

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

January 19, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman Francis V. Rice, Mrs. Josephine Pepper, Messers Howard Ferguson, Paul Burke, Nelson Baker and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting convened at 7:55 PM. Minutes of the December 1975 meeting were accepted as circulated.

- A. Commissioner's Reports: copies of the monthly attendance figures for all Recreation programs, maintenance reports and copies of those meetings and events attended by the Commissioner during the past month, were distributed.

Commissioner Halloran reported on the progress of Joe Taranto, Assistant Recreation Foreman who had been taken ill suddenly in December and has been in the hospital recoving from surgery. Frank Shea, the regular foreman had been on vacation but came back to work immediately. Joe is much improved and hopes to be back at work shortly.

Mr. Halloran reported that Jim Murphy, Senior Recreation Supervisor, had been taken to Newton Wellesley Hospital in an emergency, from this Department on January 5th, and was still there. He is sorely missed, Mr. Halloran says. His work, spirit, and courage, have been an inspiration to the entire department. He has now been moved into a private room on the 3rd floor, room #372, and can now receive visitors.

The second tennis registration for indoor tennis took place at Newton South High School on January 17th and 300 slots are filled, with a waiting list of 30 additional names. The Commissioner said that the word he received was that the operation was "smooth, efficient and well run".

Reports on the Holiday Christmas party for the Department, run by Jim Murphy, at the Needham Motor Inn, were that everyone had a great time. Former Comm. Evan Johnson attended for the first time since he retired, and former Mayor Howard Whitmore, was also present.

- B. Consideration of East Little League request for renaming of East Little League Field in memory of Jay Gordon: Stan Berkowitz and Lester Hahan, current members, and former associates of Mr. Gordon's, came before this Commission to suggest that this field be name in memorial of this dedicated Youth leader, Jay Gordon. He was their founder & first President. He was always available and active in sports for youth. As both Paul Burke and Howard Ferguson commented, they both recalled his activities in the Babe Ruth also.

Aware, prior to this meeting, of this impending request, Commissioner Halloran took the opportunity of contacting the Newton City Solicitor by written memo, to determine the legal ramifications, as seen by the Legal Department.

The City Solicitor verbally informed Mr. Halloran that the Commission does have the authority to name portions of a park, i.e. baseball fields, etc., as long as the Recreation Department normally has control of the overall area.

This legal opinion was reinforced in person by the Solicitor, who came into this Recreation Commission meeting at 8:50 PM to confirm this information.

After discussion, and being aware that this will likely bring forth many similar requests and appeals for honorarium, Mrs. Pepper motioned that the Newton East Little League field be named in honor of Jay Gordon and that the president of Little League be responsible for the dedication etc, of this field. Mr. Ferguson seconded this, and it was so moved unanimously.

Mr. Halloran commented that it would be a pleasure to work with anyone from the League if he can be of assistance.

Mr. Ferguson said, at this time, he would like to request that consideration be given on the February Commission meeting agenda for the naming of the Auburndale playground in order of Del Ryan. (He said that a petition has come up on this in the past but no action could be taken at that time)

- C. Sport League eligibility for 1976: Prior to this meeting, Commissioner Halloran met with Supervisor William Barry, Bob Wilcox, Fran Towle & Carol Stapleton, of the softball and basketball leagues of Newton, to review the rules which were used last year and a copy of the new proposed rules for this year. Only one major change was seriously considered and that was to include full-time City employees, a full-time teacher or school personnel, working the regular school year.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the Recreation Commission accept the Recreation softball eligibility rules for 1976, as proposed, to include the clause regarding school personnel and it was so moved unanimously.

- D. Ice Fishing at Crystal Lake: Commissioner Halloran stated that he was very concerned with regard to ice fishing on the Lake. It is a large lake of approx. 30 acres - which is difficult to patrol. His primary concern is, of course, public safety for the greatest number. Since there are over a thousand skaters and probably 4 or 5 ice-fishermen, his first concern is for the safety of the skaters, many of which are children.

Relative to his concern, he has requested a ruling by the City Solicitor, as to who may determine the rules for control of Crystal Lake. At this time, the City Solicitor has temporarily ruled that Commissioner Halloran has the power to say what use the Lake may be put too. With this in mind, the Commissioner, in his concern for public safety, has ruled to prohibit ice fishing on the Lake. (He will await a final ruling from the Solicitor, but he would like to have the feeling of the Commission at this time also)

In support of Commissioner Halloran's stand, Nelson Baker moved that the Recreation Commission prohibit ice fishing and that signs be posted, so stating, until such time as the City Solicitor provides a final ruling. This was so moved unanimously.

- E. Equestrian School: Mr. Robert Banker has been in contact with Chairman Dr. Levine and says that he will be in contact again shortly.

F. New Business:

1. Reminder of Rules and Regulations of Commission, in that notice of the Annual Election is to be held in March - notice of which will be included on the February agenda. The secretary was also directed to send a copy of the rules & regulations of the Recreation Commission, to all Commission members this coming month.

2. Budget for the Department will be reviewed by the Mayor, Commissioner Halloran reported, some time in February and thereafter it will go to the Board of Aldermen for action within 60 days.

Mrs. Pepper inquired if the budget requests include additional lighting for skating at Crystal and Bulloughs where, she had noted, there are dark spots in the middle. (Note: Request for additional lighting funds were not included in this upcoming budget, and at this late date it would be too late to amend the figures.

3. Parking lot at Auburndale: It was observed that this parking lot is very dark. Since no plans are current to provide a regular lighting system, Commissioner Halloran suggested that it might be a conceivable plan to install some type of security light that would provide a safeguard to those who use the lot. Budget figures include re-surfacing of this area but not lighting, the Commissioner reported.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING - February 23, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman, Francis Rice, Messers. Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Ms. Judith Dean, Mrs. Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. (Mr. Frank Fitzpatrick was unable to attend due to a business meetint).

Meeting called to order by Chairman at 7:40 P.M.

1. Minutes of January meeting: Commissioner Halloran requested that the minutes include the information that Fran Towle and Carol Stapleton attended the meeting on sport league eligibility for 1976, and will be so recorded. Accepted with this correction.
2. Reports: Regular reports of programs, attendance, maintenance and Commissioner's reports of activities attended were provided for the group. Additional, the Commissioner reported on the following:
  - A. That days of ice skating thisyear, broke the record with 32 total days, the largest number of days, it was estimated, in 15 years.
  - B. That new programs will soon be opening at NNHS, which will include for the first time, golf instruction and a Water Safety Instructor course.
  - C. That the Recreation Department jeep, which unfortunately went through the ice into about 3 feet of water, after clearing snow for skating at Bullough's Pond, when the driver went beyond a danger sign, was removed by noon of the same day, and was now being checked for any necessary repairs, as a result of this accident.
  - D. That the Department is currently working on field requests for spring sports leagues, etc. A questionnaire has been prepared and mailed to non-school users, such as Little League, Gal's League, etc.
3. Consideration of a proposal by Mr. William D. Mone with regard to the old Peirce School Site: Mr. Mone, in his presentation to the Commission members, recommended that the soon to be vacated school and land area, be converted into open space for recreation, demolishing the school and thereby increasing the overall area.

He feels that there is little area in the general neighborhood for children to play beyond this area. In fact, he says, most children in that area, already play and learn to ride bikes, etc., right on the parking area as it is now. They play street hockey and other impromptu games after school and during vacations, rather than travel through bury West Newton Square. If the school were rased and area filled up, an attractive area of open space would be provided for all.

Mr. Tisheler, another neighbor, and Mr. Eugene Cronin, former Alderman, subscribed wholeheartedly to his suggestions.

This group will be meeting with the City Planning Department to make this same recommendation. The City Planner is exploring several possible uses however; one possibility being housing on this 1 3/4 acre area, with a part of this area as a tot lot.

Mr. Mone did request that the Recreation Commission go on record, in some way, to indicate their feeling with regard to the area, and also provide the City Planner with this information.

The Commission voted unanimously on a motion made by Mr. Paul Burke (seconded by Mr. Howard Ferguson), recommending that the Recreation Commission go on record in favor of the entire old Peirce School site being considered as open space for recreation.

A letter will be mailed to the City Planning Director, with a copy to Mr. William Mone, 12 Westfield Road, West Newton. He can then inform Mr. Gerald Tishler of 24 Westfield Road, West Newton, and Mr. Eugene Cronin of 343 Highland Avenue, West Newton, the other gentleman of the area, who attended this meeting.

Mr. Burke also mentioned to Mr. Mone and the Commission, that in the event that City wants more input into various proposals for the area, that there would most likely be a Public Hearing.

4. Marilyn Sicurella came before the Commission for two items:

- A. Recommendation for a Memorial Tree, to be planted in memory of Lynn Arthur, former Recreation Commission member, now deceased. (It was decided by Mrs. Sicurella, to hold this for the time being, as it wasn't fully decided what recommendation they would collectively make). Please include in March agenda.
- B. League Eligibility Rules: Mrs. Marilyn Sicurella and Mrs. Nancy Bartley, who, in the recent issues of the local papers, have presented "letters to the Editor" protesting league eligibility rules recently approved by the Commission. Both of these ladies also wrote to the Chairman of the Recreation Commission detailing their dissatisfaction with sport league rules (letters were made available to the entire Commission at this meeting).

Their chief complaint was with regard to the rule which allowed former legal residents of Newton to continue to play in this league, providing they played in the league prior to 1975 and were eligible at that time, or, if a Newton resident moves out of Newton during the current season, he/she may complete the season.

As private citizens, they listed several reasons for these protests, such as:

- 1. That this recreation league is for the tax payers of Newton and they do not feel that outsiders should be recruited for play, or that a semi-professional league should be encouraged.
- 2. That the reason why non-residents have been playing ball is because the rules have never been enforced and that violations have been going on for years without penalties from supervisors and that the Recreation Commission is compounding the situation by passing an unfair and weak rule.
- 3. That since the Mayor is presenting a zero budget increase, that there is a probability that Recreation recreational opportunities may have to be limited.
- 4. That they were, in fact, unhappy with the decision made last year at the time this rule was considered regarding non-residents, according to rule #5, but since the rosters were all made out, they felt they would allow the men's league a year to purge themselves of illegal players.

Mr. Halloran reported that prior to the last Commission meeting in January, he met with the supervisors of both the men and women's softball and sports leagues Fran Towle, Carol Stapleton, Bill Barry and also Bob Wilcox of both basketball and softball leagues, to review the rules proposed for this year. At that time, the only change was to include full-time City of Newton employees or a full-time teacher or school personnel, working the regular school year. However, if the time comes that it is proven that Newton residents are being deprived from participation, my position on this would change drastically.

On a motion moved by Mr. Ferguson, and voted unanimously by the entire Commission, it was decided to accept the rules proposed for 1976, and include the clause regarding School personnel (at the January 1976 meeting of the Commission).

Mr. Halloran also mentioned that the only change was the 1975 freeze, and that it was anticipated that these rules would be re-evaluated each year. He also inquired of the two ladies protesting these rules, if they had experienced any problems to which they responded that they had not; he also asked if the rule deprived anyone from playing and they said no.

Other people present were invited to comment, as Mr. Burke suggested that everyone should have an opportunity to present their opinion before the Commission made any comments.

Spectator comments as follows:

Mr. Bob Wilcox: He approved the feeling of the rules since he felt that friendships established in these leagues were one of the most important items to consider. Many of these men have played together 15 or more year, (a few of these have moved to outside areas), and he says that it's hard for a 40 year old guy to begin in a new area with 18 year old kids.

He also questioned the presence of "ringers", as implied about pitchers being recruited. Most of their pitchers have been there at least 5 years, some as long as 15.

Mr. John Webber: While he has no special interest in these leagues, he wanted to go on record in favor of residents only.

Mr. Bob Hunt: He hoped for allowance for 1975 rosters would remain, since he was one of the ones who did live out of the City, although he worked for the City Engineering Department. He felt that the element of "diminishing return" would gradually take care of all non-resident players.

Terry Morris: Alderman Morris spoke on this issue, but said he was not primarily interested in whether they were residents or not, his concerns were - money, time and recreation. If this concern was only for taxpayers of Newton, it would eliminate all renters from recreation, as well as senior citizens. He also felt that equal time on the lighted softball field was a real issue to the women, and finally he questioned the concept of competition as described by the women as semi-professionalism, and suggested that the leagues might consider eliminating all competitive play, and just play for recreation, with playoffs or champions, etc. (Since he is a coach for softball, volleyball and basketball, he is aware of intense competition).

He also felt that social aspects were involved, and that just because you moved out of the City, you do not sever relationships with friends.

A possible alternative to offset the non-taxpayers would be to make some additional charge for the league player from outside the City.

Mrs. Bartley spoke up at this point, and said there was no problem as far as use of the lighted field went, that Mr. Halloran had given them anything that they wanted.

Mrs. Bartley also asked Mr. Halloran if he had checked with Jim Salter, the Mayor's Administrative Assistant, as Mr. Salter didn't agree with non-residents being allowed in - and that he should check with Mr. Salter before taking any action on this.

At this point, Mr. Burke spoke up to say that Mr. Salter, like every citizen of Newton has a right to his opinion, but that he cannot dictate to the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Burke also inquired if Mrs. Bartley and Mrs. Sicurella were representing the Women's Leagues - and they replied that they were not, that they spoke as individuals.

It was inquired of Marty Lucente, of the Mens Softball League, if the men's leagues had problems, or felt that anyone was deprived. Mr. Lucente assured them there was no problem, in fact, sometimes they had difficulty getting a full roster.

Mrs. Sicurella's final comment was that the rules should be equal for all.

Discussion by the Recreation Commission followed and Mrs. Pepper said that at the last meeting she had not really understood the motion made, and now would like to recind her vote of the January meeting. Since this was impossible, she moved as follows:

"Change Rules 5 and 6 to read - that all levels of all leagues - only legal residents of Newton be eligible to play for recreation teams. If a player, while playing for a team, moves out of the City, that player may finish that sports season only, and not be eligible for further participation in that, or any other sport in the City of Newton".

Voted as follows:

Mr. Baker	opposed	Mrs. Pepper	agreed
Mr. Ferguson	opposed	Mr. Rice	opposed
Ms. Dean	agreed	Mr. Burke	opposed

Motion defeated - therefore, rules 5 and 6, as agreed by the Recreation Commission, at their January, 1976 meeting, will remain in effect.

Final comments were - that the Commission intended to review this eligiblity each year as planned previously. Mrs. Bartley also said that she was not through with this question as yet, and when she came back to the Commission, she will have "done her homework".

5. Community School Programs vs. Recreation Department Programs: Background information provided by Commissioner Halloran was, that in response to a long-range projection of programs, provided some time ago, at the request of the Executive Department, he received a telephone call from the Mayor inquiring about possible duplication of services.

The Community School Commission is a fairly new Commission, created within the last two (2) years. Mr. Fitzpatrick formerly represented the Recreation Commission, and now, Mrs. Dean is the representative. Human Services Department also has a representative, butthe Commission is now completely autonomous.

To avoid any duplication of activities, Commissioner Halloran said, and to have worthwhile programs funded and implemented, ideally programs of a recreational nature should be handled by the Recreation Department.

Since this was the original purpose of the Recreation Commission founded in 1913, the Commissioner wants to be sure that the Department provides leisure time activities and does not neglect the duties set forth to them, for programs.

There are some vague lines as to services between Recreation and Community School. Commissioner Halloran is particularly anxious that Recreation fulfill their responsibility, but neither he nor Judy Dean, the Community School representative, anticipate any problems.

Ms. Dean mentioned, in particular, that Commissioner Halloran's handling of recreation at the schools, was familiar and agreeable to School authorities, and that he was always accessible if any problems arose on any program. She said, that at

this time, especially, with both the Aldermen and the School Committee concerned about any possible duplication of services, it was appropos that Recreation provide recreation! Mr. Halloran mentioned also that Alderman Richmond had mentioned a concern about this when he spoke with him recently.

Mr. Burke called to the attention of the Commission the fact that at the time, consideration was being given to the formation of the Community School Commission, that, those on that original committee had been quite concerned about any possible duplication of services. Since he was one of the Committee members, he spoke from experience.

Commissioner Halloran said that Community Schools had not been funded for leadership and custodial costs last year and that funding for these items had been handled by the Recreation Department. The Commissioner indicated a willingness to cooperate, of course, but reminded the members present that there is no funding for Community School programs beyond July 1st of this year.

- 6. Discussion of Capital Improvement Program Budget: Commissioner Halloran reported that after a review of the proposed budget, the Mayor had cut the CIP Budget to \$150,000.00. If the Commission will not set those priorities which they feel most appropriate, he can then inform the Executive Department what these projects will cover.

One of the prime projects, of course, is the lighting at Albemarle, of a Multi-purpose sports area. Mr. Baker, in reference to the possible contracting for work, inquired if contracting services might be pumped back into the City - but unfortunately this could not be guaranteed, since this would be handled through the Purchasing Department, and according to bid would be let to whatever contractor that could offer the best bid - and not necessarily a Newton contractor.

Mr. Baker, also mentioned the need at Ward School, which is in his area, for drainage and resealing of the tennis courts.

Mrs. Pepper was concerned about tennis courts for Burr School in her area.

Mr. Burke said that it was the Recreation Commission's duty, at this time, to do Recreation wise - what is best for the entire City, not be portions. He also asked Commissioner Halloran if he could make recommendations that might help them to make the best decisions.

Mr. Halloran responded that he did have two separate plans for their consideration.

PLAN "A"

Newton Highlands Drainage	\$ 30,000.00
Burr School - 2 Tennis Courts	\$ 30,000.00
Richardson - 2 Tennis Courts	\$ 30,000.00
Oak Hill Lights	\$ 3,000.00
North High - Bleacher repairs	\$ 2,500.00
Ward School drainage	\$ 2,000.00
Path for Life Course at Auburndale	\$ 6,000.00
Carr School Lights	\$ 3,000.00
Gath Pool Sensor	\$ 8,000.00
Burr Park Driveway paving	\$ 3,500.00
Repair Auburndale Parking Lot	\$ 8,000.00
Renovate Cabot Park Field	\$ 9,500.00
Renovate L.L. Field at Newton Centre	\$ 9,500.00
Crystal Lake Plans	\$ 10,000.00

PLAN "B"

Albemarle Multi-Purpose Lighting	\$ 100,000.00
Burr School - 2 Tennis Courts	\$ 25,000.00
Ward School Drainage	\$ 4,000.00



Surfacing Auburndale Parking Lot	\$ 8,000.00
Path for Life Course at Auburndale	\$ 6,000.00
North High Bleacher repairs	\$ 2,500.00
Crystal Lake Plans	\$ 5,500.00

Discussion followed. Mrs. Pepper wanted to know if it wouldn't be possible to swap the Burr School tennis courts for Newton Highlands drainage, which she felt was a real need.

Others felt that the \$100,000.00 for the multi-purpose lighting, on that side of the City, might be objected to.

Mr. Ferguson then moved to adopt plan "B" with Mr. Burke seconding. Five (5) members voted affirmatively, but Mrs. Pepper opposed the vote. Dr. Levine, while not voting on this motion, indicated that he did not approve either.

As a comment to the Commission afterward, Mr. Burke suggested that before any final committment be made on plans for Crystal Lake, that Commissioner Halloran check on plans that may already be in existence.

Mr. Halloran said that he would certianly investigate. (Ms. Dean mentioned that her husband at one time, had prepared plans for Crystal Lake, and that they must still be around). He will check with both the Mayor and staff, to see what position they take with regard to a committment on Crystal Lake, if agreeable to the Commission.

Mr. Burke then moved that the Recreation Commission support Commissioner Halloran on investigating Crystal Lake plans. Five (5) members voted affirmatively, but Mrs. Pepper abstained.

Report on Budget by Commissioner Halloran: In a brief report, he mentioned that in his meeting with the Mayor and Department Heads, they had been informed that budget cuts will eliminate 133 positions from the overall City budget - including one (1) Motor Equipment Operator from the Recreation Department budget.

He will be scheduled for the Finance Committee hearing very soon, and will notify the Commission members as soon as he is notified of the date. If possible, it is hoped they can schedule their time to also come to this important hearing when it does come up.

The final Board of Aldermen consideration of this budget will be completed some time after the Finance Committee meeting, but as yet, he has no idea of date or time.

7. Request by Mr. Ferguson for the Commission to consider naming the Auburndale playground field in memory of Del Ryan of Auburndale: Known, and familiar to both Recreation and the general public of Auburndale, for his work as a recreation leader in Auburndale for many years, this suggestion was received with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Ferguson moved to name the regular baseball or the hardball diamond at Auburndale, in memory of Del Ryan - seconded by Mr. Rice and unanimously voted in favor.

8. Notice of Election in March: In accordance with rules and regulations of the Commission, it was announced at this February meeting that election for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be held at the March meeting of the Recreation Commission.

9. Report and Information on the new ownership of the Charles River Skating Facility: The Commissioner, Dr. Levine and Mr. Rice met last week with the new owners and management, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Ed Barry and Mr. Bob Barry.

