Youth Center areas; a Coffee House at the Unitarian Society in West Newton and another Coffee House at the Methodist Church in Newton Highlands.

State funds are no longer available for the purpose, but funds have been included in the Recreation Department budget for this purpose.

Commissioner Penney recently visited the centers while they were in operation and found leaders, adult chaperones and Police on duty, and good sized groups of youngsters in attendance.

Additional programs of basketball and sports also take place at Warren Junior High School and at the McKenzie Center at Sacred Heart as further Youth Center activities.

- E. Report on non-resident players in sports leagues: In response to an inquiry from Alderman Small, Commissioner Penney has conferred with Recreation Supervisors regarding the number of non-resident players participating in the various men's and women's sport leagues in Newton. They reported that while many of the industrial plants, who are heavy tax payers in Newton, plus City Employees who may live out-of-town but who work for Police, Fire, School & City, are eligible, less than 6% of the total participation involves non-residents. He has forwarded this information to Alderman Small, Mayor Mann and Commission members, explaining regulations etc. Commissioner Penney requested whether the Commission wished to make a change in policy. Since no action seemed indicated, item was dropped.
- F. Report of Aldermanic Committee on Community Schools: Commissioner Penney, Chairman Paul Burke, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Fitzpatrick attended the meeting of February 7th. Report provided to each Commission member of this Education Committee meeting by Alderman Egelston, Chairman.
- G. Report of School Committee meeting on use of Newton North High School: Commissioner Penney attended this meeting to outline the use of facilities anticipated by the Recreation Department - especially the pool.

The School Committee voted to provide Community use of the pool after 7:00 pm on weekdays and Saturday and Sundays all day under the administration of the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Penney also noted that Reginald Smith, Newton North High School, A.D. had advised him that other facilities (gym, simulated outdoor area, etc.) would probably also be available for Recreation Department use.

Mr. Ferguson moved and it was so voted, that the Recreation Department make as full use of the Recreation facilities at the new Newton North High School, as possible, and to direct the Recreation Commissioner to obtain any cost estimates for this use as soon as available.

- H. Report of Aldermanic Committee on Crescent Street Playground: Alderman Jefferson's resolution recommending that the land at 70 Crescent Street in Auburndale, of approximately 1 acre, (declared unsuitable for housing) be developed as a recreation area for children of this area. Commissioner Penney attended and testified in favor.

This would necessitate permission given by the Myrtle Baptist Church, for a footpath over their property since there is no access except over the heavily used, truck service drive, at the Recreation Department. Other possible use of the area is still being considered by the Aldermanic City Planning Committee -- housing, relocation of Edison generation station. It was suggested that Commission records be checked to see whether the Commission had ever gone on record about this area.

- I. Request for Angier Playground for Fund Raising Carnival - dropped. Although this request has been withdrawn, the Recreation Commissioner had, as requested, contacted Police Chief Quinn, the Ward 5 Alderman, Mr. Uehlein and Mr. Antonellis (who, in turn, contacted the Waban Improvement Society for their opinion) None were in favor of the use of the playground for a carnival.

In spite of the fact that the request was withdrawn, to avoid a possible future request, Mr. Ferguson moved and it was so voted, to notify this group that the Commission had gone on record denying the request at this time and also direct the Commissioner to notify those interested parties - i.e. Aldermen, Police, etc. (Voted 5-0)

- J. Request for St. Mary of Carmen Society carnival at Hawthorn: Mr. Leone has again requested the use of this area for a carnival. This carnival has been allowed in recent years since it was a special ethnic-religious celebration, unique in neighborhood tradition. Now, however, the Commission is becoming hesitant due to additional request for carnivals.

Mrs. West moved and it was so voted, to allow the request of the St. Mary of Carmen Society to hold the carnival at Hawthorn playground this year but request that they look into the possibility of locating the carnival in another area, other than on a recreation area, in the future. (Vote 5-0)

K. Centennial Plans: (In conjunction with the Youth Commission) Commissioner Penney reported on the active participation planned for Recreation during the Centennial celebration. A track meet at the High School, an Elementary School field day and the Frisbee Championship contest, will be among those events planned. Plans are also underway for a float in the Centennial Parade.

The Recreation Department will also take active part, by providing bus transportation, for a series of interesting Centennial trips which have been planned by the Jackson Homestead.

L. Bus scheduling: In addition to the Centennial Historical trips, the bus also has taken an active part in the Senior Citizen programs, both through regular Recreation programs and in conjunction with the Human Resources program directed by the Rev. Jerry Stinson. They are presently planning a series of trips which will include museums, art galleries, shopping areas and the aquarium.

M. Request of Mrs. Michaels - Chairwoman of the Cancer Society Drive-1973; to solicit contributions from tennis players on Newton Courts. Since this request met with opposition from all members, it was moved to deny the request of Mrs. Michaels to solicit funds from tennis players. (Vote 5-0)

N. Request of the U.S. Sports Club to conduct adult tennis lessons on Newton public courts. Since the Legal Department is researching this item at present, it was agreed by Commission members to table this question for the time.

O. Aqueduct pathway system - Commissioner's report of status. Commissioner Penney provided each member with a report of the proposed Aqueduct/Loop Pathways which could link the scattered open spaces within the city. These pathways have been suggested as bike paths, as well as hiking or jogging paths, but there are several problems to be considered in this regard.

The Commission felt it advisable to take no action at this time.

P. Bike Paths: Commissioner Penney reported that a committee was studying recommended bike routes for the city. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested that during some low-peak travel hours - such as Sunday morning, the possibility of using Commonwealth Ave. as an exclusive bicycle route, had some definite merit.

Q. New Business: Requests from Mr. LeConti, President of West Little League for a concentrated renovation of the West Little League Fields by the Recreation Department. As Commissioner Penney explained to the Commission members, there are approximately 70 fields in the City to maintain with a minimum Recreation crew. This particular time of year School, softball, baseball, soccer, plus 5 Little Leagues are all requesting attention. The practice of the Recreation Department has been to divide equally, the maintenance throughout the City. If, as Mr. LeConti requests, special attention is given just to West Little League, inevitably, something else must be neglected.

At Mr. LeConti's request, Mr. Penney will make an appointment to talk with him concerning the West Little League problems. Commissioner Penney requested that Chairman Burke, and possibly other interested Commission members, plan to attend this meeting if possible, to see if something can be worked out agreeable to Mr. LeConti.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

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Minutes of Recreation Commission Meeting

April 23, 1973

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. G. Nicholas Dawson, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Burke at 8:45 p.m.

- A. Minutes of March meeting accepted as circulated.
- B. Election of Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Postponed until later in evening in order for late arrivals to participate.
- C. Monthly report of program activities and maintenance provided to Commission by Commissioner Penney.
- D. Old Business:
  1. Budget figures approved by Aldermen - Commissioner Penney reported that basic budget remained substantially as presented due to the fact that he had, as requested by Mayor, cut every item to the bare minimum. Even so, the Aldermen had made some cuts.
  2. Community school Meeting: Commissioner Penney, Chairman Burke, and Mr. Ferguson attended the April 12th meeting of the Education Committee of the Board of Aldermen, at which time a proposal by Rev. Jerry Stinson and Florence Rubin of the Community Relations Commission, for a separate Commission to administer the Community Schools was presented.

Commissioner Penney presented an alternative proposal suggesting that rather than a separate Commission, this program be administered jointly by school and City. (In this case - Recreation Department).

The Recreation Department now provides several recreation programs in schools, many in conjunction with Community Schools programs now in existence. Mr. Penney felt that close cooperation between school and recreation could best be achieved in this way. He is concerned that if Community Schools become a separate entity, Recreation programs dependant upon the use of school facilities will be pre-empted by their programs.

Chairman of Education Committee of BOA, Mr. Egelson, may shortly propose legislation for this Commission.

3. Report on meeting with Mr. LeConti, President of West Little League: Mr. LeConti and Mr. Whalen came to the Recreation Commission meeting to report that most work he had requested had been completed. Exception to this was security light at Lyons. Mr. Penney reported that recreation has completed their function, but must wait for Boston Edison action. Mr. Penney will check with them to see how near completion the process is.

Mr. LeConti also mentioned that sub-soil had been brought in around the 2nd and 3rd base lines, but had not been raked even with the grass as yet. (This will be finished shortly).

Mr. Penney also reported to Mr. LeConti that the backstop extension bids had been opened last week and Purchasing would be completing contracts, etc.



shortly. He will check directly with Purchasing Agent.

Mr. LeConti reported two additional problems. One is the increased deliberate breakage of glass on Little League Fields, very dangerous to players. Recreation Department cleans these constantly, but it is repeated time and time again. He also mentioned that golfing practice, particularly at the Burr School field, is hazardous and requested sign stating that Golf is prohibited. Also, that signs stating that school grounds are for play for elementary schools only. Mr. Penney assured him that these signs would again be installed.

Mr. Burke pointed out to Mr. LeConti that these problems are basically ones of Police enforcement and suggested to Mr. LeConti that he speak directly with either Chief Quinn or Capt. Donahue of the Police Department, explain and enlist their aid in eliminating these problems.

B\* Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Recreation Commission (delayed earlier this evening).

Chairman Burke turned the meeting over to Commissioner Penney during the election. Mr. Penney abstained from voting. He then called upon the members for nominations.

1. Mr. Fitzpatrick nominated Mr. Paul Burke for Chairman. Seconded by Dr. Levine. No other nominations were made. Nominations were closed at this time and the Secretary was instructed to cast one vote for Mr. Burke. It was so voted.
2. Mr. Francis Rice nominated Dr. Burton D. Levine as Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Dawson. Since no additional nominations were forthcoming, nominations were closed. The Secretary was instructed to cast one vote for Dr. Levine. It was so voted.

Re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman were congratulated by members and meeting was then returned to Chairman Burke for the evening.

4. Bike Routes: Commissioner Penney briefly described the proposed bike routes in the Northern and Southern sections of the City, which were developed by a committee of which he is chairman. The City Planning Department is now working on the graphics of this plan and has contacted the Law Department for instructions on what legal steps are required. The proposal will shortly be presented to Mayor Mann for his approval.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, who is most interested in this bike plan, again pointed out the possibility of using at least one portion of Commonwealth Avenue as a special route on Sunday mornings when traffic is normally reduced. He noted that there is approximately five (5) miles of possible riding space in this area, the biggest problem being cross streets, which have heavy usage such as Washington, Chestnut, Walnut, and Auburn.

Mr. Fitzpatrick requested that Commissioner Penney contact him before the next Commission meeting in order for him to present these ideas to them.

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5. Request for additional time under lights at Albemarle Playground by Men's Softball League. The men of the Softball League are concerned that since the Women's Softball League will be playing early games at Albemarle this year, thus making a slightly later starting time for them, that at some times games may run slightly longer. If the light time could be extended, it would be most helpful, they feel. Mr. Burke had polled some of the neighbors in the vicinity and found no objections. Mr. Ferguson moved that the lighting time be extended from 10:30 to 10:45 p.m., and it was so voted.
6. Re-submission of consideration of request for fund raising carnival: while the original request for a carnival in Newton had been withdrawn, as they located another site in Framingham, after losing that site, they re-submitted their request through Alderman McDonnell. He was notified by letter that the Commission had voted previously not in favor of this activity and was advised that there was little likelihood of their changing vote. However, Dr. Robinson of the Mass. Residential Programs, Inc. (McLean Hospital), notified the Commission through Alderman McDonnell that he would like to come to the meeting and explain their position - which he did.

They have again found a site for this carnival in Framingham, but in order to earn money for their continuing program, it will be necessary for them to run another money making carnival this fall for about four (4) days the last week of September. They plan to do this twice a year from now on. They hope that the Commission will make an exception for this group. In response to questioning Dr. Robinson noted that they had been refused permission to hold carnivals on playgrounds in Wellesley, Waltham, Watertown, etc.

Mr. Ferguson moved to delay consideration for this carnival until the May meeting, and it was so voted.

E. New Business:

1. Representatives from Burr PTA came to Commission meeting to present a request for equipment for the Burr School playground. The presentation was made by Mrs. Goodale and Mr. Sullivan. Copies of the proposal were presented to all Commission members.

Mrs. Goodale described the various types and locations of equipment requested in the proposal and explained the arrangement according to play areas and in relation to the parking area that is used by teachers.

Commissioner Penney informed them of the monies available in the current budget and what would have to be requested in subsequent years. They left at 8:30 p.m.

2. Additional items discussed:

- a. Commissioner Penney was instructed to request Newton Youth Hockey President, Bob MacLaughlin to come to the May Commission meeting to inform Commission on finances and operations of the program.
- b. Commissioner Penney was requested to invite, by letter, both youth football representatives, Fred Dalicandro and Nick Pasquarosa, to come to May meeting. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed the opinion that the boys in these programs are too young to be worked so long and so hard

on such a late season schedule.

- c. Newton High School - physical education facilities. Some members of the Commission have availed themselves of the opportunity to inspect this area at the invitation of Mr. Reggie Smith. Again Mr. Ferguson suggests that it would be advantageous for the whole Commission to tour the new facility when times are available.
- d. Mrs. West questioned what disposition, if any, had been made of the Evaluation Report requested by Mayor Mann last fall, of the Recreation Department. The Mayor has not made any recommendations to implement any of the suggestions made in the report, as yet.
- e. Meeting went into Executive session at this time and Secretary left.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Minutes

Newton Recreational Commission Meeting

May 21, 1973

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messer. Frank Fitzpatrick, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors present - Jerry Wise, Little League, Mike LeConte, Little League, Carl Hirschfield, Little League, Paul Malloy, Dist. Adm of Little League; Rudy Capsasso, Pop-Warner football, Robert Procter, Jr. Pop-Warner football; Dick Glavsky, Newton Times newspaper; Robert MacLaughlin, Pres. Newton Youth Hockey Assoc. Jim Cokely, Treasurer NYH, Carl Centoli, Ken Hagerstrom, Pual Buckley, Don Fox, Jerry Butterworth and Bernie Michaels -- all from NYH, Mrs. Campbell, observer from Newtonville - and others.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Paul Burke at 8:00 p.m.

- A. Minutes of April Meeting accepted as circulated.
- B. Monthly report of program activities and maintenance report distributed to members.
- C. Report of Public Relations meeting distributed to members.
- D. Mass. Residential Programs, Inc. - request for Newton playground site for benefit commercial carnival. Request was again discussed. Since the last meeting, Commissioner Penney had contacted, by letter, Chief of Police Quinn, for his opinion. His response was read to the Commission. He noted several factors against commercial type carnivals.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the request of this organization for a permit to use recreation land for a commercial carnival, be denied. It was seconded and so voted by those present (Dr. Levine was not present at this time.)

- E. Pop-Warner Football: At Mr. Fitzpatrick's request, representatives of this group were invited to attend the Commission meeting. He felt that since many boys take part in many sports during the year, that an overlapping of time schedules exist and that many of these cause a hardship for the boys involved. He also feels that Pop-Warner football runs too late in the season and during really cold weather causing a physical hardship.

Chairman Burke pointed out that since these football groups are private organizations, Recreation has little or no control on them beyond the maintenance of fields provided by Recreation, for their games.

Representatives from the two Pop-Warner organizations affirmed their willingness to cooperate with Recreation or other sport organizations in overlapping schedules. They felt that their seasons were not unduly long and caused no

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hardships on the boys. They also indicated their willingness to cooperate in making fields available as soon as possible for year-end maintenance, resodding, reseeding, ariating, etc. Mr. Penney noted that maintenance has to take place early in November before frost.

Pop Warner noted that they have a ten game schedule this season and would play their final season's games November 17th with an additional All-Star game vs. a team from Philadelphia, to be played on a Sunday after Thanksgiving. (They would plan to start their season after the baseball season ends in August.)

Mr. Ferguson move to have all fields released for maintenance and the Recreation Department notified as soon as possible. It was so voted.

F. Newton Youth Hockey Association - Robert Maclaughlin, Pres. At the request of Commissioner Penney, the Newton Youth Hockey association representatives came to the meeting to provide a financial report of their activities during this past year. A written report was provided to each member.

This report did not show the ice-time provided by the Recreation Dept. as this is handled through regular Newton City requisition and purchase order to the MDC rinks.

Commissioner Penney pointed out to the Commission that he had been reluctant to spend appropriated funds for higher priced ice when time at MDC rinks had been available and not taken by Newton Youth Hockey. Playground groups had been scheduled into these hours.

Mr. McLaughlin from NYH felt that while MDC ice time was available, it was not what he called "good ice time" due to the fact that it came at odd hours - even as early as 5:00 a.m.

NYH would like to use Fessenden School rink but under existing conditions, can not use it without permissive use by the Board of Aldermen, according to an opinion given by the City Solicitor.

Chairman Burke says that he has gone to the City Clerk and filed for a docket item to be included - requesting a change of this use. Hopefully this will be acted upon by September. *(Received a unanimous vote - approving this docket item)* corrective

Additional comments about MDC ice time from various coaches was that MDC opens late, closes early - and that ice is only available at bad times. They would hope for the use of enclosed rinks with more dependable weather conditions. However, one coach, Mr. Buckley said that the MDC rinks are important. He feels that they are good ice and are put to good use.

Questions of available scholarships was opened by Mr. Fitzpatrick. According to Mr. MacLaughlin, no boy was ever turned down for lack of funds if they really wanted to play hockey.

Mr. Burke feels that not enough information is available as to scholarships

and mentioned that he knows of one person willing to provide considerable funds for this purpose. He will give this information directly to Mr. MacLaughlin.

Mr. Burke pointed to a lack of communication between Youth Hockey and the Recreation Commission.

Chairman Burke suggested to Mr. MacLaughlin that he bring in a proposal from the Youth Hockey Association, spelling out exactly their ice requirements for the coming season and a tentative schedule.

Commissioner Penney informed them that there is \$3,925. still available in 18 mos. budget which could be allocated to hockey ice time. He advocated reserving \$425. for playground hockey groups.

Mr. Ferguson moved that \$3,500. be allocated to the Newton Youth Hockey program and the disposition as to location is to be mutually agreeable between the president of the Newton Youth Hockey association and Commissioner Penney of Recreation.

- G. At this point Mr. Fitzpatrick interrupted the discussion to move that the previous motion be tabled until the next meeting for a new point of business. This motion was not allowed on a 4 to 3 vote. Mr. Penney requested to amend the motion, to add "subject to review of Commission". It was so voted.

At this time, it was now moved by Mr. Fitzpatrick, that the Recreation Commission look into the possibility of subsidizing the cost of officials for youth baseball, football, and hockey programs. It was seconded and so moved. It was also suggested that all leagues submit this cost of officials.

Paul Malloy of Little League volunteered to look into how Waltham and Cambridge, in particular, are able to get support from the city to finance programs since subsidizing Little League cost was once ruled illegal by a Newton City Solicitor.

- H. Mr. Wise of South Little League requested that he be heard at this time. He felt that South Little League was seriously neglected and should have maintenance of its fields on a regular basis.

Mr. Burke explained to him that while Recreation tries to maintain all sports fields equally, both funds and personnel are limited. Added to this, is the problem of inclement weather.

Commissioner Penney told him that Recreation will make a special effort to improve those fields on the South Side of the City as soon as possible but that schools are making very heavy demands for marking and maintenance during their peak sports season.

- I. Mr. Burke suggested that he appoint a sub-committee of three Recreation Commission members - plus Paul Molloy and representatives of these various sports groups to study problems of funding, scheduling, etc. and to

report back to the Commission. This is agreeable to all present.

Mr. Fitzpatrick was appointed chairman of this committee with Mr. Ferguson and Dr. Levine as members of the committee. At their convenience, they will prepare a report to the Commission.

- J. Dick Glovsky of the Newton Times had recently editorialized in that paper, criticizing the increased cost of reserved court, tennis permits for Newton. His feeling was that the cost deprived some people from playing tennis.

Dr. Levine answered that the Commission had carefully considered the increase. Commissioner Penney explained to him that the tennis permits for the clay courts at Newton Centre and Burr Park, plus the night-lighted courts at Newton South High allowed people to reserve these courts on a thrice weekly basis - with an attendant on duty in these areas. These courts at Newton Centre and Burr are maintained on a daily basis also. Tennis players have requested this extra service in the past, and they indicated a willingness to pay a special fee for special service.

There are a total of 59 courts within the city for public use and only 15 of these require a permit fee.

Dr. Levine also noted the difficulty of changing the fee at this stage, since money had been collected and turned in to the City Treasury.

Mr. Glovsky felt that he now understood more about the tennis situation but that it did not necessarily change his opinion, and still maintained a critical attitude regarding the cost - or any cost - of a tennis permit.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Minutes

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

June 18, 1973

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Mr. Howard Ferguson, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Visitors: Fred Dalicandro and Rudy Capasso, representing Newton Pop-Warner football; Bob MacLaughlin, Ken Hagerstrom, Jim Cokely, Dan Antonellis, Paul Buckley and Bernie Michaels, representing Newton Youth Hockey Assoc; Mike Le Conti, Nancy Donahue and Gail Comiskey, representing Little League, Jim Kennedy of the Auburndale Neighborhood Assoc; Mr. James Murphy, Henry Barry and Arthur McKey, representing Recreation swimming personnel and Elizabeth Phillips reporting for the Newton Times newspaper.

Meeting called to order by chairman at 8:25 P.M.

- A. Minutes of the May meeting accepted with correction of item F, paragraph 6, final sentence to include the fact that Mr. Burke, Chairman, requested and received a unanimous vote approving this docket item.
- B. Monthly report of activities provided to all Commission members.
- C. Julia O'Brien, Metropolitan District Commission Planner, invited to come to this Commission meeting to describe potential plans for recreation area at Riverside. Unfortunately unable to attend, but sent word via Mr. Burke that funding of a million and one-half dollars was contemplated for development of this area. This complex will serve not only Newton, but Weston and Wellesley as well.

Basic plans discussed at a meeting of MDC which Mr. Penney attended about a year ago, considered the possibility of an ice-skating facility, a canoe area, a Little League field, tennis courts, some type of shelter and toilet facilities.

Since an architect has not been selected as yet by MDC, they are open to suggestions and it was suggested that interested citizens make their ideas known to Mrs. Julia O'Brien at MDC, 20 Somerset Street in Boston.

- D. Newton Pop-Warner plans for installation of night lights: After considerable discussion, it was determined that the Pop-Warner League's plans to install a night lighting system at no cost to the City, were still not definite. As a result, it was decided that the Recreation Department Contract, carried over from last fall, to install two 35-foot poles with night lights, should proceed. Pop-Warner will continue with their plans and the understanding that the plans must be approved by the City Electrical Inspector and the gift of the lights installation, accepted by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen.



Mr. Penney noted that since an installation would mean future repair and electrical power costs to the City, an estimate of use by Pop-Warner would be necessary so the City officials would realize the projected costs when considering accepting this installation.

- E. Newton Youth Hockey: Interest in a closed skating rink was indicated by Youth Hockey representatives since ice-time is scarce and costly and the season severely limited. Interest in the proposed MDC recreation facility, which will probably encompass a skating rink, was expressed.

Mr. Jim Kennedy, an authoritative MDC Volunteer, remarked that the MDC responds to "people" and it was Newton's responsibility to make MDC aware of what the 90,000 Newton people really wanted.

Newton Youth Hockey advocates an enclosed building which could be used year 'round.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the Recreation Commission recommend to MDC that money available for Riverside, be used for an enclosed skating rink and that Recreation Commissioner inform Weston, Wellesley, and Needham Commissioners of this vote and urge them to go on record similarly to MDC's Julia O'Brien to present a united front.

Note: Mr. Kennedy also suggested that active coordination should take place between Newton Recreation Department and the Metropolitan District Commission.

- F. Communication to Board of Aldermen: According to Mr. Burke, it may be that Recreation is providing too much information to the Board of Aldermen and he suggests a questionnaire be sent to them asking them what they want -- based on these following questions:
1. Do you wish news releases?
  2. Do you wish minutes of Recreation meetings?
  3. What type of information is desired?
  4. Is what you are receiving satisfactory?
  5. Do you wish to receive just motions and agendas?
  6. What other pertinent information do you wish?

Mr. Burke stated he would meet separately with Mr. Penney to draw up this questionnaire.

- G. Sub-committee report on Youth Leagues and Department costs for support of sport leagues: Mr. Fitzpatrick reported on a meeting of this sub-committee with Little League, Pop-Warner, Newton Athletic Assoc. Newton Youth Hockey representatives and Mr. Jim Murphy of the Newton Recreation Department.

Funds of approximately \$15,000. would cover officials for Youth sport leagues.

Recreation Department presently pays for the officials of the 24 men's softball teams in the Newton League, plus officials for the Women's two softball leagues -- who also pay an entrance fee to cover balance due.

Question arose as to whether Recreation was funding adult leagues and

neglecting youth. Chairman Burke expressed the opinion we should consider increased funding for youth leagues but not withdraw support for adult and youth sports leagues we are already funding.

Again the question arose as to whether the City can legally fund a franchised team. In a past incident, the legal department apparently ruled against this. It was decided that the Commissioner should get an opinion on this from the current solicitor. Mr. Fitzpatrick will follow through.

On Mr. Fitzpatrick's motion, the Commission voted a general concensus in favor of helping these sports leagues to fund officials and that the sub-committee should continue to gather pertinent information.

- H. Consideration of staffing and handling of funds at swimming areas: James E. Murphy, Senior Recreation Supervisor, described system of handling funds obtained from the sale of swim passes at the two areas which was put into effect approximately 8 years ago at the request of the City Treasurer. It is instituted at the beginning of each season. He emphasized the fact that it is necessary to have confidence in employees and that these employees are hired from the Massachusetts Civil Service list, in most cases. Each year funds taken in show an increase; last year's total was \$19,000 which certainly indicates a large degree of adequacy.

Alternative to present system would be a turnstyle operation. In this case either coins or special tokens could be used -- eliminating some handling of monies. This could be considered in the future.

Question of staff at the swimming areas was also reviewed. Goal is to have staff at both swimming areas maintained at the most economical level which safely protects swimmers in regular or emergency situations. Occasionally it appears to the public that areas are overstaffed during cool days. However managers strongly feel that any cut of staff would create a hazardous condition for swimmers.

Recreation Department has been fortunate for years, in preventing any serious accidents during regular swimming periods -- due to diligence of a capable staff.

John Walsh, Sr., Assistant manager at the pool, spoke in this capacity and also as a taxpayer in the city and private citizen, suggesting that an additional guard be employed as a safeguard.

- I. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
Special Meeting  
Minutes

Special meeting held to continue consideration of the communication from the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen - relative to the Capital Improvement program, at the Recreation Department offices at 70 Crescent Street in Auburndale, on August 13, 1973.

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Messers. Francis Rice, Frank Fitzpatrick and Howard Ferguson. (Secretary was not present at suggestion of the Commissioner, who took the notes).

Meeting convened at 7:50 P.M. under the Chairmanship of Dr. Levine (Chairman Burke came in a few minutes late after presenting awards for baseball league championships at a playground).

- A. Mr. Ferguson noted that the minutes of the Special meeting of August 6th, 1973 as distributed, failed to include two motions made related to the Capital Improvement program. Mr. Penney will have the secretary make the necessary addition to the minutes before the next meeting.

A letter from Miriam Erlich, president of the League of Women Voters of Newton was presented to Commission members (copy attached)

Commissioner Penney read an analysis he had prepared for the recommendations of the 1969 Recreation/Open Space Plan. (copy attached). He also presented a priority program for the \$1,000,000. guideline requested by the Aldermanic City Planning Committee (attached). There were some comments and discussion of the Commissioner's report as it was being read, but no vote was taken in regard to it - or to any individual item contained in it.

(Paul Burke noted in a related aside, that some playgrounds in close proximity, seem to lack the attendance of former years, and that the department might consider consolidation).

There was a discussion at this point regarding the relative need for more open space, vis-a-vis, the need to improve and modernize existing facilities.

Paul Burke moved and Francis Rice seconded the following motion: to limit the purchase of additional land to Allison Playground and concentrate the remainder of the proposed \$1,000,000. for improvement of existing facilities. Motion carried 5 to 1 (Penney opposed).

By discussion, the Commission established the following priority projects which they recommended, to compose the \$200,000. allocation for year #1 of the 5 year \$1,000,000. proposal:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Lighting for Albemarle Playground football and baseball field  | \$75,000.00 |
| 2. Lighting for the 4 Hull St. tennis courts at NNHS  | 20,000.00   |
| 3. Lighting for 2 tennis courts and 1 basketball courts at Lyons Playfield (Auburndale Park - West Pine Street end) | 15,000.00   |
| 4. Purchase of additional land at Allison Playfield (estimated to be more costly than shown in 1973-1978 C.I.P.)    | 40,000.00   |
| 5. Repair of the surface & lighting of 6 additional courts at NSHS.   | 50,000.00   |

The Commission determined to leave the remaining 4 years (\$200,000. each), of the program to the judgement of Commissioner Penney, with the understanding that they are to be based upon the current 1973-1978 C.I.P. Any unmarked funds available to reach the \$1,000,000. guideline suggested by the City Planning Committee was left to Commissioner Penney to allocate.

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Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Penney  
Recreation Commissioner

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League of Women Voters of Newton  
72 Columbus Street  
Newton Highlands, Mass. 02161

August 13, 1973

Recreation Commission  
70 Crescent Street  
Auburndale, Mass. 02166

Gentlemen:

In 1971 - 1972, the League of Women Voters of Newton studied various proposals which would provide for the overall open space and recreation needs of Newton. At that time, we agreed on certain goals, most of which could be attained by implementing the 1969 Open Space and Recreation Plan of the City's Planning Department.

We urge you to use this 1969 plan -- an important part of which focuses on the acquisition of land to fulfill the present and future recreation goals of Newton -- as a basis for your recommendations to be included in the Capital Improvements and the annual operating budgets of the City. Most of the costs involved in acquiring land for this purpose could be recovered from federal and state agencies, and from floating bonds, which is a general practice in cities and towns elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

We respectfully remind the Commission that since some of the land recommended in the 1969 Plan for additions to recreational facilities is no longer available, it is even more urgent that the remaining areas that are available be acquired as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Miriam Erlich, President  
League of Women Voters of Newton

Commissioner Penney's Analysis of Suggestions in the 1969 Recreation/Open Space Report to the Recreation Commission

August 13, 1973

- Page 14: Limit Lyons Playfield area to locally based activities. Presently has to be used by NHS teams.
- Page 17: Retain Murray Road as playground. Site of branch of NHS. Supervision not warranted during summer.
- Page 19, 20, 21: River Street and Pine Street dump. River Street has been put back into operation as playground. Pine Street dump should be designated for recreation land immediately. Development for soccer field and children's play area -- deferred beyond 5 years.
- Page 25: Acquire playground, Brookside Avenue and Albemarle Road. No open space left. Would require taking three two-family and one one-family house. No neighborhood demand evidenced. Not recommended.
- Page 25: Acquire playground, North and Pratt Streets. Not sufficient open land available without taking a house. No neighborhood demand evidenced. Not recommended.
- Page 29: Acquire land for playground, Turner Terrace. Should proceed just as soon as possible on basis of comprehensive plan for vicinity, taking into account needs of City yard, improvement of housing, as well as creation of playground.
- Page 31: Relocate high school sports from Hawthorn. Agree whenever alternative is available.
- Page 34: Diversion of Victory Field and improve Stearns. Agree and both have been substantially accomplished.
- Page 35: Acquire contiguous open land, Allison. Recommend -- immediate priority.
- Page 37: Purchase playground, Charlesbank area. Recommend -- should proceed as soon as possible on basis of comprehensive plan of vicinity.
- Page 41: Acquire and develop Hunnewell playground. Acquisition has been accomplished. Development should include game courts and playing fields, also playground apparatus. Within 5 years. Defer toilet building and maintenance vehicle entrance.
- Page 43: Double size of Burr Park and develop as school playfield. Cost of acquisition of homes not justified, and elimination of playground building and children's play area not recommended.
- Page 47: Take back six acres of MDC golf course (on City-owned land) and create playfield. Not recommended. No demand from neighborhood.
- Page 49: Acquire land, Studio Road and Aspen Avenue, Auburndale. Land owned by Lasall, new building has been built on it. Remainder used as nursery school. Not available.