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Actually very little information came of this meeting since the new owners were not really prepared to discuss programs, costs or make a proposal, at this time. Evidently a future proposal may be made (some question of a time swap at the facility for a City tax abatement was indicated to be of interest to the new owners - but this would have to be a question for the Assessor's and the Mayor).

Dr. Levine felt that the next move would have to be from the new owners, as far as City use went.

10. New Business: None was apparant, and Mrs. Pepper moved that the meeting be adjourned at this time - 11:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes - March 15, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Dr. Burton D. Levine, Vice-Chairman, Francis Rice, Messers. Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 7:40 P.M. by Chairman, Dr. Levine.

1. Minutes of February meeting accepted as printed.
2. Reports of attendance - maintenance and Commissioner's reports: Printed copies of each of these reports were presented, prior to the meeting, to each member.

Commissioner Halloran reported that February was a very busy month for the entire Department. The maintenance department is now involved in clearing up the winter equipment and beginning to prepare for maintenance of spring fields, readying bleachers, etc. The rest of the department has been working on budget preparation. The presentation to the Finance Committee, of the Recreation budget, was made by the Commissioner on this past Saturday morning. Several of the Commission members and Department personnel were able to accompany him to this meeting. He said that while no vote was taken at that time, they seemed favorably inclined to the Departmental needs.

After they make their recommendation, the budget then goes from the Finance Committee to the full Board of Aldermen, for final action.

3. Outdoor Tennis Rules for 1976 Summer Season: At Commissioner Halloran's invitation, Mr. Ed Fraktman, (who handled the outdoor tennis last year with great success), came to the meeting tonight to present this coming season's suggestions.

Commissioner Halloran presented the proposed rules and regulations for both the reserved and unreserved courts, for this year. Included in each Commission member's folder was a copy of a NEW tennis brochure, detailing, not only rules, etc., but the location of each tennis court, and whether they were reserved or unreserved courts. This brochure, a completely new concept, would be available in color, and in addition to the regular summer brochure, to all interested citizens of Newton.

The Commission members questioned briefly Mr. Fraktman, as to his suggestions for this summer's tennis season and also suggested a few minor changes. One suggestion was to note that on the unreserved courts, that the change over time was to be "on the hour", and on a strictly "first come, first serve basis".

4. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Nominated for Chairman by Mr. Ferguson, was Francis Rice and seconded by Mr. Baker. Since no further nominations were made, Mr. Burke moved to close the nominations and Mr. Rice was voted Chairman.

Nominated for Vice-Chairman by Mr. Fitzpatrick was Nelson Baker, seconded by Mr. Rice. No further nominations were presented, and Judy Dean moved to close the nominations. Mr. Baker was voted Vice-Chairman.

Dr. Levine now turned over the meeting to the new Chairman, Mr. Rice. Pictures were taken of the Commission Chairman and Vice-Chairman, taking over from the former Chairman, Dr. Levine. A presentation of appreciation and recognition of his service to the City and its people, was made to Dr. Levine at the close of his chairmanship, of an engraved plaque and gavel, with his name and dates on it. Another similar engraved plaque and gavel was presented to former Chairman, Paul J. Burke, since at the time of his retirement from the Chairmanship, no presentation was made to him. Pictures were also taken of the complete Commission together.

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5. Report of the discussion of Recreation Department Budget at the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 13th. Most of the Commission members attended this meeting with Mr. Halloran, as well as Carol Stapleton and Mark Licht. Considered by the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen, was the regular Recreation Department budget - including Capital Improvements.

The Finance Committee asked questions relative to the various items. Of particular concern to them were the Capital Improvement items - especially the request for lighting at Albemarle Playground.

Mr. Baker, in referring to this, said that the Aldermanic Committee asked many of the same questions as had the Commission itself. At the time they had considered their recommendations to Mr. Halloran on the Capital Improvement program. The Committee expressed surprise at the extensive use made of the Albemarle area by Newton citizens. Whether the Finance Committee will favor spending a large sum of money for one important facility like Albemarle, or whether they decide that monies for Capital Improvements should be spread out on more projects, remains to be seen.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that the letter sent to each Commission member by Mr. Halloran was very helpful and that it was his feeling that the budget requests would pass as presented.

In a lighter vein, Mr. Burke also suggested that later this year, during the regular outdoor season, it might be a good idea for the Recreation Commission and/or Recreation Department people, to challenge the Board of Aldermen, to a softball game at Albemarle. He felt that this would promote, not only good relations, but also better understanding of the use of the Albemarle sport facility.

6. Discussion about limiting large groups for outings and picnics to 300: Mr. Halloran explained that the reason for limiting these groups, is a problem, not only of noise and confusion to the abutters, but also of a serious parking problem at Auburndale. He has prepared a letter draft which he proposed to mail to those large groups who have previously applied for permits for Auburndale picnic areas, which would limit groups to never more than 300 at one time.

Mr. Burke suggested, as an alternative, to Auburndale, that Cold Spring could be used. He remarked that there was a full baseball field at this facility, plenty of parking - to the left of the entrance at Cold Spring for approximately 150 cars, and a large area for group picnics. He, on commenting about the lack of toilet facilities at this park, mentioned that large groups, if they wished, could hire what is known as "Johnny-on-the-Spot", portable, temporary, toilet facilities - which can be hired.

Mr. Fitzpatrick moved - with Dr. Levine seconding, that the Commissioner use his discretion when a request for a large group is made for Auburndale, and recommend Cold Spring, in the event that the group will be over 300. This was voted unanimously in favor.

- A-7. New Business: Chairman Rice brought up the fact that a letter of resignation from Community School representatives from the Commission, Judy Dean, had been received and called for a volunteer to fill this important position. Mr. Baker agreed to be the new representative but pointed out that he already had a heavy schedule and there may be some occasional conflict.

Mr. Halloran will notify Mr. Paul Schiman of the Community School Commission that Mr. Nelson Baker is the new appointee as representative from the Recreation Commission, to the Community School Commission - this week.

B-7. Re: clarification of sport league ruling by Commissioner Halloran. He wanted to reaffirm, at this time, that it was particularly important that everyone understood that in the ruling regarding eligible players in the leagues, that "anyone who had been, prior to 1975, an eligible player", meant that anyone who had been a legal eligible player prior to 1975 - and that at no time, was there ever a question of a player being allowed to remain in the league that was not a legal resident prior to that time. He also requested that this be inserted into the rules.

Mr. Ferguson moved to include a "legal" eligible player, at that time, into the eligibility rules. Mr. Burke seconded - and it was so voted unanimously.

C-7. Mr. Fitzpatrick again brought up the issue of the question of Recreation not sponsoring Little League. Since he feels that many of the sports leagues do have financial help, in one form or another, (i.e., officials, balls, bases, awards, etc.), shouldn't Recreation be thinking about giving equal aid to Little League or Pop Warner?

At this time, Mr. Fitzpatrick requested that fees in the Newton Leagues for the 1977 season be reviewed by the Recreation Commission before the start of the 1977 season. Object - to be sure all league fees are equitable.

Commissioner Halloran assured him that these rules would be reviewed.

Mr. Burke moved to adjourn this meeting, since there was no additional business. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 12, 1976 Minutes

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Mmes. Judith Dean, Josephine Pepper, Messers. Howard Ferguson, Paul Burke and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Absent, since he was in London, was Dr. Levine and Mr. Fitzpatrick was unable to attend due to a business appointment. Guests recorded in guest book.

1. Minutes of March Meeting accepted and distributed.
2. Copies of monthly report, maintenance report and report of Commissioner's activities during the past month, were supplied to each member.
3. Commissioner's reports: After introducing Police Officer Robert Braceland, the Newton Youth Officer, who has been invited to meet the Commission as a group, Mr. Halloran explained that his youth work is closely allied to:
  - A. Recreation, and expressed his admiration for the fine cooperation extended to us by Officer Braceland.
  - B. Mr. Halloran reported that our Maintenance Department, under the able direction of veteran foreman, Frank Shea, was hard at work. Recovering from a heavy March snowstorm, the men are now preparing Little League fields, softball diamonds and the tennis courts are practically all ready for play. Playground boxes for summer, picnic benches, etc. are just about ready for distribution to the playgrounds, and all is being prepared for a busy summer season. Next month, swimming areas will be completely ready for opening in June.
  - C. Indoors, Recreation programs at North High School are still going full swing at the pool, gyms and running track, running smoothly, with excellent attendance. Community School programs, with the cooperation of Recreation are still continuing, and the Department is making every effort to be flexible with Community School requests. Senior Citizen programs are very active, with trips and programs. Special Needs programs for winter and spring activities are about completed, but plans are underway, under the direction of Mark Licht, for summer programs.
  - D. Commissioner Halloran distributed copies of a letter received by the Department from Tony Bibbo, Executive Director of the Newton Community Service Centers, with regard to Youth Centers, in which Mr. Bibbo expressed his appreciation for the work and dedication by the Recreation Department on this expanded program.
  - E. In response to a request, Mr. Halloran attended a Nonantum Community Development program meeting. There are funds available for programs, etc., at both Stearns and Hawthorn, both located in the Nonantum area. The Commissioner reported that he had met with Alderman Concannon and Mr. John Webber, well known Nonantum Civic leader and resident, about the possibilities of improvements, such as lighting at Hawthorn and so-called, Old Stearns School. Lighting at these areas would allow athletics, such as soccer, lacrosse, softball and touch football, as well as provide security, which in turn, would alleviate the problem of vandalism.

F. Of particular concern to Commissioner Halloran, also to Mr. Webber, who was present at this meeting, was a request to the City of Newton Licensing Board for the change of location of a liquor license to almost be directly across the street from Hawthorn Playground.

Mr. Webber wrote a letter, prior to this meeting, to the Liquor License Department, attention of Mr. Carlton Merrill - a copy of this letter also forwarded to Commissioner Halloran at Recreation. Among the various reasons of objection were lack of parking and increased traffic, but the primary reason was, of course, that it was not in the best interests of the neighborhood, to have a liquor establishment so close to a playground.

Confirming that the City had received a legal notice, Commissioner Halloran reported that he had informed that the exact address of the request to move a liquor license now held on Watertown Street, was to 10 Hawthorn Street.

Mr. Halloran said that he would wholeheartedly recommend that the Recreation Commission vote to go on record as actively opposing this, and definitely not in favor of this location for a liquor license. There will be two hearings held on this request, the first on April 21st, and the second on May 19th - and Mr. Halloran said that he would be willing to attend and voice opposition to this inappropriate relocation.

Mr. Ferguson then moved that the Recreation Commission go on record as opposed to a liquor license, either new, or one transferred, being granted for this location, and also that the Commissioner inform by letter, Mr. Carlton Merrill, as head of that Licensing Board, of this opposition and action taken by the Recreation Department. It was so moved unanimously.

G. Mr. Halloran reported briefly on action taken on final vote of Aldermanic Board on the Recreation Department operating budget for fiscal year 1976-1977 - including the Capital Improvement Budget, which now becomes a part of the total Recreation Budget. After the original Mayoral and Finance Committee cuts, the Board acted favorably in implementing this new budget and Recreation will meet most of its demands for public recreation within the framework of the new budget, Mr. Halloran felt.

Mr. Nelson Baker, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, commented that it was his distinct feeling that the positive action taken by the Board of Aldermen, with regard to this Recreation Budget, was really a vote of confidence, directly due to Mr. Halloran's work as Commissioner.

4. Re: Letter regarding softball league eligibility rules which was received from Mr. William Bogardus: After writing a "letter to the Editor" in the local papers in protest of the rules, Mr. Bogardus then spoke with Mr. William Barry, Supervisor in charge of these leagues. Mr. Barry explained in detail, regulations governing these players. Mr. Halloran also called Mr. Bogardus to ascertain if all information had been provided to his satisfaction. He also invited Mr. Bogardus to come to the Recreation Commission meeting if he felt he wanted to protest any portion of the rules. However, Mr. Bogardus, informed him that he was no longer interested in softball and had now turned to tennis.

Commission members, Mr. Burke and Mr. Nelson Baker concurred that no action need be taken on this situation, and Mrs. Pepper agreed.

5. Swim rules and regulations and tennis brochure for summer: The summer tennis brochure, which is a separate folder, is complete and currently being distributed. Carol Stapleton is to be congratulated for her fine work on this detailed tennis information, which includes all of the 59 courts in Newton and their locations, as well as rules and regulations governing all Newton courts.

Swim rules have been prepared by an Aquatic Safety Committee consisting of the following people, Commissioner Halloran, Gil Champagne, Cathy England, Jim McLaughlin, Fran Towle, Mark Licht, Bob Doherty and Carol Stapleton. Copies of the proposed rules and regulations were distributed to members of the Commission.

Generally approved of, a few minor changes were suggested, such as the change of depth regulations at Crystal Lake, where it was felt in the so-called "kiddie area", which is well protected, should not be limited to 42 inches. Also, the restrictions as to attire - which prohibited bikinis - was withdrawn, since so many bathing suits fall into the bikini category. It was hoped that good taste would prevail.

With these guidelines, the rules will be slightly revised and prepared.

As a point of information, Mr. Halloran informed the group that there existed a serious problem with the Newton North Pool, which in all probability, will prevent the use of the pool for swimming now - and possibly for an indefinite period. The bottom of the pool lining is apparently breaking off in chunks and at this time, no determination as to whose responsibility the repairs will be, has been made. More information will be available by the next meeting.

6. Summer Playground and Recreation Brochure: Commissioner Halloran reported that this summer's brochure will be in red, white and blue, in keeping with the Bicentennial theme. It is now ready for special printing - and will be available shortly.
7. Consideration of Meeting during July and August: Mr. Halloran asked the group if they felt they wanted to meet during these two summer months. In the past, policy had been only to meet if some special need arose, although last year, it was agreed to meet, since Mr. Halloran was fairly new to the Department, and felt the additional meetings would be advantageous. He is agreeable to omitting the 2 mid-summer meetings, if the members so desire. They all agreed that, if a special meeting was necessary, a letter could be sent out to members calling for a meeting. Therefore, no meeting will be planned during July and August this year.
8. Information with Regard to Jay Gordon Memorial and the Del Ryan Memorial: On April 25th, plans are made for 1 o'clock ceremonies and dedication for the naming of the Jay Gordon Memorial at the Little League - East Field. A sign was purchased by the East Little League and will be installed by the Recreation Department. It will be green, textured wood, about 4 x 8 feet in size, with white lettering. Members of the Commission and the East Little League will be present for the dedication.

With regard to the proposed dedication of the field at Auburndale, in memory of Del Ryan, long time recreation leader, Commissioner Halloran reported that he had breakfasted recently with "Cuz" Connelly, who gave him the complete history and background of this man. He said at least 600 to 700 people played ball with Del over the years, and that later on, he continued to organize ball teams indefinitely. More information on the dedication will be provided at a later date.



9. Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast to be held May 14th at 8:00 A.M. at Boston College, (Main dining hall in McElroy Commons:) Reservations should be made ahead of time. Mrs. Lesbirel will contact members again shortly to take reservations and checks, in order to notify the Chamber of Commerce in plenty of time prior to the event. Checks should be made out to Community Prayer Breakfast Committee, for \$5.00 per person. Mr. Halloran will plan to go.
10. Dates of next 2 meetings are - May 17th and June 21st, and will be held in the usual room, 209.

Nelson Baker moved to adjourn this meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

jfd

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 17, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messrs. Dr. Burton Levine, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Mmes. Judy Dean, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Mr. Herbert Bamel was invited to attend. Upon approval by the Board of Aldermen shortly - Mr. Bamel will replace Dr. Levine of Ward 8, who is leaving the City.

1. Due to the fact that approximately 45 children and several parents were present, the question with regard to the use of skateboards in Newton was considered first on the agenda.

On May 10th, a directive was issued by the Recreation Department in concern for the safety of the children and citizens of Newton, banning the use of skateboards. This directive was in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Motor Vehicle Laws and Newton City Ordinance - and was distributed with the cooperation and agreement of the Newton Police and Public Works Commissioner. The ban excluded the use of skateboards on any public street or sidewalk, on any school or City parking facility, controlled by the City of Newton or the Recreation Department.

Children and parents came to protest this ban, and try to seek an alternative. Lt. Charles Feeley, who has worked with the children of Newton on bicycle safety, was present also, and he explained that he had received many reports of injuries to skateboard riders. He also noted that the skateboard itself, after the rider had jumped off, became a fast moving, uncontrolled projectile.

Heated discussion followed. Commissioner Halloran spoke up to suggest that a possible solution, rather than continued discussion, would be more appropriate. His suggestion that a committee, to look into the subject of skateboards, of parents and Recreation Commission members be formed, was well received, and Mrs. Peter Kilborn and Mr. Stanley Daner agreed to represent the parents. Commissioner Halloran said that he would be most willing to meet with them soon. Mr. Rice, Judith Dean and Josephine Pepper agreed to represent the Recreation Commission. Lt. Feeley also indicated his willingness to act as consultant - also Law Department, School Department and Public Works Department.

Commissioner Halloran will be in contact with all the Committee shortly.

2. Minutes of the April meeting were accepted as distributed.
3. Reports of attendance, maintenance and report of Commissioner's activities were distributed to all members.
4. Last meeting, for Dr. Levine: Dr. Levine announced that this was his final meeting, and that he would be moving to Norwood shortly. He nostalgically commented that he had been on the Recreation Commission for 10 years, and said that he had enjoyed every minute of it, including the last two years while he was the Chairman of the Commission. He admitted that he hated to leave, and hoped that his successor, Herb Bamel, would enjoy the work as much as he had. He complimented Mr. Halloran for his work since he became the Commissioner, and said that Mr. Halloran had "taken the burden of the work off the Commission, in his two years administration, and that it had been his particular pleasure to have been associated with him". He also said that he would be remiss if he didn't comment on his close association and work, with the Recreation Commission secretary, Marge Lesbirel, and thanked her for her cooperation for the ten years in which they had worked together.

Commissioner Halloran responded by saying that Dr. Levine had been an outstanding member of the Commission, and that it had been a pleasure to have worked with him.

Mr. Halloran mentioned again that Herbert Bamel had been nominated by Mayor Mann, and it was expected that a June 1st approval from the Board of Aldermen could be expected without any problem.

5. Report on Bicentennial plans for fireworks: The fireworks will be held at Newton North High's enclosed stadium, and on the same evening as the Waltham display of fireworks. The rationale in this case being that two major events in two places, will deploy the crowds and prevent an overwhelming number of people from converging on Newton - with accompanying problems. Cooperating with this Department will be Capt. Marchand of the Newton Police Department and Bob Braceland of the Newton Police, plus Gene Larson, Public Works Commissioner.
6. Report on status of Newton North High School Pool: Recreation was notified that the indoor pool would have to closed for bottom of pool repairs, where chipping had occurred. Both Mr. Cornelious of the School Department, and Mr. Gene Larson of Public Buildings, concur, that the pool should not again open until repairs are properly completed.
7. Summer brochure report - and samples: Distributed to each member were samples of the new Summer Recreation Brochure. This is done in striking red, white and blue, in keeping with this year's Bicentennial theme. Mr. Halloran complimented Carol Stapleton, who he said, did most of the brochure. Mr. Ferguson said that he was most impressed and that it was certainly clear, concise and an excellent picture of Recreation Department activities.
8. Slide show by Carol Stapleton: Presented mainly to show improvements, this slide show actually showed many of the playground areas that some of the members had never really seen, and was most thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. the comment made by the Commission after viewing was - "fantastic".
9. Outdoor Swim facilities: It is expected that Gath Memorial Pool will open on June 5th and Crystal Lake on June 12th. A good summer swim season is expected. Extra pressure will be on these two areas this year, particularly for swimming lessons, since the Newton North High Pool will not be available for lesson instruction, as it was last year.
10. Del Ryan Memorial Report: Commissioner Halloran reported that he has met with "Cuz" Connelley and with Mr. Ferguson on the arrangements for this Memorial to be named at the regular baseball field at Auburndale. No funding will be provided by the Recreation Department, but the Committee is making arrangements for donations for a fund through private citizens.
11. Softball League Reports: Leagues have begun to play. Approximately 600 people are involved with 35 men's teams and 9 women's teams. After the final rosters are in, there will be a final report made to the Commission by the supervisors and then reviewed by the Commissioner. There will be a meeting at the close of the season on these leagues and their eligibility rules. Review by the Commission was suggested for the November meeting.

Nancy Bartely, who was present, suggested that before meetings take place, that all sports leagues should be contacted - including basketball and touch football, and that a representative from each league should be present.

12. Sports Camp for deprived children, to be held at Boston College: Coach "Snooks" Kelley, of Boston College, has contacted Mr. Halloran with the information that there are about 100 openings in this sports camp to be held this summer at Boston College. Names and applications for Newton children will be processed by the Department through agencies in Newton.

13. New Business:

A. Mr. Ferguson expressed concern about the possibility of the possibility of the School Department siphoning monies from the Recreation Department C.I.P. program, for a sports complex at Newton South High School, which is currently being advocated by Mr. Mandell and Alderman Richmond.

Mr. Halloran responded that the Capital Improvement Program, as currently approved for the Recreation Department was thoroughly reviewed publically, several times before final presentation, and at no time, did the School Department ever come, or indicate an interest in the Recreation, long range, CIP Program. In other words, he felt that there was no way in which the School Department could appropriate Recreation funds for a program for the School Department.

B. Vice-Chairman, Nelson Baker, reported that he has attended two meetings of the Community School Commission and is now Chairman of the Committee formed to study possible overlap of Community Schools and Recreation Department, and to prevent any duplication of services, if they exist.

C. Commissioner Halloran reported that Jane Pitt, formerly Director of Human Services, at City Hall, has assumed the duties of Administrative Assistant to Mayor Mann, and will be coordinating functions of the Administrative offices and other City Departments.

D. Tennis players among the Commission, commented on the condition of the recently refurbished Ward School courts. "Look Great!", they said, and have had good comments from all players in the area.

No further business was considered and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be held on June 21st.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 21, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers. Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Mmes. Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:40 P.M.

1. Minutes of May meeting accepted as reported.
2. Reports of Recreation Maintenance, programs and Commissioner's reports: Copies of attendance and monthly reports distributed to all members, copies of functions and meetings attended by Commissioner distributed to all members, verbal report by Commissioner Halloran indicated that he was well satisfied with preparations for summer programs, that Frank Shea and his maintenance crew were not only on top of - but ahead of - field and playground preparation in spite of the fact that a Local #800 strike caused a late opening of the Crystal Lake swimming facility, which was not able to open until June 19th, instead of the planned 12th date.
3. Mr. Paul Burke suggested that since both parents and children were present with regard to swimming area rule, it would be appropriate to ask them to present their problem at this time, Chairman Rice agreed.
  - A. Parents present requested that an amendment be made to the current swim rules which state that all children using the main pool must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who remains with the child at all times, whether in or out of the water - unless the child can pass a swim test and be not less than 42 inches in height.

Their concern was that since they had other younger children who wanted to use the wading pool, (and the parent has to be with those children also), it was very nearly impossible to be in both places and accommodate all, on a given day. Since they felt the children were old enough and able to swim a little - but not sufficiently to pass the required test - they felt they should be able to go into the big pool, (they are too old for the wading pool).

Another suggestion which they made was to be allowed to sit on the side of the pool instead of being in the water with the child. They felt it was easier to see from the above-the-water location, rather than in-the-water.

Mr. Halloran said that since the first concern by the Recreation Department must be for the safety of swimmers, these rules have been implemented. Mr. Burke mentioned, he was aware, as were others, that many parents of children as young as 6 or 7 years old, drove by the pool and dropped the youngsters off - then come back later and pick them up. The Aquatic Safety Committee this spring took careful consideration of all potential hazards and recommended the rules as they are presently.

Mr. Halloran agreed to present the information given to him at this meeting to the Aquatic Safety Committee for review, and see if they recommend a less stringent regulation, if the Recreation Commission approves, (and would be willing to let Mr. Burke know the outcome). Mr. Burke moved that the Commissioner and staff - including Aquatic Safety Committee, review these rules and if they so decide, make any changes necessary. It was unanimously so voted.

4. Consideration of a request by Alderperson Joan Saklad with regard to opening certain asphalt tennis courts before the regular 9:00 A.M. opening: For maximum use of the courts, she suggests that they be opened at 7:30 A.M. This way, they would be available for many additional people to play before work.

Mr. Fitzpatrick commented that this seemed to be a reasonable request as long as the courts were not close to homes.

Mr. Halloran suggests that on a trial basis, the Commission consider opening those courts generally farthest from homes, such as - Albemarle, Memorial School, Cabot Park, North and South Highs, and the courts nearest Commonwealth Avenue at Warren Jr. High School - Monday through Friday at 7:30 A.M.

Mr. Ferguson then moved to give Commissioner Halloran the authority to experiment on these areas Monday through Friday, from 7:30 A.M. - and if the need arises to include Saturday and Sunday. This was so voted unanimously.

5. Permit request from St. Mary of Carmen Society for Annual Carnival at Hawthorn: Since there was no problem last year and the format of this carnival has been changed with no commercial vendors of mechanical rides, etc. coming in, it was agreed that the permit request be granted, provided Commissioner Halloran approves the proceedings. He will plan to meet with the Chairman, Nunzio Leone, prior to the date to make final arrangements.

Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation Commission approve the request for this permit and it was so voted unanimously.

6. Skateboard meeting report: As arranged at the last Commission meeting, Commissioner Halloran and those appointed to the Skateboard Committee from the Commission, plus those parents who were interested in being a part of the Committee, met one evening recently. (parents - Mr. Daner and Mrs. Kilburn). Commissioner Halloran distributed the reports he had obtained on injuries and accidents occurring to known skateboarders.

While skateboards are used, more or less successfully in several cities and are just surfacing as a real problem, not too many areas have regular programs. Commissioner Larson's office of Public Works indicated that a program in California was in progress, he had heard, and will call out there and see what information he can obtain. Meanwhile, the Committee here in Newton will check over some potential sites where a supervised program, under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department, with proper safeguards built in, might be held. No hasty decision will be made. Safety is paramount!

(Mr. Ferguson found a report in U.S. News Report, stating that there had been 27,500 accidents and 8 dead). However, until some definite decision as to program, etc., has been completed, the skateboard ban, as it stands, will remain in effect in Newton.

7. Information on City Labor force strike: From June 3rd to June 9th, all of the City labor force was on strike. Since the City Hall Associates agreed not to cross picket lines, secretaries and supervisors honored picket lines in front of the Recreation Department offices.
8. Fireworks for Bicentennial Celebration: Commissioner Halloran reported that all is in readiness through the combined efforts of the Recreation Department, the Police and Fire Departments, the Public Works and the Bicentennial Chairman, Esther Steinberg and Wendall Bauckman. Planned are two main events, a family band concert first, and then a 30 minute aerial fireworks display. Anticipated attendance will be in the vicinity of 20,000 people. Commissioner Halloran says that the main goal is to have a nice family evening.

9. Summer Programs: All swim areas open by June 19th - slight delay at Crystal Lake due to labor strike. Orientation for playgrounds to be held on June 24th and 25th, and the playgrounds actually open on Monday, June 28th. Programs will continue until late August. There are going to be 28 supervised playgrounds during the coming summer.

Plans are currently being made for construction of the Newton High School fields. Plans and requests for the funds are currently being studied by the Aldermen. They are reluctant to put the football field out of commission during the season, since both North and South High Schools play their games there. The stadium and fields are in need of serious attention, however, with the bleachers, in particular, needing work.

Request for \$100,000.00 for repair of Newton North High Pool are before the Aldermen now, and it is hoped work can be completed by this coming fall season.

Recreation has received a request for pre-school Special Needs Program, but since funds are not included in current budget, it is too late now to plan funding for salaries, etc. There may be some other group able or willing to help. This will be investigated.

10. Eligibility of Leagues: City Planning Committee of the Board of Aldermen and Alderman Sheehan are interested in this. This is reviewed yearly and will again come up to review. No action was deemed necessary at this time.
11. Weekend cover for July and August: The Recreation supervisors are scheduled for a regular plan of weekend cover throughout the summer, and have been provided with "beepers", so that they can be touch, when on duty during the day on the weekend, in case of emergency or if it is necessary for anyone to contact them during that period.
12. New Business:

- A. Nelson Baker, Recreation Commission representative to the Community School Commission reported that the Community School is currently in the process of selecting the new Executive Director for the upcoming year.

Until this selection is made, planning will probably not continue. However, since Mr. Baker's time is already distributed in the Community, it was suggested that a person from Recreation be made available to him. Mr. Halloran said that Carol Stapleton, as staff person, would work with him, probably during this coming summer, particularly in an effort to establish areas where there might be over-laps of services between the departments.

- B. Bicycle Paths: Mr. Fitzpatrick called to the attention of the Commission, that three years have passed since the Commission first looked into the possible paths for bicycle use in Newton. He pointed out that last Sunday, Memorial Drive was closed to motor traffic and became a large bicycle path. If this can be done, why can't Commonwealth Avenue be handled the same way as in the original suggestions whereby early Sunday mornings, the carriage road would be barred to motor vehicles.

Commissioner Halloran assured him that the subject was not forgotten. The Traffic Committee has the information. He also said that it might be a good idea to put it on the Aldermanic docket for action by the Aldermen.

- C. Request for an outdoor volley court net and ball for Thompsonville Playground was relayed to Commissioner Halloran.
- D. Commissioner Halloran reported that the cooling system at North High was not working, and it was probable that the upcoming special summer drama program would be moved to Meadowbrook Junior High School.

There was also some question as to whether the gymnastic program should remain where it was, since the custodians don't really want to work in the heat either.

- E. For some time, the Recreation Commission has been interested in playing the Board of Aldermen at Albemarle. At this meeting, Mr. Rice agreed, as Chairman of the Commission, to issue a challenge to Joe McDonnell of the Honorable Board of Aldermen, to a softball game with the Board - this would include not only the Commission, but also the Department personnel if they were interested in playing. A letter will be prepared and mailed shortly.

Mr. Halloran again reminded the group that they had agreed not to meet during the summer months of July and August, unless an unforeseen emergency arose.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 27, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis V. Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messrs. Paul J. Burke, Frank Fitzpatrick, Herbert R. Bamel, Mmes. Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean, Mrs. Worthing L. West and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

1. Minutes of June Meeting were accepted as distributed.
2. Reports of summer programs, maintenance, attendance and Commissioner's reports of meetings and functions attended by him, were distributed to all members.
3. Information on Novitiate land currently being offered for sale by the St. Joseph's Noviate. This is a sixty (60) acre site, located along the Charles River on Nahanton Street in Newton.

Since representatives of the Conservation Commission, the Conservators, and the Real Estate agent, Mr. McGrath, were all present at this time, the Chairman suggested that this item be discussed immediately.

- A. Printed information describing the parcel of land and the recommendations to the City, for acquisition of all, or part, of this land for the purpose of either open space or parkland, were provided to all Commission members. They feel, according to opinions voiced by the various representative present, Sally Barnett, Joan Lerner, Rodney Baker and Bill Giezentanner, from the Conservators, that based upon three basic criteria for evaluating land; it's natural characteristics, its potential for use and enjoyment, and what they call "public factors" that this land should be acquired.

Colored slides certainly depicted this 60 acre site as a delightful field and wooded area, with lovely vistas running along beside the river and an interesting terrain. According to their report, they believe the land has tremendous potential for Newton families to use it year round - for cross country skiing, ice skating on the pond, bird watching, picnicking, field games and sometime in the future, swimming in the river.

They commented that they felt matching funds from BOR would likely be available to the City of Newton, if it decided to invest in a portion, or all, of this property. They also mentioned the added advantage of the continuation of the Charles River Pathway, which is known as the Emerald Necklace. This is a green belt running along the river through Boston and Brookline, and this property would link the pathway to Newton.

Mr. McGrath, Real Estate representative for the Novitiate property, spoke briefly, and indicated a sense of cooperation and consideration. He seemed to indicate that the buildings on the site could be considered as a separate unit with 15 acres of land, and not necessarily included as part of the land sale. He also seemed to indicate that there was no urgency in selling - which might allow for long distance planning.

Helen Heyn, representing the Newton Conservation Commission, was also present. She presented the Recreation Commission members with a copy of the memorandum to Charles Thomas, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Newton, on the subject of CIP and the position of the Conservation Commission, with regard to the Novitiate land.

Briefly, at a meeting on September 22nd, the Commissioners concluded that the 15 acres recommended originally in 1975, were not adequate, and that

the Commissioners are concerned about the future of this property and the buildings on it, also that with a view toward change in their 1975 CIP recommendations, want to:

1. Inquire of the Recreation Commission members, their possible interest in using all, or parts of, the land and/or the buildings.
2. Conclude their communications with the MDC with regard to this land before making further recommendations.
3. Leaving open the possibility of recreation acquisition of the entire site for public use.

Based upon Commissioner Halloran's concern, not only of the Recreation Department, but of the entire City, he, at this point, recommended that all of the groups concerned should plan to come together and meet to discuss the pros and cons of this land, including area, necessity, cost, open space available, etc.

Commissioner Halloran suggested that, coordinated by the Executive Department, the following groups be included in the conference (that should be arranged through the Executive Department), the Mayor's office, the Conservation Commission, the Conservators, the Recreation Commission, the Metropolitan District Commission, the Real Estate agent, and the Aldermanic City Planning Committee. Mr. Burke so motioned, that through the Recreation Commissioner, that these groups get together and make a recommendation as to what action they wished to take.

Mr. Bamel, on a Point of Order, said that no vote was necessary and that the groups only want an opinion as to whether the Recreation Commission would support acquisition of this property.

Under the circumstances, no vote was taken, but Mr. Burke maintained that it would be important to know where funds were to come from before anything else, (and that only the Executive Department could initiate plans for funding), and he, for one, would certainly want a lot more facts and figures.

Mr. Halloran is willing to cooperate in whatever way is desireable.

4. Information as to proposed legislation to allow vendors to come onto, or nearer Recreation lands to sell ice cream or popsicles: (In Aldermanic Committee this evening). Commissioner Halloran informed the Commission members that the Aldermen were considering a change in this ordinance tonight.

At the earlier request by Mr. Halloran, a messenger informed him when the Aldermen were to take the item up on vendors, and both he and Mrs. West, left the meeting to attend this question.

Prior to leaving, Commissioner Halloran explained the intent of the requested change, as it had been explained to him, and also indicated that he was not in favor of any change in the ordinance, as it presently stands. His chief concern was for the aspect of safety and he said that vendors coming closer to the playgrounds would, in his opinion, bring children running back and forth across streets in their eagerness to get to the vendor.

Mr. Bamel re-emphasized this, and said as a Little League advocate for many years, he found that vendors coming near playgrounds or where Little League teams were playing, were not only a hazard to health and safety, but also a very disruptive influence on games. He thought if any change was to be made, it should be to push them even further away, from Recreation areas.

Mr. Baker moved that the Recreation Commission go on record as opposed to any changes in the vending truck ordinance, seconded by Mr. Burke and unanimously voted by the group.

Commissioner Halloran was then able to bring an official vote to the Board of Aldermen or Aldermanic Committee when he left to attend that meeting - briefly.

When Mr. Halloran returned from that meeting, he reported that it appeared that the Aldermen would, in all likelihood, leave the ordinance unchanged. The only different recommendation that was considered was the possibility of making an exception, with the written permission of the Recreation Commissioner, on certain occasions such as a fair, carnival or special event - such as the fireworks display - when it may conceivably be to the advantage of the Recreation Department to have a special vendor come onto the particular area and provide refreshments.

The Commission seemed to agree that they had no objection to occasional special dispensations. However, no further action was taken at this time.

5. Report on recent accident and death at Cold Spring Playground: (While Commissioner Halloran was attending the Aldermanic meeting, the Commission decided to continue since the agenda was lengthy). The Chairman, Mr. Rice, had of course, been informed about the conditions of the accident, which had occurred at the Cold Spring Playground, September 11th.

Originally, the accident, while considered serious, had not thought to have been a fatal accident. The young man hurt, had fallen from a tree that he had climbed and appeared to have only contusions and a possible broken wrist. He was promptly transported to the local hospital by the Police Emergency Squad. He died a few hours later. Carol Stapleton explained that his death was actually caused by a ruptured aorta, which gave no outside evidence. It was one of those strange, weird accidents that occasionally occur. The Recreation Department, it would appear, was in no way responsible.

6. I.D. Cards at North High School - school use and tennis registration: Carol Stapleton informed the Recreation Commission that I.D.'s were going to be processed at North High - for the first time this fall, on Wednesday evening, October 6th from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Registration for 300 people for tennis participation, for November and December groups will be held on October 23rd from noon to 3:00 P.M. at South High. You must be able to show your I.D. at the time, in order to register.

The Recreation Commission has agreed that anyone having a current I.D. could use this same card for the years 1976-1977.

Carol also described the work which was being done at North High pool, go get the swimming area into condition. She explained how the pool was drained to replace the tile bottom and that the locker rooms were also being repaired. At present, the School Department estimate for completion of work is November 1st.

7. Status of North High Fields: Carol was also able to say that the work on the new fields was going ahead as planned, and that the facilities at the school would be pretty spectacular when completed, she thought. Meanwhile, Recreation Department facilities, as alternatives to those school fields at North, under reconstruction, are getting very heavy play.
8. Report on Del Ryan dedication at Auburndale: Carol said that the dedication, which was held on Sunday the 12th, was very nice. Mayor Mann was in attendance. A plaque was dedicated to Del Ryan, who worked for many years with the youth of Newton. The actual cost of the plaque was privately funded by donations of former friends of Del's. They all worked together, with the cooperation of

Commissioner Halloran, to provide this memorial to a fondly remembered local personage, (whose son, James Ryan, still works for the Recreation Department). Many members of Del's family were able to attend, plus Commissioner Halloran and members of the Recreation Commission.

9. Fall and Winter Brochures: Carol Stapleton reported that these brochures were complete and ready for distribution. She also provided copies of the brochures as samples, for all of the Commission members.
10. Halloween: Having returned from the Aldermanic meeting, Commissioner Halloran informed the Commission that the Recreation Department, this year, will only sponsor Halloween Dances and activities for the junior and senior high school youth groups.

The last few years, the grade schools have not been anxious or willing to assume responsibility for the evening parties, so they have gradually dropped to only six schools.

It was decided this year, that the Recreation Department, due to the budgetary concern, will supply a drink and cookies to any school who plans to sponsor an evening party at the school, but that Recreation will be unable to do more than this.

The Recreation sponsored activities will be held on Friday evening since Halloween is actually on Sunday this year.

11. Albemarle and South High Lighting: Commissioner Halloran reported that several vendors had been invited to bid on these combined, proposed lighting contracts for the additional lighting of the unlit tennis courts at Newton South High, plus the facility lighting at Albemarle. The Recreation Department carries in its budget, an amount of \$100,000.00 for the combined lighting of these two facilities.

One suggestion that was presented by Mr. Bamel at this time, was the possible re-directing of the focus of the present lights in order to better light the tennis courts, that are now lit. The Commissioner said that he would look into this possibility and if adjustment is possible without additional cost, it will be done.

12. Improvements being made on Auburndale "Life Course": Dr. Buxbaum, who has been very active in the concern of the so-called "Life Course", at Auburndale, expects that during the upcoming National Park and Recreation Congress to be held this year in Boston, that many people from all over the United States will be interested and visiting this facility. He is most anxious to have it at its best for this exhibition, since the company in which he is involved, "Lifecourse Resource Center" will be conducting a panel discussion on Thursday, October 21st, during the Congress. Commissioner Halloran has been invited to be a panel member also. Dr. Buxbaum's concern particularly, is the running track which joins the various exercise stations.

Commissioner Halloran has arranged for Recreation Foreman, Fran Shea's maintenance crew to update the work on this running track, prior to the October Congress, and he feels that all will be in readiness for any prospective National visitors.

According to a telephone call received by Commission Vice-Chairman, Nelson Baker, Dr. Buxbaum was very pleased with the completion of the work which he had advocated.

13. National Recreation and Park Convention: This year, the Congress will be held in Boston, from October 17th to the 21st. Meetings and events are to be held at the Statler Hilton and at Hynes Auditorium. Commissioner Halloran said that he plans to attend each day.

- 14. Report on Fellow Commission Member, Howard Ferguson: Mr. Ferguson is now at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, where he was to be operated on today. We have checked with the hospital today and they say he came through the operation well. The Recreation Department will keep the Commission members informed as to his progress.
- 15. League Eligibility Rules Review: All sports leagues rules will be reviewed as they are each year, in November by the Recreation Commission.
- 16. Newton Youth Soccer Program: While the Recreation Department is not running the Soccer Program, they are making every effort to cooperate with the Soccer people. They are now playing on the soccer fields at Weeks and South High. The spring only, will present a problem since early baseball practice, on Recreation fields, may interfere with the Soccer Program.

Helen Heyn, who happened to be present with regard to another matter, and who is a member of the Conservation Commission, questioned if it might not be possible to have a Soccer field at the end of Warren Street, near the MBTA, on the Webster land.

Mr. Bamel suggested the Oak Hill School area, since Little League doesn't appear to be using these. Mr. Halloran said that Little Leagues or other groups, sometimes use this area concurrently, however.

The question of the area of land at Norumbega was also brought up since there is the possibility of a need for spring softball and fall soccer fields. This area might be a possibility. Area residents are aware that some type of athletic field is contemplated and are agreeable. The only stipulation they have made, through Alderperson Carol Shea, is that no large, or permanent, bleachers be set up there.

As a softball field requires 300 feet and a soccer field only requires 240 feet, both of these would fit nicely within the area available.

Still to be determined is the decision as to whose budget this field construction will be carried in.

- 17. In a brief final report, Commissioner Halloran said that the summer had been a good one. While it had been very hot, it evidently had not interfered with playground attendance.