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- Page 51: Acquire 1-acre playground from Turnpike Authority, Crescent St. Accomplished.  
Basic constitution funded, but entrance still being studied by Planning Department.  
Housing still being considered by Planning Committee. Recommend we give high priority  
to retention of all available space for playground.
- Page 58: Equip portion of aquaduct in Waban as children's playground.  
Low priority since land is being used now by neighborhood children and homes in vicinity  
have yards with adequate space for tot equipment.
- Page 59: Acquire half-acre of land from back yards of surrounding homes to expand Lincoln  
Playground.  
Low Priority. Land is there, and should not be acquired unless specific use can be  
justified.
- Page 61: Equip Lincoln with playground apparatus.  
No evidence of neighborhood interest. Suggest Angier has greater priority in this.
- Page 62: Acquire one acre of land on Stanton Avenue site for playground.  
Only if remainder of site is to be developed for housing. Otherwise not recommended.
- Page 64: Set aside one-half acre of NNHS site for playground.  
Not recommended. Claflin School parking lot has been eliminated and is available as a  
playground site.
- Page 67: One acre of Edmands Park be developed as playground.  
Not recommended. The area should be treated as a natural park. (Recommend Park  
Building similar to Auburndale.
- Page 70: Acquire land, Park Avenue.  
Not recommended. Would require taking two vacant lots and a single home. Retain Burr  
Park as playground facility.
- Pages 74, 75, 76, 77: Cold Spring acquisition and development as playground and playfield.  
Land has been acquired. Ball field being improved this year. Recommend development  
as Recreation Park with 50% Federal funding.
- Page 78: Set aside area of Weeks Junior High for playground.  
Only if neighborhood demand is evidenced and school finds it compatible.
- Page 82: Development of Webster Playground.  
Recommend basic grading and seeding for soccer field with 5 years. Rest might come out  
of operating budgets.
- Page 88: Circuit Avenue land.  
City owned land available approximately 180' x 100'. Danger to children from traffic  
on Elliot Street, into city garage and Building Department, and Boston Edison trans-  
former plant and MBTA tracks makes its use as play area questionable from a safety  
point of view. Recommend designation as recreation area only if neighborhood demands  
it and safeguards for above problems can be established.
- Page 91: Develop City land at Goddard Street and acquire land at Williams St. for playground  
Not recommended. Goddard Street should be Conservation land. Williams Street is close  
to Upper Falls playground.
- Page 94: Acquire land, Dudley Road.  
This is part of Kennard Estate being recommended for conservation purposes. Recommend  
conservation acquire with proviso that an acre or two be held for future playground  
if needed.

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Page 98, 99: Acquire 2 acres for playground and 8 for playfield, LaGrange & Vine Street. Part of 40 acre tract, 30 acres of which may be developed for single homes. Ten acres part of flood plain. Recommend City acquire these 10 acres for recreation when other 30 acres are developed.

Page 101: Acquire 1 acre WBOS land, Saw Mill Brook Parkway.  
Recommend acquisition be deferred.

Page 102: Develop Infirmary land for playfield.  
Recommend deferment until future. (Would recommend sufficient improvement in existing building for use as park building for mini-bike program). Development as Recreation Park deferred.

Page 106: Acquisition of Albemarle Golf Course.  
Recommend some agreement with Fessenden School to assure its continuance as open space and golf course.



Land Acquisitions from 1967 Recreation/Open Space Plan  
Costs from 1971 - 1976 C.I.P.

Land Acquisition Recommended

Dudley Road	\$4,000.00
Turner Terrace	60,000.00
Allison	22,000.00

Land Acquisition Deferred

Lincoln - Waban	\$82,000.00
Saw Mill Brook	75,000.00
Stanton Avenue	70,000.00
LaGrange Street	40,000.00

Land Acquisition Not Recommended

Brookside Avenue	\$150,000.00
North Street	77,000.00 (plus house)
Burr Park	880,000.00

Commissioner Penney's Priority List for \$1,000,000.00 over 5 years.

Take current 1973-1978 C.I.P. Plan for \$800,000.00  
Deduct \$70,000.00 for Hunnewell Developments

1. Reserve \$70,000.00 for land acquisition ( $\frac{1}{2}$  reimbursement Federal BOR for Turner Terrace).
2. Crystal Lake Bathhouse and beach development \$100,000.00 (plus \$100,000.00 from Federal BOR funds).
3. Edmunds Park Building, \$100,000.00

Possible Alternatives:

Use the funds allocated for Joseph Lee (Highlands) Playground for the same type projects (building, baseball, football, tennis court lighting) at Cold Spring - plus other projects which could be added by matching funds from the Federal BOR Funds (playing fields, tennis courts, park road).

REVISED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMS

Based on \$200,000.00 per year for 5 years - \$1,000,000.00 guidelines set by the City Planning Committee as determined by review of the Recreation Commission at Special Meeting held August 13, 1973, and Commissioner John Penney working under guidelines determined at that meeting.

Location & Description	Project Total	Year #1	Year #2	Year #3	Year #4	Year #5
Allison (see 1973-78CIP)	90,000	40,000	25,000		25,000	
Burr Park (see 1973-78 CIP)	25,000		25,000			
Brewer (N.C.) ( " " " )	25,000		25,000			
Meadowbrook (see 1973-78 CIP)	50,000					50,000
Jos. Lee (Hlds. Chgd. to Cold Spring)						
*Cold Spring (Jose.Lee projects)	140,000			140,000*		
Albemarle (see 1973-78 CIP)	125,000	75,000	50,000			
Edmands Park (Building)	100,000				100,000	
Auburndale (Court Lighting)	15,000	15,000				
North High (Court Lighting)	20,000	20,000				
South High (Court Lighting & Rep)	50,000	50,000				
*Crystal Lake (B.H. & Beach Imp)	100,000					100,000
Burr School (see 1973-78 CIP)	25,000		25,000			
Franklin Sch. (see 1973-78 CIP)	15,000		15,000			
Hunnewell Hill (see 1973-78 CIP)	89,000				45,000	44,000
Baseball Field Recondition ( " )	40,000		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Hard Surface BB Courts ( " )	24,000		8,000	8,000	8,000	
City-Wide Play Apparatus ( " )	30,000		10,000	10,000	10,000	
Outdoor Tennis & HB Walls ( " )	12,000		4,000	4,000	4,000	
Lighted S.B. Field ( " )	25,000			25,000		
*Plus matching amounts from Federal BOR Funds	TOTAL 1,000,000	200,000	197,000	197,000	202,000	204,000

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Special Meeting  
August 6, 1973

Present: Commissioner Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine. Messers. Francis Rice, Frank Fitzpatrick, G. Nicholas Dawson, Howard Ferguson, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. Additionally, 30 guests were present.

Meeting convened at 8:55 P.M.

- A. Since the majority of of guests present were interested in the pool/recreation facility at the new North High School, item #2 on the agenda for consideration for this was discussed first.

Commissioner Penney explained to the group that the Recreation Department had been authorized to handle the non-school scheduling for weekdays, (after 7 PM) weekends, and vacations, with appropriate supervision by Recreation Department.

Chairman Burke requested comments on scheduling & programs from guests. They responded with a variety of suggestions. Most had been anticipated and incorporated into Commissioner Penney's tentative pool use schedule, previously presented to Commission members.

On consideration of the simulated outdoor area and gym, it was agreed that, at least for the time being, a structured program would not be offered thus allowing people to use these facilities without formal league and instruction programs.

Upon consideration of fees for the simulated outdoor recreation area, Mr. Fitzpatrick motioned that no fee be charged for its use except for use of the tennis courts. The current tennis permit issued by the Recreation Department for the outdoor courts at \$10.00 and \$5.00 will be applicable for 12 months of the year. Seconded and voted 5 affirmative, 1 abstaining (Dr. Levine). Members stressed that this will not be a "tennis club use", but strictly on an individual basis for Newton residents. It was also decided to leave the use of Newton South High in the hands of the Newton Indoor Tennis Club.

Pool fees discussion resulted in a motion by Mr. Rice to assess fees for a single swim as follows: Grammar & Junior High School students, 10¢, High School and College students, 25¢ per swim, and Adults at 50¢ a swim. The alternative is a season pass for all swimming facilities of the Recreation Department, including Crystal Lake and the Gath Pool at \$5.00 for children and \$10.00 for adults, or \$15.00 per family. It was seconded and voted as follows: 4 affirmative, 2 opposed (Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Burke). Commission members all agreed that no charge would be made to senior citizens or handicapped persons.

- B. Lighted "Youth Recreation Areas" resolution by Alderman Harrington, Docket Item #483.73  
This item, referred to Recreation by the Chairman of Public Works Comm. Alderman Joseph M. McDonnell, refers to lighting municipal parking lots for the use by young people throughout the City.

Opinions were solicited from those who work with the youth of the City, the "street workers" and Youth Centre coordinator. "Street workers" Bill Buckley and Marty Cohen from the Community Center both were very articulate and generally opposed to this suggestion. Among those points discussed were the differences between areas of the City, desire of the kids to be left alone, drinking, drugs, lack of toilet facilities, whether the kids would gather under lights, etc. Lee White, claiming origination of this item, spoke strongly in favor of it. However, as Mr. Burke pointed out, he seemed to be the only one in favor of it.

In response to this item, Mr. Ferguson motioned that Recreation Commission does not favor Docket Item #483-73 "recommending the establishment of properly lighted "Youth Recreation Areas" in municipal parking lots", at this time, but that the Commission will continue to study and program other possibilities for satisfying the needs of youth in the evenings. Voted 4 affirmative, 1 opposed (Fitzpatrick) 1 had left (Mr. Dawson).

(It was noted that the Chairman of both the Recreation and Youth Commissions had been invited to attend the Aldermanic Public Works Committee meeting on August 16th).

- C. Capital Improvement programs for the years 1973 to 1978, referred by Aldermanic City Planning Committee, David Jackson, Chairman. In preparation for this meeting, Commissioner Penney provided in detail, 10 days ahead, reports, schedules, and Planning Department information pertinent to this program. Attending this meeting was Senior Planner, John Simmons, to give any information required by the Recreation Commission. There was considerable preliminary discussion. Frank Fitzpatrick motioned that the Capital Improvement Program funds of \$200,000.00 per year be used to acquire Allison Park Land and the balance be implemented to improve present facilities to bring them to present day standards. Seconded by Dr. Levine. Voted 3 opposed, 2 in favor (Fitzpatrick and Ferguson). The motion was defeated. Next, Howard Ferguson motioned that the Capital Improvement program be accepted by the Recreation Commission, as presented by the Mayor. Seconded by Frank Fitzpatrick, the motion was voted 2 in favor (Ferguson and Penney), and 3 opposed. Therefore, this motion was also defeated. Due to the lateness of the hour at this point, the Chairman noted the stalemate and suggested that a concensus of Commission could be taken at another special meeting on Monday, August 13th at 7:45 P.M., this single item only.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 1973

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Visitors: Representatives from the Youth Commission - including Marty Cohen and a boy and girl of the high school level; Horace Mann PTA representatives, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Borelli; Aldermanic candidate, Joan Saklad; reporter from Newton Times, Mrs. Phillips; representative of combined PTA's (in place of Mrs. Webber), Mrs. June Hermanson and Recreation Supervisor, Fran Towle.

Meeting convened at 8:00 P.M.

1. Minutes of June meeting and the two special meetings held in August, were accepted as presented.
2. Copies of monthly reports for June, July and August for Recreation activities were presented to members.
3. Consideration of lighted municipal areas: This item again considered at request of Alderman McDonnell, Chairman of Aldermanic Public Works Committee, to not restrict consideration only to parking lots. Representatives of the Youth Commission noted that the body has established a special committee to study the proposal.

Paul Burke, Chairman, again repeated that he especially wanted on "input" from the youth of the City regarding their needs and desires.

The two high school youths present indicated their belief that youth did not want special lighted areas to meet - rather that they find their own places. Mrs. West strongly recommended more street lights for playgrounds.

On Dr. Levine's motion, (Mr. Ferguson seconded), it was voted unanimously to table this item until the October Commission Meeting. It was suggested that Commissioner Penney write to the Youth Commission for their recommendation for this October meeting. It was also suggested that in the pre-publicity notices of the Recreation Commission meeting, any person in favor of lighted municipal, or recreation areas, be invited to attend the Commission meeting.

All Commission members indicated a great interest in providing wanted programs for youth.

4. Memorial School lighted recreation area being sought by group from Oak Hill Park, (via Dr. Levine, Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Commission). Ermons Levine (no relative), requested that some consideration be given to that area which he feels is in need of a lighted outdoor area. He stated that about the only lighted area is in front of the stores - where kids are not wanted, but some kind of after-dark recreation is desired. Winter allows them to use the Memorial School from 7 - 9, but he claims that the Custodian closes up regularly at 8:30. Commissioner Penney agreed to contact the supervisor of this area, Bob Doherty, for correction of the early closing and also said that the possibility of lighted basketball court for this area might be a budget consideration for the next budget.
5. Representatives from Horace Mann PTA: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Borelli of the PTA requested permission to construct an inovational play area similar to the one installed at Farlow Park, at the Horace Mann School. This would be installed by their own workers - and at their cost - but they understand it would be necessary to obtain this permission from both school and Recreation Commission.

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After a short discussion as to their plans, Dr. Levine moved to grant Horace Mann PTA and representatives, Mr. Borelli, permission to construct an inovational tot lot playground on the edge of Horace Mann playground - and - with Dr. Levine's agreement, an amendment to the motion by Mr. Fitzpatrick, that prior to final approval, a plan and diagram be submitted to the Recreation Commissioner for his okay. Voted unanimously in favor.

6. Legal opinion received from City Solicitor with regard to the possibility of City funding for sport league officials. This opinion by Howard A. Levine, was made available to all Commission members. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed great concern and would like to pursue this further since he feels that other municipalities are now presently funding leagues.

Chairman Burke appointed him a committee of one to investigate the 12 to 14 adjacent towns and cities.

7. Report of meeting of Recreation Commission with City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen on Capital Budget on September 10th: Commissioner Penney, Mrs. West, Frank Fitzpatrick, G. Nicholas Dawson, Dr. Levine and Howard Ferguson, attended this meeting. Discussed were figures and priorities set by the Commission at the Special Recreation Commission meeting in August. All members felt that it was a productive meeting and Commission felt program, as presented, was well received.

City Planning Committee members indicated that they were prepared to support these priorities. The also indicated that Recreation be more aggressive in their requests and needs - to both the Mayor and the Aldermanic Board.

8. October 5th deadline for New, 6 year, Capital Improvement Program: Since priorities have been set recently, Commissioner Penney asked the Commission if they wished to add any other priorities - and - how closely they would like to work with him on the new report.

Commission members felt that he was most familiar and best suited to work on this program. They expressed confidence in the \$200,000.00 basis as presented and only suggested that he check with the Mayor to obtain his feelings and see if he would suggest increasing requests - or leave the recommendation as approved by the Commission in August.

9. New North High School Facility: At Commissioner Penney's request, Miss Fran Towle, Recreation Supervisor, who has been meeting with Mr. Ben Merritt of the School of Physical Education Department, came to the meeting to acquaint the Commission with plans for the fall and winter seasons. Miss Towle enthusiastically described this new school facility as "fantastic".

The facility will be available for Recreation Department scheduling week nights and weekend. Pool, simulated outdoor area (including 3 tennis courts) and an exhibition gym will be used. Miss Towle has been working on various scheduling of programs for these areas. These were distributed to Recreation Commission members. She feels that this will be a wonderful opportunity for Recreation to advance department public relation by opening this fine new facility to the public.

Since the various individual functions are separated by corridor and stairs - and quite confusing to newcomers - she suggested that Recreation set up a "main desk" in the outer lobby, to keep reservations and direct the public. She also suggested, at least to begin the season, that "tour guides" from Recreation be available to take people interested to the various areas which will be available - and describe programs, facility, etc.

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Miss Towle also commented that if more money for programs became available, more programming could be done; but that based upon a limited budget, self-directed programs are the most economical.

Commission members were very interested and suggested that the Recreation Commission plan to have a Recreation "Opening Ceremony" on, or prior to, the night the facilities open to the public. Invited to participate will be the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen, Commission members and families of all. Included in this evening program should be provision of personnel coverages, copies of programs which will be available and an invitation extended to the press for new release and pictures.

10. Review and recommendation on Commissioner's proposed programs and personnel requiring additional funds (Mayor's office would like recommendation from full Recreation Commission before they approve this request for additional funds). Copies of this proposal were mailed to all Commission members prior to this meeting and included: Dramatic and Cultural Arts; Leadership for gym at new NNHS & Post 440; Teenage co-ed gym program weekends; additional gym program for Community Schools; Assistant senior citizen handcraft leader.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Ferguson moved (Mr. Rice seconded) that the proposal - with the addition of \$2,400.00 for Police coverage at the teenage gym program, be accepted. Total additional funds to be requested \$22,400.00. Voted unanimously to approve.

11. Report by Mr. Fitzpatrick on status of Bicycle Paths: Earlier this year, Mr. Fitzpatrick had proposed to the Traffic Commission that the "Carriage Road" side of Commonwealth Avenue would prove a suitable recreation bike route from Chestnut Hill to Auburndale. Proposal suggested that traffic be blocked off along this route for the safety of the bicyclists from 7 A.M. Sunday morning until about 1 P.M. From what Mr. Fitzpatrick reported, cooperation between City departments such as Police and Traffic could be arranged. However, before this becomes a reality, the matter may have to be approved by the Traffic Committee of the Board of Aldermen. Additionally, arrangements would have to be made for delivery and pickup of road barriers - in this case, "horses" for traffic control during the time of the program. Mr. Fitzpatrick will make an effort to contact the Traffic Commission and see what progress has been made.
12. Petition: Made to School Committee, Design Review Committee, Board of Aldermen and Recreation Commission to request that they reconsider their decision to locate varsity sports at the new high school, due to the parking problems besetting them. (From Alderman Jackson) was considered.

The Commission felt very strongly about this and Mr. Ferguson moved that the existing plans for intramural and varsity playing fields and other outdoor sports and athletic facilities, remain as drawn at the present time and that absolutely none of this land be taken up for additional parking. This was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and unanimously voted in favor - Chairman Burke requested that his vote be included.

The Recreation Commission recommended that a letter be sent to Alderman Jackson, the eight School Committee members and the Design Review Committee, and Mayor, stating the position of the Recreation Commission.

13. Public Relations: as brought again to the attention of the members of the Commission by Mr. Burke.

Commissioner Penney has looked into the availability of suitable college courses of this type within the area and reported that Boston University courses were full, Northeastern had one planned through their Recreation program and Bentley was beginning a course shortly on Effective Public Relations Techniques, (October 2nd).

Commissioner Penney suggested that Fran Towle take the one at Northeastern, since she is doing her graduate work there anyway - and that Jim Murphy take the Bentley College course - to be paid by the Recreation Department. With this information, Mr. Ferguson moved to send a Recreation person to the Bentley College Course at Department cost. Seconded & voted unanimously.

It was also suggested that Newton Recreation Department contact the Boston Park Department in order to find out how their department handled Public Relations since theirs seemed most effective.

14. Mr. Fitzpatrick requested that each month in the material provided to each Commission member at the meeting, a progress report of current repairs, additions, changes and the general highlights of the month, be included for real "up to date" information.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 P.M. Next meeting October 15, 1973.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

October 15, 1973

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Francis Rice, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors: Two young men, Daniel J. Penzer and John L. DeMeo (indicated interest in the bicycle path proposed, but for running or jogging in conjunction with bike use). Jane Hermansen, representing PTA Council, Dr. Allison Thompson, for the Newton Indoor Tennis Club (Newton South High), Liz Phillips, reporter from the Newton Times, Carl Grant of Newton Highlands, with a petition; Newton Youth Hockey representatives, Robert MacLaughlin, James Coakley and Ken Hagerstrom.

Meeting convened at 7:55 P.M.

1. Minutes of September meeting were approved as reported.
2. Copies of Commissioner's report and monthly report were provided to each member.
3. Bike Path: Since the two young men were already present, Chairman Burke suggested they comment at this time. Both interested in running, they suggested that this sport be included in the proposed bike path use of the Commonwealth Avenue carriage road. They felt that bikes would be compatible with runners. Commissioner Penney noted that Traffic Commission meeting in October will be taking up this matter again and Mr. Fitzpatrick and he should attend.
4. Reconsideration of lighted municipal areas - tabled at the last meeting: Upon further consideration, Commissioner Penney moved and it was unanimously voted that the Commission is not in favor of the proposal for designating lighted Youth Recreation areas as referred to us by the Board of Aldermen. (483-73). However, the Recreation Commission does favor the night lighting of various recreation facilities, such as tennis, basketball courts and ball fields on playgrounds around the City and is also in favor of more security type lighting on playgrounds and other public places.
5. Newton South High School Tennis Club use (indoors): School Department would like Recreation Department to operate these courts the same as NNHS instead of the present operation by Newton Indoor Tennis Club: After considerable discussion and an exchange of ideas with Dr. H. Allison Thompson, who represented the Tennis Club, Mr. Ferguson moved that the Recreation Department operate the tennis courts at both high schools on the same basis - providing that it is possible for the Recreation Department to obtain additional budget funds for the operational cost for custodians and tennis attendant fees at the South High School. This would have to be done through the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.  
  
It was also voted that the Newton Indoor Tennis Club should be allowed to continue until a decision on granting of the additional funds is settled. Permit for use will be from the School Department and would apply also to the Sunday morning club. Since it is not possible to predict how long it will take to get approval for funds, this club use could continue for several weeks. (Commissioner Penney was directed to so notify the School Department as soon as possible).
6. Petition against additional lights at Newton Highlands - copy of petition distributed to all Commission Members: Mr. Carl Grant of Wade Street in Newton Highlands, appeared before the Commission on behalf of himself and his neighbors near the Highlands Playground (Joseph E. Lee Playground). He strongly protested against the use of bull horns

during the weekends by the Pop Warner groups. He claims they cause serious annoyance to everyone in the neighborhood, and particularly the people who are ill in the area. On Dr. Levine's motion, it was moved to order the Pop Warner group to discontinue the use of P.A. Systems or bull horns at this field and (since Mr. Grant also complained about the additional lights installed, particularly a pole of spot lights, which he claims shine into the rear of his home), make a concerted effort to direct those lights so they will not shine into his home. (Note: these lights are turned off at 8:00 P.M., in any event).

- 7. Robert MacLaughlin, President, Newton Youth Hockey, with a proposal for the use of funds of \$3,500.00 in the current Recreation budget for ice time at Charles River Skating Rink and Fessenden School Rink - and request \$10,000.00, for budget of fiscal 1975 budget: In addition to Mr. MacLaughlin, Jim Coakley, Treasurer, and Ken Hagerstrom, Secretary, came to the meeting. Ken Hagerstrom had prepared a full detailed, financial account of the budget for a year for Newton Youth Hockey, which he showed and also explained to the Commission members.

Mr. Rice moved that Recreation provide the \$3,500.00 for the cost of ice time to the Newton Youth Hockey Association, at the Charles River and Fessenden School rinks. This was voted unanimously. (Re: \$10,000.00 fiscal request, it was suggested that they come back during budget prep - additionally, Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested that Newton Youth Hockey should seriously consider providing additional scholarship funds, consider a trade-in program for outgrown, but still good equipment and make an effort to avoid overlap of program into other sports programs.

- 8. Matter of transfer of land to School Department for Davis School: copy of letter from School Committee forwarded previous to meeting, to Commission members: Commissioner Penney reviewed the request and explained that while the Board of Aldermen will have to make the actual transfer, the Recreation Commission would have to declare this land not needed for Recreation. The Recreation Commission was reluctant to release any Recreation land, but in view of the necessity, Mr. Fitzpatrick moved - and it was so voted unanimously, that the Recreation Commission declares 15,160 square feet of land (as determined by the City Engineer), on Eden Avenue playground, no longer needed for Recreation purposes; that said land to be transferred to School Department for the addition of the Davis School; that the School Department should bear the cost of re-locating the baseball diamond and the playground.

(Commissioner Penney also called to the attention of the Commission that Ordinance No. 569 of June 4, 1973, generally proposed that Mayor, together with the request for release or transfer, present to the Board an inventory of municipal and publicly held lands in the City with the proposal to replace the recreational park or conservation land to be released).

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 P.M., next regular meeting will be held November 19, 1973.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

November 13, 1973

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. Francis Rice, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors: Joyce Young, Nancy Donahue, Mary LeConti, Mike LeConti, Frank Whalen, all representing West Little League, Liz Phillips, reporter for Newton Times, Jane Hermanson, PTA representative and Marydea M. Campbell.

1. Minutes of October meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of Recreation activities distributed to members.
3. Commissioner's reports on:
  - A. Halloween - 11 schools participated successfully. Commission members, Mayor and Recreation personnel visited all areas. Commissioner Penney noted that "clean-up" reports indicated satisfaction. Commission members commented on fine parent participation in these schools who now choose to have parties.
  - B. Crescent Street Playground - Commissioner Penney and Chairman Burke and Mr. Rice attended a community meeting to discuss tentative plans for this playground - some already in progress. The basic area has been cleared and leveled. The Myrtle Baptist Church has begun work on a basketball court within the church property - but intention is to make it available to the community in conjunction with playground. Explored were 3 entrance possibilities; the type of equipment most appropriate for small children and primary grade children up to 12; and a small ball playing area were requested.
  - C. Community School Commission - Recreation Commission members met with the Education Commission of the Board of Aldermen October 25th to work out the drafting of an ordinance for this new Commission. Agreement was reached to give priority to Recreation Department use of school gyms and sports facilities and playgrounds.
  - D. Bicycle Path report delayed until later in evening.
4. Request by Board of Aldermen for Recreation Commission to undertake a poll - ward by ward - of recreation, civic and neighborhood clubs and organizations, soliciting community input - as to priorities for capital projects, equipment or general improvements. No action to be taken at this time. Commission might plan to have a regular citizens meeting in each ward before preparing next year's CIP. The Chairman instructed the secretary to hold this in a "suspense file" until 1974. *(Brought up to Comm in March 1974 Agenda)*
5. Tennis Bang Board at Angier School - Commissioner Penney informed the Commission that he had received a letter of protest on the noise made by the newly installed bang-board from a Mr. Colton. He further investigated the possibility of alleviating this problem. The manufacturer informed him that fiberglass insulation applied to the back of the board - under the plywood, would cut the noise greatly. The department maintenance crew should install this material as soon as possible to hopefully alleviate the noise. It was also suggested that, as in the past, Recreation Department again post signs prohibiting use of these walls before 9:00 A.M. Commissioner Penney will respond to Mr. Colton by letter with this information.

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6. Response from School Department re: Davis School transfer of land from Recreation Department, necessary to the construction of the school addition and agreeing to assume the cost of relocating baseball diamond, was noted by Commission, also noted that land under School Department on the site was transferred to the Recreation Department to compensate.
7. Mike LeConti, President of West Little League - came before Commission, having written to the Mayor and Chairman of the Recreation Commission, protesting the use of surplus funds outside of the West Little League area. (Engineers had estimated that cost of renovation of Franklin and Williams Little League fields would be \$10,000.00. Final cost was under this total and with the Mayor's approval, the balance was used by Commissioner Penney for emergency repairs within the Central Little League area).
8. Indoor Tennis - High school tennis still not available - Commissioner Penney presented plan of use by public.
9. Supplementary Budget Items - original request sent to Mayor earlier has now had to be increased because of cost of leadership at North High is higher than anticipated - also the added cost of assuming leadership and custodians for tennis at Newton South High School. Dr. Levine moved that the Recreation Commission request a special appropriation to allow the Recreation Department to take over the tennis program at NSHS - on a par with NNHS. Voted in favor. Additional funds also approved. Total request now is \$32,100.00.
10. ENERGY CRISIS MEETING AT MAYOR'S OFFICE TODAY - Commissioner Penney attended this noon meeting to discuss with other department heads, etc., ways in which Recreation could cooperate in curtailment of fuel uses in it's various areas - indoors and out. Recreation will cooperate in lowering heat in office and indoor facilities. It will also consider possible elimination of marginal programs. Athletic programs such as basketball leagues, etc., will continue if the gyms remain open, at the lowest heat setting possible. Programs will be consolidated wherever possible. Generally, recreation programs, while benefiting the public in this crisis, will operate in all cases at a considerably lower temperature as long as lights are available.

Mr. Burke suggested that whenever possible, various leagues, i.e., Pony, National and American Basketball could use a single large gym, divided into separate courts in order to save heat and light. This would be an example of consolidation, where a facility would be filled to capacity.

Commissioner Penney said that he would assume from the general feelings of the Commission that they intend to imply that Recreation should continue its indoor programs as much as possible, and should continue to seek funds for the use of NNHS and new youth, gym and Community School programs. Commission agreed.

- 1-D. Bicycle Path report - Mr. Fitzpatrick reported that he and Commissioner Penney Attended the Traffic Commission meeting regarding the possible use as a bike path, the so-called "carriage road" on Commonwealth Avenue.

A request to the City Solicitor, for an opinion, regarding this use was obtained by Mr. Penney, and their opinion was that there was no way this could be made a two-way bike path - without a new ordinance.

Alderman Richmond has submitted an ordinance allowing this use for a Sunday morning bike route, to be presented some time in the near future.

11. Fiscal 1975 Budget: A special Recreation meeting will be held this coming Saturday, November 24th at 1 P.M. to discuss the pre-submission budget.

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12. Cambridge Sports Union - wrote to Commissioner Penney expressing a desire for Newton members of their group to be able to run some track meets at the high school. Commission members commend the group, but suggested that, at this time, they plan to use the running track at the high school when it opens, on an individual basis. Also, they might consider one or two meets, but restricted to Newton residents. Commissioner Penney was directed to write to them on this basis.
13. It was brought out at this meeting, by Mr. Burke, that some of the new Aldermen were not aware, as yet, of their Recreation Commission Ward Representatives. He suggested that each Commission member contact respective Aldermanic member in his Ward - and make himself known.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Held Saturday, November 24, 1973 - notes taken by Comm. Penney

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Frank Fitzpatrick and Francis Rice

- A. Included \$2,500.00 for basketball lights off back of Memorial School.
- B. Tennis Court use: NSHS tennis court must have stronger checking for out-of-town players and enforcement to prevent this. It appears that some out-of-towners may have obtained permits fraudulently. Drivers license check should be required, not only when the permit is purchased, but also during the season of regular play.
- C. Day Jr. High School Access: Paul Burke suggested that Commissioner Penney check out fire lane access to Day Jr. High for space available for tennis courts with City Engineer.
- D. Review of part-time leadership pay rates: Commission members agreed to recommend a 20% increase for part-time leadership personnel since no increase in pay has been granted them for five years and they are out of line with surrounding towns and with the School Department.
- E. Discontinuance of leadership at a playground: Chairman Paul Burke recommended that a public hearing be called before the leadership at a particular playground, for the summer, be dropped.
- F. Attendance figures: Commission members recommend that the Recreation Supervisors double check all attendance figures turned in from the leaders. Make own counts and see how they match.
- G. Hunnewell Hill Playground: It was recommended that recreation include some funds for more playground equipment at this playground.
- H. Additional Marking crews: Paul Burke suggested that Commissioner Penney spell out the need for additional marking crew in terms of how many more markings will be accomplished.
- I. Recreation Commission agreed to request \$10,000.00 for playground equipment for playgrounds around the City.
- J. Building for Edmand's Park: Frank Fitzpatrick suggested a construction building or metal trailer for Edmand's Park pond during the skating season.
- K. It was suggested that Commissioner Penney be more positive, both in dealing with the public about providing services, and in dealing with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in budget requests for the department.
- L. Commission approved the request for \$10,000.00 for ice time for the Youth Hockey Program.

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

December 17, 1973

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Penney, Paul J. Burke, Chairman, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Messers. Francis Rice, and Frank Fitzpatrick, (due to ice storm, secretary was not present and Commissioner Penney recorded minutes).

Visitors: Mike LeConti

1. Minutes of November 19th meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Monthly reports of recreation activities, maintenance, supervisor's reports and Commissioner's report distributed to each Commission member.
3. Letter from Clerk of the Board of Aldermen - for monthly minutes of Recreation Commission meeting to be sent to the Aldermen. Commissioner Penney noted that copies of November minutes had already been sent by secretary - and this will be routine practice now. Mr. Burke noted he had made this suggestion previously.
4. Petition to Mayor and Board of Aldermen #975-73: Chairman Burke called the attention of the Commission to this petition requesting a wide, straight, lighted pathway (plowed and sanded in winter), from the front of Day Junior High School, directly to Albemarle Road - which is on the Aldermanic docket.

Commissioner Penney asked for a feeling of the Recreation Commission if he should be called before an Aldermanic Committee on this subject.

It was moved by Mr. Fitzpatrick that the present path be plowed and sanded and lighted, instead of constructing a new, straight path. Seconded by Mrs. West, voted in favor 7 to 1.

5. Chestnut Hill Golf Course - acquisition information: Chairman Burke requested that information available from both the Planning Department recommendation and the Conservation Open/Space acquisition report concerning the acquisition - and any other information available, to be obtained for January Recreation Commission meeting.
6. Question as to whose function it is to name a Playground: Mrs. West called to the attention of the group a newspaper item which said that the Board of Aldermen had renamed Hunnewell Playground, the Doherty Playground.

Mr. Burke said that he understands that this item will be referred to the Recreation Commission by the Board.

It was suggested that Commissioner Penney contact the City Clerk to see what the status of this item is. It was further suggested that the previous ruling by the City Solicitor be looked up as to whether the Commission has the right to name playgrounds - or the Board of Aldermen.

7. Commissioner Penney brought up the notice of a meeting to be held on Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 P.M., Room 222, to discuss the relationship of parking needs to athletic needs at Newton North High School.

Mr. Penney showed three possible plans to be discussed. Since Mr. Penney had a previous engagement that evening, Mr. Burke suggested that he will attend with Mr. Ferguson - and any other Commission members who can attend, to go on record re-affirming our earlier stand that no additional land be taken from the athletic space, for parking.

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8. Reconsideration of supplemental Budget request: (per Jim Salter) in answer to question by Frank Fitzpatrick, Commissioner Penney will bring to the January, 1974 meeting, a breakdown of Capital Improvement funds appropriated and expended in the current budget.

In consideration of Mr. Salter's letter to Mr. Penney, referring to the supplementary budget, Commissioner Penney suggested that we can do most of the items - within our present funds - because of unanticipated savings. Commission members agreed to this suggestion.

Frank Fitzpatrick and the other Commission members suggested that Commissioner Penney expend all funds appropriated, in the current budget.

9. Fiscal 1974 - 1975 Budget: This was reviewed with the Commission members. Mr. Burke suggested that a dictaphone to take notes of Commission meetings be included in the 1974 - 1975 budget.

10. Miscellaneous:

1. Mr. Ferguson requested that notes of the special budget meeting of the Recreation Commission held on Saturday, November 24th, be sent to him.
2. Mr. LeConti suggested that some improvements in girls' softball fields be made since this is a growing sport. No definite funds were allocated.
3. Next regular meeting of Recreation Commission will be held on Monday, January 21, 1974.
4. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Penney  
Secretary pro-tem

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

January 21, 1974

Minutes

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Mrs. Worthing L. West and two new proposed Recreation Commission members, Mrs. Lynn Arthur and Mr. Nelson Baker. (Mr. Fitzpatrick arrived late due to heavy fog on Route 128)

Visitors: Dan Sullivan, PTA President, Burr School; Mr. D'Ugenio, Architect; Liz Phillips, reporter from Times newspaper; Jack Whittenberg; Dr. Robert Buxbaum and Mrs. Edward L. Richmond.

1. Minutes of December Meeting: Accepted as circulated.
  2. Commissioner's report and monthly Recreation reports distributed to members. Commissioner Penney noted that NNHS tennis courts are now just beginning to be fully booked. Mr. Ferguson noted that tennis phone should not be allowed to be used for outgoing calls during 7 - 8 P.M. when people are trying to get the number to reserve courts.
  3. Questions of use of tennis courts at Newton South High School by general public of Newton: In response to queries by members, Commissioner Penney reported that while the School Department had issued the tennis club a permit for use of courts, they will make them available to Recreation at our request. The consensus of opinion is that Recreation should move toward the goal of public use - through Recreation - as soon as possible, (conceivably some time in early February).
  4. Welcome to new members: While the two new members had made themselves known to Commissioner Penney previously, Chairman Paul Burke welcomed them to the membership present. After confirmation by the Board of Aldermen they can official assume their duties, vote, etc. Mrs. Lynn Arthur of Newton Highlands, Ward 5, will replace retiring Commission member Joseph Selden, and Mr. Nelson Baker of Newton Centre, Ward 7, will replace Mr. G. Nicholas Dawson.
- Mrs. West moved that the Recreation Commission go on record expressing regret in the loss of Joe Selden and that an appropriate letter be composed to Mr. Selden, expressing appreciation for his many years of service. A letter to Mr. Dawson should also be dispatched, thanking him for his contribution to Recreation. It was so voted.
5. Burr School PTA proposed plan for inovational playground: PTA President, Dan Sullivan, with the approval of Burr principal, presented briefly the final plan for this installation. Since similar installations have been made previously in other areas, the Commission is familiar with this construction. Mr. Penney called to their attention one concern of his, where drain pipe set without a frame, had sharp edges which he felt could be hazardous to children using the equipment. The architect said that he would correct this problem. Mr. Ferguson motioned that Recreation Commission approve installation of this inovational playground equipment, at no cost to Recreation, at Burr School, and it was so moved. Commissioner Penney noted that there may be no need for Recreation Commission approval since the land is under School Committee jurisdiction.
  6. Petition for lighted path at Day Junior High School: Commissioner Penney reported that the Board of Aldermen had voted to build a new lighted path from Day Junior High across Albemarle Playground (hugging the side of the pool), to Albemarle Road. Since this in no way interferes with use of the playing fields, no action is necessary. However, Mr. Ferguson suggested that Recreation Commission go on record as being in favor of

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the plan shown at the Recreation Commission meeting (#Q 70 of the Engineering Department).

7. Land acquisition report regarding Chestnut Hill golf course: Commissioner Penney made available to Commission members reports from the Planning Department and the Newton Conservators regarding golf courses in Newton. Chairman Paul Burke felt that due to the complexity of this issue, it would be advisable to form a sub-committee to study and evaluate information and report their findings at a later date. Mr. Burks will notify those members proposed for this committee shortly.
8. Resolution from the Board of Aldermen recommending to the Recreation Commission the naming of the Hunnewell Playground after Lt. William Doherty: Commission member from this area, Frank Fitzpatrick, had not arrived as yet, so it was decided to delay action on this item until he arrived.
9. Dr. Robert Buxbaum and Mrs. Edward Richmond to speak about physical fitness trails for playgrounds and parks: Dr. Buxbaum spoke briefly describing his interest in physical fitness, health and life extension programs. The program, similar to a popular Swiss program called VITA-PARCOURS - or Health track, was amply illustrated and distributed to all Commission members by him. Briefly, the program consists of an outdoor health track, often built through a wooded area, where there is an opportunity for everyone - young or old - to exercise according to their individual needs - with the help of signs describing their exercises. Since Dr. Buxbaum and Mrs. Richmond had already invited Commissioner Penney to attend a meeting at which time the proposed program was described, he in turn had spoken to maintenance foreman, Frank Shea, to obtain his opinion on the possibility of building trails, etc., and where they might best be located. Several possible sites were suggested, such as Edmand's Park, Auburndale, Newton Centre. Mr. Burke suggested that Dr. Buxbaum plan to make an appointment with Mr. Penney to discuss the various possible sites. Mr. Ferguson motioned that Dr. Buxbaum, Mrs. Richmond, Mr. D'Ugenio, and Mr. Penney - and others - get together and make recommendations as to location, cost, etc. (Basic cost is likely to be small as much natural material, such as logs, etc., is used - but a supplementary budget would have to be made). It was so moved.
10. Parking at NNHS report: Recreation Commission has gone on record opposing the taking of any athletic land for parking at the new school. Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Burke earlier attended a meeting on this subject, but no solution was made at that time.

It was recommended that the Recreation Commission again communicate to Mr. Reginald Smith, P. E. Department Head at NNHS that we are not in favor of land taking of athletic lands. It was also felt that if Commission is made cognizant of facts, they are willing to cooperate with the athletic department in any way possible.

11. Capital Improvements report distributed to members at the request of Mr. Fitzpatrick. No action taken, as Mr. Fitzpatrick was not present.
12. Request by Mayor to all department & Commissions for a review of fees and charges made to public for services - and recommendations if they should be any changes: Commissioner Penney made available to all members a complete list of fees and charges - winter and summer - of all facilities or programs where a charge is made. Mr. Ferguson motioned to table discussion of fees until the February meeting, and it was so moved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M. Next commission meeting will be Feb. 25th as the regular meeting night is a holiday.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

Newton Recreation Commission

February 25, 1974 Meeting

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Worthing L. West, Mrs. Lynne Arthur, Messers Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Nelson Baker and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Guests: Mike LeConti, Gary Rubinstein, Mr. Murray Kates, Mr. J. Leon, Liz Phillips, Times newspaper reporter, Elizabeth McKinnon, Newton Graphic newspaper reporter.

1. Minutes of the January meeting accepted as circulated.

2. Richard Kates: In response to a critical newspaper letter directed to Mr. Burke and the Recreation Department regarding tennis fees in the city, Mr. Burke contacted him by letter and invited him to attend the Commission meeting and possibly give some suggestions as to tennis fees. However, he is a college student outside of the city and therefore unable to come in person. He sent, as his representative, Gary Rubinstein, another tennis player.

Gary, accompanied by Richard's father, spoke in protest of the ten dollar permit fee, as being too high. He felt that either a smaller charge should be made - or - none at all.

Mr. Murray Kates, also noted that in large families, the individual cost of a permit discouraged families from playing on the reserved courts.

It was pointed out that there are approximately 43 courts, in addition to the courts which are handled on this reserved court basis (with permits) that can be played on at no charge.

3. Request for shower and changing area when NNHS pool is not open: 2 young men that use the gym and running track at Newton North on a regular basis requested that the shower and locker rooms be made available to participants, even if the pool is closed. Their request was granted and this will be done in the future.

4. Notice of Election in March for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman were officially made, as directed in rules & regulations of the Commission, by the chairman.

5. Resolution by Board of Aldermen recommending to the Recreation Commission, the naming of the Hunnewell Playground after Lt. William Doherty (postponed from January Commission meeting).

Mr. Fitzpatrick, Commission member from this area, has made an effort to poll residents for a feeling on this subject, but as he noted, the neighborhood has changed so drastically in the last ten years or so, that most did not know Lt. Doherty.

Commissioner Penney said that the playground has never been formally named but since it was in the so-called Hunnewell Hill area, the name Hunnewell clung to it.

Mrs. West stated that Hunnewell is an old and respected name in Newton, and that the Commission might give considerable thought to retaining some of the old names in Newton. She pointed out that this was done in the case of Allison Playground where a group was allowed to erect a plaque and flagpole honoring Vietnam Veteran, instead of changing the name.

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Mr. Burke commented that Alderman McDonnell has indicated an interest in this and would probably be willing to talk about it if Mr. Fitzpatrick made contact with him. It was decided to hold this item until the next meeting therefore.

6. Review of current status of Capital Improvements projects and appropriations (postponed from January meeting) Commissioner Penney reported that most funds in current Capital Improvement budget had been expended - leaving only a balance of \$5500.00. With approval from his Honor the Mayor, these monies can be transferred from one area to another and he recommended that backstops at Franklin and Albemarle be installed at an approximate cost of \$2500. leaving a balance of \$3000. which could be advantageously used in extending the sodding at Franklin playground.

Unanimously approved was the motion by Mr. Ferguson, to request transfer of money as indicated above, for backstop at Franklin and Albemarle and sodding at Franklin.

Mr. Fitzpatrick called to the attention of the Commission that even though the neighborhood at Hunnewell Hill had never come back with any recommendations for equipment at the playground, equipment should be installed as planned by Recreation, six months ago.

7. Fees and Charges: Commissioner Penney provided the group with a report of the current fees and charges as levied by the Recreation Department.

Upon review, the following rates were agreed upon by the Commission - detail follows schedules.

<u>1974 Summer Rates</u>		<u>Newton North High School 1974</u>	
Season - June to September		Season - September to September (1 yr)	
Individual Adult	\$3.00	Individual Adult	\$10.00 yr.
Individual Student	1.00	Individual Student	5.00 "
<u>Delineation</u>		Family permit	15.00 "
Adult 18 yrs or over		(or)	
Student 25 or younger who is a full-time student		<u>No non-resident use</u>	
Non-resident - May use Crystal Lake	Daily rate (elem. or Jr. High)	.10 swim	
due to State regulations - Gath Pool	" " (Sr.High & College)	.25 swim	
no season permit but guest fee ok	" " (Adult)	.50 swim	

Skating Permits: discontinued - no charge

Tennis permits:

Season April to April (1 year)

Adult - 18 and up	\$10.00 each
Student - 25 or under	5.00 each
(full time student)	
Family -	20.00 (new this year)

Tobogganing

Toboggan Rental .25 per hour

Leagues - summer, winter, basketball, etc. - all same as previous

The Commission considere the question of opening the Newton North High School pool to City employees such as Fire, Police, teachers in the school, City Hall employees etc. who may live out of the City and are therefore, non-residents.

Mr. Ferguson motioned to allow City workers who were not Newton residents to use the Newton North Pool for a 50¢ charge. Mr. Fitzpatrick seconded. It was voted not to allow this use on a 5 to 3 vote.

(Since Crystal Lake is a "great pond" and so covered by State, rather than local regulations, non-residents may continue to use this on a day basis. The question of the use of the Gath Pool was raised. On a motion by Mr. Rice, it was decided to restrict the use of the pool to non-residents unless they were guests of residents. It was so voted. (10 aches or more)

On the question of skating permits, Commissioner Penney motioned to discontinue the sale of permits - it was so voted.

On the definition of a "student", Dr. Levine motioned to define a student as a person of 25 or younger - who was a full-time student. It was so voted.

Regarding tennis, Mr. Ferguson motioned that a family tennis permit be made available at \$20.00. It was so moved with 1 opposing.

Dr. Levine motioned to preclude non-residents from using tennis courts and it was so voted.

At Mr. Penney's request, Miss FranTowle, Recreation Supervisor attended the meeting regarding the system of fees and charges.

Miss Towle recommended that a system for tennis permit control be established, and that tennis permits be sold from one area only, to facilitate their control.

Since there are cashiers on duty at NNHS, she suggested that this be the area where they be sold. This would eliminate the need for additional personnel and provide good control of permits and permit money - instead of selling permits at court-side during the summer. It is planned to have NNHS pool open year-a-around several days a week - so would be available for Newton residents.

The Commission was reluctant to rule on this subject and recommended that this be handled as an administrative decision by Commissioner Penney.

Lynne Arthur motioned for Recreation restrict student tennis permits for under 10 years of age, from tennis play on clay surfaces, on the family plan only. So voted.

Dr. Levine motioned to delete the cost of toboggan rental. A tie vote resulted - with Chairman Burke, voting to break the tie, defeating this motion. The charge for rental of toboggans will continue.

In response to Miss Towle's question or philosophy on the Recreation Department on fees and charges, in turn- in response to questions asked of her by the general public, she was told that these fees and charges are established by a policy set by the Recreation Commission, for services provided. (In reference to Miss Towle's request for a written statement on this policy, it was recommended that the statement be brought back to a Commission meeting - for their approval)

8. New Business:

(a) Community School Commission: Eliot Cohen, Alderman, has been in communication with Chairman Paul J. Burke, with regard to the establishment of this new Commission. He has requested that Mr. Burke submit a candidate to serve on this Commission.

Mr. Ferguson proposed that Paul Burke be appointed to this Commission but he graciously refused.

It was decided that Mr. Burke, with the approval of the Commission, shall appoint a person on the Commission, as a delegate to the Community School Commission.

(b) Question of handicapped - non-residents: Use of NNHS pool. Dr. Levine motioned to allow any supervised, handicapped group, sponsored by a Newton organization, the use of the pool - even if the person is not a Newton resident. So voted unanimously.

(c) Finance Committee Meeting, reported Commissioner Penney, for Recreation Dept. budget, will be held on Saturday, March 2nd at 1:00 PM. Recreation Commission members were urged to attend, if possible.

(d) New Commission member, Mrs. Lynne Arthur, inquired as to the procedure necessary for getting "new business" onto the Recreation meeting docket. Mr. Burke explained the process.

(e) Resignation: Mrs. Worthing L. West, Recreation Commission member for 23 years, many of these years as Chairman of the Recreation Commission, announced to her fellow Commission members that she has decided to end her active commitment at this time, and has so notified the Mayor that she will not accept an additional appointment for the next three years offered her.

In a brief statement she commented on the fine work accomplished by Recreation in the past and her hope for a productive future. While her interest in Recreation in the City will always be keen, she feels it is time for "new young blood" she says.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 18, 1974

Minutes

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Paul J. Burke, Vice-Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Mrs. Lynne Arthur, Medsers. Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Nelson Baker and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Guests: Mary Bartley, Marilyn Sicurella, representing Women's Softball; Dominic Battista and Nunzio F. Leone, representing St. Mary of Carmen Society; Mike LeConti and Francis Mahoney, representing West Little League; Riya Richmond representing Mason-Rice PTA and Dave Dunstrau, representing Times newspaper.

Recreation Commission meeting called to order by Chairman Paul Burke at 8:00 P.M.

1. Minutes of February Commission meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Commissioner Penney's monthly reports of activities, meetings attended and Recreation activities provided to members.
3. Proposal for Cultural program during summer: Commissioner Penney provided the members with a proposal by Gary Goode of the Newton School Music Department suggesting a summer program geared to secondary and college age students, involving the production of "Fiddler on the Roof". Since Mr. Goode feels that this group of students is not generally involved in summer playground programs, he hopes this would give them an opportunity for summer involvement - and fun too - with the plus factor that musicals generally draw well and could be a profitable program to defray costs. Costs, he proposed, to be underwritten for the time by the Recreation Department. Ticket sales at the time of production could possibly repay expenses.

Commissioner Penney has contacted the City Comptroller, Mr. Marr, to see if - and how - this could be done.

Commission members recommended no action be taken at this time until a response was received from Mr. Marr.

4. Chairman Paul Burke expressed the desire, at his final act as Chairman, since he is not seeking re-election, to present Mrs. West with an honorary scroll, giving her the official designation of Member Emeritus of the Commission.

At Mr. Burke's recent request, Commissioner Penney prepared an outline of the proposal commending Mrs. West, as she terminates her active membership in the Commission, after 24 years of service, 14 of these as Chairman.

A formal proposal will be made up with signatures of Commission and Mayor, to be presented to Mrs. West at a later date. She will be invited to be present, probably at the next Commission meeting. Commission members were unanimous in endorsing this proposal.

5. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: As instructed by rules and regulations after previous months notification, the annual election was held.
  - a. Chairman Burke opened the nominations for Chairman. Mr. Fitzpatrick nominated Dr. Burton D. Levine. No other nominations were made, and Mr. Burke instructed the secretary to cast one ballot for chairman of the Recreation Commission for Dr. Levine.
  - b. Chairman Burke opened nominations for Vice-Chairman. Dr. Levine nominated

Francis Rice. No other nominations were presented. Mr. Burke then instructed the secretary to cast one ballot for Vice-Chairman of the Recreation Commission for Francis Rice.

Mr. Burke then turned the Chairmanship of this meeting over to the new Commission Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine.

6. Request for yearly carnival at Hawthorn by St. Mary of Carmen Society: Society representative, Frank Leone, requested that for the 7th year, the Society be allowed a permit at Hawthorn playground for July 18 to 21st.

Mr. Ferguson motioned to allow the permit. Mr. Burke seconded.

Discussion disclosed that what they would really like is an extra day to set up on Tuesday instead of Wednesday and operate Wednesday as well as Thursday to Sunday. This would be more profitable for both carnival operator and society, they claim. Mr. Penney noted that previous years, the grounds were not cleaned for use by playground children the following Tuesday morning. Mr. Leone assured the Commissioner that the Society would clean up the playground on Monday.

Mr. Fitzpatrick questioned the validity of allowing one carnival without allowing others that may request permits. It was explained that this one, as in the past, had been allowed, due its unique, ethnic, "neighborhood" connection.

Unanimously voted to allow this particular carnival - with the extra day, provided that both Society and carnival operators abide by written rules and regulations of the Recreation Department (and with the cooperation of the Newton Police Dept.)

7. Mrs. Rita Richmond with a request for PTA to erect playscape on Brewer Playground: After describing the area where the PTA and principal, under the guidance of architect Jerry D'Eugnio, plan the proposed playscape, Commissioner Penney produced a map of the area, and it was determined that this site proposed was actually on school land, and therefore, did not require approval of the Recreation Commission.

8. Question of bike paths: Last year, when the question of bike paths in first came up, Mr. Fitzpatrick proposed as one possible location, the so called "Carriage Road" on Commonwealth Avenue. Investigation of this possibility, initiated by Mr. Penney. The legal department, determined that this is a Public Way, and, according to law, a one-way street. Bikes may be used in this area but only in the traffic flow direction.

The law could conceivably be changed legally with legislation, but would allow two way use for not only bikes - but for cars as well, according to the City Solicitor, Howard Levine. Mr. Fitzpatrick requested a copy of the legal opinion from the City Solicitor.

9. Women's Softball use of fields: Marilyn Sicarella and Mary Bartley, representing over 100 women involved in Newton softball, asked the Recreation Commission to consider supplying them with a regular softball field that they could count on using for the season. They protested the fact that the present softball fields are monopolized by Men's Leagues most evenings throughout the season, and they end up playing "sand lot" ball on some bumpy field. They would like a groomed, lined field for regular use throughout the season.

Mr. Burke suggested that Hamilton field might be a good field, if this could be smoothed and groomed and lined on a regular basis for their use. Mr. Ferguson suggested that in cooperation with Mr. Penney, it could be worked out. They could also plan on using Lyons once the Little League has completed their



season late in June. Warren Junior High field is also available for their exclusive use. Dr. Levine noted that a problem of assignment and maintenance seemed to be the big hang-up. He suggested the women go through Fran Towle, Recreation Supervisor, for assignment. Commissioner Penney noted the 74-75 budget had requested three (3) additional men for field maintenance to compensate for increased marking demands by schools, little leagues, but that these extra men were not allowed during Mayor's office review. 115  
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10. Question of renaming of Hunnewell Hill: Mr. Fitzpatrick again mentioned that he had spoken to Alderman McDonnell and suggested that this item again be tabled until more information was available.

11. Community School Commission: Mr. Burke's recommendation for this Commission was Mr. Frank Fitzpatrick - unanimously approved by the Recreation Commission. (Letters to go to Mayor as President of Board of Aldermen reporting that Frank Fitzpatrick appointed to this commission.)

12. Miscellaneous business:

a. Mr. Ferguson reported that he has been asked to be a member of the YMCA "Aims and Objectives" group. They will meet 2 times a month and he will plan to attend.

b. Question of how best to handle the recommendation to conduct a survey, Ward by Ward, received last year (held in pending file) from City Planning Commission of the Board of Aldermen.

Mr. Burke's recommendation was to go and talk to the City Planning Committee as a Commission before taking any further action.

With this in mind, Mr. Burke motioned that Dr. Levine as Chairman of the Commission contact Chairman of the Planning Committee - meet with them and respond to their suggestions. Unanimously accepted.

c. Use of pool by a visiting group of high school students - Paul Burke motioned that as a gesture of good will, this specific group as requested by the high school, be allowed to use the pool for a maximum of 1 hour during the regular general swim. They will bring 4 adult supervisors with them. We will not make a charge. Voted to accept with Mr. Ferguson opposing.

d. Mr. Burke made a recommendation to Commissioner Penney to investigate the possibility of obtaining a volunteer college intern- possibly a graduate student - to obtain a cost ratio to recreation programs. It was felt that this should be, at least, a semester program. These figures could be used to substantiate needs and costs of recreation; more fields, more programs, increased involvement - additional responsibility, etc. Should be a good project. cost ratio?

e. Due to holiday in April, next regular meetin will be held April 22, 1974. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

Minutes

April 22, 1974

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-chairman Francis Rice, Messers Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Paul Burke, Mrs. Lynne Arthur, Mrs. Worthing L. West and Marjorie Lesbirál, Secretary.

Visitors: 20 attended this meeting.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:40 P.M. by Chairman Dr. Levine, Minutes of March meeting accepted as circulated. Reports of program & maintenance provided by Mr. Penney to all Commission members.
2. Survey of Recreation activities & facilities: Commissioner Penney reported that this survey, under the direction of Supervisor, Fran Towle, and College intern, Ann Benoit, is now in progress. A full report will be made by Miss Towle upon completion of the survey.
3. Consideration of Alderman Jackson's recommendation to make available to local citizens, certain city-owned plots of land for gardens. Listed as follows were the areas under Recreation Department jurisdiction:
  - A. Lincoln Playground - right field
  - B. Newton Centre playground - across brook from Mason-Rice School (old caretakers garden plot)
  - C. Webster playground - near end of Warren St. (undeveloped)
  - D. Hunnewell Playground - at Newton Corner

On a motion by Mr. Rice, it was moved to send a letter back to Alderman Jackson stating that, for the summer of 1974, these Recreation plots would be made available to citizens of Newton for gardens. However, Recreation shall not be involved, or responsible, for aiding, guarding, or otherwise helping the gardeners.

4. Presentation to Mrs. Worthing L. West: At this time, Mrs. West, former Commission Chairman, had been invited by Dr. Levine, present Chairman, to come to the Commission meeting to be honored for her many years of dedicated voluntary service to the City of Newton and the Recreation Department. Dr. Levine, as spokesman for the Commission, presented Mrs. West with a framed citation naming her, the first and only, Member Emeritus of the Recreation Commission. She was encouraged to attend Recreation Commission meetings whenever her schedule would permit.

Pictures were taken at this time of Mrs. West accepting the plaque from Dr. Levine.

5. Invitation to attend City Planning Committed April 25th for report on Charles River Study (copies provided to all members of Commission)
6. Presentation for Cultural Arts Program this summer by Gary Good, Newton North High School Music Department for "Fiddler on the Roof" musical.

In response to questions about this tentative program, details of which were presented in a written proposal last month, Mr. Good described the possibilities of involving the age group of 13 to 23 - or Jr. High, Senior High and some college level students, a group he felt, probably were not generally in-

involved in summer playground activities.

Many people would be involved beside the estimated 60 in the cast. A crew of about 50 plus 40 or more in the orchestra. (These people would cover sets, costumes, stage hands, grips etc.) Expenses for full production he estimated would be around \$3600. (Expenses would cover royalties and rentals, plus sets and costumes.)

Mr. Penney pointed out that monies from ticket sales would have to be turned in to the "General fund" and could not be used to offset costs of production.

\$10,000.00 has been set aside for cultural arts programs for this summer but Mrs. Arthur questioned the cost of spending \$3500. - an average of about \$4.00 per week for each young person involved. (4 nights for 6 weeks). Nevertheless, Mr. Ferguson motioned that \$3600. be approved by the Commission, for the production of "Fiddler on the Roof" by the Recreation Department theatre, under the direction of Mr. Good & Mr. Smith for students of Newton Junior High, Senior High and college students, seconded by Mr. Penney. Vote carried with 4 in favor and two opposing (Mrs. Arthur and Mr. Rice).

7. Cabot PTA representative, Peter Witt, presenting the final proposal for the inovational playground suggested for Cabot playground with a "mock-up" model prepared to show area.

*Cabot Inovational P. 9*

The question immediately arose as to the possibility of a batted ball from the "hitting" area, descending onto this playground area. Mr. Rice moved that this item be tabled until the Recreation Commission can actually go and look at this area at Cabot, and it was so voted.

Mr. Witt requested that this inspection be done soon, as arrangements to begin construction have been made by the PTA for the first part of May. It was suggested that a vote be taken at the site at the time of inspection.

8. Proposed Inovational playground planned for Hyde School area: As in all the previously proposed plans of this type, Terry D'Eugenio, architect, has planned the final draft. Again in this area, the question of danger of play equipment being within the range of a batted ball, came up. PTA had approved the site and was anxious to go ahead.

*Hyde P. 11*

At least two concerned parents were present who felt that while the basic concept was excellent, that serious concern needed to be expressed, in order to safeguard children of the area.

Mr. Rice moved to have this item tabled until the Recreation Commission could inspect the area and make a recommendation as to the suitability of the site. It was so voted.

9. Auburndale - par-cour course - Dr. Buxbaum & Terry D'Eugenio, architect: Dr. Buxbaum reviews his concept of this Swiss originated, health, or exercise course being considered for Newton, which he feels can be the finest preventive of cardi-vascular disease. Community oriented, it would present two types of aereobic exercise for beginners and more advanced health enthusiast. Consisting of 20 stations, each station with painted sign instructions; the first eight as warmup - and then on to the more difficult sections.

Mr. D'Eugenio and Dr. Buxbaum felt that the actual cost would be minimal - most construction done with telephone poles and steel rods. Graphics would be the most expensive item of all, but vital to the program. A quick estimate of between \$1500.00 and \$2000.00 was made by Dr. Buxbaum for the graphics.

Volunteer help, he felt, could be recruited to set up the course.

Commissioner Penney explained that it was very likely that a special appropriation would be needed. Commission members suggested that Dr. Buxbaum and Mr. D'Ugenio come up with an exact cost for gravel, poles, signs etc. Commission voted to table this item and await further information.

10. Review of Little League field maintenance with Frank Shea, Redrecreation Foreman and the representatives of the five Little Leagues: All Little Leagues, were, of course, anxious to have each field they used, in top condition for their games. Foreman Frank Shea pointed out to them that the last snow storm, coupled with the frost in the ground, had prevented his crews from working on fields any earlier and now the fields were being played on and the crews can't work on them now either. Frank also pointed out that some of these fields were never built for ball fields. Each ball field takes from 4 to 5 hours to maintain and since he has only 13 men to cover 70 ballfields, it is impossible to keep them all in top condition.

Jerry Wise of the South Little League maintained that if the Recreation Department could keep the grass cut, line the fields weekly and provide some fill in holes that appear, he'd be satisfied.

Frank Shea assured them all, that as usual, he would make every effort to maintain fields to the very best of his ability under the circumstances.

11. Legislation proposed for ban on public drinking: copies of this were distributed to Commission members. Chief Quinn of the Newton Police introduced this ordinance to his Honor, the Mayor, in February 1974. Commissioner Penney said that he had approved this and he felt that the Board of Aldermen would appreciate an indication of support from the Recreation Commission.

Nelson Baker moved that the Recreation Commission communicate to his Honor the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen and Chief Quinn, their approval and support of this proposed legislation and it was so voted.

12. Mass. Recreation & Park Society - Board Member Branch Annual Meeting: May 18th. Commissioner Penney distributed information on the work shops to be held at the Framingham State College, all day on Saturday, May 18th - all Commission members are invited.

13. Request from Newton Catholic to play Thanksgiving game at the Albemarle Playground: On Mr. Burke's motion, it was so voted unanimously to allow them to play this game at Albemarle field. No charge can be made for admission but donations can be accepted.

14. Spring Fest: The City of Newton will present this gala affair on May 19th, a Sunday, where a flea market, art exhibits, foods, crafts etc. will be displayed on the City Hall Mall. Recreation Department will have 3 booths. One on arts, one on crafts and a senior citizen display - and will aid the children's game program. Gail Foreman will be in charge of this as a representative of Recreation Department and Cultural Arts.

15. Football Clinic: Dr. Levine, Chairman of the Commission, mentioned the fact that he believes he will be able to arrange a football clinic with Bart Starr, well known football athlete, as a leader. More detail will be available shortly and, with the cooperation of the Pop Warner groups, an interesting program can be developed.

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1st  
Spring  
fest

16. Mr. Burke mentioned the need for an executive secretary for the Recreation Commission. Mr. Burke said that Nelson Baker was the candidate for this position recommended by the Mayor. Mr. Baker indicated that he would be willing to accept the position.