Commissioner Halloran felt that the staff this summer, both swimming and playground, had been excellent, and had done a good job for the Department.

Mr. Halloran commented on the removal of the crowd control cables from the various playground. These cables have been used by the Department for many years where various games are played. Commission member, Mrs. Pepper had inquired earlier as to the reason for their removal, and Mr. Halloran explained that they are metal and at least 20 years old. They have begun to fray badly and after examining personally, these cables, he felt that they presented a hazard to both children and adults, as their hands could be cut on the metal fibers, and he had had them all removed. New cables will be requested in the budget for the upcoming year. Budgets, both Fiscal and Capital Improvement Budgets, are being developed and will be prepared during November. Meanwhile, rope is used as an alternative to the metal cables.

Mr. Halloran reminded the Commission members that the next meeting of the Commission will be a week later than usual in October, as they had previously agreed, due to the National Park and Recreation Congress held in Boston this year, the week of October 18th, the normal regular meeting time for the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
 Marjorie Lesbirel  
 Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 25, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis V. Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers, Paul J. Burke, Herbert Bamel, Mmes. Judith Dean, Josephine Pepper, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Visitors: 15 on Youth Soccer proposed for Newton and one press representative, Priscilla Leith, from the Newton Graphic.

1. Minutes of September meeting accepted as circulated.
2. Request by Youth Soccer Group, under the leadership of Mrs. Vandewald, for consideration of land use for Soccer in Newton. Having met with Commissioner Halloran previously, Mrs. Vanderwald, Mrs. Chalfin, came to the Commission meeting accompanied by other Soccer enthusiasts, to request that soccer fields be made available to them for a fall program. 40 to 60 boys and girls are interested in learning to play Soccer.

Mr. Halloran had arranged to meet them at Cold Springs, an available field which they were interested in. However, he recommended other fields, such as Lincoln, Hawthorn, Allison and Lyons, as these fields already have established Soccer fields and Cold Spring fields, since they are more inaccessible, are also subject to vandalism. Soccer posts and nets could be expected to be damaged there.

Considerable time was allowed for each and every member of the 15 member group to give their thoughts on Soccer in Newton. It was determined that not only did they want fields, but would like the Recreation Department to pick up the cost of referees, some possible coaching fees and the costs of the portable nets and Soccer balls, if possible.

Mr. Burke pointed out that although Recreation has provided playing fields for thousands of children in the City for many programs, they had never funded any of these programs. He mentioned Pop Warner and Little League, both privately funded. These programs, as a result of time, effort and money, generally provided by parents, have been successful, but that neither the Recreation Department nor the City have ever backed them financially. Were the Department to provide monies for referees, etc., for one program, it would be necessary to fund all in the same manner. Cost of total funding would certainly be exorbitant.

Chairman, Mr. Rice, finally suggested that it would be advisable to form a committee to meet with Mr. Halloran on these problems. Mrs. Chalfin, Mrs. Vanderwald and Mrs. Wilson agreed to represent the Soccer group.

3. Reports of Monthly Programs and Maintenance and Commissioners Reports: Reports of programs and maintenance, plus those meetings and functions attended by the Commissioner were distributed to all members.

Commissioner Halloran reported that normally at this time of year, summer programs are over and winter or fall programs have not begun, so it is a fairly quiet period - except for maintenance, which goes on at all times. The outdoor areas at Newton Highlands, Albemarle and Cabot are still busy as Pop Warner is now well into their fall season.

Mr. Halloran said that in this, his third year as Commissioner, many things were going on, he attends many meetings, renovations are planned in several areas. Some of those mentioned were, Hawthorn Building (Edwin O. Childs Building), Newton Center "Hut", Burr Park and renovation planned for buildings at Crystal Lake. He would like to see the outside of the building done also. He also commented that there is limited space at Crystal Lake, but there are no plans at present for more land taking.

He also commented on the increase on many of the girls' sports and said that Recreation has a hard job to meet the field use needs for all of the various programs for both male and female programs. We actually need more fields. New fields at North High in the spring should help some.

4. Report on the National Park and Recreation Congress, held in Boston this year during the week of October 18th to 21st. Commissioner Halloran was on a special panel on the Life Course, Thursday, October 21st. Mr. Halloran reported that he and various members of the Recreation Department had been able to visit the convention each day. Mr. Halloran, Mr. Burke and Miss Stapleton attended the panel discussion in which Commissioner Halloran participated, as speaker, along with two other members of Management Sciences for Health. The subject was the Life Course program, and the Newton Recreation Department is the only example of this health facility in the vicinity of Boston. Great interest was expressed in this model course, and Commissioner Halloran, upon request, provided transportation from the convention site to Auburndale for those interested in actually visiting this interesting outdoor course.

Mr. Halloran said that the Villager Newspaper carried a story on the Recreation Department Life Course.

Mrs. West said that during her attendance at the annual Commission Board's dinner, which she has been a member for 5 years, she heard many fine comments regarding Commissioner Halloran, both on his presentation on the panel, and also on the great job he was doing for Newton as Commissioner.

5. Latest Information on Status of Newton North High School Recreation Facilities, including pool and locker rooms. Mr. Halloran reported that based upon Commissioner of Public Works Commissioner's Larson's estimate, the pool repair is expected to have been completed by November 15th. There would still be testing, etc., to do so, a date for re-opening, would not be made until that time. Drains and handicapped facilities are now installed in the locker rooms, but they still need to be cleaned. Until such time as work is completed, no estimated date of pool opening will be available.

Newton North High School gyms, etc., will be open beginning November 1st. Tennis registration for the first session has been held. 300 openings were available, and 204 people registered. There are still 96 openings, so on November 6th, there will be an additional registration time made available to the public. Everything went smoothly at the registration, and there were no problems.

6. Report on Recreation Department Meetings on Sport League Eligibility, which will be planned during October and November. The Commissioner will plan to meet with representatives of both men's and women's leagues. The first meeting will be with Miss Towle and Mr. Barry, and the second meeting on November 3rd, will be a 7:30 P.M. meeting with Mr. Barry, Miss Towle, Marilyn Sicurella, Nancy Bartley and Jo Pepper, plus representatives from the other leagues. Since the women voted to eliminate the 1975 adjustment, there should be no problem with these leagues. Commissioner Halloran said that we appear to be left with the fact that the women don't want this eligibility rule, but that the men do.
7. 1977 Budget Review Meeting to be held November 29th. It was decided that November 29th would be acceptable for everyone present, and the Commissioner will review the proposed and recommended budget for the next year. A copy of the CIP budget was included in the meeting folders tonight, and this will also be discussed and priorities considered.

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8. Report on Renovations at Hawthorn: The leaders and participants have moved out of Hawthorn temporarily during renovations and have set up an area on Silver Lake Avenue in the same general area. Extensive renovations are expected to be completed in the Edwin O. Child's building by about the end of January.
9. Report on Status of Albemarle and South High Lighting: Holihan Electric was the company to which the bid for these contracts was approved. The work has begun, and it is expected that it will be completed much sooner than originally anticipated. Tom Hayes, Electrical Engineer from the Building Department, estimates that it will be finished by April 1, 1977.

Commissioner Halloran called to the attention of the Commission the fact that with this new lighting, the electricity cost would be raised within the budget. Off setting this additional cost however, will be the fact that security problems will be cut.

Mr. Bamel again inquired about changing the direction of the South High lights which he commented on at the last meeting, but Mr. Halloran said that until the work was completed at Albemarle, they would be unable to determine if any money would be left over. If it is, the lighting at South can then be re-directed.

10. Report on Commission member Howard Ferguson: Currently recovering from major surgery, his condition was reported to be good. Mr. Halloran said he still gets tired, but is making an excellent recovery.
11. Status of Novitiate Land: While the Conservators appear to be pushing for purchase of this land, the Executive Department has taken the subject under advisement.

Commissioner Halloran has reported all information to Mayor's Administrative Assistant, Jane Pitt. The Commission had suggested that under the Executive Department, the various groups interested in this area might be able to meet together at some time. This is being taken under advisement, but no further action will be taken without Executive instructions.

12. Halloween Activities Report: Mr. Halloran reports that through the lack of interest in schools and PTA's, that the Halloween parties, sponsored by the Recreation Department, will only be held in two schools, Hyde and St. Jeans. Junior and senior high dances will be held at Warren Junior High, Meadowbrook Junior High and Newton North and Newton South High Schools. These will be co-sponsored by the Youth Centers and the Recreation Department.
13. a. Reorganization - Commissioner Halloran reports that the plan is still very much alive. It had been his hope that Recreation could retain their Maintenance Department, but it really looks as though it will become a part of a City-wide maintenance, under Public Works.  
b. Report of death of Mrs. Penney, wife of the former Commissioner, John B. Penney, after a lengthy illness. Chairman, Mr. Rice, asked Commissioner Halloran if he would please write to Mr. Penney and express the sympathy of the Commission in his loss. Mr. Halloran said he would do this immediately.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 15, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis V. Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messrs. Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Mmes. Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:40 P.M. (15 visitors)

Aldersperson Ethel Sheehan was present and spoke briefly to the group, with regard to a letter which she had received concerning her position and her proposed legislative change which she sponsored, on ice cream vendors.

She wanted to be sure the Commission was aware that her only motivation in offering this legislation was on behalf of a constituent who is 19 years old and has an ice-cream truck.

1. Minutes of October meeting accepted as presented.
2. Report on Programs, Maintenance and Commissioner's Reports: In addition to printed reports distributed to all, Commissioner Halloran commented that, at this time of the year, indoor programs are beginning and outdoor programs are gradually terminating. He said that maintenance really never slows down, it just shifts into another different season. He also said that from an overall Recreation point of view, the high point of this month was the Annual National Recreation Congress held in Boston in October.
3. Recreation Sports League Eligibility Rules 1976/1977: Prior to this evening's meeting, Commissioner Halloran arranged for in-house meetings with representatives of all of the sports leagues on November 3rd. He acted as Moderator at this meeting. Mrs. Pepper of the Recreation Commission, was also in attendance. A written report of this meeting was distributed to all Recreation Commission members.

After discussion of the various options and issues, Mrs. Pepper moved that on Rule #5, which appears to be the only area of controversy, that legal residents of Newton, moving out of the City, that have participated in a sports league, may continue to play in that sport, provided a fee is paid for that sport, by that player.

No second for this motion was forthcoming, and no action was taken.

Mr. Baker then moved to change Eligibility Rule #5, of the present rules, to read: "Those former Newton residents who played as legal residents in a Newton Recreation sports league, prior to 1975, will be allowed to play in that league only, provided a fee of \$20.00 per player, per sport league, (in addition to the regular team fee), is paid". This was seconded by Frank Fitzpatrick and so moved - with Mrs. Pepper abstaining and four affirmative votes.

4. Newton Youth Hockey Presentation - Mr. Paul Molloy: Mr. Molloy, President of the Youth Hockey Program, was invited to present to the Recreation Commission, his yearly report of activities. He described financial reports, scholarships availability, reports of novice and beginner programs, coaching activities, upgrading of officials, ice use and administration practices and plans for this now, ten year old program. As usual, his presentation was in depth and of the usual high quality.

Chairman Rice thanked him and Commissioner Halloran commented also as to Mr. Molloy's continued dedication, and the cooperation and ease with which the Recreation Department is able to work with him.

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5. Report on Halloween Dances and Activities: Mr. Halloran reported that this year, as in recent years, the Department has received a very low response to the elementary school level for Halloween parties. The PTA's are not interested either. Therefore, this year, the Halloween parties sponsored by the Department and in cooperation with the Youth Centers, were geared to junior and senior high school dances at these schools. Participation was excellent, with approximately 800 kids taking part in the fun. Vandalism this year, was down, to just about everyones gratification. All in all, Commissioner Halloran reported that this was a good Halloween weekend!
6. Special Budget Meeting Scheduled for November 29th at 7:30 P.M.: Since Mr. Halloran will be meeting with Joel Lerner on the 29th on funding, it was decided to postpone this meeting to Monday, December 6th at 7:30 P.M. It will probably be held in the Executive Suite, but the secretary will check and notify everyone next week some time.
7. Status of Newton North High School Pool: The Commissioner, based upon a memo which he received from the Commissioner of Public Works, Emil Larson, reported that the tentative opening of North High Pool will have to be postponed, at least until December 13th, as they now feel that a 28 days drying period of the tile installed, is necessary prior to putting in any water. Recreation will be notified as soon as a definite date for reopening is set and public use is again okay.
8. Report on Commissioner's Meeting with Soccer Representatives: Mr. Halloran reported that after meeting with them, he had agreed to cooperate with the group and would provide some office assistance, plus use of fields. They have also requested soccer goals and nets. They will probably use Allison and Hawthorn, and possibly some other fields that do not interfere with other sports activities.
9. Meeting with Aldermanic Education Committee, Wednesday, January 12th at 7:45: In response to this invitation, Commission members will plan to attend Alderman Richmond's Committee meeting with regard to Cultural Arts Programs. This item will appear on the December agenda if further discussion is needed.
10. Recreation Department Christmas Party: This year's holiday party will be held at the Needham Motor Hotel on Cabot Street in Needham, on December 9th at 6:30 P.M. As many of the Department, and the Recreation Commission as possible, are urged to attend.
11. New Business:
  - A. Commissioner Halloran reported that he had attended a three hour Public Hearing on Wednesday, on the proposed reorganization - with more to come.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M. Mr. Bamel came in just prior to adjournment of meeting, as he had been delayed at another meeting - and was updated on the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 20, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis V. Rice, Messers. Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Nelson Baker, Herbert Bamel, Frank Fitzpatrick, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice.

1. Minutes of regular November meeting and Special November meeting were accepted as distributed.
2. Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Halloran reported that basically the Department was exceptionally busy during November with budget preparation. Frank Shea, Recreation Foreman, is on vacation and Joe Taranto, the Assistant Foreman is doing a fine efficient job replacing Frank during this period. Mr. Halloran mentioned briefly reorganization plans, (which are being considered by the Aldermanic Board tonight at their regular meeting), as he says, the Commission is aware of his concerns regarding losing maintenance.
3. Written reports of programs and maintenance, etc., were distributed to the Commission.
4. Newton North High School Pool: School has begun use of the pool today. Everything looks good, the tile is fine, water clear. The locker rooms are not ready, but it is hoped that when Recreation goes in, one week from today, they will be ready.
5. Austin Moore: Austin, our full time Recreation Leader, on a provisional basis, is leaving to go into private business. Commissioner Halloran says that Austin has done a good job, and has been well liked by staff and public. His final day with this Department will be this coming Thursday, and Mr. Halloran will extend his appreciation and the appreciation of the Department for a job well done, in a personal letter to Austin.
6. Request from Alderman Ed Richmond on behalf of constituent Munro L. Inca, for consideration of having a strip ploughed on the center of Commonwealth Avenue for the use of joggers. Commissioner Halloran conferred with Public Works Commissioner Larson, who says that it would not be feasible to plough over this grassy area, as it would rip up the grass. He recommended that the carriage road be utilized for this purpose. Mr. Richmond has been made aware of these recommendations and seemed to feel that this was acceptable.
7. City Planning Committee meeting on November 29th: It is anticipated that the Novitiate land will be discussed at this meeting.
8. New Manual on Ice Skating and Tobogganing: was distributed to all Commission members at this meeting. Commissioner Halloran also described an ice rescue demonstration which was put on by the staff of the Recreation Department, under the direction of Gil Champagne, the Safety Consultant for the Department. This was held at Auburndale's Ware's Cove ice skating area.
9. Report on Skating Situation: Skating has been available and excellent at Ware's Cove in Auburndale and at Crystal Lake in Newton Centre. Unfortunately, apparently due to salt run off near Bullough's Pond in Newtonville, this area has not frozen sufficiently to make safe skating available.

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The question of flooding tennis and basketball courts was brought up, but Mr. Halloran said that it appeared that in many cases, the cost of repairs, due to the damage done to courts in the process, outweighs the benefits of skating.

10. Report on Ice Fishing at Crystal Lake: Ice fishing is being allowed at this time, but on an experimental basis. The cooperation of the public in using this fishing area, only in cooperation with the Recreation Department, and only during the time when skating is allowed, in accordance with the rules set forth, will determine whether it can continue.

11. Reminder of January 12th meeting at City Hall of Alderman Ed Richmond's Education Committee on Recreation budget and Cultural Arts budget. Coordination of all City's budgets is the purpose of this meeting.

12. New Business:

A. Mrs. Cadwell has requested that the Recreation Department flood an area at Hunnewell Hill Playground for skating if at all possible.

Mr. Halloran responded that while he would be happy to do this, the area is unfortunately too far from a water hydrant to make it practical. Also, there is no access from Newton, and it is necessary for Newton's Recreation maintenance crews to come in from the Brighton side to do their work.

B. Mr. Burke moved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M., and it was agreed. The next meeting of the Commission will be on January 17th at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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SPECIAL RECREATION COMMISSION BUDGET MEETING

December 6, 1976

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis V. Rice, Vice-Chairman, Nelson Baker, Messers. Howard Ferguson, Herbert Bamel, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Francis Rice at 7:55 P.M.

Commissioner Russell J. Halloran provided each Commission member with a detailed copy of the proposed 1977 budget of the Recreation Department.

Commission members had previously received the proposed Capital Improvement budget as printed by the Newton Planning Department.

Included in this budget proposal were the figures as proposed last year, the figures which were actually appropriated, and the newly requested budget figures for the coming year, based upon the new year's needs by the Department.

Commissioner Halloran went through the entire budget, page by page, item by item, explaining figures and responding to any questions which the Commission members asked, with regard to this intricately detailed budget. The Commission was very impressed with the preparation and information provided. They wholeheartedly congratulated the Commissioner on a job well done.

Nelson Baker moved that the Recreation Commission approve the budget, as proposed tonight by Commissioner Halloran for 1977. This was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

jfd

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 17, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers. Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Mmes. Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. (Mrs. Pepper and Mr. Bamel were absent due to previous commitments).

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:50 P.M.

Minutes of both December meetings were accepted as distributed, with the addition of Mrs. Pepper's name which had inadvertently been omitted from the regular meeting roster.

1. Reports of maintenance, programs and Commissioner Halloran's report of activities were distributed prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Halloran reported that skating was good until the snow storm on the 13th of January. The problem now is clearing the snow away from the surface. Since Recreation Department equipment is getting pretty old, and since it gets heavy use, not only by the Recreation Department, but also by the Street Department for snow removal, the basic problem is the need for new equipment, particularly Jeeps, to replace worn out vehicles. Each skating area will be cleared as rapidly as is possible, in any event.

Mr. Halloran reported that December had been a very busy month, and that the new budget was now in preparation, and this takes considerable time. He is now awaiting information from the Mayor's office on this.

The Commissioner said that before the snow falls, Recreation does flood the tennis courts, but it is inadvisable to plow these courts later, as it tends to break the seals on the tennis courts. Also, in many cases, the fences are damaged during plowing.

2. Report on Status of Reorganization Plan as it pertains to the Recreation Department: Until final legal action is taken by the City - in other words - until such time as it is voted or refused, we won't be sure of our position.

Mr. Halloran has met repeatedly with Mr. Larson and Jane Pitt. There is a possibility that if agreeable to Mr. Larson, Commissioner of Public Works, Recreation may be able to retain its maintenance. Mr. Halloran is still meeting with Mayor Mann and with Commissioner Larson. A meeting is planned for Wednesday, with these two people again, and Mr. Halloran assures the Commission that he will continue to make the effort to retain maintenance even if it became necessary for the Department to assume additional responsibilities. One suggestion which Mr. Larson made was with regard to the schools. He thought that if we did retain maintenance, it might be a good idea for the Recreation Department to care for the front of schools, as well as the playgrounds, and also the snow plowing of schools. This is generally handled by contractors at this time. Mr. Halloran indicated that it would probably be necessary to have some additional funding and additional men for recreation, if this was to be done.

3. Report on Status of North High Pool: Mr. Halloran reported that the School Department closed the pool due to a malfunction of the chlorination system there. Experts are working on the problem, and it is hoped that it will reopen shortly, the School Department says.
4. Report on Education Committee of the Board of Aldermen: Meeting on Monday evening January 12th, with regard to Recreation and Cultural Arts Budgets.

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Commission members, (with the exception of Nelson Baker, who had another committment), and Commissioner Halloran, attended this meeting.

Commissioner Halloran provided information on all budgets relative to Recreation and Cultural Arts. He also gave them detailed accounts of Recreation programs which had been held, and those anticipated.

The Education Committee appeared to be concerned about overlap of programs by Community Schools. Carol Stapleton, liaison between Recreation and Community Schools, had met with Lee Manes and Lois Alexander of the Community Schools, and it does appear that there is some overlap.

It appeared that the Aldermen felt that the Recreation Department could better provide recreation programs, and questioned Mr. Halloran as to his thoughts on the possibility of his Department assuming some of these programs. He said that he felt, providing monies were available, that this Department could provide whatever services were necessary, if this was the Aldermanic recommendation.