17. Dr. Levine, Chairman of the Commission has called an Executive session of the Commission for May 9th at 7:30 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Commission will be at 7:30 P.M. on May 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

May 20, 1974 Meeting

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-chairman Francis V. Rice, Messers Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Nelson Baker, Mrs. Lynne Arthur & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary (Mr. Russell Halloran was also able to attend a portion of this meeting at the invitation of Dr. Burton D. Levine, Chairman)

15 guests attended this meeting.

1. Minutes of April meeting, with the addition of Paul Burke's name added to attendance and the clarification of the wording of the motion stating that the Recreation Commission voted in favor of the production of "Fiddler on the Roof", were accepted.
2. Commissioner Penney's report of recreation activities, maintenance and meetings attended by him, were presented to the members. The Commission requested that in the future, the reports of activities be included in the pre-meeting mailing a week prior to the regular meetings.
3. Oak Hill Park Improvement Association Mr. Buffington & Mr. Paisner representing the association, presented to the Commission a tentative proposal for a self-liquidating "indoor-outdoor" tennis facility to be eventually operated by the City. At present, they are asking only for moral support, and the consideration of the possibility of some city donated land.

Achievement of this goal will entail considerable research as to how it would be possible to combine a public and private group in a project of this type

Mr. Ferguson motioned that the Recreation Commission go on record as favoring a study by the Oak Hill Improvement Association, to carry on research and collate information on a tennis facility - and to work with Mr. Penney in completing this information which will then be presented to the Commission. Unanimously in favor.

4. Report on Framingham Board Members Workshops. Mrs. Arthur attended and found these workshops particularly stimulating and informative. One interest to her was on vandalism, some of its possible causes and some inovational solutions. Another on the disposal of the constant problem of "trash" and an idea on "work repayment" were also ideas she found challenging.
5. SPRING FEST: During the past weekend, the event was held on the grounds of City Hall. The Recreation Department participated through the services of Gail Forman of the department, who has been working in cooperation with the new Cultural Arts Commission. A fine display on quilt making, drawing and Gail herself - who has an extensive background in drama crafts, directed a children's play. Mrs. Toher, senior citizen coordinator, provided ~~not only~~ an excellent display of senior citizen crafts by active demonstrations by senior citizens throughout the day. Bob Worden also provided leadership for children's games. The general public participated in this successful day under fine weather conditions.

6. Burr School inovational playground proposal was presented by Terry D'Uganios at the request of Burr PTA. Mr. Rice moved to accept this plan so that they can go ahead at Burr. Voted unanimously.

7. "Parcour" was reviewed by Dr. Buxbaum briefly. He also presented a written proposal which had been requested by the Recreation Commission, including the cost figures of \$1,599.00. Moved by Mr. Rice, to approve plan as written subject to approval of funds and so voted.

Mr. Ferguson moved that Mr. Penney be given the authority to request transfer of funds, from Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Voted unanimously. 111

8. Petition for play area at Newton North High School presented to Mr. Penney and the Commission. Mrs. Phillips of Hull street area, informed the Commission that there are presently approximately 140 children in the area, eager to have a supervised play area near home.

Mr. Penney explained to the Commission, that 3 or 4 years ago, this playground was regularly staffed but that gradually it received very little use and poor attendance so was phased out. Evidently more young families are once again in this area. He felt that a craft area with table & chairs and a leader could certainly be arranged for this area but did not advocate any major construction there. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested that this be tried. Mrs. Phillips thought that the additional supervision of children in the area during the period of construction would certainly be helpful. Mr. Penney agreed. Mr. Fitzpatrick moved to encourage Commissioner Penney into opening NNHS play area - with supervision and it was so voted.

9. Cabot Park Group led by Mrs. Karagan: This group has been trying to to solve problems of the park area and neighborhood. They have protested the many problems that they feel exist in the area, mainly caused by the teen agers who "hang out and drink there". They have also met with the Police Chief and Charles Coyle of the Youth Commission and Mr. Penney. A suggestion put forth by Commissioner Penney was for the group to form a Neighborhood Committee, similar to the PTA in the Schools, who would be willing to help playground leaders (similar to the one successfully organized at the Hyde School).

Commissioner Penney explained to them that there are funds of \$15,000.00 for a major playground equipment installation, and that he hopes to have the aid of the neighborhood in choosing this.

Re the problem of drinking on the playground. According to the City Solicitor, the recreation Commission cannot ban alcohol on playgrounds. Mr. Penney called to their attention proposed legislation presented by Police Chief Quinn recently to the Board of Aldermen. Recreation Commission is on record in favor. Neighbor urged to contact alderment to approve.

They also requested additional barrels for trash, near the school.

10. Tennis: Several people attended this meeting, several in protest to what they said were "too many signs - too many rules", etc. Mr. Harry Harrison, rankin N.E. tennis player in N.E. Lawn Tennis said that due to rules preventing out-of-city residents playing on Newton courts, he finds it impossible to play with a comparative tennis player - equal to his abilities. He feels that the rules should be more flexible and that it is "irrational to have these black & white rules". Mrs. Arthur thought that Recreation could make an exception in Mr. Harrison's case and possibly make a swap of tennis instruction. The suggestion of a possible "exhibition" once a week was also made.

One lady also protested the ruling that prevents a child under 10 from playing on the clay courts. Since the purpose of buying a family permit was for the members to be able to play together, she felt this was unfair. Another found the court change on the hour impractical.

The Commission listened but took no actions since there were reasons for the

LYAN  
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rules as they stand.

11. Summer use of MNHS pool: Mr. Fitzpatrick mentioned that in his conversations with the Mayor, his honor had objected to the pool being open during the summer. Mr. Ferguson feels quite differently, his theory being that a fine facility of this type should be used to its full capacity - year around. If, it is found that the use during the summer has a poor response, at least it has been tried for a full year. Mr. Penney's plans were for adult lessons, swim team practice, (and meets) free swim time late evening, no weekends. It was generally agreed to try this for the year if funds for operation were available.

At this time the Commission went into an Executive session.

Next Meeting June 17th.

Adjourned at 10:35 P.M.

Respectfull submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

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June 17, 1974

Present: Commissioner John B. Penney, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis Rice, Messers. Paul Burke, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Lynne Arthur and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. Mr. Halloran was also present. Several guests were also present, representing tennis, women's softball league, Little League, school PTA's and the newspapers.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine at 7:45 P.M.

Minutes of May meeting were accepted as circulated.

1. Consideration of tennis rules which prohibit students under 16 from using tennis courts after 5:00 P.M. A petition received by Commissioner Penney objecting to this regulation, in this particular petition mentioning Ward School. Two young ladies were also present who spoke out in protest of this ruling throughout the City. Julie Rosen felt that students were willing to abide by a "fair and good law", but they felt this rule was discriminatory. She questioned why, in the middle of the game, could adults ask them to leave?

After discussion, Mr. Ferguson moved that the rule prohibiting under 16 year old students from playing after 5 P.M. on Newton tennis courts be rescinded - except at Newton Centre, Burr and NSHS night lighted courts. It was so voted unanimously and included the directive to remove the signs prohibiting play. (Mrs. Arthur was not present at this time).

7:45

2. Request from Harvey Harrison to consider changes on tennis rules to allow for out of City guests to play on courts. Mr. Harrison had conducted a poll of tennis players to ascertain if they would be interested in having guests for one hour per week of the three hours presently allocated to them. His poll, he felt, indicated that they did.

Mr. Burke questioned the basic logic of this request since this would mean that 30% of the tennis players would be non-Newton residents while still not satisfying all Newton residents. Since the courts can only be monitored, a portion of the tennis playing time, this problem of enforcement, of whatever rules are decided upon, is a major concern.

Questions were raised as to how to distinguish a guest who was a Newton resident - and a guest who was a non-resident. Mr. Rice moved to table the item until the next meeting. Voted 2 opposed, 3 in favor. It will be held for the July meeting.

Mr. Harrison questioned, out of what he said was his deep concern, as to why the Commission made this ruling to ban non-residents. Dr. Levine, responded that last year, due to so many "out of City" players at NSHS, he and the Mayor had become aware of the abuse of this privilege and the Commission acted upon the recommendation, had voted to discontinue this practice. Dr. Levine suggests a poll of all tennis players.

3. Request for a special tennis program to be conducted by Harvey Harrison; granting of a permit for this program was requested of the Commission by Mrs. Arthur.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the permit be allowed for Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 on four courts (not the night-lighted courts) at Newton South High School, to be for Newton residents only and in a series of five sessions, beginning June 18th - and that Recreation shall furnish 4 dozen

tennis balls for this program. It was so voted.

Mr. Burke noted that the Recreation Commission owes Mr. Harrison a debt of thanks.

4. A. Representatives from Ward School and Terry D'Eugenio, Architect, requesting consideration of a proposal for an "inovational" playground at the school: Mrs. Nelson Baker, representing the Ward PTA, expressed the wishes of the group. This will again, be a full community project with parents, school and children joining in to make this playground a reality. A complete mock-up of the design was shown the Commission.

Mr. Burke moved that Recreation Commission allow Terry D'Eugenio and the Ward School group to go ahead with plans to use land which they indicated was available. Mr. Nelson Baker, Commission members will also be on the Committee and working on the project.

B. Request for inovational playground at Memorial was also presented. An area at Memorial, approved by their "parent committee", adjacent to present play area and compatible for supervision seemed agreeable to all, Mr. Ferguson moved that design and location of inovational playground be authorized by Recreation Commission, subject to the approval of the Ward Representative, Dr. Levine (who will inspect it tomorrow night - Tuesday, June 18th).

Mr. Ferguson commended Terry D'Eugenio on his various presentations of the many inovational playgrounds throuout Newton, noting how heas has gone through the proper channels; how well they presented and well handled, working cooperatively with various PTA's. At this count over the past 2 years, there are now about eleven (11) inovational playgrounds in Newton, all planned by Mr. D'Eugenio, in cooperation with Recreation Commission and various parents and schools.

5. Summer programs, personnel and art programs: Commissioner Penney reported that summer programs are all ready to open with Crystal Lake and Gath Pool opened for general swim, June 8th and lessons to begin on the 26th of June, at the close of school. Sailing program is underway and playgrounds opening July 1st. Additionally, Gail forman will be supervising many additional art and music programs this summer with concerts, movies, art classes in various medias and a musical production of "Fiddler on the Roof".

Youth Center programs has requested aproval of funding by Recreation for their summer program. They will be operating drop in centers, etc. Mr. Burke moved that Recreation Commission approve contract for the beginning of July with the Youth Centers and it was so voted.

6. Request by Mrs. Arthur for the Commission to consider that the Recreation Commission meeting be held on other than Monday evenings, which conflicts with School Committee and Aldermanic meetings and that the place of meeting be changed to City Hall.

Dr. Levine noted that the entire Recreation Department will be moved to City Hall as soon as the re-assessment is completed but that, at present, space is ~~scarce~~ <sup>scarce</sup> at City Hall.

Mrs. Arthur moved that Recreation Commission meetings be held at City Hall until such time as the department was moved to City Hall - and- on other nights then Aldermanic or School Committee meetings. Only 1 person voted in favor and the motion was denied.

Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation Commission meeting evening be changed, in ~~order not to conflict with Aldermanic or School~~

order not to conflict with Aldermanic or School Committee meetings. (Discussion disclosed that Monday seemed to be the only evening most members were available). It was voted to change the meetings to the second Monday of the month, (next meeting July 8th at 70 Crescent Street).

7. Representatives from Women's Twilight League- various teams represented. Marilyn Sicarella spoke for the group generally. They protested that they had played half of a season on poor fields and felt that the men should give way - also Little League. Felt that fields were not maintained as should be and want equal maintenance with men's league. Mr. LeConti from Little League responded to their complaint of inequality by saying that he felt the children came before any adult teams - men or women.

Commissioner Penney pointed out to them that once Little League was finished at the end of June, they would have the opportunity to play on those fields - especially Lyons. Again, it was pointed out to them that maintenance personnel is limited and each field cannot be groomed as desired. Every effort is made to provide equal care and maintenance for all teams and leagues - male and female.

8. Request from Special Education PTA to Recreation Department to supply taxi transportation for a hockey program at Fessenden School on Saturday afternoons for retarded children. Funding would cost an estimated amount of \$1,200.00, and is not provided for in the 1975 fiscal budget.

Mr. Rice suggested that the mini-bus be used for this program instead of taxis. Commissioner Penney said that it has always been the practice to provide a taxi for these children in a controlled situation.

The only alternative is to request funding from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Mr. Ferguson moved that Recreation request funding of \$1,200.00 from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen - and - that "recreation explore the possibility of "line" transfer within the budget of Recreation also. Voted unanimously.

9. Representative from baseball team, the Oak Hill Cubs: International League has a team fee of \$60.00 which they have experienced difficulty in raising. They presently have only \$15.00 toward the total. The young man requested some direction as to how they could go about raising the rest. Mrs. Arthur suggested that a really good money maker would be a car wash - and she'd be their first customer!

10. Cost of tickets for "Fiddler on the Roof". Suggestions were solicited from those present, Mrs. Phillips of the Times suggested that \$1.00 for student tickets and \$2.00 for adults seemed an amount acceptable to most. Mr. Burke moved that \$1.00 for 16 and under and \$2.00 for adults be set for ticket charges for the production of "Fiddler on the Roof", it was so voted.

11. Tennis Poll: the question again arose as to how best to get the feeling of Newton residents regarding the non-resident guest on Newton reserve courts. Explored was the possibility of sending out postcards to the approximate 1000 Newton tennis permit holders and have them returned to Recreation with their opinions.

Possible questions suggested were: Would you approve of a guest permit, in which case you would lose one hour of your present three hours allocated reserved time? Would you be in favor of a Newton tennis permit holder being able to bring a non-resident guest at \$2.00 for one hour per week, forfeiting one hour of your present court time?

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Mr. Ferguson moved to prepare a questionnaire to all present permit holders of Newton tennis permits asking the question that if an outsider was to be allowed to play as a guest of a tennis player, would that tennis player be agreeable to losing one hour of his 3 present reserved playing times per week, and the guests be charged \$2.00 per hour. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

July 8, 1974 Meeting

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis Rice, Messers. Paul J. Burke, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Lynne Arthur and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. Many guests were also present representing Little League, Tennis, Newspapers and neighborhood areas.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine at 7:50 P.M.

Minutes of June meeting accepted as read, with the correction of omission of Mrs. Arthur's name as voting opposed to ticket cost for "Fiddler on the Roof".

1. Question as to why an agenda item requested by Mrs. Arthur was not included on the printed agenda? This occurred due to a misunderstanding of the item. Mr. Burke assured her that any item could be added to the agenda by a member of the Commission at the time of the meeting under "new Business".

2. Monthly reports of activities were provided to each member. At this time, Commissioner Halloran reported that he had attended the pre-season orientation program for the summer leaders. He reported that all playground and swim facilities had opened, and due to the intense heat, all areas were experiencing heavy use. He also reported that there were many instances of vandalism over the 4th holiday.

Commissioner Halloran told the Commission that, for their continued information, he would bring in various recreation personnel from time to time, during the various seasons to describe programs, etc. At this time, he presented Mrs. Gail Forman, coordinator of the summer Cultural Arts Program.

Cultural Arts has been having a full program this summer. This has included Square Dancing, Puppet Shows, Jazz Concerts and Movies. These programs have been arranged throughout the City so that all citizens could enjoy them in their immediate neighborhoods. There is no charge for the programs and Mrs. Forman plans to have 2 or 3 events during each week. Gail said she felt that part of the success of this program was due to the fact that more people seemed to be staying in Newton this year - possibly due to energy crisis. She also reported that this week there will be a special drama program beginning - also, three craft classes for adults, Quilting, Needlepoint and Printing.

Mrs. Arthur mentioned that NNHS playground wanted contact with the Cultural Arts program. Mr. Ferguson, as representative of the Commission in that area, voiced the query as to why they didn't contact him? It was also suggested that they contact Esther Toher for arts and crafts for the playground.

Dr. Levine, on behalf of the Commission, commended Mrs. Forman on her Cultural Arts program and her efforts to make this a success.

3. Report on adult tennis lessons conducted by Harvey Harrison at Newton South High School Courts. Mr. Harrison reported that 32 people took advantage of these lessons. He divided the group into 2 groups, thereby making it possible to not only give lessons to an advanced tennis group, but also to a slightly less advanced group. Five lessons were held, and the general feeling, he said was that all wanted more lessons. Unfortunately, he will not have the time to conduct a series, but would be willing to come to one lesson as an "advisor". Mrs. Arthur said that

Tennis Survey made 118

the lessons by Mr. Harrison were superb and incredibly instructive. She feels the Commission owes him a vote of thanks.

4. Tennis survey: A tennis survey conducted at the reserved courts at Newton Centre, Burr and NSHS was judged inadequate by Mr. Ferguson. He feels that all tennis permit holders should be contacted.

(The question of a tennis survey conducted by letter and return post card was considered at the June meeting. The cost would be approximately \$180.00 for 1,000 permit holders). Mr. Ferguson felt strongly that the department should go ahead with this type of poll.

Mr. Baker motioned to reopen the item which was tabled in June.

Discussion provided many different opinions. Mr. Wittanberg, a Newton Centre tennis player, said that according to statistics, 25% response in a random sampling of this type is a valid response and can be considered representative of the total. Mr. Harrison agreed that the response from tennis players had been good, also. However, Mr. Ferguson still maintained that the will of the Commission, according to his motion and vote of the Commission, had not been fulfilled.

Mr. Baker motioned that the 1974 tennis rules be amended to allow a Newton tennis permit holder, once a week, to have a non-resident guest for 1 hour at a fee of \$2.00. In return, the Newton permit holder will lose one hour of his allowable 3 hours per week time. 3 in favor, 3 opposed. Dr. Levine broke the tie by voting as opposed and the motion was defeated. Mr. Fitzpatrick then moved to carry out the will of the Commission at the June meeting - so voted unanimously.

Mr. Ferguson said at this time, he is not opposed to non-residents, but does want the opinion of all permit holders.

5. Tennis rules for permit holders under 16. Mrs. Arthur moved that a permit holder, of any age, be give equal rights on any courts. Voted unanimously,

Another day of Tennis by C. Arthur

6. Discussion concerning the "hut" at Newton Centre, by Mrs. Nancy Ruggiero. Mrs. Ruggiero, out of concern and interest in organized sports for girls, came to the meeting to try and determine exactly what the policy for admittance was at the Newton Centre fieldhouse known as the "hut". She stated that the front door always appeared to be locked, one had to knock and was then let in. Adults were not welcomed, and no information seemed to be available as to what organized sports were available - particularly for girls. It appeared that boys seemed to be favored.

Commissioner Halloran said that he would meet with the Newton Centre Supervisor and the playground leader to investigate.

Mrs. Arthur also suggested that Commissioner Halloran investigate activities between midnight and morning which had been called to her attention by confidential sources.

7. Consideration of policy procedure on permits and activities where permits are necessary, i.e. - swimming, etc. Commissioner Halloran asked the Commission for their direction in granting permits, at no charge, to groups or special cases.

Mr. Burke moved to leave to the discretion of the Commissioner, all

similar requests - so voted unanimously.

8. Report on Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen joint meeting with Recreation Commission on June 27th. This meeting originally set for June 25th by Chairman of the Planning Committee Jackson, was changed on short notice to the 27th. While Commission members were contacted by telephone about this change, many had previous commitments and of the group, one who had not thought he'd be available and one that the secretary had been unable to contact, but who was notified by Alderman Schur, came to the meeting.

Alderman Jackson and his committee, instead of postponing the meeting, voted to hold it in spite of only 2 new members of Recreation Commission being present. The Recreation Commission received sharp criticism from the newspapers as a result of this meeting. The Chairman and the Commission as a group, was very upset, since they felt unjust criticism was leveled at them. Dr. Levine proposed to respond to the City Planning Committee and asked for the direction of the group.

Mr. Baker moved to allow the Chairman of the Recreation Commission, Dr. Burton Levine, to draft a letter to Alderman David Jackson of the City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen, to clarify the position of the Recreation Commission in not attending. So voted unanimously.

9. New Business: A. Mr. Burke again mentioned the need for a tape recorder for Commission meetings. Since the money is now in the budget, the purchase can be made. B. Mr. Burke requested that Commissioner Halloran obtain a legal ruling from the City Solicitor on the two following items:

1. Why playground leaders can no longer drive children in their own cars to various playground events?
2. Legal ruling on duties, obligations, powers of the Recreation Commission and the Commissioner - sort of a "job title" needed. Note: The comment was made that Terry Morris, Alderman, is currently studying this as to duties, etc., and there may be a City ordinance change proposed shortly to the Board of Aldermen.

C. Special Meeting at City Hall - a public hearing - on Capital Improvement programs of Recreation Department.

Mr. Burke suggested that Chairman and Commissioner work out details. Some guidelines to media should be set up with long range forecast; funds which will be available; request for input of ideas, etc. This should be arranged prior to August 1st City Planning Committee meeting with the Mayor on Capital Improvements.

If City Hall - such as Aldermanic Chambers or suitable substitutes are not available, investigate some other area where a large group could assemble. Mr. Burke also suggested a paid advertisement to alert citizens to this hearing. Commissioner anticipates approximately 100 attending.

D. Mr. James Murphy, Senior Recreation Supervisor, of the department has advised the Commission by letter, that he is taking a leave of absence due to medical reasons.

E. Mr. Ferguson admonished the Commission that when they leave the meetings, they should not criticize or discuss the Commission or Commissioner. He felt the loyalty demands unity and all members should show respect for both

Commission and Commissioner.

Motion by Mr. Rice to adjourn - opposed by Mrs. Arthur, but overruled by Chairman Levine. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 P.M.

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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HEARING HELD AT CITY HALL

BY: Newton Recreation Commission

ON: Capital Improvements

DATE: July 24, 1974

Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, opened the hearing, held in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall at 7:45 P.M. with a brief statement of introduction stating the purpose of the meeting to the Newton citizens present as an exchange of ideas from the citizenry to the Commission as to future plans for Recreation in the field of Capital Improvements.

Ideas expressed were:

That Recreation consider long-range planning for natural area for passive recreation suitable for senior citizens, improvement of swimming area at Crystal Lake and the suggestion that more equipment be purchased for the children of the 5 year old level.

That more use be made of the sports facilities at both high schools.

That small children and older people should have more recreation on the North side of the City - suggest "pocket parks."

That the City consider the purchase of the nearly bankrupt skating facility known as the Charles River Skating Rink since natural ice in the City depends upon weather, and schedules for programs cannot be maintained.

That improvements be considered for Lyohs Field and parking area be provided.

That the so-called "dumpsite" in West Newton - Auburndale continue to be supported as a recreation site and the \$10,000.00 originally earmarked for this area remain available.

That the \$40,000.00 considered for Newton Highlands be spent for tennis and a portion thereof to be used for purchase of equipment for small children and some benches for the park.

That lighting again be requested (this was withdrawn due to energy crisis), for Albemarle baseball and football, Newton Twilight Leagues.

That Recreation make every effort to acquire as much open space available within the city, at this time, as possible, on the premise that open space land is gradually disappearing and shortly will not be available. (a very detailed report of the City, its "Open Space", both public and privately owned, plus a carefully charted map was shown to the group for their interest by Harold Mahon of Auburndale. While he is a member of the Conservators, he spoke, in this particular case, he said, as a private citizen. He urged the Commission to review the budget and do their utmost to acquire any open-space land now available.)

(In an aside by Mr. Burke and Mr. Ferguson, it was brought out that while recreation is always interested in acquiring land, it must also consider that areas presently occupied. Many of these areas presently need improvement and upgrading, and that first priority must be maintenance and improvement of current facilities.)

That there is currently 7 acres of land in the Newton Chestnut Hill area in the vicinity of the so-called Webster Land, which is being contemplated for development - possible high-rise buildings. It was urged that Recreation attempt to acquire this choice natural land, generally in a wild state with brooks, rocks, trees and small wild animals, much the same, it was said, as in Colonial Days.

That the Hawthorn Park area, plus Stearns and Allison Park and the Edwin O. Childs building in Nonantum, as was recommended in a citizens study and report for improvements from 1972 to 1977 again to be brought forth - such as: gym floor (Mr. Burke noted that this had already been done), a new wing, lights for Pop Warner Football teams, lights for tennis, should be tennis courts at Stearns, possibility of acquiring more land at Allison although they would rather see development of present facility. It was also suggested that lights at Albemarle be installed for baseball and football.

A 5 minute recess was held at this time.

That according to statistics, population of children in Newton, of play ground age, had declined, and that based upon these figures, Recreation should not "snatch land just because it's there". Playgrounds that are poorly attended such as Warren Jr. High, Franklin and Wallington, she claims, should be discontinued as they are not warranted. Rather than thinking about playgrounds for children, should be thinking about adults and playgrounds for them.

(Mr. Burke said that just because a person drove by a playground and didn't see anyone there, it was not a criteria of attendance. Many of the playground programs are held in a variety of areas and they could be at any one of these - or - away on a playground trip. Ms. Halloran also noted that there are many factors to be considered - while some schools may close - nothing as yet has been decided and would be depend nt upon School Department action. Total consideration could not be made until these points had been cleared.)

That Winchester Street area could be developed. A former study recommended pool, tennis, boating and fishing facilities, plus natural land space. Or - an alternative of a 9 hole golf course, just for children, to be operated by the Recreation Department. A lighting suggestion for Albemarle, where 2 light poles might be installed that swivel and provide lights on both sides - light-pool and also baseball field. Also, the suggestion that a bubble again be considered for winter use at the Gath Pool. Also, additional consideration for a handi-capped swim program during the winter at the NNHS pool.

(It was explained that Mayor Mann had not wanted to go forth with the idea of covering Gath Pool last year with the opening of the Newton North High School Pool facility. He felt that a new decision should be made another year. If a real need appears to exist for 2 winter swim facilities, it can again be considered.)

That Hunnewell Hill needs further development, 150 children in the area now, poor access to area, needs grading also. Sixteen (16) months ago a plan for development of this area was presented to former Commissioner and was child oriented. Since then, the area has been changed somewhat and residents are now looking for more adult recreation - such as tennis, etc. They suggest original plan now be re-thought. One suggestion was for a lighted baseball field on this site.

At this time, Dr. Levine closed the meeting with the following suggestion - that Recreation Commission hold similar meetings four times a year to get public input as to Recreation programs of facilities.

This meeting was well publicised, but Mrs. Arthur expressed disappointment that not more people attended. It was expected that many more people would conceivably be interested. Only about 40 people were in attendance, including newspaper coverage.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Marjorie Lesbiral  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

August 12, 1974

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Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis Rice, Messers. Howard Ferguson, Paul Burke, Frank Fitzpatrick, Nelson Baker and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting held at Newton City Hall, Room 209. Called to order by Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine at 7:30 pm. Seven (7) visitors present, including press representatives.

1. Minutes of July Recreation Commission meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of monthly Recreation activities and maintenance distributed to members. Commissioner Halloran spoke enthusiastically about the on-going summer programs. Hot, humid weather, he says, have been uncondusive for regular playground activities, but great for swim areas. Recreation programs have been fast-paced and productive - with lots of trips and special activities extended to all ages.
3. Consideration of alcoholic beverage consumption on playgrounds: The Commission gave serious consideration to this question. Commissioner Halloran called attention to the fact that Police Chief Quinn was present at the Aldermanic meeting this evening. They are studying this problem and the impact upon this City. Mr. Halloran feels strongly that drinking is tied to the ever increasing amount of vandalism. Mr. Burke endorses his stand and noted that he has been aware of drinking on the playground starting around 7pm, and today, he observed younger children drinking as early as 4pm.

On April 22nd, the Commission went on record as supporting anti-drinking on the playground ordinance proposed by Chief Quinn. It was felt that additional support should be given to the Chief again, who was before the Alderment this evening.

Paul Burke moved that the Recreation Commission go on record endorsing the proposed ordinance which limits the consumption of all alcoholic beverages from all playgrounds, except as a permit is issued by the Recreation Department or Police Department. Unanimously voted infavor.

4. Possibility of moving Recreation Commission meetings to another site, i.e., City Hall, or one of the schools. Prior research disclosed that a suitable location at City Hall may be reserved by the Commission for their meetings. This location would provide more visitor space and also be more accessible for exchange of ideas between Aldermen and the Commission. (Send letter to Aldermen stating that "in order to be more accessible, Commission will, from now on, meet at City Hall".)

5. Possible relocation of Supervisor's offices to another space. Commissioner Halloran advanced the suggestion, that for more convenience and efficiency, the supervisors be relocated into the larger of the two upstairs rooms, at the department offices. The conference table could be moved into the smaller office, to be used for staff meetings, etc. The only cost would be the changes for the telephone lines.

The Commission felt that Commissioner Halloran should handle this administratively and his solution to the overcrowded condition at present, was a good one.

Report on "Fiddler on the Roof" Production. Near capacity audiences attended THE PERFORMANCES IN SPITE OF TERRIFIC HEAT and a broken air-conditioning system. Commissioner Halloran commented that it was his impression that much time and hard work had gone into this well presented and well planned musical under Recreation sponsorship. Approximately 160 students from jr-sr high, high school and college, many coming after work, rehearsed and put on this musical play. Dr. Levine, Chairman of the Commission, attended the final performance, presenting to the stars and cast, a telegram and bouquet from the Recreation Commission.

A financial report was presented to the Commission.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the Recreation Commission send a letter to Mr. Good and Mr. Smith, co-producers at the high school, expressing appreciation for the fine performance of "Fiddler on the Roof", also to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen.

7. Report on Youth Commission meeting. Nelson Baker reported that he had been invited to attend a very informal meeting held at Judy Alpert's home. The main concern of the meeting had been resources and space. While Recreation does some funding through the Community Centre and Mr. Bibbo, input from both sides is necessary.

Mr. Burke, who is thoroughly familiar with Community Centre programs, asked about the Drop-in Center. It seems that while they start off the season with many attending, they do not have a sustaining demand.

Mr. Halloran, who has been appointed a member of the Youth Commission, has been in contact with both Mr. Bibbo and Mr. Cohen and will be working closely with their needs in the immediate future.

8. Results of Tennis Survey conducted this month. Commissioner Halloran reported that 1,502 tennis survey cards had been mailed to tennis permit holders this month. 790 people responded by return mail. Of these replies, 420 indicated that they did not wish to change the tennis rules to allow non-resident guests to play on Newton courts. Under the circumstances, no action was necessary.

9. Ken Hagerstrom, representing Newton Youth Hockey Association. In a very interesting presentation, Mr. Hagerstrom gave facts and figures of the past year and projected figures for the upcoming year. They anticipate about 620 boys and girls in the program this year. They also plan a shorter skating season, probably from November to the end of March. Instead of skating mainly at the Newton Skating Rink this year, due to the demand from the ice facility for a longer ice-time contract, than they are prepared to give, they will generally skate at MDC rinks. They hope to receive the \$5,500.00 earmarked in Recreation budget to defray ice costs.

Commissioner Halloran said the Mayor has arranged an appointment with Commissioner Sears of the MDC, very shortly in his City Hall suite, and he expected to be present. He will find out at that time, the extent that Newton can depend upon the MDC for ice time.

One problem that the Commission felt was a valid issue, is the lack of scholarships in the Youth Hockey program for boys who may wish to be involved, but are unable to do so due to the membership cost (presently \$75.00).

Ken Hagerstrom said that while this was true last year, none had been requested. He also asked how they could go about in determining a need.

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It was suggested that the Newton Youth Hockey Association make a survey of the Newton Rotary, Kiwanis and other Newton organizations who might be willing to provide scholarships to boys interested in this skating program. Ken indicated he would be glad to do this. He also mentioned that this year they plan to have an active "equipment swap shop", so that boys will have an opportunity to trade outgrown equipment.

10. Request by Commissioner for recommendation from the Commission as regards to the possibility of waiving the charge for the night lighting for a charity game to be held at Albemarle Playground on August 29th. Actually, THERE ARE TWO (2) games to be considered at this time, the August 29th game for the Leukemia Fund and a Police Benefit game on September 10th. The Commission suggested that he handle this administratively as he saw fit.

11. Sailing on Crystal Lake for Non-abutters. Mr. Burke had been approached by a person owning a boat, but not an abutter. It has been the policy of the Commission to only grant special permission if a citizen owned a home directly on the lake.

While this lake is 31 acres in size, it lacks proper landing area, any anchorage and no parking. The Commission agreed that if it were to be opened for boating, with 100,00 population, the lake would be unsuitable for both swimming and boating. It was agreed that this proposal was out of the question.

12. Consideration of fee permit and fee schedule for use of NNHS pool and facility in upcoming season. Supervisor Fran Towle was present to clarify any points of the proposal made by Carol Stapleton. Briefly, it would consist of a picture taken of a proposed permit holder after proper identification had been verified, laminated on the spot, costing the applicant \$2.00. It would be available immediately and at no charge to recreation.

The only negative reaction seemed to be the fact that a family with several children would have a fairly large charge for the group.

They also considered the question as to whether an additional fee charge for the use of the facilities should be charged.

Mr. Ferguson moved that picture cards be made for use at NNHS complex for October through May use at no additional fee. Unanimously passed. Note: Mr. Ferguson made it clear that it was to be left to the discrimination of Recreation Commissioner, to ascertain the need for large families - or - late arrivals in the city. This, to be worked out with the photographer. It was also suggested that a temporary permit, issued at the Recreation Department, should be hand carried until a replacement is available, for lost or stolen cards.

Mr. Halloran noted that Jim Murphy, Senior Recreation Supervisor, who had notified the Commission at its last meeting, that he would be on a leave of absence due to illness, had returned and seemed very fit.

The Commission agreed to continue its meetings at City Hall. They will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month with the exception of October meeting. Due to Rosh Hashanah, it will be postponed until the 4th Monday for this one time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32.P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Leshirel, Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 23, 1974

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis Rice, Messers Paul Burke, Frank Fitzpatrick, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Lynne Arthur & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Mrs. Josephine Pepper, new Ward 6 Commission appointee, as yet unconfirmed, was invited by Mr. Halloran to attend, but due to previous commitment, she was unable to do so. 12 visitors were also present.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM by Chairman Dr. Levine. Minutes of the August meeting were accepted as circulated.

1. Mrs. George Michaels of Islington Road, Auburndale re amplifier at Auburndale Park in conjunction with picnics and outings: Nine citizens from the area known as the Peninsula, attended this meeting to beseech the Recreation Department to regulate the volume of sound emitting from amplifier used at the area during summer months. This past summer, they say, has been particularly trying, with several groups even playing "hard rock" at top volume. At that time, a Sunday, they called Police, and the Mayor since the Recreation Department offices were not open.

Commission members as a group, were very sympathetic to this problem and Commissioner Halloran recommended that, in the future, written permission should be obtained from the Recreation Commission for any amplified sound, in addition to the regular permit issued by use of a playground.

Mr. Baker moved - and it was so voted, that the Recreation Commission vest the Recreation Commissioner with authority to issue permits prohibiting or limiting, use of playground, with regard to amplified or live music or sound, without expressed authority to allow and to withdraw such permission, as he sees fit.

Mr. Burke expressed his disappointment that the Police had not felt that they could enforce lowering of sound in response to complaint. Apparently an old law allowing band concerts, prevented this. Mr. Ferguson suggested that Mr. Halloran look into this old ordinance and see what options were available.

2. Dr. Peterson and Mrs. Brinton (Special Ed) regarding a request for bus transportation for about 27 "special children" to a hockey program to be held on Saturday mornings through ice time donated for this program at the Fessendon School rink at an approximate cost to Recreation Department of \$1,000.

Mrs. Brinton informed the Commission that the program would begin about October 5th and end some time in April. At present, there are 23 children interested in the program (2 of these have their own transportation) Conceivably there will be more,

Mr. Halloran said that he has conferred with Mr. Salter, administrative Assistant to Mayor Mann regarding this possibility. Unfortunately Recreation does not have funds within their budget and would require additional funds to be appropriated for this use. Apparently transportation by cab rather than bus would be most appropriate and funds would have to be requested for this purpose. With this in mind, Dr. Levine, Chairman, suggested that Mr. Halloran on behalf of the Recreation Department, request \$1,000. from the Mayor for cab fare for this program, permitting a slight flexibility in case of extra children who may wish to come into the program.

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Mr. Ferguson moved, and it was so voted, that Recreation Commissioner Halloran request \$1,000 for transportation by cab for a group of retarded children for a special hockey program on Saturday mornings (and also explain to the Finance Commission that this amount is a 50% State refundable program).

3. Nick Pasquarosa and Newton Athletic Association request for special permission to hold a double-header football game at Newton Highlands field on October 25th at 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

They anticipate earning approximately \$1,000 on this evening through donations and food concessions to defray the cost of their football program for the year.

Discussion brought out concern for neighbors in the vicinity. Some find lights and noise objectionable. Mr. Pasquarosa assured the group that every effort, even prior to the date of the game, will be made to contact and express concern and explain to people in the area that this is just a one day affair. He also agreed that they would clean up the area afterward.

Mr. Burke moved, and it was so voted, that a permit be granted to the Newton Athletic Association for a football game and special lighting (expense and installation to be borne by NAA) on October 27th from 6:00pm to 9:30 pm, at the Newton Highlands playground.

4. Report on end of summer season for cultural arts by Gail Forman: Mrs. Forman, at the invitation of Commissioner Halloran, attended this meeting. She provided each Commissioner member with a written report of her Cultural Arts programs throughout the summer and made suggestions as to how they might be improved or extended.

At this meeting, she provided a very interesting slide program and commentary beginning with a variety of color slides from "Fiddler on the Roof", going on to the Boyd Park Square Dance program, then to the inovational Drama Program of the classic "Cinderella", and finally to the quick moving, Eleanor Boyland, and her puppets.

Commissioner Halloran complimented Mrs. Forman on a well done program and said that he and Mrs. Firman would be meeting shortly to plan how best to use the balance of monies in the amount of \$4,000 for a program, generally along these lines, for this upcoming fall and winter.

Dr. Levine, Chairman, strongly commended Gail for this year's new and unique program and suggested that consideration of funds for next years program be requested in the upcoming budget for the 1975 & 1976 year.

Mr. Ferguson moved, and it was so voted, that the Commission go on record in expressing appreciation to Gail Forman and her helpers, for inaugurating this successful program.

5. Murray Roads School Request: A young man contacted Dr. Levine, Chairman, regarding the possibility of installing a basketball hoop at the school for the use of students at the school. Mr. Halloran also spoke with them and it was suggested that they attend tonight's Recreation Commission meeting. Evidently they were not going to attend since no one arrived.

Mr. Ferguson felt strongly that this request should be directed to the School Department rather than Recreation since Murray Roads is a school ground.

Mrs. Arthur wondered if Recreation might not consider doing it since this type of equipment could be something already on hand and not an expensive item. Mr. Ferguson was adamant however, in maintaining that School Department should be contacted, and offered to contact them himself.



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Dr. Levine, however, felt it more appropriate if Commissioner Halloran contacted the Principal of the school. Mr. Burke moved that Commissioner Halloran contact School Principal with the request for them to provide the basketball hoop and net. However, if not available, the Recreation Commission at his discretion, to be allowed the flexibility to install a used basketball hoop and net. Voted to accept with Mr. Ferguson opposed.

6. Report on maintenance and vandalism: A written report was provided by Frank Shea, Recreation Foreman - plus some comments and the costs of vandalism from July to the present. Every increasing vandalism, Mr. Halloran says, is costing the taxpayers of the City of Newton, money which might be used for constructive purposes instead of repair. This is currently a very large problem and as yet, no one has come up with the solution.

Particularly disturbing to Commissioner Halloran is , not only the cost, by the physical acts of vandalism - and the change of attitude toward destruction of property in just a few years.

Mrs. Arthur informed the Recreation Commission that Newton, through Human Resources will now have four "Street Workers" on a year - a - round basis and hopefully communication will increase between those who create the vandalism - and those who seek to alleviate it.

Mr. Halloran says he has been meeting, and will continue to meet with, Mrs. Jane Pitt of Human Resources Department, Father Coyle of the Youth Commission and others who are interested and working on these problems of alienation.

7. Commissioner Halloran's Report: A written report was presented to members of the Recreation Commission itimizng meetings and activities attended by the Commissioner. He also reported that the summer season was successfully over and while the hot humid weather was not conductive to a lot of athletic activity in the playgrounds, swimming was tremendous with over 72,000 people using the Newton Recreation Swimming outdoor facilities during the month of August alone!

Mr. Halloran also commented on Recreation Department publicity this summer and felt that the department had been well covered.

Mr. Burke said he was still very troubled about the extent of vandalism and suggested a news release on this important issue, describing the damage and cost to the citizens of Newton and explaining that this is their own money which is paying for this. In this release, suggest to them that when they observe vandalism, they immediately report it to the Police and the "Crime Check". Possible with concerned citizens taking responsibility to do this, we can help.

Commissioner Halloran also reported on the "Jimmy Fund" carnivals and said that Recreation had received a letter of appreciation from their office, on the check for \$450 which was donated to them by Recreation. He also spoke about the Charity game Played at Albemarle playground, Mayor Mann and Commissioner Halloran took part in these festivities, when a team from Newton played Radio Station WHDH and not only had a lot of fun, but earned still another donation for the "Jimmy Fund".

Mrs. Arthur asked the Commission members if they would consider a "sport Challenge" from a group, unnamed as yet, for a charity games - if it was presented to them? Everyone seemed agreeable.

8. Hamilton School PTA: Commissioner Halloran reported that Hamilton PTA has received an offer of a professionally constructed - to City specifications - basketball court if the Recreation Department will provide the asphalt. A regular contractor will donate, not

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only his time, but his man, in the construction of this court. The Commissioner has been working with Mr. Salter of the Mayor's office, on funds.

9. Miscellaneous: (a) Consideration might be given for use of the Recreation bus for a Community School project at Oak Hill School (b) The shelter which has been installed at Albemarle Playground will be painted shortly, it was reported.
10. Photo-ident system: Commissioner Halloran presented to the Commission a full, written report of this new system initiated at Newton North this evening, describing the details of cost, availability etc. Mr. Halloran felt that this proposal worked out by Carol Stapleton, should provide an efficient, easy system, of identification for Newton residents wishing to use Recreation sponsored activities and facilities at Newton North High School now. Conceivable, if this proves successful now, it may be used extensively in the future - and may be considered for all Recreation programs.
11. New Fall & Winter Brochure: Commissioner Halloran presented to the Commission, the basic report for Fall & Winter programs. This new brochure in booklet form, is in the printing process at present and will be ready shortly for the general public. It will be mailed to as many residents of Newton as is possible and gives a day-by-day account of programs which will be available to Newton residents. This colorful, professional, report should be of interest to everyone, he feels.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 21st.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

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October 21, 1974

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Dr. Burton D. Levine, Chairman, Mr. Francis Rice, Vice Chairman (since Dr. Levine was detained, Mr. Rice chaired this meeting) Messers Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, Paul Burke, Nelson Baker, Mrs. Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbiral, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Vice-chairman, Mr. Rice, at 7:40 PM. Only two guests, Doris Lelchook, representing League of Women Voters and Don Levisonnm representing the Newton Times newspaper.

1. Minutes of September meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Monthly reports were presented to Commission members on programs etc. and also the maintenance report. Commissioner Halloran reported that the Maintenance department has been especially busy at this time, storing summer equipment etc. and preparing and marking and working off fall fields - particularly for the schools.

Commissioner Halloran reported that he had met with Chief of Police, William Cuinn and Captain Dargan of the Newton Police Department regarding the new alcoholic beverage ordinance. The procedures will be that if Recreation Department has no serious opposition and a regular Recreation field permit is issued, the person then takes this to the Newton Police Department for approval.

An interesting comment by Mr. Halloran, noted that the new Recreation Identification system initiated this year has been extremely well subscribed to. At the end of September, over 2,000 people have already enrolled - a considerable gain over the first years attendance. He perceives that the keyword here has been efficiency in implementation and an excellent staff handling the enrollment.

As a point of interest, the list of those meetings and functions attended by the Commissioner, were also enclosed for the Commission's information.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, at this time, brought up the scheduling of next Spring's fields. It is his hope, he says that the Recreation Department will notify all groups that use the fields well in advance so that they will be required to provide a pre-season schedule of what their needs will be. Mr. Halloran responded that he has already made plans for letters to be mailed in January 1975, requesting that Leagues, teams etc. submit schedule prior to beginning of season so fair action can be taken.

With relation to this, Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested the possibility of a 3 number committee - with the Recreation Commissioner - go over these requests and make recommendations. It was strongly recommended by the Commission however, that Commissioner Halloran have the final decision on these requests.

3. Report on monies for Special Education - Transportation to Fessenden School ice - rink for an ice-hockey program to be held on Saturdays. Since the Recreation Department did not have, in their current budget, these monies, Commissioner Halloran went before the Aldermanic Board to request them. They were approved.

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4. Result of request to Commission for a basketball hoop to be installed at the Murray Road School. Commissioner Halloran spoke with the principal of this school, Mr. Mechem, If Mr. Meecham, who appeared to be in favor, can come up with a basketball standard, the Recreation Department will install it and provide a hoop and net. So far, Recreation has heard nothing more from them.
5. Bicentennial Plans: Chairman and Co-Chairman for Newton are Alderman Bauckman and Mrs. Esther Steinberg. Liason person between them and Recreation Department is Mrs. Gail Forman. Commissioner Halloran has also attended some of the Bicentennial meeting on planning. Tentative plans, at this time, call for a big April 19th parade (the same day as annual Marathon) a Crystal Lake Regatta, a giant 4th of July fireworks display, a "Village Square" square dance program and possible a theatrical production of the hit play, "1776. More on these plans later.
6. Upcoming Halloween Plans: A very interesting history of Newton's Halloween programs from 1922 to the present was provided to the Commission by Mr. Halloran. While interest seems to be declining - six elementary schools and the Junior High age group are still actively involved. (Of course many of the younger grades, say from Kindergarten to Grade 4, have their own Halloween parties during the afternoon and the children "trick or treat" during the early evening hours. (Mr. Burke Commented that many of the older children often feel too sophisticated to attend the school parties.)

Mrs. Toher, Halloween coordinator, has met with those School Chairmen who plan to have parties, plus the Police and Fire Departments and plans for parties are going forward by Recreation Department, for another successful evening of Halloween fun.

Those Commission members that will be available to visit the various parties are: Mrs. Pepper, Mr. Rice, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Burke. Commission Halloran and Mrs. Toher will, of course, also attend.

7. Special dates for meeting for Capital Improvement and Operating Budget for 1975-1976: Capital Improvement budget must be presented to the Planning board by November 15th. Input by the Commission members should be made approximately a week, or more, prior to that time in order to allow for typing, collating etc. Commissioner Halloran proposed that all Recreation Commission members, if at all possible, plan to attend this important meeting.

The consensus agreed that November 7th at 7:00PM, would be the most agreeable to the majority. They would like to meet at City Hall, in a room appropriate to a large group since they plan to solicit Public Opinion. Mr. Halloran said that the newspapers would be advised of this open meeting and each Commission member will be notified again, prior to the meeting, by mail.

At this meeting, time will be settled for the meeting, or meetings, necessary for the Operating Budget, for the Recreation Department.

8. New Business:

(a) Dr. Levine, Chairman, said that he had not received any telephong calls on Commission business during the entire month regarding complaints of requests for any changes or additions. He felt that this was quite unusual.

(b) Mr. Halloran told the Commission that sometime during the holiday weekend of October 12th the Recreation Department offices were entered and some equipments such as electric typewriters, calculator and some personal items, had been stolen. The alarm system, for some reason, did not go off and the break was not discovered until Tuesday morning.

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(c) Commissioner Halloran reported that while the preliminary plans for the Par-Cour exercise course in Augurndale were complete, he is awaiting Dr. Buxbaum's return from Australia - and doubts work can begin in earnest before next Spring.

(d) In response to an invitation to individual members of the Recreation Commission to attend a football game at the Newton Highlands field on the 25th, it was suggested that Commissioner Halloran respond for the whole group. Dr. Levine, Mr. Halloran, Mrs. Pepper, as of now, plan to attend. Mr. Halloran will notify Nick Pasquarosa, President of this Newton Athletic Association, that those members will attend.

d (e) Mr. Ferguson called to the Commission members attention the fact that Bob MacLaughlin, long-time sports worker with boys, and only recently retired President of the Newton Youth Hockey Association, had died during the last few days. He felt that since Bob had long been associated with recreation and the Recreation Department here in the City, the Department might wish to send a letter to his widow.

Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation Commission go on record in a letter to Bob's widow, in appreciation of his work with youth in the City. (It was suggested that a guide-line could be obtained for this, from Joseph Karlin, City Clerk, for a regular citation on special City Stationary and include the Mayor's signature) All agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next regular meeting will be held on November 18th.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

on

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET

November 7, 1974

This meeting, held at the Public Buildings Department offices at City Hall, was called to order by Chairman, Dr. Burton D. Levine, at 7:30 PM. Those Commission members present, in addition to the Chairman were: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Vice-Chairman, Francis Rice, Mrs. Josephine Pepper, Messers Paul J. Burke, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Chairman Dr. Levine, requested that those interested people who were in attendance, express their ideas regarding those items which they, as individuals, or groups, felt were most important with regards to the proposed new Capital Improvement Budget for 1976-1981.

IDEAS EXPRESSED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Mike LeConti speaking on behalf of Youth Hockey Association, suggested that the City could use it's own ice-skating rink and suggested that City of Newton check into the possibility of purchasing the Charles River Ice Skating Rink - or see if the Metropolitan District Commission might be interested in purchasing this rink since it is now available. (Mayour Mann, it was reported, has already met with MDC officials regarding this facility but, as yet, no report is available) Mr. Burke commented that many ice-rinks around the vicinity of Boston are closing now- probably due to the high cost of energy at present.
2. Fran Mahoney, representing the West Little League, suggested that a parking facility at Lyons Playground, be considered since the only parking presently is out along Commonwealth Avenue. He also suggested that an additional ball field could be built on the other side of the fence. Unfortunately, this would entail the removal of several trees in a grove - which Mr. Mahoney does recommend.
3. Mr. Mahoney also recommended that several fenced in tot-lots where schools are located, be built. Mr. LeConti stated that this had been done in Watertown at the Parker School, and including equipment, cost \$3,500. Both Mr. Mahoney & Mr. LeConti said they thought this ideal for small children and as it was fenced, would not interfere with other activities and children would be safeguarded.
4. Harvey Harrison, representing Newton Tennis Associates, provided the Commission with a written evaluation report of Newton's tennis facilities. They feel that Recreation should have a more effective priopity and they would like to know how they can help further.

Their report carried a heavy priority on the South side of Newton, Mr. Burke pointed out. Since there are already many regular, plus lighted, courts on this side of the City, other areas seemed to need additional facilities, Mr. Burke felt. Mr. Harrison claimed that socially and economically, his priorities were justified.

A gentleman from the Albemarle park area noted that this area now feel short-changed on tennis courts. It was reported that there are plans with in the City

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to build tennis courts at Day Junior High School. This would certainly alleviate a real need in this area, Mr. Burke felt. 125

Dr. Jack Whittenberg of Newton Highlands, lives and plays tennis, in Newton Centre and he realizes that Newton Centre courts could stand improvements - but - he does not feel that this should be done at the expense of another area.

The idea for "tennis clusters" in the City of Newton was advanced by Mr. Harrison. He felt that this would be the best manner in which to serve the community. This idea, provides a group of tennis courts where all levels of tennis could be played, in a central area. (His recommendation was Newton Centre)

Commission members generally felt that tennis courts should be spread over the entire City of Newton.

5. John Bliss, loosely a representative from Cabot Area (he does not represent any one group but is interested in the area). Prior to this meeting, he made an appointment with Commissioner Halloran to discuss the monies, which he had been given to understand, were available for equipment and improvement of Cabot Park, in the amount of \$12,000.

His suggestion that the Commission Ward representative should come to Cabot and meet with him were diverted, to suggest that it might be better if he were to contact the Cabot PTA - or some Community organization, for input from the entire Community rather than to request equipment or facilities which may, or may not be, what the people of the area desire.

If, as was discussed this Spring, the tennis courts are resurfaced into hard court surface courts, approximately \$10,000 will be needed for this work, but of course, will make a dramatic improvement in the use of the park, Mr. Halloran says.

6. It was reported to the Commission that the Perrini Brothers had purchased the so-called "Norumbega area" recently for an estimated cost of \$40,000. This land may be available to the city and if so, Conservation Commission would be interested in working with the Recreation Department in obtaining it. *Norumbega*

Shortly to be delivered, will be a memo, in writing, to Recreation, City of Newton and MDC, from the Conservation Commission with regards to this property. Possibility of 50% Federal funding, 25% City, and 25% Conservation, may be available, Mrs. Heyn of the Conservation Commission said.

Mr. Baker of Recreation Commission, asked what the group could do as a Commission, to initiate this action. Input from the Recreation Commission to the Planning Department would be the most helpful, he was told. Mrs. Heyn felt that acquisition of this land should be a joint venture of Recreation and Conservation.

7. Mary Bartly again said she wanted to be sure Recreation Department planned to advocate the development of the so-called "Pine Street Dump Site" and that it wouldn't be forgotten.
8. Dr. Jack Whittenberg, leason representative from the Newton Highlands area group association, said that he, as temporary "watch-dog" for the association of at least 2500 citizens, wanted to tell the Commission that this group would be most interested in providing input from the community on Crystal Lake. They would appreciate a voice in deciding on those improvements which will be contemplated at Crystal Lake. It is their understanding that a sum of \$20,000. is available for plans for this area. If possible, they would appreciate a

dialogue with the Planning Department when consultation on this area begins.

Mr. Ferguson indicated that he thought it would be a fine idea if those people would provide input and Dr. Whittenberg will check with his associates and report back to the Commission in the near future.

9. Dr. Robert Buxbaum, who is interested, and has worked on the Parcour physical fitness course for Auburndale, reported that upon his return from Australia and New Zealand, he contacted Terry D'Eugenio, the architect, and they will be working together on these plans very shortly. It appears that the actual physical beginning of this course will not begin until next Spring due to lateness of the season. Dr. Buxbaum said that he will probably attend next week's regular Commission meeting if it is possible for he and Terry to get together on a report.
10. One of the representatives from the League of Women Voter's mentioned that she had heard repeated requests at various functions, for a track facility at Newton South High School. Dr. Levine replied that, as far as he was aware, Recreation had never been approached about building a track at South High. Mr. Burke noted that the request had probably been directed to the School Department rather than to Recreation as the Recreation Department would not usually be responsible for the building of a School facility. He also said that at present, the area the School Department is planning to use for a track area, is in the process of land fill.
11. Mary Bartley spoke about the question of the so-called "pocket-parks". She mentioned River Street playground in Newton as a typical example of what she considered a "pocket-park" and felt that several of these throughout the city would be ideal for young children. The Crescent Street playground was mentioned but this, as yet, is not complete and is not supervised so cannot be really evaluated at this time.

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After a brief recess, Recreation Commission met to evaluate information of this evening, with the help of those City Planning Committee's recommendations provided to them prior to this meeting.

(Priorities as set by Commission follow)



NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 18, 1975

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Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis Rice, Messers Howard Ferguson, Paul Burke, Nelson Baker, Mrs. Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbiral, Secretary.

Visitors included newspaper representative, Dan Lvinson from the Times, Doris Lelchook representing the League of Women Voters, Chick DiMichele representing the Newton Upper Falls Improvement Association, Mike Le Conti representing both the Little League and Youth Hockey Associations and Mrs. Campbell.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine at 7:35 PM. Minutes of the October 21st meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Monthly activities report and Commissioner Halloran's report of activities and meetings which he had attended during the past month, were distributed to all members.

Commissioner Halloran reported additionally, that this was one of the busiest times of the year; new programs beginning, some fall programs - such as football - ending, a great deal of excellent maintenance work being accomplished under forman Frank Shea's direction.

Mr. Halloran also reported that he has been meeting with Mr. George Meade, the City of Newton Safety official, at the request of Jim Salter, Mayor Mann's administrative assissant, to discuss the Local #800 Union's request for additional safety equipment for maintenance men. Estimation of additional cost would be about \$100.00 per man.

3. Halloween report: Commissioner Halloran reported that he and Mayor Mann visited all of the Halloween parties held by the Recreation Department, in the City. Mr. Rice & Mr. Ferguson also attended some of the parties, Commissioner Halloran stated that it is his firm belief that Halloween is "alive & well" in Newton and feels that those involved in Halloween should make a very special effort to contact PTAs in the City in order to stimulate interest in Halloween parties, early in 1975. If Recreation staff can motivate people to involve themselves, the serious issue of pranks & vandalism can be kept to a minimum.
4. Capital Improvement Budget: Commissioner Halloran reported that the completed budget for 1976 to 1981, Capital Improvement Program budget was delivered to the Planning Department at City Hall on Friday, November 15, 1974, as directed.

Relative to CIP, Nelson Baker reported that he had attended the City Planning Committee's meeting on November 13th, at which times they generally reviewed action on recommendations on the Recreation Capital Improvement budget.

Mr. Baker gave the Committee a general idea of action taken at the Special meeting of the Recreation Commission and expressed the appreciation of the Commission with regards to their cooperation with us.

Additionally, with regard to this capital Improvemant Budget and the meetings held for the public at City Hall on Capital Improvements, Dr. Levine reported that he had received during this last week, a letter from Edward Beresta in Nonantum, noting the lack of tennis courts in Nonantum, West Newton and Newtonville and asking that Recreation Department make the building of new tennis courts at Albemarle playground their number one priority in the new CIP budget.

Mr. Ferguson also pointed out to the Commission, the fact that Newton North High School Pool appears to be reaching a point where crowding is a problem. Hesays he is

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received reports that adults have gone down to swim during an adult swim period and find they cannot do "lap swimming". He suggest that a close watch be maintained since it appears evident in this second year of use, that a considerable increase of swimmers has been noted. He also suggested that Recreation again begin thinking about a cover for the Harrg Gath Memorial Pool to alleviate overcrowding.

6. Citation to be presentEd to widow of Bob MacLaughlin, Newton Youth Hockey; The prepared document was read by Chairman Dr. Levine in preparation to signing by the Commission but it was found that a phrase must be deleted before being signed. It will be retyped in time for the next meeting.
7. Preliminary Budget Meeting for Commission members: It was agreed that November 26th, Tuesday, would be most convenient for all members. An early meeting, beginning at 7:15 is planned. Commission will reserve an appropriate room at City Hall.
8. Old Business: Referring to suggestions made at Publ:c Hearing, November 7th, Mr. Rice inquired as to whether the Commission planned to send a letter to Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Halloran assured him that the motion made by the Commission at it's November 7th meeting supporting the Conservation Commission&s stand, would be carried out as directed.
9. NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) Cars on fields - Mr. Burke mentioned that he has recently observed, at various athletic events, that cars are being driven right onto the athletic fields. Since this causes serious damage to sod and fields, it is prohibite d. Police do have authority to tag cars but evidently hesitate to do this at games.

Commissioner Halloran will be meeting shortly with Police Chief Quinn and will encourage them to enforce this parking ban by ticketing cars which are in violation of parking ban. Commissioner Halloran also agreed to notify all leagues and permit holders prior to seasons, with a strongly worded letter spelling out that no one, at any time, is to park on a field.

- (b) Cultural Affairs Commission: This new Commission chaired by Mrs. Polly Egelson, has been in contact with Commissioner Halloran. Since they, as yet, do not have a staff or a distribution point for information, Miss Donna Zirimba, Administrative Assistant to Mayor Mann, has suggested that Recreation Department cooperate with them as much as possible. Mr. Halloran agreed that the present Recreation Staff will provide held for them to the extent of some secretarial work ~~whidh~~ they will be needing from time to time, and also dispensing of telephone nformation to the Newton Community, as needed.

On Mr. Ferguson's motion, it was unanimously voted that the Recreation Department shall cooperate with the Cultural Affairs Commission and so notify Chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Egelson.

- (c) Lyons Playground ImprovEments: Commissioner Halloran reported that would begin on the long-awaited field improvements to the Little League field at Auburndale - with a new permanenet fence being built to replace the old one. Mr. LeConti was most interested in th&s development but noted that apparantly one tree would be in line of the fence. Frank Shea, Recreation foreman has notified Mr. Halloran however, that this tree has already been tagged for removal by the Street Department - plus 2 others because of the suspicion of Dutch Elm disease - this determination made by

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the Forestry Department.

- (d) Murray Roads School Basketball Hoop: Dr. Levine inquired as to whether any further ~~xx~~ action had been taken on this. Mr. Halloran reported that he had contacted the principal of the school, more than once, regarding Recreation Department's willingness to install a basketball hoop - which is ready and available for them at any time - but has had no response as yet.
- (e) Cabot Park: Recreation has not received any additional input from this area. No definite action is contemplated at this time. Mr. Halloran mentioned a possible fence along the street, as a safety factor, might be considered. Mr. Burke suggested an additional basketball court adjacent to the present court. Commissioner Halloran will look into the feasibility of this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lespirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

November 20, 1974

Honorable Theodore D. Mann  
Mayor of Newton  
City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, Mass

Dear Mayor Mann:

The Newton Recreation Commission at a regular meeting on November 18, 1974, reaffirmed its vote of November 7th, to unanimously support the efforts of the Newton Conservation Commission to purchase the Norumbega land.

Yours Very Truly,

Russell J Halloran  
Recreation Commissioner

RJH/ml

CC: Board of Alderman  
City Planning Committee  
Conservation Commission

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

Special Operating Budget Meeting

November 26, 1974

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Halloran, Chairman Dr. Levine, Vice-chairman Mr. Rice, Mrs. Josephine Pepper, Messers Paul Burke, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbiral, Secretary (14 visitors)

FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO THE BUDGET MEETING:

Due to an unresolved controversy at Auburndale's Lyons field regarding the installation of a permanent fence in lieu of the present but unsatisfactory, hockey-board, fence. Commissioner Halloran invited the "pros and cons" to attend this meeting and acquaint the entire Recreation Commission with their individual and collective thoughts on this problem.

Brought to the attention of the various factions by the precipitous removal of some trees in the park, through a human error in the Forestry Department, controversy then raged as to whether a permanent fence all around the perimeter of this field - would be a good, or bad, thing for the neighborhood, the children in this area, the senior citizens of a nearby housing project and the various sport leagues that play ball in this particular field.

Carol Shea, president of the Auburndale Association, stated that she would be unalterably opposed to any permanent fence as she felt this would restrict the use of this area.

Mrs. Froderick Abernathy presented a letter with 113 signatures of people of the area who were opposed.

Oddly enough, actual abutters appeared to have no objections to the fence.

Mike LeConti, representing West Little League, the group that makes this field their home field, presented a petition with 265 names, all in favor of a permanent fence.

Mr. Jim Kennedy, long time Auburndale resident and always interested in upgrading Auburndale, spoke briefly regarding the history of Auburndale playground and its origin. He felt a permanent fence would not be in the best interest of the area and questioned the possibility of legality of permanent fencing - citing that if this was determined to be a parkland, no permanent structure may be erected upon it.

\* Commissioner Halloran, anticipating questions of this type, had prior to the meeting, already contacted the City Legal Department for an opinion as to whether this was a playground or parkland - but has not received a definitive decision as yet. The City Assessors seem to feel it is a playground but investigations of the Cambridge records of deeds may solve this dilemma.

Sheila Farnesse mentioned the effort that has been put into policing this area by the West Little League, children and parents and stated that she felt Lyons field should be officially marked "Home of the West Little League".

Mike LeConti spoke about the many years he has spent trying to get upgrading of Little League fields and now as it appears to be at hand here at Lyons, opposition is endangering what he has worked long and hard to get.

Steve Shea, Vice-President of Auburndale Association, spoke and said that he felt that a part of the present problem was a lack of communication between the various groups - and that both the Auburndale Association and many of the local residents had been unaware that a plan for this Lyons field had been working toward finality for these six years.

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Mr. Shea appeared to be most anxious for cooperation between all the interested parties and indicated that certainly negotiations could be constructive for all. While the Auburndale Association was opposed to a permanent fence, wasn't it possible to arrange a removable fence? He said he felt that this would not be as restrictive to activities and would allow more use, at all levels, for this area.

Sensitive negotiations continued. The Recreation Commission requested pertinent information and asked questions of those present in the gallery.