At this meeting, while no official vote was taken, the Chairman indicated that he would like to have a long range projection and also a short range report of the Recreation Department goals for the coming years. Mr. Halloran asked the Commission for their direction on this request. The response from the Commission was that this should be an official request and Mr. Rice, Chairman of the Recreation Commission, will contact the Committee Chairman and suggest that an official request be made. Mr. Halloran indicated that he would be happy to respond to this.

5. Reports on Ice Skating and Tobogganing: Due to really good conditions this year, it has been a fantastic year for both the toboggan slide and for all of our skating areas. Snow on the 13th necessitated plowing. As fast as possible, all areas will be cleared.

Mr. Halloran reported that about a week ago, there was an accident on the toboggan slide at Newton Centre. A family - husband, wife and child, came down the slide, but the mother, for some reason, stuck her leg out and it was broken. Reports of all personnel and witnesses who were present at the time, were fully documented. All reports are on file at the Recreation Department and there appeared no indication of any carelessness or lack of concern by personnel on duty at the slide.

Nelson Baker commented that he had visited the toboggan slide recently, and he was very impressed with the leaders who were on duty at the top of the slide, in that they were very sure that all safeguards were taken and that each person using the slide was fully instructed as to safety procedures before being allowed to make the run.

As always, Commissioner Halloran is concerned about safety. He stated that he would rather be criticized for too many people on duty at a facility - such as the toboggan slide - where safety is extremely important, than to have too few on duty.

Through John Monahan of the City Traffic Department, Mr. Halloran has also arranged to have Tyler Terrace made one way during the time that the toboggan slide is in use, in order to alleviate any traffic tie-ups.

6. Report on Indoor Tennis Registration: Registration for the second indoor session took place at South High on January 15th. Since only a portion of the 300 slots available were filled, the Department accepted additional names after that date. At present, we have 222 registrations and will continue to accept registrations until the 300 cutoff line is reached, (1 court is available at North and 1 at South High).

7. New Business: Commissioner Halloran told the Recreation Commission members that swim lesson registration would take place on January 27th, and lessons would begin the first week of February, and will continue for 15 weeks.

Since no one had any additional new business which they wanted to bring before the group, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

jfd



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 17, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers. Howard L. Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Mmes. Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. (Mrs. Pepper and Mr. Bamel were absent due to previous commitments).

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:50 P.M.

Minutes of both December meetings were accepted as distributed with the addition of Mrs. Pepper's name, which had inadvertently been omitted from the regular meeting order.

1. Reports of maintenance, programs and Commissioner Halloran's reports of activities were distributed prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Halloran reported that skating was good until the snow storm on the 13th of January. The problem now is clearing the snow away from the surface. Since Recreation Department equipment is getting pretty old, and since it gets heavy use, not only by the Recreation Department, but also by the Street Department, but also by the Street Department for snow removal, the basic problem is the need for new equipment, particularly jeeps, to replace wornout vehicles. Each skating area will be cleared as rapidly as is possible, in any event.

Mr. Halloran reported that December had been a very busy month, and that the new budget was now in preparation and this takes considerable time. He is now awaiting information from the Mayor's office on this.

The Commissioner said that before the snow falls, Recreation does flood the tennis courts, but it is inadvisable to plow these courts later, as it tends to break the seals on the tennis courts. Also, in many cases, the fences are damaged during plowing.

2. Report on status of reorganization plan as it pertains to the Recreation Department: Until final legal action is taken by the City - in other words - until such time as it is voted or refused, we won't be sure of our position.

Mr. Halloran has met repeatedly with Mr. Larson and Jane Pitt. There is a possibility that if agreeable to Mr. Larson, Commissioner of Public Works, Recreation may be able to retain its maintenance. Mr. Halloran is still meeting with Mayor Mann and with Commissioner Larson. A meeting is planned for Wednesday, with these two people again, and Mr. Halloran assures the Commission that he will continue to make the effort to retain maintenance, even if it became necessary for the Department to assume additional responsibilities.

One suggestion which Mr. Larson made was with regard to the schools. He thought that if we did retain maintenance, it might be a good idea for the Recreation Department to care for the front of the schools as well as the playgrounds, and also the snow plowing of schools. This is generally handled by contractors at this time. Mr. Halloran indicated that it would probably be necessary to have some additional funding and additional men for Recreation, if this was to be done.

3. Report on status of North High Pool: Mr. Halloran reported that the School Department closed the pool due to a malfunction of the chlorination system there. Experts are working on the problem and it is hoped that it will reopen shortly, the School Department says.
4. Report on Education Committee of the Board of Aldermen: Meeting on Monday evening, January 12th, with regard to Recreation and Cultural Arts budget.

Commission members, (with the exception of Nelson Baker, who had another committment), and Commissioner Halloran, attended this meeting.

Commissioner Halloran provided information on all budgets relative to Recreation and Cultural Arts. He also gave them detailed accounts of Recreation programs which had been held, and those anticipated.

The Education Committee appeared to be concerned about overlap of programs by Community Schools. Carol Stapleton, liason between Recreation and Community Schools, had met with Lee Manes and Lois Alexander of the Community Schools, and it does appear that there is some overlap.

It appeared that the Aldermen felt that the Recreation Department could better provide recreation programs, and questioned Mr. Halloran as to his thoughts on the possibility of his Department assuming some of these programs. He said that he felt, providing monies were available, that this Department could provide whatever services were necessary, if this was the Aldermanic recommendation.

At this meeting, while no official vote was taken, the Chairman indicated that he would like to have a long range projection and also a short range report, of the Recreation Department goals for the coming years. Mr. Halloran asked the Commission for their direction of this request. The response from the Commission was that this should be an official request and Mr. Rice, Chairman of the Recreation Commission, will contact the Committee Chairman and suggest that an official request be made. Mr. Halloran indicated that he would be happy to respond to this.

5. Reports on ice skating and tobogganing: Due to really good conditions this year, it has been a fantastic year for both toboggan slide and for all of our skating areas. Snow on the 13th necessitated plowing. As fast as possible, all areas will be cleared.

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As always, Commissioner Halloran is concerned about safety. He stated that he would rather be criticized for too many people on duty at a facility - such as the toboggan slide - where safety is extremely important, than to have too few on duty.

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7. New Business: Commissioner Halloran told the Recreation Commission members that swim lesson registration would take place on January 27th, and lessons would begin the first week of February, and will continue for 15 weeks.

Since no one had any additional new business, when they wanted to bring before the group, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 28, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers. Paul J. Burke, Howard L. Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Herbert Bamel, Mmes. Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Minutes of January meeting accepted as circulated with the inclusion of Mr. Paul J. Burke's name, as being present.
2. Reports of maintenance, programs and Commissioner's activities were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner's Report: Mr. Halloran reported that this year -
  - (1) has been a really spectacular one, as far as outdoor winter sports in the Department was concerned. A record breaking 51 days of skating on Newton's natural outdoor skating areas and 42 tobogganing days, were recorded.
  - (2) next, Commissioner Halloran reported that he has met with the Planning Department with regard to the proposed Newton South High School field improvements. At the request of the Executive Department, he has studied tentative layouts of fields which were worked out by the City Engineering Department. Rich Griffin informed him that, without fill in the controversial edge of the wet-land area, and on the first base side, it would be possible to put in both a football field and a track.
  - (3) Commission member, Herbert Bamel, also the President of the Newton South Boosters Club, and very interested in this development, plans to the School Committee, from here this evening and will speak to this development to that Board. As he pointed out, all of these improvements and the fields can be utilized, not only by South High Athletic Department, but also by Meadowbrook Junior High School and the Oak Hill School.
  - (4) Mr. Halloran also reported that since there are CETA Funds available in their Social Services area, and that the Recreation Department has filed a Grant proposal for the areas of Hawthorn and Stearns.
4. Report on further information regarding reorganization and its effect on the Recreation Department. It appears that at present, unless the Aldermanic Board recommends otherwise, that the Recreation maintenance functions will go to Public Works as of July 1st, the beginning of the new Fiscal Year.
5. Request from the Newton Judo Club to become a part of the Recreation Department programs; this has been a private, non-profit organization which has used the Newton Centre facilities for Judo classes since 1962, two evenings a week.

While Mr. Halloran foresees no difficulty with the group as they have always been most cooperative, his concern at this time would be the use of a Public Building by a private club. He would suggest that the City Solicitor make a ruling on this use before the Commission votes to accept or reject use of the building.

Mr. Burke also questioned as to whether it would have to be limited to Newton residents if it became a part of the Recreation Department programs, and Mr. Baker questioned the responsibility involved by the City if it accepted non-residents in a City sponsored program.

6. Report on Budget hearing with Mayor's office: Mr. Halloran met with Jane Pitt, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, recently and he feels that Recreation has been dealt with.

Capital Outlay and CIP Budgets will be available for priority recommendations at a special meeting. Michael Lebner, City Budget Officer has requested that the Recreation Department go ahead with priorities although no money amount is yet available.

At the request of the Commission, Mr. Halloran will present at a Special meeting, his recommendations as to priorities for these Capital Improvements and Capital Outlays for their consideration. Date will be announced later.

7. Request from Roger Molloy regarding a non-Newton business sponsoring a Men's Softball Team in the Sports League this spring. (This request was withdrawn prior to the meeting). The Commission members were aware of this request, but took no action since it had been withdrawn.
8. Newton North High School Pool report: At present, Commissioner Halloran said the pool is functioning. If opened on December 22nd, but was closed again briefly for a malfunction problem - now repaired - and it is now open for swimming.
9. New Business: (A) Community School Information - Mr. Halloran reported that he had met with this group on February 4th. The Recreation Department continues to cooperate with this group. Mr. Halloran noted that Lois Alexander had recently resigned, but that according to all reports which he had heard, the group planned to continue as a viable organization. (B) Girl's Junior High Basketball Tournament - Commissioner Halloran and Jo Pepper, both involved in last weekend's tournament, reported that this was a really good venture. Very successful, with good participation. (C) Senior Citizen Travel Club - Mr. Halloran reported that plans are continuing on this program. Flyers have been distributed on a nice trip to Williamsburg. The best bidder as a travel agency, was Colpitts Travel Agency in Dedham. They are now awaiting further developments and to see what response they receive. (D) Commissioner Halloran announced to the Commission, that he would be away on vacation with his family from March 24th to April 1st. (E) Mr. Halloran also mentioned that, having met with Sylvania Electric Company last Friday, electric poles for Albemarle and South High are on order and foundations will be completed by May 15th. He also said that Hawthorn improvements are really great, and plans are now being made for an open house sometime in April. He also said that work on Burr Park would begin very soon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

SPECIAL MEETING

March 7, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers. Howard L. Ferguson, Paul J. Burke, Herbert R. Bamel, Mmes. Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel Secretary. ( Mr. Fitzpatrick was out of town and Judy Dean was ill with the flu).

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:40 P.M.
2. Commissioner Halloran reminded the Commission that on March 21st, at the next regular meeting, and in accordance with the by-laws of the Commission that election for Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be held.
3. In regard to this Special Meeting, Commissioner Halloran explained that this budget was divided into two sections: #1 - Capital Outlays, those projects under \$10,000.00; and #2 - Capital Improvements, these are the large projects over \$10,000.00.

The Department's original total presented in the Capital Outlay was for \$164,000.00, but since the Mayor had approved only \$100,000.00, it would be necessary for the Recreation Commission to set priorities within this approved amount.

The Capital Improvement budget does not, at this point, have an approved "dollar amount", but Commissioner Halloran reported that the budget officer, Michael Leboff, had requested that the Commission set these priorities anyway.

At the last regular meeting, the Recreation Commission members requested that the Commissioner bring to this Special Meeting, his recommendations on priorities for these 2 lists of City projects. These lists were distributed at this time.

Mr. Halloran presented detail, item by item, of these Capital Outlay priorities which he had recommended to the group. They, in turn asked pertinent questions about the various projects. Upon completion of discussion, Nelson Baker moved to adopt the order of priorities of Capital Outlays of less than \$10,000.00 as recommended by Commissioner Halloran, (seconded by Mr. Ferguson), and so voted unanimously.

Listed below, in order of priority, are those approved: (Mayor's recommended budget amount of \$100,000.00).

1. Burr Park	Fence - Tennis Courts	\$ 8,000.00
2. Crystal Lake	Parking Lot - resurface and curb installation, lines, etc.	\$ 6,000.00
3. Crystal Lake	Flotation device to hold aqualator	\$ 3,000.00
4. Newton Highlands	Lighting - 3 poles	\$ 3,500.00
5. Boyd (Lincoln-Eliot)	Field Renovations	\$ 9,500.00
6. Angier	Field Renovations	\$ 9,500.00
7. Thompsonville	Basketball Court	\$ 9,500.00
8. Playground Signs	Identification Signs for Auburndale, Albemarle, Newton Centre, Crystal Lake, Newton Highlands, Cabot and Bullough's	\$ 2,500.00

(Priorities Cont.)

9.	Ward	Multi-Purpose Game Court	\$ 5,000.00
10.	Warren Jr. High	Field Renovations	\$ 9,500.00
11.	South High	Bang Board for Tennis	\$ 4,000.00
12.	Auburndale	Resurface tennis court to asphalt (2)	\$ 9,500.00
13.	Auburndale	Finish resurfacing parking lot	\$ 2,500.00
14.	Burr Park	Asphalt Driveway	\$ 3,500.00
15.	Hamilton	Repair fence at Tennis Courts	\$ 5,000.00
16.	Hawthorn	Resurface Tennis Courts to asphalt (2)	\$ 9,500.00
Total.....			\$100,000.00

At this time, Commissioner Halloran presented his recommendations for Capital Improvement Budget. Since the total City must be considered, his first two recommendations were for the development of what would be, City-wide 50% reimbursable by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as follows:

1.	Cold Spring	Citywide Development 50% reimbursable from Federal BOR	\$900,000.00
2.	Allison	Citywide Development 50% reimbursable from Federal BOR	\$216,000.00
3.	Newton Highlands	Drain Football Field	\$ 30,000.00
4.	Albemarle	Resod Football Field	\$ 25,000.00
5.	West Newton Common	Tot Lot	\$ 12,000.00
6.	Boyd Park	Tot Lot and Repair Lighting	\$ 14,000.00
7.	Richardson	2 Tennis Courts and Basket- ball Court	\$ 40,000.00
8.	Warren Jr. High	Resurface 4 Tennis Courts and install drain base receptacle	\$ 35,000.00
9.	Crystal Lake	New dock and Buoy Lines	\$ 15,000.00
10.	Hawthorn	Addition to Building	\$ 60,000.00
11.	Pine Street Dump	Plans for development	\$ 10,000.00
12.	New Life Course	Similar to one at Auburndale Playground - new site to be determined	\$ 12,000.00
13.	Newton Centre	Light 5 Tennis Courts	\$ 30,000.00

One question perplexed the group. If, for some reason, the first two major developments were rejected, would it be necessary to re-access the priorities. It was agreed that this would not be necessary, and that would then advance to #3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 as the top priority numbers as listed on Mr. Halloran's CIP.

After discussion, Mr. Ferguson moved that the priorities as recommended by Mr. Halloran, be adopted by the Recreation Commission, and it was so voted unanimously.

Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, March 21st at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Bamel informed the group that he would be out of town during that week, and therefore unable to attend. Mr. Halloran will be going on vacation also that week, but not until after the Monday meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 21, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers. Paul J. Burke, Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard L. Ferguson, Mmes. Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel Secretary. (Mr. Bamel was away on vacation)

1. Election, in accordance with rules and regulations of the Recreation Commission established June 21, 1971, is to be held at this meeting. Present Chairman, Francis Rice, now turned the meeting over temporarily to Commissioner Halloran.

The Commissioner repeated the rules and regulations of the Commission and called for a nomination for Chairman of the Commission - noting that a quorum of 5 must be present for a legal vote, (there were 7 present).

Paul J. Burke nominated Francis Rice, seconded by Howard L. Ferguson. Since no further nominations were forthcoming, Mr. Fitzpatrick moved to close the nominations, seconded by Mrs. Pepper. Unanimous vote for Francis Rice for Chairman.

Commissioner Halloran now turned the gavel back to newly re-elected Chairman, Mr. Rice, and nominations were invited by him, for the position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Ferguson nominated Nelson Baker as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick; no further nominations were made, and Judy Dean moved to close nominations, seconded by Mrs. Pepper. The group voted unanimously to elect Nelson Baker as Vice-Chairman.

2. Mr. Burke, at this time, asked that he be excused to attend the School Committee meeting at Mason Rice School, to speak on behalf of sophomore sports.
3. Minutes of February 28th meeting and Special Meeting of March 7th, were accepted as presented.
4. Report of maintenance, programs and events attended by Commissioner Halloran were distributed to all members. Commissioner Halloran, in a brief report to the group, said that the Department had had the best outdoor winter sports season in 25 years, due to the extended skating and tobogganing. Mr. Halloran's indoor duties have taken him to many budget meetings with the Executive Department and he reports that our Maintenance Department is hard at work now, painting and preparing equipment for the summer playground season.
5. 1977 Tennis rules and regulations: Beginning about April 19th, the outdoor tennis season will begin officially with supervision at the courts, (many of the Recreation tennis courts are open and have been for some time, for general play). In addition to the 67 tennis courts, which Newton now provides for its residents, there are 10 more under construction, which, it is estimated, will be ready for play by May or June.

These courts under construction will be lighted courts, bringing to a total, 22 lighted courts in Newton. Also, beginning shortly, there will be 2 new courts constructed at the Burr School in Auburndale.

Mr. Halloran took this opportunity to again introduce Mr. Ed Fraktman, who, he said, had been our liason person for the past two years between the general public and the Department under the supervision of



Bob Doherty, Recreation Supervisor. Mr. Fraktman, Mr. Halloran said, has done a superior job and has worked hard to alleviate any problems which have occurred, and he has been a tremendous asset.

Mr. Fraktman in turn, responded that he has been proud to have been a member of the Recreation Department staff for these past two years. He also gave much credit for the smooth operation of the supervised tennis, to those leaders who work in the reserved courts and meet the public every day. These last year were: Paul Joyce, Gordon Lewis and Jim McLaughlin.

Mr. Halloran told the group that Carol Stapleton, who was present, had been the one who prepared the proposed 1977 Summer Tennis Rules and Regulations as one of her many jobs. She had arranged to have each member provided with a copy of these proposed rules, at this meeting.

After consideration of the tennis rules, the Commission's only suggestion was to include the information as to the early availability, (at 7:30 A.M.) of the specially designated courts of Albemarle, Memorial School, Cabot Park, North and South High Schools and the courts at Warren Junior High, nearest Commonwealth Avenue.

Nelson Baker moved that the Recreation Commission accept the rules as presented, with the amendment that the information on the 7:30 A.M. opening at the special courts be included in the printed rules. This was seconded by Judy Dean and so moved unanimously.

Carol graciously accepted compliments on her usual competent job.

6. Capital Improvement Budget request - sent to Mayor: Having set priorities at the Special Meeting of the Recreation Commission on March 7th, for both Capital Outlays and Capital Improvements, the Commission members were eager to find out what amounts had been approved by the Executive Department. It was reported that Outlays remained at the earlier set figure of \$100,000.00, but that Capital Improvements, due to bonding problems, etc. will be without any funding this year.

When queried about the possibility of spending the \$100,000.00 interchangably with some of the CIP's, Mr. Halloran said he would consult the Mayor and find out whether these funds are allowed to be interchanged.

7. Report on March 16th meeting with Environmental Management: Commissioner Halloran reported that he was in attendance at this meeting at City Hall. This was relative to development of fields for athletics at the South High School. These fields border wet lands and while it was agreed that very little filling would be required, it was advisable before the Environmental Management group went on record at the State level, it was necessary that the small requested easement be fully understood and recorded. Representatives from Engineering, Planning, Recreation and School Departments, met with the people from Environmental Management and seemed to be receptive to the line as suggested. The Board of Aldermen must approve this line, which would go officially to Environmental Management. The line, as recommended, would still leave alone and untouched, land for wet lands.
8. Consideration of Conservation/Recreation Goals and Objectives: A five page update review of Stephen Gartrell's Planning and Development Department draft of the Goals and Objectives section for the updated Recreation/Open Space Plan was provided to the Commission members by

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Mr. Halloran, who in turn had received it from Mrs. Helen Heyn, of the Conservation Commission. The Recreation Commission reviewed and discussed this report. Mr. Halloran recommended that the Commission endorse this plan.

Nelson Baker moved that the Recreation Commission accept Commissioner Halloran's recommendation that the Recreation Commission go on record as endorsing the Conservation Open Space Goals and Objectives, but to reserve the right to recommend the development of open space for active and passive recreation. It was so voted unanimously.

Commissioner Halloran will forward a letter to Helen Heyn of the Conservation Commission at City Hall, on this subject.