Paul Malloy, a professional Engineer (and Little League participant) spoke up and indicated that a form of portable fence was available, and might be considered for the ends on the outfield. He had recently been involved with an installation of this type and felt it might be a workable solution.

Mr. Burke, at this point, moved that pending a decision from the Legal Department, that a permanent, green vinyl, chain-link fence be installed at the playground - and-amending this motion with Mr. Burke's agreement, Mr. Rice moved that a portable chain link fence be installed in the outfield for this season. It was understood however, that should this not be successful, a permanent fence would then be installed. So voted unanimously.

Evidently the Recreation Commission has now accomplished that rare achievement, agreement by all parties. A general spirit of cooperation was evident between the "pros and cons" and everyone seemed very satisfied with the solution.

A brief recess was called by Chairman Dr. Levine.

Following this recess a brief Executive session was held.

Continuing at 9:15, Commissioner Halloran presented his pre-submission budget to the Recreation Commission in detail, explaining expenses, codes, programs, etc. throughout the numerous pages, for their information and responding to any questions which the Commission asked. He also noted that this budget is 3% of the total City of Newton Budget. When fully prepared, this will be presented to the Mayor. Commissioner Halloran asked if anyone had any suggestions for changes. None were forthcoming.

Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation Commission go on record endorsing this budget proposed by Commissioner Halloran, and it was so voted.

Meeting adjourned:      Next meeting will be held on December 16th.  
Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 16, 1974

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-chairman Francis Rice, Messers Paul Burke, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbiral, Secretary (Mrs. Judy Deane, candidate for Ward 5 Commission membership was invited to attend as a guest)

12 visitors attended.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine At 7:45. Minutes of Capital Improvement meeting on November 7th, Regular November Commission Meeting of November 18th and a Special Operating-Budget on November 18th were accepted as circulated. The Secretary was also directed to notify members that meetings will begin at 7:30 instead of 7:45.

2. Monthly reports, maintenance report and Commissioner's report of activities were provided to members.

Commissioner Halloran reported that the 1973 Annual report was now complete and Auburndale's Lyons Field, to the Legal Department of the City, the following opinion was provided-----By a deed from the Metropolitan Park Commission dated November 11, 1903, Auburndale Park was set up as a public park. However, in the deed the City put several restrictions on how the City could use the land. One of these restrictions gave the City the right "to lay out, maintain and expend money for the improvement of a public playground in said Auburndale Park similar to those now in existence in said City and to be used for like purposes." The terms of the deed thus appear to set up a park with some playground uses.

As to the question on any restriction on putting up a four foot high vinyl chain link fence on the playing field, Chapter 45 section 14 appears to allow this. "Any city or town may acquire land and buildings...for the purposes of a public playground or recreation center and may conduct and promote recreation, play sport, and physical education...on such land and in such buildings, and may construct buildings on land owned or leased by it and may provide equipment for said purposes...the foregoing provisions shall apply to land and buildings acquired for playground purposes, or for park and playground purposes, but shall not apply to land and buildings acquired solely for park purposes."

Since this land was not acquired solely for park purposes, as evidenced by the deed restriction allowing a playground, and since putting up a fence around a ball field would seem to me to be a reasonable use under Chapter 45 section 14 (may provide equipment for such purposes promoting recreation, play, sport, etc.). I don't think that there is any restriction to the construction of this fence. It should be allowed.

Mr. Halloran reported that the cost for additional sleeves and items necessary to install the removeable fence on the outfield of Auburndale, will cost an estimated amount of \$1600. more than original but that was enough money in the account to cover this cost.

The Commissioner also reported that he was in receipt of communication from Mrs. Heyn of the Newton Conservators requesting support of the Recreation Commission in the Conservation's request for removal of obstacles put on the so-called "cartpaths" through the Webster land.

Mr. Ferguson moved to agree that the Recreation Commission will support Mrs. Heyn and the Conservation Commission's stand on the Webster land and it was so voted.

3. Representing Newton Athletic Association, Mr. Philip Levoff, coordinator for basketball program, spoke to the Commission describing their ambitious program. They hope to have at least 200 boys from ages 8 to 12 in this program for basketball and plan to utilize the court at the Working Boys Home. The problem appears that while they

have some money to defray cost of heating, they do not have enough and would like the Recreation Dept. to provide between \$300 & \$400 for the season.

Mr. Burke felt that providing funds for a separate group, no matter how worthy, would set a precedent. Mr. Ferguson queried them as to why they started a program without being sure they had funds for costs.

Further discussion resulted in the suggestion that an officer of the NAA come to a commission meeting with more detail and exact figures before any further action be taken. Item tabled until January meeting on Mr. Baker's suggestion.

4. Dr. Robert Buxbaum - Slide presentation; Dr. Buxbaum in describing the various slides which he had taken in Sweden and Switz'd of this outdoor exercise course, said that it might be called a "Life Course" or "Vita" rather than "Parcour" as many people weren't really sure what this meant. Basically a series of outdoor exercise stations were a person moves progressively through this numbered series in either a low-level or high-level of physical activity, at their discretion; it has attained tremendous popularity in several countries since it provides pleasant, easily accessible, outdoor recreation and exercise

In addition to over 400 of these locations in Switzerland, there are several courses in U.S. including 8 in California, 2 at Universities (one at Duke). Each is 2 kilometers - or 1½ mile around. Dr. Buxbaum agrees that they are not vandal proof but hopes that neighborhood participation and interest will alleviate the problem. By January 15th, all specification will be ready and Dr. Buxbaum and Don Brown, architect, will plan to meet with Frank Shea, Recreation Foreman, Final plans will be presented at the January Commission Meeting.

5. Bay State Judo - Mr. Sol Sidman: Commissioner Halloran introduced Mr. Sidman. Since it has been some time since Bay State Judo has come before the Comm. Mr. Halloran felt, as a matter of course, it would be a good opportunity for communication for both.

Mr. Sidman explained that the Bay State Judo program had been going on for 11 years at the Newton Centre field house and was a non-profit organization. They do collect dues from members - the general funds devoted to the cost of Judo competition meets and formats (which cost approximately one thousand dollars each) but have never had to pay any fees for use of the hut - or for custodial services as they have had their own key and opened and closed by themselves. Each year they provide Recreation with their financial statement. They like the building and would like to continue there if Recreation sees fit.

Questions as to whether a non-profit group should not be allowed to use a City owned facility and Mr. Burke's question directed to Commissioner Halloran as to whether Recreation has had any pressure or need for the use of this facility were both negative, at least for this particular time.

Mr. Burke then moved that Bay state Judo be allowed to use this building and facility and also that Mr. Sidman be provided with a key and be personally responsible during the time this group is using the facility - and it was so voted.

6. Report on presentation of Citation from Recreation Commission to widow of Bob MacLaughlin Former long-time president of the Newton Youth Hockey Association. Mr. Howard Ferguson, Commission member went directly to the MacLaughlin home to present this to Mrs. MacLaughlin, who was most appreciative of this honor, he reported.
7. Suggestion from Mayor Mann for "ad hoc" committee to advise Recreation Commission. The general feeling to the Commission was that it wasn't really needed and on Mr. Ferguson's motion, it was recommended that Dr. Levine, Chairman of the Comm. inform the Mayor and make him cognizant that the Recreation Commission currently is in contact with many neighborhood groups (such as Auburndale Community Association; Newton Highlands Civic Association, beside many PTA's Cabot Park group et.) and it would



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seem, at the present time, there is no need for an ad hoc committee as problems of the various groups are being competently met. It was so voted.

Mr. Burke commented additionally that Recreation is trying, and will continue to make every effort, to get as many citizens involved in Recreation as possible.

It was again brought to the Commission's attention that they have planned to have 3 public meetings exclusively for citizen input each year. Two have been held and one more should be held before the beginning of the fiscal year in July.

Next meeting will be held on January 20th at 7:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 20, 1975 - MINUTES

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Presents: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-chairman Francis Rice, Messers Paul Burke, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Josephine Pepper, July Dean and Marjorie Lesbiral, Secretary

- A. Meeting called to order by chairman, Dr. Levine, at 7:35 p.m. Minutes of the December Commission meeting were accepted on circulation. Monthly reports & maintenance reports were distributed to members. Mr. Ferguson requested that from now on, it would be nice to receive the maintenance report prior to the meeting or when the agendas are mailed. (This Will be done from now on)

Commissioner Halloran provided a report of his activities during December. He also reported that skating on the natural ice areas had been very limited due to mild weather.

Alderman Bullwinkle, informally visiting the Recreation Commission meeting, was asked about the possibility of the city acquiring the Charles River Skating Rink, rumored in financial trouble, and available. Unable to answer, he commented only that this was a fine facility. Mr. Ferguson asked if the Recreation Commission could do anything to help in acquiring this facility. Alderman Bullwinkle said that, at this time an indication of support would be the only thing the commission could do.

- \* Mr. Ferguson then moved that the Recreation Commission go on record, endorsing the obtaining of the Charles River Skating Facility by the City of Newton, And it was seconded. (This item was tabled at this time, pending comments and reported by Ken Hagerstrom, president of Newton Youth Hockey Association).

Commissioner Halloran Called to the attention of the Commission the fact that the next regular meeting day which is on February 17th, is a holiday, and suggested that the Commission might want to select an alternate date. They did - and selected February 24th.

- B. (1) Massachusetts Park & Recreation Meeting on January 14th, held at Valle's at Chesnut Hill, hosted by Brookline Recreation Department under the direction of Evelyn Kirrane director - and co-host, Newton Recreation Department's Commissioner, Russell J. Halloran.

Over 100 members watched as Commissioner Halloran presented former Chairman of the Newton Recreation Commission, Paul J. Burke, with a clock as token of the society's appreciation of his outstanding contributions in the field of recreation over the years.

(2) Commissioner Halloran reported that a letter will be sent out shortly to all Newton sports leagues - male and female - soliciting requests for their needs for fields for the 1975 year. Fields are in short supply this year and schools have priority during school time. Additionally there will also be newspaper notices to alert those who may not receive letters but are interested in obtaining playing fields. Upon receipt of total requests, review and distribution of fields, will be made.

(3) Newton Youth Hockey Association - Ken Hagerstrom: After a gracious "thank you" to commissioner Halloran for his continued aid and help in solving many of the groups problems, especially with MDC ice time, Mr. Hagerstrom briefly recapitulated his organizations 1974 season.

Mr. Hagerstrom was especially enthusiastic about additional adult volunteer recruits this year. They now have 75 volunteer coaches for this program. Two new people involved, which he mentioned were, Jim Ryan and Paul Molloy.

Newton Youth Hockey now has a good legal structure and is incorporated, with a non-profit status.

They have invited girls into this program but without too much success. At present, there are 38 teams with 564 boys (a 13% increase this year) with registration continuing. 78% of these boys involved play intramural and 22% play out-of-city teams. The "Mite" teams of the 7 and 8 year olds, is second best in Massachusetts and the "Bantams" of the 13 and 14 year age group, leads their division. Ken feels that they have good leaders and good models for the boys and that a boy involved in this program "just doesn't get into trouble as he's 'oo busy". They would like to enlarge their financial assistance program since hockey equipment is expensive, to advertise this fact, (Mr. Burke recommended that any details of their scholarship program be made to Commissioner Halloran for budget information).

Mr. Hagerstrom again mentioned the need for suitable indoor ice. Several times this year, MDC ice time has been canceled, which not only causes scheduling problems but means a financial loss also.

a few years ago, Bob Maclaughlin, then president of Youth Hockey Association, along with several interested hockey people, formed what was then known as the Garden City Association, to try and obtain a skating rink in Newton. Unfortunately they were never able to get the financial support necessary. Now with the Charles River Ice Skating facility available, Mr. Hagerstrom requested that the Recreation Commission please support the acquisition by the city of this ice-hockey facility.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commended both Mr. Hagerstrom for his individual work as president of the organization and also the Newton Youth Hockey Association for its programs and also for their "equipment swap program" which was run this past spring.

\* At this time, the item tabled earlier (A - page 1, regarding the city's acquisition of the Charles River Rink) was de-tabled and the motion previously presented was carried unanimously and resolution adopted at this time. It was suggested that Commissioner Halloran write a letter to the Mayor and to the Honorable Board of Aldermen, appraising them of this action.

(4) Since architect Don Brown, who had been expected at this time to speak with regard to the proposed Auburndale par-cour exercise stations, was evidently unable to attend, a brief recess was held.

(5) Phil Levoff, representing boys NAA basketball program, returned to the Commission meeting to see if some funds might be available to aid them in defraying the cost of heating the gym at the working Boy's home, which they had obtained for their winter program. He provided, as requested, a financial report of the organization. They believe that their deficit will be approximately \$675.00 for heating - and pray that the Recreation Department will help them at least in part, with this problem.

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PRIORITIES SET BY COMMISSION (not necessarily in order)

(a) In accordance with City Planning Committee's recommendation regarding outdoor tennis, Mr. Ferguson moved that Recreation request that the \$50,000. originally scheduled for Albemarle tennis courts, be shifted from Fiscal year 1980 to Fiscal year 1976, for 4 tennis courts. So, voted. (Additionally, the Recreation Commission advocated lighting Albemarle as a complete unit) City Planning recommends an aggressive outdoor lighting program and with this in mind, a complete lighting of the area was to be investigated.

Mr. Halloran suggested that careful consideration for location of poles would avoid interference of play during any season - otherwise there could be conflict of various sports, but he felt, as did all other members, that Albemarle can become a multi-purpose area with all-around perimeter lights as a "future project". This would encompass, tennis, softball, baseball, soccer and football, in fact, something that the entire community and the City of Newton, would benefit by.

(b) Mr. Ferguson moved that Recreation move up \$120,000 plus the \$15,000 for a total of \$135,000 for 1976 for a completely lighted complex at Albemarle (This is the \$185,000 recommended total for Albemarle by the City Planning Committee) and it was so voted.

(c) In response to Mrs. Heyn earlier in this evenings meeting, Mr. Rice moved that the Recreation Commission go on record in support of the Conservation Commission's position regarding the acquisition of the available land at Norumbega - and it was so voted. (It was suggested that a letter be sent to Mayor also)

(d) Webster land - should remain as it is in budget.

(e) Allison Park - remain as it is in budget.

(f) Edmand's Park - Fiscal year 1977 rather than Winchester Street (open space) Fiscal year 1979. It was recommended that a study be made of Edmand's Park area (see Allen report) Winchester Street to remain as Planning report recommends.

(g) Hunnewell Hill - ok as Planning report recommends.

REVIEW: REQUESTS

1. Youth Hockey - Skating rink acquisition
2. Newton West Little League - Another ball field at Lyons. Question? "Do citizens object to removal of trees in area?" Representatives present say no objections.
3. Fence in, tot-lot areas.
4. Newton Tennis Association Priorities: (1) Resurface South High tennis courts in this budget. (2) Light Newton North High, \$50,000 in 1977 pending completion of additional courts. (3) Build 2 additional courts at Newton Centre (Mr. Halloran requested that a thorough study be made before proceeding and the Commission decided to hold this for the time being. (4) New Courts at Meadowbrook - or - other suitable new location for 1978 program (omit \$25,000 & leave \$50,000 for tennis courts.
5. Cabot - 25,000 for 1975
6. Conservators comments regarding acquisition of Norumbega land. (see Page 2, item 6)
7. Pine Street playground - (girls softball field) \$10,000 allowed.
8. Crystal Lake - request for a study - funds of \$20,000. Can count on help and cooperation of Newton Highlands Association - representative at this time is Dr. Jack Whittenberg.

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- 9. Outside running track at South High - probably not our responsibility.
- 10. Burr School - same as listed in report.
- 11. Crescent St. - same as listed in report.
- 12. Franklin "
- 13. Hunnewell "
- 14. Stearns "
- 15. Turner Terrace (controversial area - no action at this time)
- 16. Weeks Junior High - lights ok as noted - Fiscal year 1978
- 17. LeGrange & Vine-Open space land - leave as is.

In reference to items added to original Rec. CIP by City Planning Committee, Mr. Burke moved that items # CW2 and CW3, be referred to Fiscal Year 1978 and it was so voted.

In reference to item CW4, added to original Recreation CIP by City Planning Committee, Mr. Ferguson moved that this item should be a Conservation item, since it was in excess of original Recreation proposal - and should be so noted. (This was so voted unanimously)

INDOOR RECREATION ITEMS:

- 1. Brewer Building (Newton Centre) - OK as presented in report.
- 2. Child's Recreation Center (Hawthorne). While this item has been removed from the Capital Improvement budget, the Recreation Commission feels very strongly that it should be reinstated. It is in an area which needs recreation, and the building needs renovation. Recreation Commission recommends that \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 1978 for plans and \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 1979 be included in budget.

Mr. Burke moved that these items be restored as above and it was so voted.

- 3. SHOWMOBILE - ok as in budget (City Planning Committee recommends that School Department undertake building this as a project)

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 PM. The next regular Recreation Commission meeting will be held on November 18th at 7:30 PM at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

Minutes

Presents: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Messers Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, Paul J. Burke, Nelson Baker & the Miss Josephine Pepper, Judy Dean and Marjorie Lesbiral, Secretary

Visitors 19 Present

*Life Course  
Description  
A.J.*

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine, at 7:45 PM

1. Minutes of January 1975 Meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Commissioner Halloran submitted a reprot on attendance and maintenance. Mr. Halloran gave a detailed report on Jeep accident at Crystal Lake on February 14th.
3. "Life-Course" Don Brown, architect: In describing this exersize course, Mr. Brown noted that here in Newton, it would be known as a "life-Course" rather than the Swiss name of "Parcour". He also mentioned that this is a new and inventional approach to adult exercize in the United States and that Newton, as usual, was a prime mover and the first in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, and as such, would be very closely observed by many interested groups. Dennis on Cape Cod, and neighboring Wellesley, are investigating this concept at present.

The equipment required is very simplistic, Mr. B rown said, consisting of 44 posts the size of telephone poles and approximatley 50 linear feet of heavy beam. Members of the neighborhood will provide the work force. His associate, Jane Beishin, will help on postponing for integral arrangement into the natural setting. It will be heavy-duty material to withstand weather and vandalism. Signs, describing activity at each station, will probably be made by the Street Department and the sign figure itself, will be the so-called "Appalachian Man".

Another item of upmost importance, will be the cooperation between the neighborhood groups and Recreation, to prevent damage to the course.

The residents of the area feel, it appears, a certain apprehension, about something new and different since they feel this will attract many additional people into the area. Evidently, their main concern is possible parking on Commonwealth Avenue and on the M D C road, near Islington. As Mr. Halloran explained, the access to the Auberndale Park area and subsequent "Life-Course" is - in Melrose to West Pine where the paved, enclosed parking area is located - and people will definatly be discouraged from parking elsewhere.

Another item not previously discussed was the surface of the track. While the dirt track is the basic tract, during muddy or bad weather, this surface could tend to become muddy or pitted. A tentitive suggestion of some kind of crushed material was made. Someone in the visitors audience suggested that a wood-shredder was operated by the City of Newton at the Eliot Street yard - and possibly t his material could be used as a surface. This material would drain well, could be expected to fill in minor depreassions and additionally, is a good surface to run or walk on. Nothing at this time, was firmly resolved regarding t his surface.

Vandalism is, ofcourse, an every present problem, but as mr. Fitzpatrick commented, "You can't stop trying. " It will require more suveillance from the police once this course is in progress.

4. Tennis Badges: Tennis rules and regulations will be discussed at another meeting. at this time, Commissioner Halloran called to the attention of the Commission, that in recent years badges had been sold to residents for tennis court use on the outdoor, reserved courts. Unfortunately, it takes from 6 to 8 weeks, from the time of order

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to delivery and if the badges run out during season, new delivery is correspondingly slow. On the other hand, if too many are ordered and not used, many are left over. To defeat this problem, he suggests that a card be sold as a permit for the outdoor courts only.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the Recreation Department, for the 1975 outdoor summer tennis season, use a card for a tennis pass - with the player's name and number on it. So voted unanimously.

5. Announcement of Election: Dr. Levine, chairman, according to rules and regulations of the Recreation Commission, announced that at the March meeting, election for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be held.
6. Field Allocation Survey: Commissioner Halloran provided each Commission member with a copy of the survey which has now been distributed to all schools and leagues. Action as to allocation will be made as soon as surveys are returned.
7. Change of date for the March Commission Meeting: Since Commissioner Halloran will be out of town at the time of the regular third Monday date for the commission meeting, it was agreed that it would be best to postpone the meeting until the following week and hold the meeting on March 24th.
8. Norumbega land discussion: Originally brought to the Recreation Commission's attention by Mrs. Heyn of the Conservation Commission, on November 7th, 1974, the Conservation Commission south support of their efforts to purchase this land. The Recreation Commission agreed to write to the Mayor and Board of Alderman as follows:

"The Newton Recreation Commission at a regular meeting on November 18, 1974, reaffirmed its vote of November 7th, to unanimously support the efforts of the Newton Conservation Commission to purchase the Norumbega land".

The key information is that Recreation supports the Conservation Commission in their efforts, since Recreation does not have monies within their budget for a purchase of this magnitude.

Recently, at the Conservation Commission's request, Dr. Levine attended a meeting regarding this land but could make no commitment for the City or Recreation Comm. of course.

Mr. Burke pointed out, no action can be taken by the Recreation Commission as this is simply not a Recreation item, and his feeling is, that this is an Executive issue.

Mrs. Heyn, who was present at this meeting, again reiterated that support and ideas were really all the Conservation Commission wanted - or expected - from the Recreation Commission.

9. Report on Charles River Ice Skating Facility: After the January 20th meeting of the commission, a letter was forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Alderman, as follows:

"The Newton Recreation Commission at their regular monthly meeting last evening, January 20th, voted to go on record to support the need for an indoor, artificial ice-skating rink in the City of Newton.

The Recreation Commission also voted unanimously to support the City of Newton in obtaining the Charles River Ice Skating facility."

since that time, the Mayor has publically stated that he does not feel that as this time, the City of Newton, could, or should, make an investment of this magnitude.

Commissioner Halloran suggested that possibly the MDC might still be interested in this facility. Since this was still a possiblity, Mr. Ferguson moved that if the MDC had not nullified their interest in this facality, that the Recreation Commission go on record in a letter to Mayor Mann, suggesting that he persue this matter further. So voted

- 10. Re: School Department budget cuts as pertaining to athletics and Intramural sports. Commissioner Halloran reported briefly on this informatio of a \$600,000. Budget cut. this will leave a big gap in recreation by school, leaving a lot of students at loose ends during various seasons.

Mrs. Dayton of the Community School programs, was present at this meeting and, speaking on behalf of Community Schools, she saya that they are very interested is doing something about filling this gap made by the cut in School Department budget.

Cooperation between Community Schools and Recreation Department, already excellant hopefully will pick up the slack made by these School budget cuts, since both groups are anxious to provide whatever service they can.

- 11. Capital Improvements and Outlays - setting priorities on budget cuts made by Executive Department from \$457,500. to \$100,000. Since the Mayor had designated the amount of \$100,000. for this program, the Commission made the following cuts as designated to \$103,500. and directed Commissioner Halloran to make additional cuts that he felt would be most appropriate to reach the \$100,000. level.

	<u>Original</u>	<u>Cut to:</u>
Cement outside area at Hawthorn	\$6,000.	\$6,000.
Renovate 3 baseball fields at Albemarle	15,000.	10,000.
Night lights - Albemarle	135,000.	cut out
Renovate Cabot softball field	5,000.	5,000
Allison - purchase of land	60,000.	cut out
4 tennis courts - Albemarle	50,000.	25,000. (2 courts)
* Repair & maintain various tennis courts	30,000.	20,000. *
NSHS tennis court lighting	23,000.	cut out
Newt. Ctr. - remove fence & lengthen courts	18,000.	cut out
Crystal Lake - plans to renovate & enlarge (study only)	20,000.	cut out
construct basketball court Newt. Highlands	9,500.	9,500.
NHS extended fencing	12,000.	12,000.
Cresent street - playgrd. waterline	8,000.	cut out
Appartus area & walkway at Hunnewell PLG.	25,000.	5,000.
Cold Spring plans	30,000.	cut out
Boyd park - repairs to hardsurface courts	11,000.	11,000.
Totals	\$457,500.	\$100,000.

\* repair and maintenence on various courts was finally cut to 16,500. thus bringing total to approved \$100,000. (by Commissioner as directed)

100,000.

A. New Business:

- 1. Mr. Ferguson commented that Newton North High School swim area is suffering badly from overcrowding, particularly on adult programs.
- 2. Mrs. Kerine from the Cabot Park Area, mentioned an incident of obsenity observed by her husband a year ago in the men's shower room at Newton North High School



and requested that more modest arrangements be made for men - such as separate cubicles to dress or undress in - rather than the common dressing rooms as are generally provided in most athletic facilities.

1. Commissioner Halloran called the attention to the Recreation Commission, the unfortunate death of well known basketball official, Frank Donnellan. He as Commissioner and as a friend, has written to the family.

Mr. Burke moved that, on behalf of the Recreation Commission, a letter also be sent to the Donnellan family from the Commission. So voted

2. Commissioner Halloran reported that there will be a Massachusetts Recreation Board Members meeting on March 15th, at Framingham State College and all members are invited. Since Mr. Haloran will be unable to attend as he will be out of town he requested that any member interested in attending, let him know in order to make reservations.
3. On March 6th, at 8:00 PM, Commissioner Halloran will go before the Finance committee of the board of Alderman, with his 1975 - 1976 Recreation Budget figures for their consideration. He asked that as many members of the Commission as may be available on that evening, to please attend this important meeting.
4. Re: Cabot Park - \$12,000. still retained in budget for this area. Mrs. Kerine from the area was present and wanted to know if this ammount would cover trees and soccer fields. She can't understand why there are 3 softball fields located in this area - but no soccer fields.
5. Re: baseball field at Newton North High School: It has come to Commissioner Halloran's attention that the baseball field originally planned for this area had been eliminated in the new athletic layout at Newton North High. Mr. Halloran, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Ronanyne of the High School, all met to consider this. It was pointed out to Mr. Ronanyne that this field would be vital. While there are presently 15 offiaial size baseball fields in the City, this could change if some field became unavailable. It would also be necessary for recreation and after-school use. Mr. Ronanye had really only thought of school use but could see the logic to this - and will new recommend that this field be reinstated in plans.

It was concluded by the Commisssonn, that it would be best to go on record as being in favor of this field at NNHS and so Mr. Ferguson moved "that the Recreation Commission because of:

1. Geographic location of NNHS, a baseball field will be neded for Recreation Department and other non-school use, evenings and summer programs, not only now but forthee future years use;
2. This field can be used in the Fall for the Girls and boys athletics without any real maintenance problem to this Department;
3. There is no guarantee that other fields in the City - i,e Lincoln Park, will always remain a baseball field

deems it necessary that a baseball field be constructed an that property." and it was so voted unanaimously.

6. Briefly dicussed was the possibility that children and students involved in various athletic programs and teams, shold have a "breather space" between athletic seasons. Mrs. Pepper added that it should not be just confined to seasons alone, but between various sports. This would modify the pressure some-

on the various athletes.

7. Next meeting on March 24th. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbiral  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT

REPORT ON PROBLEMS WITH PADDOCK POOL

MARCH 5, 1975

In June of 1974, during the Local #800 labor dispute, Gath Pool water level dropped approximately one foot. Evidently the backwash had been left on in #1 and not shut off. Sand then came into the pool. Small stones went into the pool hot water system and also caught in the jets and gutters, thereby blocking the water flow.

The Recreation Department maintenance cleared these, as well as they could, to keep the water flow moving. Recreation call Bob Maguire, the plumber ( who normally opens and closes the Gath Pool in Spring and Fall ). Mr. Maguire looked the area over but was unable to determine the reason for the malfunction.

Recreation then contacted Jack Williams, Paddock Pool representative in New Hampshire. Mr. Williams traveled to Newton and after inspecting the facility, said to isolate - by shutting off first control (1 cylinder controls 2 filters). This did alleviate the problem and allowed the Recreation Department to continue operation until close of summer swim season.

At the end of the season in late September, the pool was closed, water drained and covers removed from filters. Jack Williams was contacted and again came down to Newton in the late Fall and looked at the Filtration system. He said he would contact the New York office in Albany, New York, of Paddock Pool, and someone would come to Newton and give Recreation a price for repair.

During late November, or early December, during Foreman Frank Shea's vacation, Commissioner Halloran recieved a telepjone call from Albany, New York, saying that Mr. Harris was sending out a letter and would give us a price estimate for the repairs. Mr. Harris felt there would be no problem in correcting it, he said, taking 5 to 10 days to do the job - costing approximately \$5,000.

When Frank Shea returned to work in January, he started calling Mr. Van Denbosch in New York and was told that Harris had taken over Van Denbosch's job.

Mr. Harris then called and assured Frank that he was getting all the figures together and would give us the price over the phone very shortly. We wanted it in writing. He promised that he would give it for Recreation by the 1st of the week.

Telephone called continued - at least one or more a week. During February, we again called Jack Williams in New Hampshire, but found he had had a major heart attack and was unable to come to phone or conduct any business - so - we called New York again.

Last Thursday or Friday, February 27th or 28th, Frank Shea again called Mr. Harris but he was unavailable. Later Mr. Harris called back but this was after Frank had left for the day, and so spoke with Commissioner Halloran. Again Mr. Harris assured him that a quotation letter would be mailed to Recreation by Special Delivery the next day. Price quoted as \$5,000. to \$6,000. and 2 weeks maximum to do the job.

Monday March 3rd - no letter - again called New York - Mr. Harris not available.  
Tuesday March 4th - no letter - again called New York. Meanwhile Mr. Maguire, the Newton plumber called New York and spoke with Harris - he was also told a letter would be arriving. Mr. Harris told Maguire that National Pool Equipment Company, manufacturer of the filters, was no longer in business. No letter arrived Wed. or Thursday.

Russell J. Halloran  
Recreation Commissioner

RJH/ml

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

March 24, 1975

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis Rice, Messers Paul Burke, Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson & Mrs. Josephine Pepper, Judy Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

24 Visitors Present - Meeting held in Cith Hall Cafeteria

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine At 7:43 PM

1. Minutes of February meeting: Mr. Ferguson noted that at the February meeting, he had mentioned overcrowding but only in the NNHS adult swim program, not as a general facility problem. This correction will be made in the February Minutes - and they were accepted as corrected.
2. Reports of Maintenance, attendance & Commissioner Halloran's report of activities were distributed to Commission members. Commissioner Halloran also reported that the Jeep went through the Ice earlier this winter, has now been reconditioned and repairs at an approximate cost of \$120.00 and should be back on the road shortly. his main concern was, and continues to be, that no human life was endangered in this incident.
3. Election: Since several groups were present and waiting to be heard, Dr. Levine now suggested that perhaps it would be advisable to delay the election until later in the meeting, and allow those visitors present, to speak.
4. Eligibility of Recreation Department Sports Leagues: Commissioner Halloran gave a brief background of the questions involved. There appears to be a vagueness in deliniat-  
tion of eligibility rules which hopefully can be clarified. Basically, Newton Sports Leagues are for Newton people. Present rules state that players must be (1) Newton residents (2) Full time employees of a company in Newton - at least 35 hours per week, or - (3) Full time employees of the City of Newton - at least 35 hrs.per week.

Visitors pointed out several things they felt should be considered in making a judgement of eligibility. Among the things they mentioned were the fact that the softball league had grown in the last few years from 9 teams to 30 teams, due to its great popularity; many of the fellows who began as players years backand were residents at the time, have now moved out of town although their parents have continued to reside . Since their parents do still live - and pay taxes - in Newton, they feel they should'nt be penalized just because they are unable to live in Newton themselves.

Examples of inconsistencies of the present setup were described by Bob Wilcox, a Newton softball player in this league for 23 years: (1) a college kid from outside the City of Newton but now living here - now eligible; (2) A Newton City employee but living in Medford - now eligible; (3) a man born and brought up in Newton, his parents continuing to live in Newton, who trades in Newton businesses - not eligible.

Mr. Burke inquired about paid ballplayers since the local paper has carried an "ad" but he was assured that there were no paid plauers in leagues. No one seemed to know where the advertisement for softball players had come from.

Mr. Halloran painted out that eligibility, not only in softball, but other sports leagues was an issue to be delt with.

Mr. Ferguson wondered if the league eligibility might not remain the same for one year, at least until these problems could be worked out prior to 1975. Mr. Ferguson mentioned - that in order to clarify the soft-ball rules, that for 1 year those who played in the soft ball league prior to 1975 and or whose parents now live in Newton, be allowed to play this year. Sec onded by Judy Dean and unanimously voted in favor ( please note later change ) \*

Mr. Burke commented that football, basketball and baseball leagues should all be talked over and eligibility considered and decided for league play.

The sponsors of George's Cafe inquired about the Recreation Commission meetings since they sponsor several sports teams and would like to attend the meeting. Mr. Halloran explained that normal meeting dates are the 3rd Monday of each month and assured them that they were welcome to attend.

5. Election of Officers: Mr. Paul Burke nominated Dr. Levine as Chairman for the Commission. No other nominations were presented and the secretary was then instructed to cast 1 ballot thereby electing Dr. Burton D. Levine as Chairman of Recreation Commission for another year.

Mr. Frank Fitzpatrick nominated Mr. Rice as Vice-chairman of the Commission. No other nominations were presented and the secretary was instructed to cast 1 ballot to elect Mr. Francis Rice as Vice-chairman of Recreation Commission for another year.

6. Consideration of Tennis Rules and fees: Commissioner Halloran presented the proposed tennis rules, with a copy for each member. He explained that he recommended very few changes and the same fee structure. He emphasized that this is only for those reserved, outdoor courts at Newton Center, Burr Park and the night lighted courts at Newton South High.

Mr. Halloran also mentioned that it appears that many people in the past have bought tennis badges for other than the reserved courts and that these new rules would designate those places where permits were required.

Mr. Rice moved to accept those rules and fees as presented - and it was so voted.

7. Report on problems on filtration system at Gath pool: Commissioner Halloran reported that beginning last summer, there had been a problem with the filtration system but that, at that time, it had been corrected on a temporary basis, allowing the summer swim season to continue without any interruption. However, before this season's opening, it must be corrected. After some difficulty, Paddock Pool, has been committed to make these repairs. The Paddock Pool representative estimates that it will take from two to three weeks, at a cost of between \$6,000. and \$8,000. Money for this repair was anticipated for this by Commissioner Halloran, and is in the current budget. Repairs should be completed by opening date in June.
8. Result of field-permit survey and distribution: Commissioner Halloran reported that the results of the field permit survey had been returned and complied, permits issued accordingly and most participants appear satisfied.
- \*9. The Commission members agreed to reconsider a motion and vote made earlier in the meeting regarding softball eligibility rules. The revised motion amended by Mr. Ferguson is as follows - and was so voted unanimously by the Recreation Commission. "In addition to the first 3 rules of the softball rules already existing, that to clarify the softball league rules for men and women, that those who have played in the softball league prior to 1975, shall be allowed to play for one year". \*
10. Mr. Al Smith of the "Gals League" spoke, requesting that more fields be made available

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to this growing group. Involved last year, were 400 girls, swelling this year into 550. Potential, he says, for an increase to 600 or 700 girls. He feels that an equalization of fields is needed between girls and boys and strongly recommends this to the Commission. Additionally, he suggests, that whenever possible, that children be scheduled to play on fields as close to their homes as possible. This not only eliminates need for transportation but also guarantees more involvement both by the children and their parents.

Mr. Ferguson pointed out that he felt Commissioner Halloran was aware of the problems and would be the person to work any difficulties out with. Commissioner Halloran noted that permits requests had not been received until March 3rd and Little League had already received their permits.

Mr. Smith indicated that he was willing to work with the Commissioner. He admits that his field request list was late because the director's car was stolen and lists were in it. They have since regrouped and a request that field use, be revised and equalized, has been presented to Recreation.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the Commissioner and Mr. Smith work out the best solution to the problem, as presented to the Commission and it was so voted.

11. Request by St. Mary of Carmen Society for their Annual Carnival at Hawthorn: Mr Leone has presented the groups annual request to Commissioner Halloran. The dates are July 15 to July 20th.

Mr Burke motioned that this permit be granted to them and it was so voted unanimously with the understanding, of course, that rules and regulations set forth by the recreation Department be complied with. Nothing is to come into that playground before 9:00 am on Tuesday.

12. Date of April Commission Meeting: Since the regular meeting date of April 21st is an April Holiday (Patriot's Day), it was found agreeable to all Commission Members, that the meeting be held on Tuesday evening, the 22nd of April.

13. Questions regarding holding swim lessons on Passover and Easter Sunday: It was decided not to make any changes. However, if a child missed one of these sessions, they could make it up during April vacation, if necessary.

14. New Business:

- A. Mr. Ferguson inquired as to when North High School pool will close for the season? It is scheduled to close on May 23rd. When it will reopen for the summer schedule has not been decided at this time.
- B. It is suggested that the commission consider rules ect. for the Newton Tag football League at it's May Meeting.
- C. Mr. Fitzpatrick requests that fee charges for leagues, be taken up at the next meeting and be added to the agenda.
- D. Mr. Ferguson states that the swim lane for adults is not being followed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 21, 1975

MINUTES

Presents: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman De. Levine Vice-chairman Mr. Rice Messers Ferguson, Burke and Baker and Mms Pepper, Dean and Stapleton (who acted as Secretary since Marge Lesbirel was away on vacation) Mr. Fitzpatrick was absent.

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM.

1. Minutes of March meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of attendance, maintenance and meetings attended by Commissioner, were provided to members.
3. Commissioner Halloran reproted on the following items:
  - A. He had received a letter of appreciation from the family of Frank Donellon, in response to hes letter of sympathy, to the family.
  - B. That he had been meeting with the new personel Director, John Richie and that had made plans to meet with Mr. Cox of the Mass. Civil Service, in regard to seasonal help and filling vacancies.
  - C. That he had met with Al Smith of the "Gals League" and all is well - with all problems solved.
  - D. That during the sale of tennis permits, a tennis survey was available to be filled out by tennis players.
  - E. That the finance Committee had ruled favorably on Recreation's request for monies for Gath Pool - and work would be finished in two weeks.
  - F. Re Cabot Park, a petition had been recieved from residents of the area describing the type of equipment they would like for a tot - lot. Money is available for this.
  - G. Williams School and money for tot-lot, may have to te transfered to another area.

Proposed moving of the basketball courts at the school, which appear to be in little use, to make room for the tot-lot - were opposed by the school.
  - H. Orientation for the leaders. General Information in folders for playground and swim areas.
  - I. Mrs. Dean brought up the fact that South High tennis courts need lines painted.
  - J. Copies of applications for alcoholic beverage permits and procedures were discussed. Forms, as shown were approved by Police Dept.
  - K. Letters of appreciattion have gone to Sidney Hill at the close of the Special Swim program, for the use of their facility.
  - L. Lynon Playground fence is up and looks nice.
  - M. Recreation Department publicity is excellent and is reaching lots of people.
4. Swimming rules & regulations were provided to members for their consideration. Mr. Ferguson moved to accept and it was so voted.

Mr. Mr. Halloran commented that he was surprised at the number of people who use North High pool during the summer and it was certainly worth keeping it open. The High Diving board is closed to the public as too dangerous (used by school for competitive work and only under strict supervision)

Mrs. Dean inquired as to swim registration dates and was informed that full information will be in this comming week's new releases.



Hyde School Playground: Terry D'Eugenio with adventure Playground. He gave a demonstration of where, at the school, they wanted it. Mr Halloran is concerned about the safty and maintanence of this equipment. There has been vandilism, tires burned at Burr, poles that have left splinters ect. He would like responsibility clearly defined. Originally, plans called for PTA committees to do the maintenance on these playgrounds but this has not been done.

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Mr. Burke brought up the question as to who is liable in the event of serious accidents and Mr. Baker spoke of negligence aspect, from a legal point of view.

Mr. Ferguson suggested that we put this in writing to the school when they accept the equipment. The City solicitor would have to rule on accident liability ect.

Mr. D'Eugenio said that they have now started using cedar post - which do not expell splinters.

Mr. Rice moved to accept Terry's plan as shown, and requests that in addition, he send a guideline letter to Mr. Halloran, as to what might be expected in the way of maintenance - and it was so voted.

- 6. Mr. Halloran Introduced Nancy Morgan, a co-op student from Mt. Ida, who had been invited to sit in on this meeting.
- 7. Day Jr. High School Tennis courts: Dr. Levine, Chaitman, appointed a committee on the motion of Mr. Burke's, to explore the matter further. The committee appointed was the entire Commission.
- 8. Report on Reorganization: Mayor's recommendations to Aldermanic Committee - 4 yes, 1 abstained. Maintenance would go to Public Works, if this does go through. Mr. Halloran commented that it looked good on paper but details need to be worked out, he is still uncertain as to who would issue field permits and how priorities would be met by the new deparment of Parks & Fores y. Mr. Halloran wanted to go on record that if things didn't go well, he would prefer that maintenance came back to this department. The Commission agreed.

Reorganized for

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Mrs Dean, Ward 5 Recreation Commission representative, presented a petition from the residents of her area on swim registration procedures. They feel that some other manner of registration should be available to them.

Mr. Ferguson asked if she had any suggestions but she did'nt, he also asked if the group had any suggestions. They didn't. Mr. Halloran will look into the situation.

- b. Mr. Baker informed the Commissioner that the trash barrell at the Ward School playground was gone - and that they really need one.
- c. In responce to Mr. Rice's query as to how the fence at Lyon's field stays in the ground, Mr. Halloran explained that it is in "sleeves" and is also removable.

Meeting Adjorned at 9:15, next meeting on May 19th, at 7:30 PM.

Carol Staplton  
Acting Secretary

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

May 19, 1975

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Levine, Vice Chairman Francis Rice, Mmes. Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean, Mr. Nelson Baker and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary (Due to death of his mother, Mr. Ferguson was unable to attend and Mr. Fitzpatrick was in Japan.)

Meeting called to order at 7:45 P.M. by Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine.

1. Minutes of April meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Due to an extremely heavy work load at this particular time of season, maintenance reports were not available prior to meeting. Mr. Halloran said that good weather increases vandalism problems and accompanying extra maintenance work.

Reports of activities by Recreation, were provided to members and Commissioner Halloran's report of his activities and meetings during the past month.

Commissioner Halloran reported on the following items:

1. That the proposed reorganization plan for the City had been rejected by the Aldermanic Board but that he felt it was likely that a new plan would be proposed. He has gone on record with the Mayor's Office as favoring that maintenance remain with the Recreation Department for maximum efficiency.
  2. That the Junior Chamber of Commerce would once again hold a field day at the North High School, with the cooperation and help of the Recreation Department. It is anticipated that Governor Dukakis and Secretary of State Guzzi will also be present at this affair.
  3. That "Springfest" held on Sunday at City Hall, was a success. Recreation's Gail Forman, Arts Coordinator, has enclosed a report on Recreation's participation in the supervision of the children's area and for an information booth and exhibit of Recreation activities.
  4. That tennis is now in full swing and that swim permits will go on sale shortly at the Albemarle area. He also invited all Commission members to avail themselves of swim permits.
3. Nancy Rosoff, Director of Little People's School in West Newton with a request for a permit for a carnival. Due to a misunderstanding, Miss Rosoff thought she needed to get a permit from Recreation. Actually, since they are planning to have it on their own property and not on a Recreation playground site, it was explained that permission from Recreation was unnecessary, but the Commission did advise her to go to the City Clerk, Police

Reorganization

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and Fire Departments for any necessary permits for rides, food, etc.

4. Report on proposed tennis sites for Day Junior High School at Albemarle Playground. Commissioner Halloran reported that he had a 7:30 A.M. appointment meeting at the area with members of the School Committee, Mr. Martin, Principal of Day Junior High School, John Eldert, Physical Education Instructor and Mrs. Pepper of the Newton Recreation Commission. He exhibited a chart, showing the proposed layout of tennis courts, which was agreed upon. They are to the left of the Gath Pool area. Mr. Halloran's only concern was that possibly foul balls from the playing fields might drop into the courts.

Mr. Burke said that he would bow to the professionals, but really felt that there was a better spot.

Mr. Rice mentioned that Recreation accent the location of the tennis courts at Albemarle as shown to the Commission by Commissioner Halloran. It was seconded by Mrs. Pepper, and so moved with one person opposed, Mr. Burke.

5. Proposed layout of fields at Newton North, including football fields and track were described by Commissioner Halloran. Planning Department's Richard Griffin has provided the layout, with the approval of Mr. Jim Ronayne of the Newton North High School. Mr. Halloran felt that it was a good workable plan. He reported that it would be necessary to regrade, resod and build the track. Mr. Gene Larson of Public Works Department for the City will present the funding proposal of \$1,000,000, to the Board of Alderman. This would include stadium, new tennis courts, ball fields, parking lot etc. Due to the fiscal year funding, this must be accomplished by July 1.
6. Cabot Park - Tot Lot: Commissioner Halloran as a point of information, explained that information on equipment had been forwarded to the Purchasing Agent for the \$12,500, appropriated for this use.
7. Bicentennial picnic, band concert and fireworks planned for July 3 - more on this later.
8. Exhibit of famous Clydesdale horses at Newton Centre Playground: Commissioner Halloran reported that this proposed exhibit had come to his attention via the Executive Department and the co-chairman of the Bicentennial celebration. These famous horses will be visiting Newton on the 28th of May and will be on display in Newton Centre, then will probably travel to City Hall, for a total time of about 4 hours or more, in all. The Recreation Department will provide leadership during the afternoon and a Police detail will also be on hand.
9. Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast - to be held at Boston College on May 30. A table can be reserved seating 8 people. Dr. Levine, Chairman suggested that as many attend as possible. Cost of tickets is \$5.00 each. Breakfast will begin at 8:00 A.M. Reservations can be made with Mr. Halloran.

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10. Consideration of Ward School Tennis: Mrs Edward Levy, in a letter to Commissioner Halloran, proposed that the tennis courts, which now open at 9:00 A.M. throughout the City, be opened at 8:30 A.M. for the convenience of people who want to play tennis before work or when it is too hot later in the day. As she pointed out, there are no restrictions on tree saws, power mowers, trash and garbage collections - or other noisy activities.

It was pointed out that clay courts still required work at this hour and it would be awkward to open some courts and not all of them. It was generally felt that the 9:00 A.M. time was a good time to open, considerate of those who objected to early playing but still accessible, within reason, to those who wanted to play before the heat of the day.

Mr. Rice motioned to retain the present tennis court openings at 9:00 A.M. - and it was so moved.

11. New Business:

- A. Dr. Levine mentioned that until the past two years, the Commission hadn't met during July and August - would the members consider not meeting during this period?

Commissioner Halloran pointed out that he felt meeting during this busy time of year was a real necessity and that he would like to continue to meet during these months. All present felt that if he felt this necessary, they would be willing to meet.

- B. Commissioner Halloran commented briefly on Summer Civil Service lists - or the lack of them. If Recreation doesn't receive them soon, he feels that he will have to make provisional appointments in order to open swim and playground facilities. He also said that \$14,000 worth of new playground equipment has been delivered to the Auburndale Recreation Department area today.
- C. Mrs. Pepper reported that she had heard some really good comments on the pre-season swimming registrations. She said that people felt that it was handled efficiently and well.
- D. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on the 3rd Monday of June - the next day, June 17 is a holiday, but no one seemed to feel it would interfere.
- E. Commissioner Halloran complimented Gil Champagne, saying that Recreation was indeed fortunate to have him available this year for our swimming program. As Mr. Halloran put it, "Gil is second to none in the entire country in the area of aquatics!"

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

mjb

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes of June 16, 1975

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis Rice, Messers Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Mmes Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Dr. Levine, at 7:40 P.M.

1. Minutes of May meeting: It was noted that Mr. Paul Burke 's name should be included, as being present, and minutes accepted as amended.
2. Monthly reports, maintenance reports & Commissioner's reports of activities were provided to all Commission members.

Commissioner Halloran reported on the following items:

- a. New summer Recreation Department brochures - now printed and ready - currently being distributed to as wide a section of Newton residents as possible.
- b. Copies of summer Recreation playground and swim manuals, which will be distributed to all summer personnel, were provided to each Commission member, for informational reading.
- c. Report of those activities and meetings attended by Commissioner Halloran during this month, distributed to all board members.
- d. Maintenance reports were mailed to members prior to this meeting.
- e. Orientation information as to schedules, location, (Burr School), speakers, and activities, to be held on that day, were provided to all Commission Members. All, were invited to attend if possible.
- f. Civil Service: Commissioner Halloran reported that all personnel for summer, part-time, or temporary positions was obtained through Civil Service, in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations. This is, as usual, a real nightmare due to the fact that Civil Service is never sble to provide personnel in time for hiring for the summer season - and - from now on, will contain lists of names of out-of-city (anywhere in Massachusetts) people for certification. In this case, this could mean that Recreation Department could be hiring mainly out-of-city residents for Newton programs.

Commissioner Halloran asked for the thinking of the Commission on this problem. His feeling was that it would be more efficient for all concerned, if the City of Newton could eliminate Civil

Service for all temporary help.

Mr. Ferguson moved, and it was so voted unanimously, that the Newton Recreation Commission go on record to have all temporary or seasonal help required by the Recreation Department, removed from jurisdiction, if possible.

g. Commissioner Halloran reported that he has received a very nice letter from a Mrs. Spitzer, with regard to the so-called Newton Centre "hut". She is very pleased with program and personnel at this playground.

3. Tennis reservation system revision: Evidenced by long lines of potential tennis players on Mondays (court sign-up time) Commissioner Halloran sought to have the tennis reservation system changed to accomodate more players.

Mr. Ed Fraktman, liason for Recreation Department and headmaster at Newton North High, who has been overseeing the various tennis courts in the city, commented that with the present tennis set-up, there is a heavy pressure point on Mondays at 5:00P.M. and that by 5:45 on the same day, courts for the week are filled.

Proposed was a change of reservation system whereby a rotating system would go into effect. While it would limit permit holders to one hour per week, per single reservation (actually 2 hours per week), it would enable more residents to take part in the tennis programs. All agreed to begin immediately this new system.

Commissioner Halloran and Mr. Fraktman both commented on the really good public relations at the tennis courts supplied by the court attendants; Gordy Lewis, Paul Joyce and Jim McLaughlin. Commission member and tennis player, Judy Dean, thoroughly enjoyed these comments.

In response to a question asked of him earlier, Commissioner Halloran asked if Mr. Fraktman felt it would be suitable for young children to accompany their parents inside the tennis courts while play was going on. As he anticipated, Mr. Frakyman vetoed this suggestion from a safety standpoint.

4. Robert Banker: Equestrian School proposed. A low key presentation by Mr. Banker for a long range consideration of a possible riding school program within the City of Newton, was presented to the Commission. Three descriptive brochures were presented to members of the Commission:

- a. "The Newton Therapeutic Riding Academy & the Newton Riding Academy, Inc."
- b. "The Newton Riding Academy, Inc." (promotional material)
- c. "The Newton Riding Academy, Inc." (complete cost of program)

Mr. Banker would like the Commission to become familiar with this concept and will come back to discuss it further at a future meeting. He has spoken to the Planning Committee and Stanley Miller, with regards to locating an Urban Riding Center near to a cosmopolitan area. He has felt that developing this type of program would be ideal for Newton and could make use of underutilized lands in the City.

Mr. Burke asked him if he had spoken with the City Legal Department. He replied that he had not, as he wanted to find out just how the recreation felt about this concept before he approached the City Solicitor.

Mr. Halloran suggested that it might be a good idea to study and consider this proposal before presenting it to the City Solicitor. While Dr. Levine and Mr. Burke both felt that an opinion would be necessary, from the Legal Department, before any action was taken, they thought further consideration of the idea, possible at the next meeting, would be acceptable. (Mr. Ferguson motioned that Commissioner Haloran consult with the City Solicitor to see what the legal aspect was - and then report back to the Commission - however this motion was not followed through). Commissioner Halloran suggested that it would be a good idea if all members read over and reviewed the material presented this evening.

5. Mrs. Levy - regarding tennis court rules and reservations: Mr. Ferguson reported that while Mrs. Levy had been invited to come to the Commission meeting this evening, she decided not to come since she had nothing constructive to contribute.
6. "Life Course" at Auburndale: Dr. Buxbaum and Don Brown are hopefully nearing completion of this numberes station, exercise course and the grand opening is tentatively planned for June 28th. Governor Dukakis has indicated an interest in this inovational exercise and hopes to be able to attend the ceremonies.
7. Fireworks in connection with Bicentennial celebration: Commissioner Halloran has met with Chief Quinn of the Newton Police and the Executive Department and later with the Bicentennial Committée. The Police Department is concerned with crowd control rather than the actual fireworks. It has now been decided to cancel the fireworks and concentrate instead on the picnic and concert at the Newton Centre Playground.
8. Touch Football eligibility: William Barry, supervisor of the League, presented, what he felt, were fair eligibility requirements, taking into consideration those soft-ball requirements determined earlier this year for that league. Eight teams will be involved in Touch Football.
  - . Most Commission members felt that Recreation would be duty-bound to stick with the similar softball eligibility rules as established by the Commissioner earlier this year.

Mr. Burke moved, and it was so voted, that the eligibility rules established for thr Touch Football as recommended in Mr. Barry's letter of June 11, 1975, be accepted.

9. St. Mary of Carmen Society Carnival: Earlier this year, a permit for July 15 th to July 20th was granted to this group for a carnival to be held at Hawthon field. Since then, considerable money and work have gone into improvement of the field. Concern by Mr. Halloran was expressed, due to the fact that after the permit was issued, field work was done - such as resodding, etc. Heavy traffic, as will be expected with a carnival, could seriously damage these fields where money has been expended for improvements.

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Commissioner Halloran reported that he would be meeting with the carnival group shortly, and if the Commission had no objections, would suggest an alternate site at Allison field.

Mr. Burke also said that he would be meeting with Alderman Andrew Magni, who is in the area and aware of both the situation from the carnival viewpoint and also the Recreation situation.

In an impromptu meeting in one of the Committee rooms between Mr. Burke and Alderman Magni, Mr. Burke returned to say that Alderman Magni will call Mr. Halloran on next Wednesday and plan to make an appointment to discuss this problem with him.

10. New Business:

- a. Inovation playground maintenance: The question of maintenance and whose responsibility is constantly arising. These various inovational playgrounds were all built by the PTA's and sanctioned by Principals of the various schools.

According to John Gilliland of the School Department, he agrees that the School Department is responsible for the maintenance of these inovational playgrounds - not the Recreation Department.

- b. Lassie League Presentation of tropies: Commission Member, Howard Ferguson, attended this function for 200 girls who took part in the end-of-season festivities of the Junior High Girl's soft-ball league which is supervised by Fran Towle of the Department.

Mr. Ferguson reported that he had a very enjoyable time and was much impressed with Miss Towle's supervision. He also was invited to join the group for refreshments of pizza and coke, provided by Fran.

- c. Swim tags: Swim tags are on sale at all swim areas and are interchangeable.

Commissioner Halloran also reported that the heater at the Gath Pool is not working at this time. It has been there since the pool was built and probably will need to be replaced. The sun, at this time, will ceratinly help to warm the water for the time being, he said, until it is decided how to procede - either with repairs or replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

July 21, 1975

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-chairman Francis Rice, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Dr. Levine, at 7:40 p.m.

1. Minutes of June meeting were accepted as read.
2. Monthly reports, maintenance reports and minutes were provided to members prior to meeting. Reports of Commissioner Halloran's activities during the month were distributed. Additionally, the Commissioner reported on the Orientation sessions held at the Burr School prior to the opening of the playground season. Currently operating are 27 playgrounds, 2 handicapped and special camps, Crystal Lake, Cath Pool, and the indoor pool at North High. Swimming is the top activity at this point due to the extreme heat.

Commissioner Halloran reported briefly that, at the Commission's direction, a letter has gone to the Mayor requesting that all seasonal, part-time help be removed from Civil Service jurisdiction and the Mayor has requested the Personnel Department to investigate this possibility.

Additional comments from Commissioner Halloran regarded the potential problem at Crystal when a 14 year old youngster evidently experienced a heart problem and had to be taken to Newton-Wellesley Hospital. The staff did an excellent job on this occasion in getting the person out of the water and providing support service until Police arrived. He also commented about a "letter to the Editor" regarding the protest of a parent because his child was refused a swim test. Mr. Halloran has responded to this letter explaining that this occurred during a severe heat wave when there were over 1000 people in the water. Obviously this was not the time, when safety of many, could be sacrificed for the convenience of one. Mr. Halloran supported the staff in the comment that "staff acted in proper and diplomatic way under existing conditions." He feels that safety is prime importance!

3. Dr. Robert Buxbaum - Life Course  
At 7:50 p.m., Dr. Buxbaum provided the Commission with several slides of the new life course in action. Opening day was during a pouring rain storm but in spite of that, many were there. Dr. Buxbaum reported that many people are now using it, quite a few of these are family groups. He is most enthusiastic about it. Outside groups from other cities and towns are expressing interest about it. Outside groups from other cities and towns are expressing interest since Newton's course is the "first".

Recommendations by Dr. Buxbaum were some additional work on the path itself. His recommendation is for a 2-foot wide path of sand and sawdust

mix, just wide enough to handle 2 persons abreast. The graphics and equipment are really great, he says and sometime, it might be a good idea, to have instructional material, with audio, or in person. He also recommended additional forest paths of this same type in other areas in Newton such as Edmand's Park, Cold Spring Playground, etc.

4. Introduction of Recreation field worker, Candy English, from Slippery Rock College by Mr. Halloran. She has just completed her field work here and will be returning to her area.
5. In reference to the cancelled fireworks, Commissioner Halloran commented briefly on his concern regarding crowd behavior and vandalism. He reported that he had attended a special meeting held at Cith Hall with the Newton Public Health and Safety Committee. He also mentioned that the Newton-Waltham Tribune had an excellent byline which described the situation: "Lazy Parents, Liquor, No Jobs = Trouble", was the title. While this was good, he also described the fact that the bad kids got all the publicity instead of the 95% or more, who never had any problems and functioned well in society.
6. Newton North indoor programs for Fall will begin in October. Fee policy which is recommended by Mr. Halloran is:

- approve use of last year's ID card
- no fee above original cost of the ID

As Mr. Halloran pointed out, 4700 people used these cards during the last season program and basically, the Commissioner and Commission members have felt that these facilities should be available to as many as possible, at no charge.

- a. Mr. Ferguson moved, and it was so voted unanimously, that those who have ID cards may continue to use those cards, at no cost to June 1976, unless it has to be replaced due to loss.
- b. Mr. Rice moved and it was so voted unanimously, that no fees are to be charged for use of facilities, beyond the cost of the ID card.

7. Report of St. Mary of Carmen Society Festivities

In the past few years, this group has held a Carnival at Hawthorn. This year, due to the fact that fields has been renovated, it was deemed inappropriate by Mayor and Mr. Salter to hold a carnival, with attending foot and vehicular traffic on these newly grasses areas. Allison was suggested as an alternate site but the Society did not want to hold it there or at Post #440.

They decided on a festival instead, which lasted for 2 days, and was held at Hawthorn but was kept off grass with no commercial activities. With fine cooperation from Mr. Nunzio Leone, the Chairman, activities were good, with no wear or tear, or reports of any problems. Alderman Andrew Magni, "Fats" Pelligrini and Mr. Leone worked hard to make this a success.

Comments from the residents of the area, reported by Mr. Fitzpatrick of the Recreation Commission, said that this year's festivities were "A blessing in disguise - with no big carnival rides and resulting confusion and crowds".

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8. Equestrian School

Commissioner Halloran, in referring to the presentation made to the Commission last month by Robert Banker, suggests that the Commission moves slowly and cautiously on this project. He recommended a committee to study this proposed program.

Mr Burke disagrees. He feels that the Commission should first investigate through the City Legal Department to see if such a program would even be a legal possibility.

Mr. Burke next moved, and it was unanimously voted by the Commission, that Commissioner Halloran contact the City of Newton Law Department on the legality of this proposal before the next Commission meeting in August.

9. Fall, Winter, and Spring Brochure

Will be similar to summer - hope to have it out in school by mid-September.

10. Annual Reports

The Mayor has informed Recreation that a new report should be prepared from July 1, 1974 to June 30, 1975.

11. Resurfacing of Newton South High Tennis Courts

Due to heavy school use early in the season, it was impossible to re-surface the tennis courts as planned. It takes 4 to 5 weeks to complete and while the Fall would be ideal, the weather is a little unpredictable at that time. At present, Mr. Halloran estimated that the work <sup>with</sup> be done in 3 or 4 weeks. So  
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NEW BUSINESS

A. Mr Halloran reported that several pieces of new equipment have now been installed at Lyons Field especially for young children. They consist of a 5-foot slide, a Stagecoach and 4 Spring Horses.

Mr. Mike LeConti, who was present at this meeting, commented that they were getting lots of use and were terrific.

B. Charles River Skating Acquisition

Mr. Burke reported that the State now has a bill on file whereby they are considering the purchase of this Newton Facility.

C. Mrs. Dean inquired if it would be possible to obtain the bill number?

C. Vandalism in the City

Mr. Burke stated that he was very pessimistic about the amount of vandalism in the various playgrounds. Much of this trouble, he feels, is attributable to the drinking by younger children in the 14, 15 and 16 age category. His belief is that the drinking age could be raised again, it would help alleviate some of these problems. The only way this could be done is to make a change in the Massachusetts Law. With this in mind, Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation Commission go on record in favor of changing the drinking age law from 18 to 21. This was seconded by Mr. Ferguson and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

At this time, it was also recommended that Commissioner Halloran write a letter endorsing this decision to the Executive Branch, Governor Dukakis;

- c. to the 4 Massachusetts representatives and to Senator Jack Backman (if possible to contain the bill number).
- D. New President of Newton Youth Hockey it was reported, is Paul Molloy.

Next meeting of the Commission will be on August 18, 1975. Mr. Baker will not be available during the week, he says.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

ML/bap

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

August 18, 1975

Minutes

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman, Francis Rice, Messers Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Mms. Judy Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine, at 7:45 P.M.

Minutes of the July 21, 1975, meeting accepted as circulated.

A. Reports: Maintenance reports were distributed to members; monthly attendance reports were not available due to shortage of clerical staff but will be mailed some time next week.

Commissioner Halloran's reports of his activities and meetings he has attended were distributed and he reported on various items of interest as follows:

1. Letter from the "Jimmy Fund" thanking him and the Newton Recreation Department for the contribution of \$300, which will be used in children's cancer research programs.
2. Letter from Governor Dukakis in response to his letter and the resolution of the Recreation Commission, indicating their recommendation for legislation to raise the drinking age to 21.
3. Letter from Mayor Theodore D. Mann, commending the Recreation Department on the presentation of "Music Man", and commenting that he considered it one of the "high points of all our recreational activities over the years."
4. Letter received from Alderman Edward Richmond, with regard to the new "Life Course" in Auburndale and suggesting a meeting at his home, to informally discuss the potentiality of a public education program which might be initiated in connection with the use of this course.
5. Letter from Societa Maschile Di Maria Santissima Del Carmine, describing this year's 40th Annual Festival, as one of the best they ever had, terminating with a religious procession in the afternoon and a concert during the evening at Hawthorn Park.
6. Senior Citizen Picnic at Hawthorn this past Sunday, hosted by "Fat" Pelligrini - all seniors had a great time. Mr. Halloran attended.
7. Cultural Arts programs were very successful this year, the playgrounds have been well attended this year and will be closing the end of this week, with the exception of some of the large playgrounds which will remain open for awhile.

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8. Mr. Halloran said he was particularly pleased with the maintenance programs this year, under the excellent guidance of Frank Shea, the Recreation Foreman. He also told the Commission that his right hand man, Jim Murphy, is in the hospital for awhile and suggests that they call or write him. He also gave Jim's hospital address and room number.
  9. South High tennis courts are nearly complete with a special resilient surface, applied in two colors. Lines will go down shortly and he is hoping that the public will be very happy with these refurbished courts.
  10. Mr. Halloran reported on the recent Hula Hoop & Frisbee contests held during the past month and the fine production of "Music Man", which was a sellout - during a record breaking heat wave the last of July and the first of August. (He also commented briefly on the accident which occurred to one of the female stage hands when a piano slipped as they were moving it during the takedown of the set on the Saturday after the final performance.)
  11. Commissioner Halloran enthusiastically presented the new Recreation "Special Needs Program Staff Manual". Compiled at his request by the eminently qualified, Ed Murphy of the Summer Recreation staff, it is probably the first of its kind prepared in this State. The program will, it is thought, become available as an enrichment source to supplement recreation programs already presented by this Department, for all Newton children in the "special needs" category, beginning this fall, in October.
- B. New Business: Since two visitors, Barbara Kapland and Jonathan Hale, were anxious to present a petition to keep Crystal Lake open into September, it was decided to allow them to make their presentation at this time.