- 9. Consideration of Newton Catholic's request for Sunday football at the North High School Stadium: Since this school was interested in obtaining permission to use this field on Sundays, when it was not used by the high school, the questions of a Fair Use cost was presented to Commissioner Halloran. He estimated two separate charges, dependent upon how much preparation they felt was required. For a minimum clean-up and check on Sunday morning, the cost for 2 men would be \$40.00. If they wanted maximum work of 5 hours, and more detail, the cost would rise to \$80.00. These costs were for Recreation Maintenance only.

Prior to this evenings meeting, Commissioner Halloran met with representatives of Newton Catholic, Principal Sister Anna Vincent, Reverend Msgr. John McManmon and Joseph Chavelier.

Following are the figures worked out by the group which are a representation of the Fair Rental Fee recommended by the School Committee:

\$40.00	2 Hours minimum maintenance of field
<u>35.00</u>	Cost for custodian
\$75.00	Total rental cost

It would be their responsibility to be sure a police officer was on duty during games.

This would be for stadium use only - not showers.

Dr. Prince said that he would take these recommendations back to the School Committee.

It was noted that in the event of inclement weather, the City of Newton, (in this particular case, whomever is in charge of maintenance), would determine and decide, if the field is playable or not. Mr. Halloran said that either he or Frank Shea were willing to assume this responsibility.

- 10. Report on non-resident use of Crystal Lake: Mr. Halloran said that the Legal Department was reviewing this question. At the April Commission meeting, Mr. Halloran will bring a recommendation in - with regard to use of Crystal Lake for Newton residents.
- 11. Information with regard to proposed football field and track site at Newton South High School: More information will be available shortly. Present plans anticipate - providing monies are available - to build a football field and running track, (see earlier agenda item on Environmental Management, which relates to site plan). This facility will be funded by the School Department.

12. Revitalization of existing Recreation facilities: Commissioner Halloran reported that Hawthorn is now complete and looks really great. Plans are now being finalized for an "Open House" and "Grand Opening" in April. Burr Park repairs and painting began today. This is the next big job and should prove to be a dramatic improvement for this heavily used area.

Mr. Halloran said that he had met with the Building Department and the representatives of the Newton Highlands Area Council, with regard to improvements at Crystal Lake. Painting will begin shortly and should be completed before the summer opening. Other repairs will be done later, as all large items must to out for bid.

13. April Commission Meeting: Due to the April 18th Holiday, the Commission meeting will be held on the 4th Monday, rather than on the regular 3rd Monday. This had been discussed at the previous meeting and all had agreed that this would be more appropos than trying to meet on the holiday, when many people are out of town.

14. New Business:

- a. Community Schools: Nelson Baker, Community School representative from the Recreation Commission, reported that at the last meeting he attended, the group were in the process of drafting a report on "Goals and Objectives of the Communitih Schools".

Mr. Baker said that at the recent meeting which he attended, Mr. Bill O'Neil, the Boston representative for Community Schools, was present and gave them some input as to what goes on at the County and State levels. He recapped what had been done, and what might be done in the future.

Meanwhile, the report to which Mr. Baker referred, had been delivered to Commissioner Halloran, Mr. Halloran told the group that he would have comments to make on this report at the April Commission Meeting after he had had an opportunity to read and study it.

Mr. Baker informed the group that he would like to be relieved of his duties as Community School representative at this time, due to his heavy schedule.

Chairman Rice will replace him shortly as he requested. He commented that he thought that generally, the junior member of the Commission, in this case, Herb Bamel, would be the logical replacement. Since Mr. Bamel was away on vacation, he could not be consulted about this at this time.

- b. Introduction of Barbara Burns, Work Stury student from the Massachusetts Bay Community College, was made by Commissioner Halloran. He informed the group that Barbara would be working with the Recreation Department for eight weeks.
- c. Budget hearings for the Department have not been scheduled as yet. Mr. Halloran said that he expected it would be fairly soon, and that he would arrange to have each member notified as to date and time. After completion of this phase, the budget request would than go to the full Aldermanic Board for final action.

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- d. Commissioner Halloran reminded the group that he would be leaving on vacation shortly, but would be back on the job on Monday, April 4th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

jfd

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 25, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Francis Rice, Chairman, Nelson Baker, Vice-Chairman, Messrs. Howard Ferguson, Herbert R. Bamel, Mmes. Josephine Pepper, Judy Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. (Mr. Fitzpatrick was working and Mr. Paul Burke was in the hospital).

Meeting called to order by Chairman Francie Rice at 7:40 P.M.

1. Minutes of March meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Commissioner's report of activities, reports of maintenance and program reports were distributed to all members.

Commissioner Halloran verbally reported that he has been attending various meetings with regard to the proposed budget, and also went before the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen. The Recreation budget will go to the full board for final disposition. Mr. Halloran also said that he will be attending a Board of Aldermen's meeting with regard to a requested transfer of funds within the Department.

Mr. Halloran said that Recreation's busiest season begins in April, and will continue throughout the summer season. The Commission was interested to hear more information on the proposed track and football field at Newton South High School. Engineering has estimated a cost of \$480,000.00 for the complete job, but it is hoped that it can be prepared for less than this estimated cost.

3. Report from Legal Department on use of Crystal Lake and Commissioner's recommendations as to non-resident use of this facility: The Legal Department, Mr. Halloran said, has said that this can be done legally and would require only a vote by the Recreation Commission. It then will have to be approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

At Mr. Halloran's request, in depth reports were made as to outside use of this facility, and how this effected not only the overuse of the lake itself, plus the heavy burden placed on personnel protecting the general public, but also the effect that the use has on the City of Newton itself in terms of limiting the use of the lake by Newton residents.

Primarily due to his concern for public safety, Commissioner Halloran strongly recommended to the Recreation Commission, that they vote to allow Newton residents only, to use Crystal Lake in the summer.

Present at this meeting were representative membership from the Newton Highlands Area Council. Mr. Paul Croce from this group said that they were unable to provide feedback on this subject, due to insufficient information from their group. They did say that they did not want the beach enlarged and they want the illegal parking in the vicinity of the lake stopped.

A petition was presented to Mr. Halloran in April, from the citizens of the area with regard to traffic and illegal parking. These people do not want additional parking, nor any enlargement of the present beach area.

Mr. Ferguson moved, and it was duly seconded by Mrs. Pepper, that because of the expressed concern of a substantial portion of the resident of Newton and in the interest of the public safety of the citizens of the City of Newton, that the summer boating, beach and bathing facilities of Crystal Lake be limited to the use of Newton residents only. It was so moved unanimously.

4. Legal report from City Solicitor on Newton Judo Club - Since the Newton Judo Club has requested that the Recreation Department take over their program, Commissioner Halloran requested a legal opinion from the City Solicitor to ascertain the liabilities to the City, if the Department did take over this program.

The legal report received, indicated no problem. Mr. Halloran said that he would be willing to accept this program in the fall, or as soon as arrangements can be finalized. It will then become a regular recreation program, under the direction of this Department.

The Recreation Commission did not feel that this required any specific vote, since they all agreed with these arrangements, and felt that the Commissioner could best handle this administratively.

5. Report on "All American City Award", given to Newton - The Mayor has announced that Newton has been selected for this outstanding award and that he is very proud and pleased. Special activities will be held here in Newton during the special week of May 22nd to May 30th. Linda Plaut, the Recreation Department Cultural Arts Director will coordinate all of these activities beginning with Spring Fest, which is planned for May 22nd. Only nine cities in the entire United States were singled out for this special award!

6. Report on Tennis Permit Sales and Report on New Summer Recreation Brochure - The reserved court tennis permits are now on sale at both the Recreation Department office and at North High School, evenings and weekends.

The summer brochure is in the process, and it is anticipated that it will be printed commercially shortly, and be ready for distribution to the general public by the Spring Fest on Sunday, May 22nd.

7. Rules for Outdoor Swimming - Crystal Lake and Gath Pool will be the only areas available for swimming this year, since Newton North High will be closed June 1st. Mr. Halloran presented the outdoor swimming rules to each member for their consideration. The Aquatic Committee has reviewed and recommended these rules. The Commission all agreed that the rules, as presented, were excellent.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Report on Paul Burke - now in the hospital due to a fainting episode last week. It appears that he will be undergoing tests for a few days.
- b. For a one year trial, Newton Catholic will be using the North High fields. The cost to them will be \$40.00, and Recreation does have the option of determining if the fields are suitable for play during inclement weather.
- c. On May 15th, the Recreation Department will be hosting an Open House at the newly renovated Hawthorn building. Invitations will go out shortly.
- d. Mr. Ferguson questioned the use of the outdoor jogging track at North High, as he has gone up recently and found the area closed.

Mr. Halloran explained that until the whole complex of fields and facilities is completed and accepted by the City Engineering Department, that due to possible liability, no person may use these facilities.

- e. Mr. Halloran spoke about Ed Fraktman, who has handled our tennis program so well and efficiently for the Department. He has been selected as a replacement for the high school principal, Mr. Meechan, while he is out of the country. Everyone agreed that this position was another indication of the high regard in which he is held in the City.
- f. The Commission said that this was a good time of year to issue a challenge to the Board of Aldermen for another softball game. Mr. Rice, Chairman, requested that the secretary write a letter issuing this challenge to the Chairman of the Board, Joe McDonnell, suggesting that the 2 groups get together before the middle of June.

- g. Nelson Baker said that he would prefer to continue as the Recreation Commission representative for Community Schools at this time. His reason is that he would like to complete the business at hand and resolve any issues presently outstanding before he relinquishes this position to another person.

The members understood his position and he will continue in this position until he again says that he wishes to be relieved of this responsibility.

- h. Request for sailboat permit on Crystal Lake by <sup>M</sup>r. Harold Feldman who is not an abutter on the lake. In 1974, he wrote to the Mayor and requested he be granted permission to use his small, 1 man sailboat on the lake. The Mayor referred him to the Recreation Department.

The Department has always permitted those people who abutt the lake - actually living right on the lake, to use their own sailboats - by special permission from the Recreation Department, but has never allowed anyone else due to the fact that there are over 90,000 people living in Newton, and once any one person was allowed, it would set a precedent which might allow anyone with a boat to use the lake. Since safety to the general public is always a factor, overcrowding and lack of supervision over such a large area, would likely cause an untenable problem.

Mr. Feldman stated that he felt this was actually a case of reverse discrimination which allows abutters but not non-abutters. He suggested limiting the number of non-abutters, to say, about 25 (including himself, of course).

Mr. Halloran pointed out to Mr. Feldman that providing he - or any other Newton resident, once having completed either the boating test or equal value, were welcome to use our sailboats on the Lake, but that it was necessary to comply with safety tests provided by the lake.

Since this was not what Mr. Feldman wants, Mr. Halloran agreed to look into the situation in detail, and will report back in June.

- i. Ann Brady, President of Women's Softball League was introduced to the group. She has been coordinating the program for the Department.
- j. CETA Grand has been approved Mr. Halloran reported. This will be for the Nonantum area, and will provide many services in that area to the amount of \$58,938.00, and was largely due to the efforts of Fran Towle, Recreation Supervisor for this Department, who worked with the Area Council in Nonantum on this special project.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Ub

May 16, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman, Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick, Herbert R. Bamel and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 8:05 P.M., due to waiting for a quorum.

1. Minutes of April meeting accepted with correction of phraseology in #3, paragraph 1, in which the word only between require and a vote was to be omitted, and in that same line after Recreation Commission, omit period, continuing with "and then".
2. Reports of attendance, maintenance, Commissioner's reports of activities, all distributed to members. Commissioner Halloran reported that as of April 1st, the Department has taken over the entire school/yard grass cutting functions.
  - a. Mr. Halloran reported that he has spoken with Mrs. Burke, with regard to Paul Burke's convalescence since major surgery, and while he cannot yet have visitors, the operation was a complete success and his condition is excellent. Mr. Burke sent word to the meeting tonight that he is feeling much better - and send his regards to everyone.
  - b. A letter has been forwarded to Evelyn Murphy of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on the request to limit the use of Crystal Lake to Newton residents only - but no reply has been received from them as yet.
  - c. Crystal Lake rehabilitation, Mr. Halloran said, will begin in the bathhouse in September, right after Labor Day. About 150 spaces on the roof will be available as a sun deck.
3. Request by Mr. Feldman on non-abutter use of sailboat on Crystal Lake, Mr. Feldman, at last months regular Recreation Commission meeting, requested that he be allowed to use his own boat on the lake. It was suggested that this decision be postponed until the May meeting.

The Commission, after thinking it over and discussing it with Mr. Halloran, felt that, due primarily to safety, there was no way they could justify any non-abutter use, at this time. They recommended that Mr. Halloran resolve the question through personal contact with Mr. Feldman.

4. Report on final Aldermanic action on Recreation Budget - the budget, as approved by the Mayor, was voted favorably.
5. Status of Summer Brochure - summer brochure completed by printer - excellent cover, however, Mr. Halloran has expressed some displeasure about some of the printed material. Mr. James Murphy's name was left off the staff list by some accident, and some of the program printed titles have been run together. It may be necessary, Mr. Halloran said, to have it reprinted. It had earlier been anticipated that it could be distributed at the Spring Fest, to be held on Sunday, May 22nd.
6. All American City festivities - programs for the coming week festivities will begin with the Spring Fest on the 22nd, followed by Monday, the 23rd, a full week of programs and celebrations. On the 26th, the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast will be held at Boston College at 8:00 A.M. All Commission members are urged to attend and, if they will call Marge Lesbirel at the office, she will make reservations for them. The cost is \$5.00 per person. On the 29th at 1:00 P.M., there will be a parade in honor of Memorial Day.
7. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Senior Citizen Bus Trip to Williamsburg - Commission member Howard Ferguson, reported that the trip was a great success. He and the group left Newton on the morning of the May snowstorm, but had no difficulty, and were soon beyond the storm perimeter. He told the Commission members that the group had a great trip, a good time, good food and accomodations. He said he felt that the trip was well planned and well executed.



- b. South tennis nets were reported by Mr. Bamel of the Commission, as missing straps in the center. Mr. Halloran said he would notify Frank Shea, the Recreation Forman about this first thing on Tuesday morning and it would be corrected immediately.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

jfd

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 20, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Herbert R. Bamel, Howard Ferguson, Judith Dean, Mrs. Charles Pepper, Carol Stapleton, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:50 P.M.

1. Minutes of April meeting accepted.
2. Reports of attendance, maintenance, Commissioner's reports of activities distributed to members.
3. Chairman Rice allowed a member of the audience, Mr. William Leventhal to speak next concerning the tennis courts at Ward School. Mr. Leventhal expressed concern about the younger children playing around the area and the older children who were causing some disturbances in the area. Mr. Rice suggested that a call be placed when there is a problem at the courts to the Newton Police Department and the Recreation Department's weekend Supervisor would periodically check this area, as part of their regular weekend routine. Mr. Leventhal informed the Commission that the problem was usually centered around the spring and in the early fall. Mr. Leventhal also questioned the Commission's ruling allowing children the use of tennis courts during the day. In 1974, a survey was sent to residents on this subject concerning the children's use of the courts and this was the basis for the Commission's decision to change this particular rule.
4. Presentation by Mr. William Black, Mr. Ed Natalie and Mr. Phil Levoff of the Newton Athletic Association Basketball Program. Their proposal was centered around the Basketball program which was growing in large numbers and a request for financial assistance in the way of custodial funds, by the Recreation Department. Commissioner Halloran recommended that the Department assume the first \$1,500.00 of custodial expenses at the Meadowbrook Jr. High School to help meet this need and also emphasized the great expense that would be incurred by the Department, should the Department have to assume responsibility for this program, after review of the Department Budget. Nelson Baker moved that the Recreation Commission agree to appropriate the amount, not to exceed \$1,500.00 for the purpose of custodial expenses for the Newton Athletic Basketball Program for Saturday basketball expenses to be reviewed annually by the Newton Recreation Commission. Mrs. Pepper seconded the motion and the motion carried.
5. Members of the Community Services Committee of the Newton Corner Neighborhood Association were introduced by Mr. Baker. Ms. Anne Stone and Ms. Anne Dayton and Theresa Whiteman. This committee was present for some questions to the Commission on the Burr Park Playground and monies to be appropriated for renovations. Ms. Stone thanked the Commission for the wonderful renovations to the existing building. Mr. Halloran indicated that we had \$8,000.00 set aside to work on the Tennis courts and \$3,500.00 for work on the driveway entrance to the Park. Ms. Stone's group had several suggestions and once again, Mr. Halloran indicated that the \$8,000.00 for the fence around the tennis courts was in dire need of repair. Some of their requests were for a tennis Bang-board and benches and play apparatus. The representatives also mentioned some problems at the Charlesbank Tot Lot. There is a need for a water fountain on the grounds and more play equipment. Commissioner Halloran expressed his desire to work closely with the group on their requests during the future months, and the Commission thanked this group for their interest.
6. Commissioner Halloran covered the opening of playgrounds, the leaders orientation program which was set up by District Supervisor Fran Towle and Staff Manuels. He also indicated that the Newton North High School pool would be closed at the request of the School Department, but we could be having the indoor program at

Newton South High School for Gymnastics, weight lifting and wrestling. The Commissioner also reviewed high-lights of the up coming summer in the Arts in the Parks program. Commissioner Halloran also noted that Frank Shea, Maintenance Foreman would retire from service in July, and that a party would be planned for him in September, and that more information would follow shortly.

7. The Department's 1977 Summer Swim Staff have all met the requirements of the new First Responder Law governing life guards and swim personnel, and Mr. Halloran expressed his satisfaction and confidence in the swim staff.
8. Commissioner's Report of the request of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to eliminate non-resident use of Crystal Lake. Mr. Halloran indicated that each member received copies of correspondence with the Commonwealth. The Commissioner had received a letter from Mr. Hannon that the Commonwealth cannot deny non-residents use of Crystal Lake. Mr. Halloran assured the Commission that accurate records would be kept by the staff at Crystal Lake during the 1977 summer season to indicate the use of the lake facility by non-residents of the City of Newton, and that the Department would study the results at the end of the swim season, and work closely with the Newton Highlands Area Council, who were also present in the audience.
9. Report of status of proposed ordinance to allow maintenance to remain within the Recreation Department. It was reported that a vote was taken by the Board of Aldermen on a resolution to have the maintenance force remain with the Recreation Department and sent to Finance in early June which was approved. This evening the vote was with the full Board of Aldermen which was carried, to transfer the funds necessary for operation.
10. Report by Commissioner Halloran on Mr. Burke's recovery and that he is up and around and doing very well.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Mr Baker again reviewed the problem with the tennis courts and the older children at the Ward School. Mr. Halloran assured Mr. Baker that the weekend supervisor would include this site on his/her daily round.
2. Mr. Bamel indicated that he had received several calls on court #3 at Newton South. Mr. Halloran informed members of the Commission that there is a drainage problem on these courts, and that Mr. Larson, Commissioner of Public Works, is on top of the situation. Mr. Bamel also expressed the need of some barrels in the parking lot across from the tennis courts. Mr. Halloran indicated that he would make the necessary arrangements on Tuesday morning.
3. Mr. Rice mentioned comments concerning the drinking problem on our play fields, and cars driving across fields. Mr. Halloran commented that this is a great concern and that he would again review this subject with Chief Quinn.
4. Commissioner Halloran reported that Mr. Taranto and his maintenance crew would begin to install new bubbler heads at all playground in July.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Stapleton  
Acting Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 19, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice Chairman Baker, Paul Burke, Herbert Bamel, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Charles Pepper, Mrs. Worthing West and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Minutes of June meeting accepted with addition of Mr. Ferguson's and Mr. Bamel's names which had inadvertently been omitted. Mr. Burke said that upon reading the June minutes (he was absent due to major surgery), he was quite concerned that the Commission had agreed to endorse payment of custodial fees for the N.A.A.

His concern was that it may be setting a precedent, since as far as he recalls, it has never been done before - although requests have been made for similar aid. He foresees that this can easily create a problem with so many various groups who have, or will be, asking for some support from the Department. He questions what alternative would be offered to another small program if the Commission did not feel it could provide a similar payment.

Commissioner Halloran replied that actually the Department had helped another program, the Newton Youth Hockey Program, and that since we were unable to provide a facility that was adequate for them, the idea of providing a substitute via custodial fees, was suggested. This, in accordance with a vote by the Commission, is to be reviewed on a regular yearly basis. Mr. Halloran feels that the key is this yearly review.

Mr. Burke still feels concern as he says there are large numbers and large programs serving youth of the City that need facilities, which we cannot possibly provide.

2. Reports of July and August programs were distributed to all members, as well as a report of those functions and activities which Commissioner Halloran had attended during these two months.

The Commissioner also gave a report of summer activities. He felt it had been an excellent summer with many extra programs. The Arts in the Parks program reached a lot of people of all ages with many special interest programs. The summer suburban swim league carried off honors for Newton this summer and the usual popular leagues, the men's and women's softball and basketball leagues had a great summer. The playgrounds were busy and swimming at both Crystal Lake and Gath Pool were one of the most popular activities due to extreme heat this year. There were problems with the filters at Gath Pool this year, which Mr. Halloran says hopes will be corrected by the Building Department before next June's opening. The Senior Citizen's had a happy summer climaxed by the giant cookout held at Hawthorn, late this summer.

Mr. Halloran said that overall, he had been happy and pleased with the summer programs.

Summer Cultural Arts Programs, led by Linda Plaut, and called Arts in the Parks, were climaxed by the musical stage production at the North High School of "Anything Goes". Mr. Halloran was most enthusiastic about this entire program, which he feels, reaches so many people at different age levels. "Anything Goes" played to a sellout crowd all three evenings and was by far, the most ambitious and successful of the productions which Recreation has sponsored over the past few years. This year, for the first time, Tom Leonard was the Director. He also directed the Community Band, which gave several concerts in various areas in the City during the summer.

With Commissioner Halloran's enthusiastic approval, a motion was made by Herb Bamel that the Commission as a whole, communicate through a letter from Mr. Halloran, their commendation of the entire Arts in the Parks program, under the direction of Linda Plaut. Voted unanimously, Mr. Halloran will see that a letter goes to Mrs. Plaut tomorrow.

3. Report on Newton North High lighted tennis courts and drainage problems on newly constructed fields. Mr. Halloran reported that these lights are now on. Courts are available on reserve and appear to be well used. There have been some problems with the lights which glare toward Walnut Street and Mr. Tom Hayes of the Building Department is working on this to alleviate any difficulties with abutters in the area. He is also concerned about the athletic fields at North High, where there is still drainage problems and some of the sprinkler heads protrude. Hopefully, these problems will be resolved shortly by the Engineering Department and the contractor.
4. Report on Sports Lighting at Albemarle - while there have been some minor lighting problems at Albemarle with visibility in certain areas, Tom Hayes, Electrical Engineer for the City, has gone down and walked the field with a light meter, and arranged for change of focus so that they now meet specifications in all areas. In addition to this, on July 18th, a really serious problem occurred, when it was discovered that one of the big light poles had tipped, apparently due to loose nuts at the bottom of the pole. Emergency conditions were enforced on the field until this could be corrected. Mr. Halloran arranged not only to have the pole straightened, and bolted, but for safety, had the poles all double bolted and tack welded to prevent any possible repeat of this condition in the future.

At Hawthorn, there have been new lights installed at the soccer field, and at Stearns there has been new lights installed also. (Stearns School land has been voted to be used now as Park and Recreation land), the above lighting was accomplished by Planning Department, Community Development and funded projects.

5. Report on North High Indoor facilities this fall - the facilities under the direction of the Recreation Department, will open on October 3rd. Both pool and gyms, as well as tennis courts and running track will be available to those Newton residents holding an I.D. Card issued by the Department. Basically, from Monday to Friday, 7:00 to 10:00 P.M., and pretty much all day Saturday and Sunday. Sign up for various specialized swim and gym programs will begin shortly. I.D.'s will cost \$2.50 per person this year and will again be available on a regular basis at the high school during the evening. Old I.D.'s remain in effect. Swim lessons registration will be held on October 6th and 8th, with lessons beginning on the 10th. Tennis registration for 300 will take place at Meadowbrook Jr. High on October 22nd.
6. Information as to status of South High Football and Track Complex - (public hearing to be held October 28th, due to abutters objections). This project discussed at other Commission meetings, although the Recreation Department itself is not the moving force, but rather the School Committee, is of great interest to the Department and the Commission.

Mr. Bamel, who has been most interested in this project, said that he felt that the Commission en masse, should endorse the facility, and go on record this way. Since the Commission has always agreed that athletic fields could certainly be used, the school and the Conservation Commission has indicated that there is no problem as far as wet lands go, on Mr. Bamel's motion the Commission will go on record that the Recreation Commission will back and support the School Committee's position in developing this facility as proposed. This was seconded by Mr. Baker and unanimously voted.

Mr. Burke suggests that not only is this vote to be communicated to the School Committee, but that it should be forwarded to the Mayor, the President of the Board of Aldermen and also George Winkler of South High.

Commissioner Halloran will arrange to have a letter sent to all parties concerned. He also said that he would be present at the hearing to be held on October 18th.

7. Petition for higher rates of pay for guards and water safety people- on August 18th, a petition was presented to Commissioner Halloran indicating a need for more money for those people who are employed by the Department in positions concerning the safety of swimmers. Mr. Halloran felt it was well documented and the rates, if possible, should be higher. The Commissioner said that the Department will conduct

a separate study and will send a report and recommendation to the Mayor, Personnel Department and presented, hopefully, for successful implementation July 1, 1978.

8. Report on Retirement Testimonial for Frank Shea, Recreation Foreman with the Department for 30 years. Over 170 people enjoyed this dinner party for Frank, and he was presented a multi-type barometer, as well as \$500.00 cash (and later an additional \$100.00). As Mr. Halloran said, Frank has always been held in the highest regard over the 30 years of his service to the City, and to the Department, and his work was always of the best caliber. He made life pleasant, for not only those various Department of the City with which he worked, but for untold hundreds of youths and children who attended school and playgrounds throughout his years as Foreman in the City of Newton. A special letter will also go to Frank, thanking him for his work and cooperation all these years, from Commissioner Halloran.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Schools - Nelson Baker as the Commission's representative to Community Schools commented on the busy year in which he has participated as a part of the Community School program. Many difficult problems have been considered and resolved over this past year. A new Director has been selected and a contract offered to William Slotnick, a Newton resident, to begin October 1st. Mr. Baker said that he is a bright, aggressive young man and should prove to be an asset.

Mr. Baker also informed the Commission that, due to the fact that he would be teaching Business Law on Tuesday evenings, this year, he regrets that he cannot continue as a representative of the Committee with Community Schools, and will have to resign. Therefore, he recommends that as soon as possible, a new representative from the Commission be named, as he feels that it is really very important that the Recreation Commission continue to have a representative active in this group. (Those members of the Commission who have already taken active part as representatives of the Commission are - Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Burke and Ms. Dean).

Chairman Rice and Commissioner Halloran said that they will resolve this question before the October meeting.

- B. Harvest Fair - Commissioner Halloran says will be held on October 2nd, which is a Sunday. If by chance, it rains that day, it will be held the following Sunday.
- C. Crystal Lake Renovation - Commissioner Halloran reported that these now have begun.
- D. Bus - Commissioner Halloran reported that the Newton Fire Fighters Association has donated a bus to the Recreation Department, to replace the one which we have used in the past few years. It was most appreciated and has been painted red, white and blue - looks super - and will be used for transportation of the elderly, as well as other needs of the Department.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 17, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Messrs. Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Herbert Bamel, Frank Fitzpatrick, Mmes. Judith Dean, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:40 P.M.

1. Minutes of September meeting approved as presented.
2. Reports of September programs, maintenance reports, Commissioner's reports of his activities during the month, etc. were distributed to members.
3. Commissioners oral report: Mr. Halloran said that as far as programming went, (a) September might be considered a slow month. However, that was the only place and maintenance is very busy. Meanwhile, all supervisors are currently regrouping and making plans for fall programs at this time. (b) The recreation facility under Recreation jurisdiction at North High reopened on October 3rd. While we should probably anticipate some interruption of programs due to ventilation problems which will be worked on at the high school evenings and weekends, nothing has begun as yet. (c) Continuing problems and concerns about drainage at the North High athletic fields are lots of problems with the drainage system. We are now the "maintainer" of this facility and are still very concerned about the conditions of this field. Commissioner Halloran maintains that the responsibility should remain with the contractor until problems are resolved. He describes the problem as a total lack of drainage, particularly aggravated by heavy rains at this time, and apparently due to heavy compaction just below the sod surface. Mr. Halloran said that the Recreation Department is on record through several memos with Engineering Department, since the completion of these fields, to the present time. He said that it takes from 72 to 100 hours for this field to dry after a normal rain - heavy rains, of course, take much longer. (d) Halloween plans are continuing - prior to the season, letters were sent out by the Recreation Department asking all school principals if the school was interested in having a Halloween party on Monday evening. Only 3 schools responded in the affirmative. Those 3 were Franklin, Hyde and Lincoln-Eliot, and Grades 1 through 6 will have Recreation sponsored Halloween parties for the youngsters, including refreshments. The Youth Centers will co-sponsor parties at Meadowbrook and Warren for Grades 7 to 12 on Halloween for this older group.
4. New Community School Director: At last month's regular Commission meeting, Nelson Baker, former representative to Community Schools Commission from the Recreation Commission, informed the group that a new Director had been selected. During this past month, Commissioner Halloran has met with the new Director, Mr. Slotnick to discuss mutual goals and objectives and see how best the two Departments can cooperate and work together.
5. Reminder about Public Hearing to be held on October 18th by Public Works Committee at City Hall in regard to South High football and track complex as proposed by the School Department - as Commission member Herb Bamel has been very much involved in this, the Commission asked for some input. Mr. Bamel said that he and other interested parties who advocated this new athletic complex had made an effort to meet with abutters and try to resolve any objections that they had before tomorrow evening's meeting. Hopefully, all differences could be ironed out and some agreements made, before the

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proposed hearing. It seemed to look good to him and his group was certainly very flexible in their efforts to work out something mutually acceptable to all parties concerned.

Mr. Winkler of the South High Athletic Department was present and he also seemed to feel that the original misconceptions had been one of location, and this had been explained. He seemed to feel that people did not object to the field and track, but rather were opposed to seating for spectators.

Mr. Bamel urged all Commission members to come to the hearing on Tuesday. He had hopes that the petition by abutters recently presented might be withdrawn before the hearing. Mr. Halloran assured him that he would attend, and other members said that they would make every effort to attend also.

6. Consideration of appointment to Community Schools Commission of Recreation Commission member: since Mr. Baker's resignation, the Commission has been making an effort to fill this position. Several members have formerly been the representative, and find it difficult to repeat. Those who have not been representatives, either have other commitments on Tuesday evenings, or are over obligated already, other evenings.

Various suggestions were extended such as splitting up the representation by one person going 3 evenings, then another, etc. Certainly, continuity would be endangered by this arrangement, everyone agreed.

Mr. Baker commented that it takes time for a new member to become informed in this new position and he feels strongly that it should be one person with uninterrupted vesture, for maximum efficiency in this position.

No solution seemed to be readily accessible and the Chairman and Mr. Halloran have begun to consider if it might be feasible to meet together and possibly come up with a suggestion as to a Recreation staff person that might be appointed to represent Recreation when Mr. Paul Burke suggested that a former Commission member might be an alternative. This seemed to be an excellent suggestion.

Mr. Burke then moved that Recreation Commission Member Emeritus, Mrs. Worthing L. West be asked to be a representative to the Community School Commission for the Recreation Commission. Seconded by Mr. Ferguson and so moved unanimously. Mr. Rice agreed to go and see Mrs. West very shortly and present her with this proposal.

Mr. Burke also suggested that if for some reason, Mrs. West was not available that an interim person from Commissioner's staff attend the next Community School Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 21, 1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Herbert Bamel, Josephine Pepper, Judith Dean and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:40 P.M.

1. Minutes of October meeting were accepted as presented.
2. Reports of maintenance, programs, reports of Commissioner's activities during the past month, etc., were distributed.
3. Commissioner Halloran verbalized the esteem and affection in which Howard Ferguson, fellow Commission member and well-known retired coach, is held by all, shown very recently by the naming of the Newton North High School Baseball Field after Mr. Ferguson. The entire Commission joined in congratulating him on this well deserved honor bestowed in response to his many years of dedicated service at the school.
4. Consideration of Department's League Eligibility Rules: A report was provided to all members of the Commission, of all of the Men's and Women's League teams presently participating in Recreation programs. The issue in question was the participation of a few former Newton residents, and centers on Rule #5, which allows these people to play in the League - if they played prior to 1975 - and includes a \$20.00 penalty fee for each player.

Before this meeting, Commissioner Halloran arranged to meet with League Directors and establish whether or not, this rule was creating any problems. Based upon the reports he received, no problems did exist, and he recommended that Rule #5 remain.

Bill Barry, Men's League Director, was asked approximately what he considered the drop in non-residents to be during the last year. Mr. Barry told the group that the rate had dropped from 76 players to 40 - due to attrition, and that little by little, it was becoming Newton residents only anyway.

Mrs. Pepper protested that she felt, as a Newton taxpayer, that absolutely no non-residents should be allowed to take part in any of the Leagues. She granted, in response to a question by Mr. Fitzpatrick, that she did not really feel that Newton residents were being deprived of a place to play in the League, however.

Chairman Rice invited any comments from those interested citizens who were present at this public meeting, and Nancy Bartley said that she felt comfortable with the present rule and agreed that it seemed to be working well and apparently did not exclude any Newton resident who wanted to play.

Nelson Baker then moved to accept the League Eligibility rules Numbers 1 to 5, on a one year basis - seconded by Mr. Burke. Affirmative 7, Opposed 1, Mrs. Pepper.

5. Presentation by Paul Molloy, Newton Youth Hockey Representative: Mr. Molloy made his usual excellent yearly presentation showing increased participation by both boys and girls. He, on behalf of the program, thanked the Recreation Commissioner, Commission and Department for their financial support for ice time, and also for their cooperation during the past year. They are again requesting some financial aid for ice time for the coming budget, since ice

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time use, and costs have risen. Their request this year will be for \$15,000.00, or a \$5,000.00 increase over last year's request.

Mr. Halloran explained that he would be preparing his regular Recreation Budget shortly, and that he would take their request under serious consideration during this budget preparation.

6. Proposal to appoint Carol Stapleton as the Recreation Commission's representative to the Community School Commission: In response to the request made to him by the Recreation Commission members last month, Chairman Rice visited Mrs. West member Emeritus of the Recreation Commission, with a request that she represent the Commission as a member of the Community School Commission. Unfortunately, due to a previous committment, Mrs. West said she was unable to accept this appointment.

All possibilities have now been explored for a candidate who is presently a member of the Recreation Commission. Several Commission members have already served on the Community School Commission, and those who have not, are already obligated elsewhere at this time.

Ideally, the appointee would be a regular member of the Recreation Commission. However, since none is available, the option open to the Commission now is to appoint an appropriate, qualified member of the regular Recreation Department staff who would be willing to assume this additional responsibility.

Carol Stapleton, a regular staff member, and thoroughly familiar with the entire Recreation Department operation, at the request of the Commission, attended the most recent meeting of the Community School Commission. Mr. Halloran feels that her unique operational knowledge of the Department, makes her an especially qualified candidate for this position and recommends to the members of the Commission that they consider appointment her as the representative to Community Schools Commission from Recreation.

Danielle Strickman, Vice-Chairman of the Community School Commission was present and asked if she could make a statement. She said that the Community School Commission would really prefer to have a member of the Recreation Commission rather than an employee of the Department since they need active members. She indicated that she felt that since Miss Stapleton has worked previously as liason to the Community Schools, from the Recreation Department, that she would therefore be unable to work with the Director of Community Schools. She felt that working with both staff and Director might create a conflict.

Mr. Halloran pointed out that the School Department does this same thing now, and that personally, he really could not see what the problem would be. Ms. Strickman responded that the Community Schools concept was different and that the person on this Commission should take a more active role in relating to the various co-members of their Commission.

Mr. Halloran repeated that he really could not see any potential problem in having an employee such as Miss Stapleton represent the Commission and the Recreation Department.

Mr. Burke then moved that Carol Stapleton be appointed as the Recreation Commission's representative to the Community School Commission. This was seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick and so voted, with only Mr. Nelson Baker abstaining.

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7. Report on continuing concern about problems of NNHS Athletic Field drainage: Again repeating his concerns about this drainage problem, Mr. Halloran explained that in an effort to possibly improve this drainage, and upon the recommendation of experts, a slicing machine had been brought in to the field to try and open up the turf. Hopefully, these remedies will be effective by Spring. Diammonium phosphate and ground limestone has also been put down on the recommendation of the Waltham Field Station. This may help.

As Mr. Halloran explained, there is some controversy over the legal aspects of how, when and if the contractor will be paid. The Engineering Department did the specifications and they feel that the design is good. It should work, they say. For some reason, it isn't.

Commissioner Halloran said that he will keep the Commission informed.

8. Report on South High School Athletic Field - Public Hearing held on October 18th: Herb Bamel, concerned member of the South Community, and a parent at South High, as well as a Commission member, has worked long and hard on plans for this sports complex. It was his hope that the hearing in October would be the means by which all concerned members of the Community, either for or against this complex, might meet together and agree on what is to be done. Unfortunately, he reported, nothing was really solved and it now appears that the project must backtrack and go back to an Aldermanic Committee. Alderman Richmond has made a resolution which will bring this back to the Design Committee for reconsideration.
9. Report on Status of Recreation Department Budget for 1978/1979: Budget preparation will begin shortly, Commissioner Halloran informed the Commission. He suggested that at the December meeting the Commission make plans to set a meeting date for considerations and suggestions for the new budget.
10. Report on indoor tennis registration: Using the past year's successful plan of registering 300 Newton residents for the Fall and Winter Indoor Tennis use, people holding Recreation ID's signed up on October 22nd, and can now reserve ahead for the indoor tennis courts, when available. The next registration for the late winter and early spring will be handled in the same way in January.
11. Department Annual Holiday Party to be held on December 16th at the Natick Officers Club: All Commission members were urged to join the staff and retirees at this festive annual event.
12. New Business
- A. Student death in Newton: Commissioner Halloran commented briefly on this recent tragic event which occurred here in Newton. Robert Donahue, North High Tri-Captain of the Football Team and had been a last summer employee of the Recreation Department Maintenance staff, and was well known and liked by all.
- B. Opening of New Senior Adult Housing: To be known as "Echo Ridge", and located on Thurston Road in Newton Upper Falls, now filling - with it's official reception and opening held on November 17th. Commissioner Halloran attended.
- C. MDC Plans: Commissioner Halloran reported that Commissioner Snededker of the MDC, at a recent meeting with members of the Recreation staff, informed them that the MDC is formulating plans for the Newton Riverside area. More on this at a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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MINUTES OF DECEMBER RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

1977

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, Judith Dean, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rice at 7:40 P.M.

1. Minutes of the November meeting accepted as distributed.
2. Reports of programs, maintenance and Commissioner's report of his activities were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner's Report: Mr. Halloran reported that the Recreation Department has been very busy during the month of November, getting ready for the outdoor winter season. There was still considerable outdoor activity at Albemarle Playground. This area is, of course, one of the prime locations for activity in the City, due to the multi-purpose lighting of the facility. Pop Warner Football was played early in November, as well as Men and Women's Touch Football Leagues. Year-round use of this busy facility makes it a real "total sports facility".

With regard to the Maintenance Department, Mr. Halloran told the Commission that he was delighted and very much impressed with how well Joe Taranto, the new Foreman, as well as Pat Forte, the Assistant Foreman have handled the many maintenance problems since they have taken over from retiring Frank Shea, earlier this year.

He also called to the attention of the Commission the super job that Esther Toher, coordinator for Senior Citizen Activities, has continued to do all year around.

In speaking about last Friday evening's annual Department holiday party, Mr. Halloran requested that it be recorded - with a copy to Mrs. Rice - that he somehow had neglected to introduce Mrs. Rice when he mentioned all of the other various Commission members and their spouses, and that he was extremely sorry.

4. Report by Bobbie Vanderwald, Newton Youth Soccer: Mrs. Vanderwald introduced to the Commission, her co-organization members for this popular co-ed program; Didi Wilcon, Cheryl Bercovitz and John Spengler.

She reported that their co-ed program had received a most enthusiastic response from both children and their parents. They had been fortunate in having good coaching and instruction, and were extremely pleased with the parental participation. They anticipate considerable expansion in the upcoming year - with an estimate of between 5 and 7 hundred young people involved in next year's program. They are concerned about this increase since it would seem that they will need additional playing area. Games currently played at Lincoln Field in Waban where they would like some additional lighting for games which may be played late in the Fall season and where they would then need artificial light.

Mr. Halloran, at this time, commented that while funds for this lighting could probably be made available, it would certainly be beneficial if the group could provide a petition signed by the neighbors and abutters of this area, indicating that they had no objections to this additional lighting.

These people have voiced objections to some of the parking in the area, but this is being looked into with the City Traffic Department.

Requests that they are making of the Recreation Department in the upcoming season are as follows:

1. Maintenance of 2 soccer fields
2. \$9,000.00 for lighting at Lincoln Playground
3. Line fields for soccer
4. \$500.00 for officials (not recommended by Commission)
5. After school practice area - and cones
6. Clerical work on schedules, etc. by Recreation Department

She also mentioned that they would like to expand into the Junior High level - but this would have to be approved by the School Department. She also suggested that when Recreation has occasion, if and when, acquiring any new lands, that they keep in mind that Soccer is a growing sport and that there will be additional demands for playing areas as this occurs.

6. Citation presentation to Judy Munger of McDonald's: Presented to Miss Munger at this time by the Recreation Commissioner and Commission, was a plaque honoring her for her many contributions and the many fine things she has done in conjunction with her work and with the Recreation programs in ecology, senior citizens, the city tennis tournaments. As Mr. Halloran commented, she has been a super representative in Public Relations and admired by all. Pictures during this presentation were taken by Miss Stapleton, the photographer.
7. Report on Preliminary Recreation Budget meeting with Mrs. Jane Pitt, Mayor's Administrative Assistant: After this preliminary meeting, Commissioner Halloran has prepared the proposed budget for the Department. He suggested that the Commission would probably like to plan a special meeting on either January 4th or 5th, to discuss this budget before his final presentation to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen.  

The Commission agreed to meet on Thursday, January 5th. He will arrange to have copies of the proposed budget delivered to each member prior to this meeting, for the consideration of the Commission.
8. Consideration of change of date for January and February Commission meetings due to holidays falling on both of the regularly scheduled dates. In January, it is Martin Luther King Day, and in February, Washington's Birthday is celebrated on that meeting night. Various suggestions were made. Consideration was given to the following week which would be the 4th Monday, but Mr. Fitzpatrick felt that a certain amount of communication could be lost by having a meeting on other than the regular Board of Aldermen's meeting evening. At this time, a messenger was sent out to try and determine when the Aldermen planned to meet that week, but a continuing discussion was on, and the information was not available. As soon as possible, after obtaining this information, a date will be set.
9. Results of report and recommendations from the Recreation Department recently compiled and provided to the Personnel Department with regard to upgrading of temporary help. Mr. Halloran reported that this was now in the hands of Personnel, and it was his hope that they would act favorably on this report and permit this much needed upgrading of salaries in order to attract the most competent personnel for the Department.

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10. New Business

- A. Mr. Fitzpatrick questioned the advisability of including a \$9,000.00 budget item for lighting at Lincoln Field since this is what he considers, a hostile area - a residential area that doesn't really want additional lighting, plus the parking problems already prevalent.

Mr. Halloran explained that until such time as these lights were really approved by the members of the neighborhood - in writing, nothing would be done, and certainly lights would never be installed without a butters agreement.

- B. Mr. Halloran said that he had received a copy of a letter from the Engineering Department advocating that the City of Newton pay the contractor that built the Newton North High School athletic fields. Mr. Halloran's only comment was that there appears to still be serious drainage problems at that facility, which have apparently not been resolved at this time.

- C. With regard to Gath Pool, Mr. Halloran reported that filters and deck of the pool will need attention and repair this year, and that between \$60,000.00 and \$100,000.00 will be needed to effect these repairs by the Public Works Department.

Mr. Halloran said that Recreation Department had received a memo from the Commissioner of Public Works saying that he will ask for a special budget appropriation in January or February to correct these filter and deck problems prior to the pool opening in June of 1978, when the swimming season begins.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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SPECIAL RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING, JANUARY 5, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Herbert Bamel, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

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

This special meeting was called to present to the Recreation Commission, for their consideration and discussion, the new 1978-1979 Recreation Budget - prepared and recommended by Mr. Halloran.

Commissioner Halloran arranged to have a complete preliminary budget prepared and delivered to each member prior to this meeting, in order that each person could familiarize themselves with it before this evening's presentation and discussion.

This meeting, of course, was an open meeting in accordance with the law. Only one visitor was present however, Mr. Schigenney of Newton Highlands.

Mr. Rice suggested that Mr. Halloran present his recommendations to the members, making any explanations or comments he felt necessary as they went along. Mr. Halloran methodically went through the entire preliminary budget with the members - inviting any comments, questions or suggested changes which any of the members felt would be appropriate. He also explained that once this preliminary budget is complete, it will then go to the Mayor, who may then make changes in the budget before it then goes to the Finance Committee and they, in turn, make their recommendation to the full Board of Aldermen for final action on this budget.

The Recreation Commission thoroughly endorsed this recommended budget, suggesting only two additional amounts, (1) Under Special Projects under \$10,000.00, they recommended that \$9,500.00 be added for Burr School field improvements, and (2) under Capital Improvements over \$10,000.00 that \$15,000.00 be included for drainage at Ward School, be added.

Mr. Burke then moved that the Recreation Commission go on record as approving the proposed Recreation Budget, with the addition of the two items as noted, as presented by Commissioner Halloran. It was so voted unanimously.

New Business

1. Nelson Bsker, Vice-Chairman, said that he had been approached by a group of Newton citizens who were interested in using the indoor running track at Newton North High School early in the morning between 6 and 7 A.M.

Since Mr. Baker was only familiar with the Recreation's evening programs taking place at North High, he asked the Commissioner how this group might to about obtaining permission to use the facility. Mr. Halloran suggested that the group contact Jim Ronayne at the High School, since this facility is under the jurisdiction of the School Department.

2. Herbert Bamel, another Commission member, reported that he too had been approached by a group of men. They are interested in playing basketball at one of the school gyms. They have had a permit to play in the past, but were refused this year.

Commissioner Halloran explained that permits for use of School gyms and School facilities are issued at the option of, and through the School Department and that he was very sorry, but that Recreation had no control over those permits which are allowed - or refused, by the School Department.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 23, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis V. Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Frank Fitzpatrick, Herbert R. Bamel, Howard Ferguson, Judith Dean, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Minutes of Special Recreation Commission Meeting held on January 4th were accepted as read.
2. Minutes of regular December 1977 Recreation Commission Meeting were accepted as read.
3. Reports of maintenance and programs were distributed to all members.
4. a. Commissioner Halloran's oral report to members: Mr. Halloran reported that in addition to his regular Recreation job, he has also been aiding in Public Works Department during this period of time while a search is being conducted Nationally, for a new Public Works Commissioner to replace former Commissioner Larson. Charles Thomas of the Planning Department has been appointed for 90 days on a temporary basis, until a new Commissioner can be selected. Mr. Halloran and Mr. Thomas have been working closely together during this bad weather season. Mr. Halloran is also a member of the "Search Committee".
  - b. With regard to skating, he said that all areas had been excellent until very recently, but due to snow, were not as good at present. This same snow, however, made it possible to open our toboggan slide at the Newton Centre Playground.
  - c. In response to a question about the toboggan from Commission member, Herb Bamel, Mr. Halloran explained that, as always, his prime concern with regard to this facility, is the safety of the general public that uses it. A manual has been prepared, under his direction, which is used by the toboggan staff. The Department is fortunate in having an excellent staff and good practices, he says, which all contribute to a good operation of this popular and unusual facility. It is open from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. daily and again from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. evenings.
  - d. The Recreation departmental budget is now completed and has been turned in - the Department now awaits the meeting sometime in February with his Honor, the Mayor, and his staff. When this meeting is completed, the final budget action goes before the Board of Aldermen.
  - e. Commissioner Halloran reminded the members that the February meeting, due to the Washington Birthday holiday on the regular meeting date, has been postponed until the following Monday - same time and place.

At this same time, Mr. Halloran called to the attention of the Board, the fact that a conflict would occur again in April due to another holiday, and suggested the following Monday again. Mr. Fitzpatrick questioned the postponement due to the fact that the Board of Aldermen would not be meeting on the same evening as the Commission. Mr. Halloran said that he would look into the possibility of meeting on Tuesday, the day after the holiday, if a meeting room could be obtained. The members will be notified just as soon as possible.



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5. Mr. Ed Natale, President, Newton Athletic Association, on the subject of additional lighting at the Newton Highlands Playground: Unfortunately on this evening, Mr. Natale was home with the flu. Representing the organization was Nick Pasquarosa, Bill Black and Jo Pepper, all active members of this sports organization.

The members explained that additional lighting was needed for football in the Fall only, and that they have contacted many of the abutters in this area, in accordance with the wishes of the Commission, since there are monies within the Recreation Budget currently, for this.

Earlier, at the original request, the Commission had indicated a willingness to have these lights installed, provided the NAA could show that abutters of the area agreed to the installation.

Since there has been some reluctance by some of the abutters to agree to the installation of lights, it was finally decided that in order to give everyone a fair opportunity to speak, that abutters would be notified by letter that this subject will again be brought up for consideration at the February Recreation Commission meeting, and that they are welcome to come to this open meeting and let the Commission know their feelings on this subject, before any final action will be taken.

This letter will go out within the next 5 days. Members of the organization will come in to the Department shortly, and decide on how best explain this to all people involved. Mrs. Pepper will provide a list of the abutters on Wade Street or nearby.

6. Request from "George's Packers" for use of Albemarle Field for a Touch Football Tournament next September, 1978: Mr. Halloran reported that Kevin Marden of the team known as the "Packers" had contacted him and said that they would like to plan to "host" a Tournament next Fall, tentatively on September 8th, 9th and 10th. Invitations would be sent to the St. Louis team and also an Ohio team. This would be an exhibition Tournament. No special preparation would likely be necessary with most spectators standing - or possibly stands from another area might be available for some spectators.

Commissioner Halloran said he had no objections whatever, and Nelson Baker moved that this request be approved, with Mr. Bamel seconding - so moved unanimously.

7. Mrs. Linda Plaut, Cultural Arts Review: In updating information with the Recreation Commission in regard to her many and varied programs, Mrs. Plaut cited the fine cooperation and help which she has received from the Department and the pleasure she has derived from these successful programs. She has expanded and increased her programs and provided new and fresh approaches to the many cultural programs that people have indicated an interest in. Mrs. Plaut explained that she has worked cooperatively with the many different agencies within the City, such as Community Schools, and with the School Department, as well as the Parent Teacher Associations. She feels that she has not only reached many Senior Citizens with interesting programs, at no charge, but also many handicapped in the City, plus many of Newton's children. Programs embrace all ages and one group she is now reaching in her morning programs is the "young mother group", held at the Davis School. These morning programs allow them to attend while small children are in school, learn something new and different and also have an opportunity for socialization with other mothers and other participants. Response has been tremendous. When asked about duplication of services, she responded that there appeared to be very little from when she had observed.

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Her only suggestion was perhaps for some additional transportation. Since there is little transportation on weekends, possibly, if some could be available at the Spring Fest or in the Autumn for the Harvest Fair.

Her upcoming February vacation programs include a "Star Wars" workshop for children, a puppet show, some movies and a community sing.

Mr. Bamel said that it was his opinion that the amateur theatrical production that was put on last summer, under Linda's program coordination, was the finest one he had ever seen - better he thought, than many professional productions.

8. Community School Commission - Recreation Delegate, Carol Stapleton: Miss Stapleton, appointed by the Commission to represent them at the Community School Commission meetings, reported briefly on her most recent meeting. Budget is being planned and discussed and she also mentioned that some Commission members terms were winding up and that it would be likely that new people would be appointed soon to replace them.

When asked if she felt cooperation between Community Schools and Recreation was adequate, she responded that it had been her experience that cooperation was excellent. As Mr. Baker, former representative from the Recreation Commission put it, "each group is doing their own thing - and doing it well".

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 27, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Paul J. Burke, Herbert R. Bamel, Howard Ferguson, Judith Dean, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Minutes of January meeting accepted as circulated.
  
2. Request to name the Cabot Park Little League Field in honor of Dr. Leo H. Riley, recently deceased - and long time Manager of the Newton Centre Little League:  
On February 22nd, Commissioner Halloran received a letter from Daniel H. Murphy, President of Central Little League, asking consideration of their request to honor Dr. Riley by naming the Little League Field at Cabot Park after him for his total committment to the League, and to the boys of the area.  
  
Mr. Murphy was unable to be present this evening, but Murray Fleischman, another Little League person devoted to Little League for many years, came before the Commission with the request.  
  
Mr. Paul Burke commended them on this request as he said that he was personally aware of the many hours that Dr. Riley had spent with these boys of this League.  
  
Mr. Burke moved to approve the request to name the Central Little League Field located at Cabot Park, the "Leo H. Riley Field". Mr. Baker seconded - with the comment that many have spoken very highly of Dr. Riley and that he also highly recommends this action. So moved unanimously.
  
3. Consideration of some limited additional lighting at Newton Highlands Playground:  
This item was brought before the Recreation Commission last month, but in accordance with the Recreation Commission's wishes, it was to be brought up again at this meeting after a letter was sent to the abutters of the area inviting them to attend this February meeting - and given an opportunity to speak to the subject - before the Commission made any decision. While the Commission was aware of the many citizens in favor of this project, they felt it only fair to also determine if there were any opponents since none came to the last meeting, when it was first discussed - although publically announced in the local media.  
  
Phoning, prior to this meeting Mr. John Graham, said he had no objections to lights. Attending this meeting were the following abutters: Dorothy Sullivan, Mrs. Ralph Gowan, Sr., Ralph H. Gowan, Carl and Bess Grant, Sumiko and William MacDonald, Joseph Dyer, Josephine Fowler and William R. Scully - both Junior and Senior. Several others notified did not attend.  
  
Mr. Rice, Chairman of the Commission, explained the situation to all visitors present and invited their comments with regard to the tentative additional lighting. These proposed lights would be installed on 3 additional poles, 35 feet in length, (29 feet above the ground and 6 feet below). Two of the poles were to be installed on the Wade Street side of the playground, but directed away from the street. The other pole would be installed in a location where it will best light the football field in the fall season, when the children practice during the early evening darkness. Additional lighting would make it possible to practice with more security and safety and lights would be put off at 8:00 P.M. for the evening.

Discussion followed with input from citizens present as to their opinion of the unsatisfactory parking problems, vandalism after the lights are out at night and the Little League teams leave; over-amplification of sound during practice and games; the use of the field by out of city groups, plus the fact that it was evident that the present light box had been tampered with, and the lights had remained on all night and finally, that the woods nearby had been utilized for toilet facilities.

With considerable difficulty, The Chairman kept trying to bring the group back to the specific subject at hand. He explained that the Department was certainly concerned about these other problems and that we would do our very best to solve them, but it would be necessary for them to let the Department know about them first. Several of those mentioned previously - are Police Department problems rather than Recreation problems.

Mr. Carl Grant of the Newton Highlands area, acting as unofficial spokesperson for the group, and in response to a direct question as to why they did not want the proposed additional lighting responded as follows:

1. The main reason, the abuses of the past.
2. That the lights were not necessary, and were a luxury.
3. That they don't think children should be out that late (8:00 P.M.).
4. They object to expense of installation and the cost.

Nick Pasquarosa, acting as spokesman for the Newton Athletic Association and the parents, children and coaches, in response to what that group felt was the need for more lighting said:

1. Mainly, that the lights were certainly needed to secure the safety of the boys involved in the youth football teams during practice in the Fall season from about 6 to 8 P.M. While the available lights now do certainly help, there is still an area on the field that needs additional lighting to insure safety for the boys on the practicing teams.

Commission member Judith Dean, recapped the situation nicely with the following statement, "that based upon the information provided by NAA, that no more people were anticipated for the program; no additional practices were contemplated, and that basically, the area would simply be better lit in order to safeguard the children during their practices".

One Commission member suggested that possibly the question might better be delayed and discussed again, but Mr. Burke said that it was his feeling that the situation should be resolved tonight while people involved were present.

Mr. Baker moved to have the Recreation Department install the limited additional lighting at the Newton Highlands Playground. Mrs. Pepper seconded this motion. Discussion followed.

(Although notices were included in the local papers of this meeting, direct abutters were invited by letter, to attend this meeting and give their views with regard to lighting).

Mr. Pasquarosa, representing the Newton Athletic Association with its 150 boys, plus the boy's parents and coaches, spoke on their behalf in favor of lights.

Prior to this meeting John Graham of the area, called to say he had no objections whatever, to the lighting.

Actually speaking in opposition to the lighting was Mrs. Gowan - who said that the lights shone in her window, and Mr. Dyer, who opposed the lights since he felt them to be an unnecessary expense.

Mr. Rice then called for a vote of the Commission. Mr. Bamel, Mrs. Pepper, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Baker and Mrs. Dean voted in favor of the installation of lights, Mr. Burke opposed them. (5 to 1 vote).

A number of concerns still bothered the Commission members however, and Mrs. Dean asked Commissioner Halloran if he could perhaps contact the Police Department and ask them that some additional coverage of the area at Newton Highlands, be made. As Mr. Halloran said, the Department has always worked closely with the Police, and once we are aware of a problem, we will do anything necessary to solve that problem

Mr. Baker inquired about lights staying on past the cut-off hour of 8 P.M., and asked about the possibility of an automatic timing device being installed. It was explained that we had tried a device of this type in various areas, but they are easily vandalized. Mr. Halloran thought that it might be better to assign a leader to the area that would turn these lights off manually at 8 P.M.

Problems concerning parking and noise during the programs about which the abutters complained, can be corrected, Mr. Pasquarosa the NAA representative said. He invited any complaints that the people of the area have - to be directed to him and he would certainly make every effort to correct them immediately. Judith Dean of the Commission suggested that "flyers" be distributed to parents from the program telling them not to park on Wade Street.

The Scully's, both father and son, complained that some people were even parking on narrow Winchester Street. This seriously interfered with their Service Station business, and requested that alternative parking be suggested, possibly Upland Road.

4. Commissioner Halloran's Reports:

A. Mr. Halloran said that Judy Munger of MacDonald's Public Relations, had been present earlier in this meeting, but had had to leave due to another committment. She had been invited back to this meeting to repeat a picture taking session with the members of the Commission, since the previous picture taking a month or so ago was unusable, due to camera malfunction.

New plans will be made to again take a picture of this young woman receiving the plaque from the Recreation Department in appreciation of her many efforts in programming, in cooperation with this Department.

B. Mr. Halloran reported that he had nominated the Commission Secretary, also a regular Recreation Department Secretary, Marge Lesbirel, as "Secretary of the Day" on the Jess Cain radio show, but has not received any word as yet from them.

C. The Commissioner said that the budget review for the Recreation Department will be scheduled with the Mayor's office, probably early next week. He will report on the outcome at the next Commission meeting in March.

D. In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Recreation Commission, Mr. Halloran formally announced that the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be held as usual at this regular March 20th meeting.

5. Consideration of sport league fees for upcoming seasons: After a study and comparison with surrounding towns and leagues throughout the area, done by the Recreation Department, Mr. Halloran is recommending an increase of league fees of 20% on the adult leagues and 15% in the Youth leagues. A report was provided for each member.

Mr. Bamel, in response to a question, was surprised to find that league fees were used to defray cost of officials, trophies and supplies, as he had supposed these costs were a part of the Recreation budget.

On a motion by Judith Dean, seconded by Mr. Burke, it was moved unanimously to increase sports league fees beginning this Spring, as recommended in the report.

6. New Business

A. Mr. Bamel had a question on the Water Safety Instructor course which is planned for North High School Pool. At Mr. Halloran's request, Carol Stapleton, who is Facility Director of the North High Athletic area, explained that Kurt Valcunis, the WSI Supervisor/Instructor of this area, assigned to this course by the Newton Red Cross Chapter, had gone to Indiana during the blizzard emergency with a Red Cross Unit. Until such time as he returned, it would not be possible to begin the North program. The course covers a total of 90 hours - a combination of classroom and water instruction. Due to the postponement, it is now expected to start on March 14th.

Mr. Rice said that if participants for some reason were unable to take part in this particular course, might arrange to go for a full week - continual instruction at the Aquatic School held in Springfield, Mass. The cost is \$120.00.

B. William Barry, Recreation Supervisor submitted his resignation: Mr. Halloran reported and it was accepted. Mr. Barry planned to first take his allocated vacation time and then leave the Department at the end of March.

On the strength of this resignation, Mr. Halloran appointed on a provisional basis, Carol Stapleton, as Supervisor to replace Mr. Barry when he terminates.

Since that time, Mr. Barry by letter, has rescinded his resignation. At this time, his standing is uncertain, but Mr. Halloran is meeting with both Mr. Barry and the representatives from City Hall Associates.

C. Questions by Paul Croce, Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council Chairman and a very active and interested member of this Committee, who normally attends Recreation Commission meetings each month:

1. Would Cold Spring Playground continue to be a "snow dump" for emergency snow removal? The area council was quite concerned about the possibility of the salt residue left when the snow melts, harming the environment in the area.

Mr. Halloran said that Public Works does not plan to use this as a regular snow dump site - this was an emergency situation.

2. Will the area be cleaned after the snow is gone - lots of trash under the snow - as well as damage done to the area during the winter.

Mr. Halloran explained that the Public Works Department was aware that the area would need cleanup and repair and that they would do it.

D. Resignation letter from Paul Croce, Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council Chairman: Mr. Croce took this opportunity to thank the Recreation Commission for their consideration and cooperation. He introduced the New Chairperson,

who he brought with him, Mrs. Angela B. Nielson of 129 Wood End Road, Newton Highlands. She has been a member of the Committee since its inception, and is particularly interested in the Cold Spring area. It is her intention to continue the practice of attending Commission meetings each month, and would like to have the Secretary continue to send notices of meetings to both she and Mr. Croce. Mr. Croce left a copy of his letter of resignation with the Commission Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 20, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Francis Rice, Vice-Chairman Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson, Paul J. Burke, Judith Dean, Herbert Bamel, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

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

1. Minutes of February meeting: Mr. Bamel requested that the information on the Red Cross Water Safety Instructor required class time, be changed to 36 hours instead of 90. He said