They presented their petition, but, as it was explained to them, it just isn't possible, for a number of reasons. First of all is the lack of staff. Swim staff is pretty generally composed of qualified, college students - at the start of September, headed back for various colleges throughout the country. A poll of those available, turned up only five that could work (regular summer staff is at least thirty-three). Secondly is the fact that budget funds would not be available. Since Gath Pool is heated and staff sufficient to operate, it has been the practice of the Department to consolidate all swimming programs in this area for the month of September. Crystal Lake also becomes pretty chilly during September.

They requested, and were assured that it would be considered, that in the new upcoming budget for next year, consideration would be given to obtaining funds to keep the Lake open for at least the first two weeks of September.

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- C. Lisa Lezell and Cultural Arts Slide Presentation: Commissioner Halloran introduced Miss Lezell of the Cultural Arts Program, who has earlier assisted Gail Forman, who left the Department on the first of August. Miss Lezell has been taking pictures most of the summer, both of programs and equipment, in the various areas. Her slides were colorful and informative, with comments on the equipment by Mr. Halloran and some descriptions of programs and the people active in the programs, by Miss Lezell.

INTERMISSION WAS CALLED AT THIS TIME IN ORDER FOR ALL TO HEAR MAYOR MANN'S "State of the City" SPEECH IN THE ALDERMAN CHAMBERS.

- D. Report by Legal Department of City of Newton on proposed equestrian school was not available at this time, Mr. Halloran said, due to vacations etc. but it is anticipated it will be ready for the September Commission meeting.
- E. Indoor Tennis Rules, Regulations, and locations: Fall & winter plans proposed by the Commissioner, include indoor tennis at North High in one court evenings, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 2 courts Saturday; nearly all day and 2 courts on Sunday from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. In addition to those courts at North High, South High indoor courts would be available with a separate telephone number to make reservations directly.

Reservation system would require a Recreation I.D. card, plus a registration card issued by the Recreation Department which would be numbered and would expire on a date set by the Department. Only 300 cards would be issued - until the next period of registration. This arrangement would allow more over-all tennis reservations by more people - and equitable for all.

The Recreation Commission's only suggestion was that, plus the 300 registration, a 10% - or 30 additional names, be held on a waiting list.

Mr. Rice moved to accept the proposed regulations for use of the indoor tennis system for the winter of 1975-1976, including the 10% waiting list as was suggested, and it was so voted unanimously.

- F. Further comments on "Music Man": Commissioner Halloran reported on costs of the joint venture of the Recreation Department and the Music Department of the School, with Gary Good from the School Department, producing this well known musical. As was mentioned earlier, a sellout on both nights, in spite of tremendous heat, a terrific cast and a superior production were the result. The Mayor attended and sent Commissioner Halloran a letter complimenting the Recreation Department on this cultural achievement in the City of Newton.

Mr. Rice suggested, that he would like to see more students and people involved, if it was decided to present another play or musical next year. Possibly a production such as "South Pacific" with a larger cast, was one of the suggestions.

Mr. Halloran pointed out that not only the actual cast, but stage hands, musicians plus a clerical staff etc. were involved and that actually a considerable number of people were involved.

- G. Report on Water Show at Crystal Lake: Mr. Halloran said that this Water Safety Show was excellent. Mrs. West and Gil Champagne presented achievement awards to summer swim participants. Mr. Halloran labeled the exhibition "very impressive".

Mr. Halloran said that the Gath Pool Water Show will be held on next Thursday, August 21, at 9:00 A.M.

- H. Fall and Winter Recreation Brochure will be ready for distribution about the 3rd week of September, Mr. Halloran reported.

- I. Consideration of Crystal Lake Rules & Regulations to be determined since the questions about ice fishing on the lake in winter, and summer sailing plus enforcement of "no trespassing" etc. needs to be determined.

At present, if areas are not posted for "no trespassing", etc, Police cannot prosecute - except on felony charges, for vandalism, drinking etc.

Next meeting will be on September 15. Commission members also requested Mr. Halloran compose a letter of sympathy to Paul Burke of the Commission, and his family, due to the tragic accidental death of his son-in-law, in a recent motor accident.

Mr. Ferguson moved to adjourn meeting at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

mjb



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Newton Recreation Commission Meeting  
September 22, 1975

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-chairman, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Paul Burke, Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine at 7:45 p.m.

A. Reports of maintenance, programs, monthly report and Commissioner's report of activities were distributed to members.

B. Commissioner Halloran reported briefly on the following items:

1. That - August had been a tremendously busy month with water shows being held at both Crystal Lake and Gath Pool which he attended. Playground completed the summer season and maintenance is never ending - with one season constantly overlapping before more demands are made on them. As usual Frank Shea, Recreation Foreman, and his assistant, Joe Toronto, do a superior job of coping with this schedule, Mr. Halloran said.
2. That - the Commissioner recently met, on August 20th, with Mayor Mann and the MDC Commissioner, John Snedeker. They toured both the Riverside area which MDC has, for a number of years, planned to develop for a skating and tennis area - also the Charles River Ice Skating facility which is for sale. Commissioner Snedeker was most impressed with the skating area, this would serve a whole new group of residents in the Newton-Needham area.

The Newton Recreation Commission would enforce the acquisition of this of this rink by the MDC as a further opportunity for recreation in Newton. The Mayor has also indicated that this concept of a regional operation would be an attractive adjunct to Newton Recreation.

According to a letter which was enclosed in this month's Commission folder, Riverside Recreation Area plans considered by MDC, are for improved passive use, such as picnic areas, outdoor tennis courts, canoe launching, walking trails, etc,

At this time, there has been no further response by either MDC or Governor regarding these areas.

3. That - the brochure for Recreation Programs, Fall and "inter, have today been received and the Department is already distributing them through various agencies. A supply will go to the Newton School Department today, the City Hall has a supply, Welcome Wagon will receive theirs on Wednesday and the Library, Chamber of Commerce, etc. will also receive theirs.
4. That - Maintenance is most difficult to keep on top of, since seasons overlap and there are extremely heavy demands from all sources on the crews. However, Frank Shea and Joe Toronto, the foreman and assistant, are doing a great job.
5. That - Jim Murphy has reported that his doctors have given him an excellent report and that he will be returning to work this Wednesday. Mr. Halloran says he is a tremendous asset to the department and that

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he is thrilled to have him coming back.

6. That - the unlighted courts at Newton South High, which were in really bad condition, have now been resurfaced and improved drastically with a two-color resilient surface which is easy to play on in a green and tan - excellent visibility. Have received very favorable comments on it here at the department already.

C. Proposal for municipal animal shelter on Recreation land by Carol Fishberg:

According to Carol, a desperate need exists in Newton for some type of permanent, staffed shelter for cats and dogs. At present no facilities exist for this or for adoption of lost or unwanted small animals. Under the present arrangement with the Dog Officer of the Newton Police, a contract with a local vet for a one day "hold" is the only thing available. At the end of that time the animal is destroyed. The Police, who are responsible for these animals, evidently resort to all types of alternate arrangements to save these animals, such as taking them home and making personal efforts to locate suitable homes for them rather than having them killed. At present over 200 dogs are killed annually in Newton. There is nothing available for cats and they are destroyed immediately.

Carol Fishberg and her associate, Bonnie Bradley, have suggested that Recreation land on "Inchester Street and a building thereon; which was formerly a Police garage and is now boarded up and not used, might be a possible site for this shelter.

At this point a shelter is their first concern. Later they will have to consider staffing and she says, that it is their earnest hope that the City of Newton may consider helping with this. First, they must find out if the Recreation Commission would favor the use of this land for their purpose.

Dr. Levine said that he felt that rather than the Commission making any decision at this time, it would be advisable to ascertain if a shelter on City land, operated by a private group, would be legal.

Mr. Ferguson then moved that the Recreation Commissioner request a legal opinion from the Newton City Solicitor, asking if it would be proper for the Recreation Commission to consider the allowance of a private, non-profit group, to conduct an animal shelter on Recreation land - or building - and it was so moved unanimously.

Dr. Levine also suggested that Carol get in touch with a similar service in Brookline who arranges for shelter and adoptions and talk with them to get additional information as to what arrangements and problems their organization encounters. He will call her and give her the telephone number of the person in charge.

D. Robert Banker and proposed equestrian school in Newton: At the request of Commissioner Halloran, a legal opinion was requested from the Newton City Solicitor when this program was first proposed. However since the opinion received is somewhat ambivalent and depending upon a variety of circumstances, could - or could not, be implemented, Dr. Levine suggested, with Commissioner Halloran's approval, that a special study committee be formed to determine just what would be involved in this proposed program.

Dr. Levine thereupon appointed Nelson Baker to head a committee consisting of Judy Dean and Fran Rice. Commissioner Halloran will of course, be working closely with group, also. Mr. Banker has made himself available to this committee also.

It was suggested that the Committee be prepared to present their report at the November Recreation Commission Meeting.

E. Consideration of Alderman Ed Richmond's suggestion for additional community use of the "Life Course":

He will be conducting a public meetin at City Hall on October 1st, at 8:00p.m. to invite discussion on this.

Since the original "Life Course", which was built at Auburndale playground, opened, much interest has been expressed by various Newton citizens. Alderman Richmond has indicated that such an interest suggests other Newton sites.

The Newton Highlands Area Council, an elected group of nine area residents, representing 2,500 voters in the Newton Highlands area, was present at this meeting and indicated a serious interest in developing a new "Life Course" in the Cold Spring playground, in that area.

The Council had invited Dr. Robert Buxbaum, one of the originators of the Recreation's Life Course at Auburndale, to come to their meeting and present a slide show and explain the course.

The Council is now in the process of sending out questionnaires to the area people and members. According to City Charter law, they must receive a response to at least 20% of those people polled before taking a positive in the Council.

Mr. Schigenney, the Chairman for their Recreation Committee, spoke to the Recreation Commission regarding his concerns for the development of Cold Springs Playground. He says that he has provided 1,200 questionnaires to the Highlands area and the Beethoven PTA - and as of now, has received 120 responses - or approximately 10% return. They will continue to obtain information from abutters, etc. (an abutter in this case, was determined to be a person within a quarter mile radius of the site).

One concern expressed by ab abutter who lives on the access road on Duncklee Stree, was the influx of cars and the consideration of a parking problem on this narrow roadway. Beacon Street, it was suggested, might be an alternate site for parking.

Commissioner Halloran, after suggesting that they work closely with the City Planning Department, as they are presently, told them as a point of interest, that budget preparations would begin shortly as December 1st was the deadline. If they plan to go ahead, they must provide information as to labor costs, equipment and signs, prior to this, in order to be included in the new budget of Recreation. They indicated that the neighborhood would be most willing to work physically, with the project, in order to expediate implementation.

Commissioner Halloran said that the next Commission meeting would be on October 20th - if they can makea report by that time. Mr. Schiginney and Mr. Fleishman both felt that full reports would probably not be completed by that time however.

F. North High Programs beginning: New brochures were presented to all of the Commission members and will be available at the Recreation Department, both at the office and at the NNHS gym/swim facilities as well as the School Department, City Hall, Libraries, Chamber of Commerce and Welcome Wagon.

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Dr. Levine also suggested that the swim schedule be put in the local papers next week and Mr. Halloran assured him that this would be done in next week's news release.

Mr. Halloran <sup>said</sup> that Carol Stapleton had worked long and hard on the preparation of these excellent brochures and was to be congratulated on a "job well done".

Mr. Baker reported, in a statement on the swimming lessons available to adults, that friends of his had signed up for lessons, had learned to swim with increasing skill and were very pleased with the program. He has had several very good comments on the adult swimming programs.

6. New Business:

1. Mr. Ferguson inquired as to whether any further action had been proposed for the covering of the Gath Pool?

Mr. Burke said that, as he recalled, the Mayor felt that no further action should be taken on covering Gath Pool until such time as the winter (North High) indoor swim program could be evaluated - to see if it was really necessary for Newton to have two indoor, wintertime pool facilities.

Mr. Burke suggested that this year would be the time to make an evaluation of the indoor pool facilities.

Mr. Ferguson says that he feels that it isn't possible to handle the amount of people who are interested in swimming in one pool.

Commissioner Halloran called to the attention of the Commission the fact that the Capital Improvement budget would be coming up soon. As he said, it is up to the Commission to set priorities for the Capital Budget of 76-77 and, if they feel strongly, either for or against an indoor pool, this can be reinforced by their selections at budget time.

2. A spectator, Marilyn Siccarello, inquired if it might not be possible next year to keep the Gath Pool open during the month of September by cutting down on the number of life guards on duty during that month.

Mr. Halloran explained to her that the cost for guards or otherwise was not the deciding factor and in fact, he had planned to be open all month but that the lack of attendance was the reason for closing the pool. (lack of heat in the pool due to heater breakdown did effect the attendance).

3. Halloween Parties: Commissioner Halloran commented on the lack of involvement of the School PTAs. Formerly they were very active, these organizations now seem to be less willing to work with Halloween parties than they have been in past years. Only 4 schools have replied affirmatively for parties. More may respond but as Commissioner Halloran said, possibly at the October meeting, it might be advised for the Recreation Commission to consider terminating grade school parties and then concentrate on Junior and High School parties and dances. Monies formerly used could then be utilized in these very popular parties.

4. Mr. Halloran reported that the Cabot Park installation of playground equipment known as "Storybook Village" will take place very shortly.

5. Friday evening there will be a softball game at Albemarle Playground between the Alderman and the Department Heads. 181

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Commission meeting on October 20, 1975

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

ML/bap

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

October 20, 1975

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice Chairman Francis V. Rice, Messers Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Visitors at this evening's meeting included Mr. Paul Molloy from the Newton Youth Hockey Association; Mr. George Jessop from Newton North High School and Joanne Damigello, Northeastern University student with the Recreation Department.

Meeting convened at 7:45 P.M.

1. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. September maintenance reports were mailed prior to the meeting. Copy of the Commissioner's activities during the month, were provided to each member at this meeting.

Since September is a relatively quiet month, when most summer activities have terminated and fall programs have not begun, no formal activities report was made.

Commissioner Halloran said that there was never a "slow" month as far as maintenance goes, however, since as soon as the summer season ends, the crews begin immediately to prepare for fall football and lining of fields and generally getting school fields ready for their outdoor sports programs.

Mr. Halloran said that the highlights of September were the NNHS registrations and the continuing outdoor programs at Cabot Park, Newton Centre and Auburndale.

On October 5th, the BiCentennial Commission, under the umbrella of Recreation and the direction of Linda Plaut, Cultural Arts Director for Recreation - and with the cooperation of BiCentennial co-chairpersons Alderman Wendall Bauckman and Mrs. Esther Steinberg, provided a particularly appropriate and interesting Harvest Fair. Colonial crafts, hay rides, pony rides and dozens of exhibits were available to a crowd estimated at between ten and twenty thousand enthusiastic participants. Mayor Mann attended and said that he was extremely pleased with the affair, Mr. Halloran reported.

3. Commissioner Halloran's report to the Commission - included the following:
  1. NSHS tennis courts - 6 open (unlighted).
  2. NSHS tennis courts - 6 closed (lighted) being recoated.
  3. Cabot Park - "Storybook Village", \$8,400 worth of playground equipment for tots, newly installed.
  4. Albemarle tennis courts - 2 being constructed.
  5. Hamilton School basketball court being resurfaced.
  6. Newton Centre "hut" being repainted inside and out, radiators being replaced with blowers, in gym.

4. Newton Youth Hockey Association: Mr. Paul Molloy, President. A status report was presented to the Recreation Commission through the media of a slide projector and also, a written report was presented to each member present.

As Mr. Molloy pointed out, the organization is expanding each year. More boys and girls are included in the program each year - and correspondingly a large budget which they constantly monitor. Their highlights and accomplishments for this past year include (a) State Charter Incorporation, (b) expansion of 22% in overall program size, (c) improved administrative procedures, (d) addition of a girls program in 1974 - in an aside, Mr. Molloy added that they are actively seeking more girls, as they have received little response from girls to their considerable disappointment, (e) enlarged novice and beginner program, (f) maintenance of fee schedule from previous years until this year, (g) the great cooperation they have received from the City's Recreation Department with Financial Assistance in ice-time made available to them, (h) the initiation of a hardship/financial aid program to needy youth, (i) and finally, the upgrading of officiating skills and performance (all certified officials in present program).

Mr. Ferguson complimented the organization on the very efficient, thorough job they have done in developing this program, on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Halloran also congratulated them on the program and it's expansion and development, from its early beginnings under Bob MacLaughlin.

5. New England Gymnastic Meet to be held at Newton North High: Mr. George Jessop, Physical Education teacher from North High, visiting the meeting, explained that this was the 13th year for this gymnastic meet. It will be held at North High on November 28 and 29. As this is a non-profit organization, money for the event was a problem. After discussing this earlier with Mr. Halloran, the Commissioner has agreed to cooperate with this group by assuming temporarily, the cost of custodians if necessary - to be reimbursed by the Committee afterward. Programs will also be cancelled in the gym during the meet.

Mr. Jessop expressed his pleasure and commented on the excellent cooperation, very evident, between the School Department and Recreation Department under Commissioner Halloran's leadership.

6. Report on Animal Shelter: Commissioner Halloran reported that he has written and requested a legal opinion from the City Legal Department and, until this is received, no further action is indicated.
7. Report on Special Committee's findings on proposed equestrian school: Mr. Nelson Baker, Chairman of this Committee, reported that Robert Banker, the man petitioning the Recreation Department for this school, has been out of the country and so is not available for consultation. Mr. Banker also said that all present indications point to a long, slow, process - and suggested that when pertinent information is available, he would be in contact with Mr. Halloran, prior to a Commission meeting and suggest this be a regular agenda item.
8. Report on Alderman Ed Richmond's open meeting on October 1, with regard to the concept of "Life Course". Dr. Levine and Judy Dean of the Recreation Commission, plus Commissioner Halloran and members of the Planning Department attended this meeting. Newton Highlands Neighborhoods Association was asked to investigate the possibility of another "Life Course" at the Cold Spring playground. Budgetary funds would have to be included in the upcoming budget requests if a course were to be considered in this next year, Mr. Halloran noted.

9. Swim, tennis, registrations and I.D. card registrations held at Newton North High School: Generally speaking, these various registrations went through with a minimum of delay.

Some expressions of displeasure were manifested by Mrs. Sally Murr Ricci, who with a friend, attended this current Recreation Commission meeting. Her complaint was that the registration of applicants was too slow. She also complained that there was a TV set present (Miss Stapleton had indeed brought in a TV set for the benefit of those people standing in line and who were interested in the World Series Game).

Mr. Halloran assured Mrs. Murr Ricci that the department would certainly look into any possibility of expediting any future registrations and extended his apologies for any inconvenience they may have experienced.

10. Halloween Parties: As Commissioner Halloran explained, prior to the month of October, letters were sent to all Newton elementary school principals, asking them if they would like to take part in the Halloween parties sponsored by the Recreation Department.

These last few years, fewer and fewer of the schools and PTA's are willing to spend the time necessary for participation in these children's programs. Of the 23 elementary schools this year contacted, only 5 plus one parochial, St. Jean's, were interested. As Mr. Halloran commented, possibly future party plans should be directed to Junior and Senior High School activities. These groups are very enthusiastic. He also mentioned the fact that next year, Halloween will be on a Sunday - a problem in itself! He will make a further report to the Commission on this at a later date.

11. Consideration of limiting total number of persons attending picnics during the seasons: Commissioner Halloran explained that the general picnic area suitable for large groups is Auburndale playground, where approximately 300 people can be comfortably accommodated. At this area, there is also a good sized parking lot which is available for off-street parking. More than this many people cause parking problems; it is also difficult for leaders on duty to handle - and is simply not geared for more than 300 people at one time.

Members of the Recreation Commission completely agreed and generally felt that this problem could be handled administratively. However, to further reinforce this recommendation, Mr. Fitzpatrick motioned formally - that hereafter any request for Auburndale or Cold Spring use, should be limited to 300 people. This was so moved.

12. Report on NAA winter basketball program: In a brief report, Commissioner Halloran said that this group may not be able to play basketball at the Working Boy's Home this year, due to a change in Administration there. They have made arrangements to play on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday for the time being, at Weeks Jr. High School but, he said, may need some help from the Recreation Department with custodial costs.

13. New Business:

1. Two visitors present, Mrs. Murr Ricci and Mrs. Cechinelli, were present with regard to volleyball program. Mrs. Murr Ricci wanted to make a motion to have an additional court for volley ball, if regular program at North High "falls through". It was explained to her, that only members of the Recreation Commission were able to move motions. However, they said her request would be taken into consideration if a volley ball court became available.



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New Business (cont'd)

2. Capital Improvement budget consideration: It was decided by the members to hold a Special Recreation Commission meeting on November 6th at 7:30 PM to consider this CIP budget. Copies of proposed areas from the City Planning Department will be mailed to them. The secretary was requested to try and reserve the Executive Suite for this meeting date as soon as possible.
3. Preliminary budget, Commissioner Halloran noted, is due on December 1st. It will be presented to the Recreation Commission at the November meeting, at 7:30 PM.
4. Mr. Halloran introduced Joanne Damigello who is currently working as a Field Worker from Northeastern University, here with the Recreation Dept.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

November 26, 1975

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman, Francis Rice, Mr. Paul J. Burke, Mr. Howard Ferguson, Mr. Frank Fitzpatrick, Ms. Judy Dean, Mrs. Jo Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Dr. Levine at 7:30 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented. Reports of monthly activities, Commissioner's reports and copies of proposed Recreation budget were distributed to members.

Commissioner Halloran thanked the Commission members for coming out on this Thanksgiving Holiday eve, necessitated by the need to get the Recreation budget approved and submitted to the Mayor.

A. Mr. Halloran commented briefly - with regard to:

1. The meeting held at the MDC with Commissioner Snedeker on Oct. 30th with Mayor Mann and Commissioner Halloran, in which was discussed the possibility of the MDC purchasing the available ice-skating facility known as the Charles River Rink, located in Newton. Although interest was indicated, Mr. Halloran noted the following:
  - a. That there are presently 26 MDC rinks in Massachusetts, the largest concentration of rinks anywhere around, and, from the attendance figures in 1971 of 1,205,000 to a current figure in 1971 of 750,000. (large drop)
  - b. A Committee appointed by Governor Dukakis has declared a moratorium on rinks until an in-depth study is made on buildings, renting or buying (3 rinks in planning - held up)

In an aside, and relative to this particular rink, and hockey in general, it was said that the bank is the current owner of the Charles River rink and it is anticipated that an offer to buy - will continue. It was also mentioned that the high cost of hockey and equipment, which has really increased considerably the last few years, is now discouraging parents. Current cost per boy now runs from \$165. to \$185.

2. The Annual Recreation Department Christmas party will be held at the Needham Motor Inn and Jim Murphy has issued an invitation to all Commission members to come on December 16th, at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Halloran again praised Mr. Murphy for his assistance and help in preparing the current budget, and says that Mr. Murphy is doing a "great job".

- B. Animal Shelter: - Carol Fishberg - In reference to their original presentation of a request for use of land and buildings located on the so-called Infirmary land, belonging to Recreation, on September 22, 1975,

this group returned to ascertain the feeling of the Recreation Commission.

At the recommendation of the Commission, Commissioner Halloran, after that Sept. 22nd meeting, directed a memo to the City Legal Department, asking for a legal opinion regarding the proposal by the local, non-profit, group who was seeking to establish an animal shelter in an unused building on this land belonging to the Recreation Department.

In response to this request, the Legal Department reported the following:

Question #1. Whether the Recreation Commission can legally allow lands under its control to be utilized by a non-profit, privately funded organization for the purpose of maintaining an animal shelter thereon.

Conclusion: Yes

Reasoning: (shortened) General Laws of Comm. empowers officers or boards in control of lands or buildings acquired for recreation purposes to consent to the use of these "by any person, society or organization for such public, recreation, social or education purposes as officer or board deems proper". The Newton Committee for an Animal Shelter maintains that the establishment of a shelter would serve any and all of these allowed purposes. If the Commission agrees that such purposes would be furthered, its consent to the Committee's request would be in harmony with Mass. laws.

Question #2 If the Infirmary Land, so-called, was transferred to the Rec. Comm. for "park and recreation purposes" although practically under its control, is said land legally under the control of the Recreation Commission?

Conclusion: (shortened) Not at all clear, unfortunately. City ordinances do not give the Recreation Commission, or the Commissioner, authority over parks. Mass. General law and Park Commissioners have charge of - and control of - parks. However, the Recreation Commission does have the authority with regard to Recreation. In short; therefore, the City Solicitor feels that the matter needs further discussion.

Since so many city departments appear to be involved, Mr. Burke asked if the Animal Shelter Committee had spoken to Chief Quinn of the Newton Police Department. (The Police Department includes Animal Control for the City) They said they have an appointment with the Chief on Wednesday.

Since the group is unsure whether to attempt to go ahead with an effort to secure money for the improvements and equipment, in case the land does not become accessible to them, they would like to determine if the Commission would even consider their request.

It was then moved by Mr. Fitzpatrick (seconded by Mr. Ferguson) that the sense of the Recreation Commission was to encourage "Friends of Animals" to work out details and bring back to the Commission, in writing, their plans for this shelter. 4 voted affirmative, 2 opposed.

It was strongly suggested to the group that they contact the professionals of the City - such as the Recreation Department, Public Buildings, Park Department, Legal Department, Planning Department, Police Department etc. - including, of course, the Mayor's office most importantly, since they can coordinate the entire

group.

Mr. Burke suggested that after meeting with City officials, they bring back to the Commission, in writing, the sense of the meeting - he also suggested that it would be a good plan to hold a Public Hearing in the Aldermanic Chambers to get the feeling of the citizens of the community.

- C. Fireworks: Commissioner Halloran reported that he, with the Bicentennial Committee co-chairpersons Alderman Wendall Bauckman and Mrs. Esther Steinberg, plus the Fire Dept. and Police Dept. officials, had viewed the proposed site for next July's possible fireworks display. This would be at Newton North High School in the enclosed field.

Last July, a display was cancelled due to concern about crowd control. It was felt, at that time, by both Police and Fire Depts. that the site could not be properly covered to provide adequate safety for all. This new site appears to be more appropriate.

Mr. Halloran said that possibly a Public Hearing would be appropriate. He also has spoken with the Recreation Department of Waltham regarding their repeatedly successful fireworks display. They hold theirs within an enclosed athletic field and say they have experienced no problems. It was also noted that the Firechief has the authority to stop the display at any time, if he feels that conditions become unsafe, such as wind etc.

- D. New procedures for registrations: Distributed to members was a progress report of the new procedure on the tennis and swim registrations to be held at Newton South High. Generally much more efficient due to the fact that there is better space both inside and also better parking space outside. A really good staff has been lined up to handle registrations also.

- D. Suggested changes in Capital Improvement for Recreation presented to the Commission in writing by Commissioner Halloran, on Brewer playground, South High, Albemarle, Joseph Lee, Auburndale and Allison.

Mr. Paul Burke moved (with a second by Mr. Fitzpatrick) to include these six items as revised in the Recreation Capital Improvement budget, as recommended by Commissioner Halloran, and it was so moved.

- E. Newton Recreation Departmental Budget: Commissioner Halloran presented to each member, in booklet form, a copy of the proposed department budget, as it will be presented to Mayor and Board of Aldermen, providing the Recreation Commission approves it. A new and different form, easier to compile and understand, was in this new format. Mr. Halloran carefully went over these figures with the Commission, inviting any questions which they might have to ask.

After this discussion, Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation Commissioner's recommended budget requests be accepted and it was so voted unanimously.

G. New Business:

1. Mrs. Pepper called to the attention of the Commission the fact that there are no doors on the ladies rooms at North High and this should be corrected. Mr. Halloran assured her that he would check on this.
2. Dr. Levine asked the status of the Newton East Little League field as someone has suggested to him that it might be named after Jay Gordon, as he was active in Little League for so many years (he is just recently deceased)

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While the City Solicitor has ruled that the Commission can name a field or playground as they feel fit, it is suggested that doing this, may cause unexpected problems.

It was suggested that the question of naming Newton East Little League field in memory of Jay Gordon, be put on the next agenda.

3. Commissioner Halloran thanked everyone for coming out on this holiday eve, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

December 15, 1975

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice Chairman Francis Rice, Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Jo Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

1. Minutes of November meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Commissioner's reports:
  - A. Report of Commissioner's activities during the month distributed to all members; report of various Recreation programs during month distributed to all members; Commissioner reported both verbally and with printed schedule, the Christmas facation and holiday special programs for the Newton North High School gym and pool; a schedule of the Supervisor's weekend coverage during the winter was given to everyone, and the following additional items were reported by Mr. Halloran:
    1. Joseph Taranto, the Recreation Department Assistant Foreman was operated on, and seems to be recoving nicely.
    2. On a sad note, Paul Patriacca, the Mini-bike program Supervisor, died very suddenly this past week.
    3. On January 11th, there will be a Swim-a-thon held at North High from 12:30 to 3:00 PM, by the Cerebral Palsy Association.
    4. The Reggie Smith Baketball tournament will be held at North High on December 26th and 27th, for High School boys.
    5. Reminder to all that the Recreation Department Christmas party is tomorrow night.
3. Consideration of name for East Little League field and proposal to name it in memorary of recently deceased, Jay Gordon. Alderman Sidney Small is interested in speaking to the Commission with regards to this item, but is unavailable tonight. It was suggested that this be an agenda item for January, and Alderman Small will speak on this issue at that time.
4. Consideration of proposed Equestrian School: (Mr. Robert Banker attended). Mr. Baker, of the Recreation Commission, has met with Mr. Banker, and also with his legal representative, prior to this meeting. Mr. Baker feels that more information should be available to the Commission - with considerable more detail than was originally presented.

One of the major concerns, at this time, of the Commission was the fact that original proposal did not limit this program to Newton residents and it was suggested to Mr. Banker that he reevaluate his proposal with this in mind, and consider costs, etc., on the basis of Newton residents only.

Commissioner Halloran said that after the Commission received all of the information on this request from Mr. Banker for the Equestrian School, it would probably be appropriate to hold a public hearing in order to get the citizen input to determine if a program and facility of this type, would be desired by the Community.

It was decided by the Commission to request that Mr. Banker come back to the January Recreation Commission meeting with all of the new information. He was agreeable to this.

5. Miscellaneous items:

- A. Commissioner Halloran introduced to the Commission, James McLaughlin, the Crystal Lake summer Manager, Recreation Leader at Burr Park & South High tennis facility Director.

He also introduced Mr. Paul Malone, summer tennis instructor who was also present at this meeting.

- B. Mr. Halloran reported that the Water Show, held at North High last Saturday was very successful.

Directed by Gil Champagne of the Recreation Department, exhibits of Water Safety, Diving, elementary rescue techniques, individual swimming demonstrations, demonstrations by children who are currently enrolled in swimming lessons - at their particular level of competency, comic diving, and a visit by Santa Claus were enjoyed by both participants and spectators.

- C. Dr. Levine inquired as to the status of the meetings which were to be held with various City officials - with the proponents of the Animal Shelter and Carol Fishberg - which were to take place before any further discussion with the Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Halloran reported that as far as he knew, Carol Fishberg would be in touch with Jim Salter, the Mayor's assistant, to set up such a meeting, but that it had not been arranged as yet.

- D. Commissioner Halloran reported that the Gymnastic Clinic and Exhibition held recently at the North High School involved between 1,200 and 1,500 people from all over New England. He attended, and according to his report, it was a Super Show!

- E. The Recreation Department budget has been turned in to the City Comptroller as of December 15th, Mr. Halloran reported.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary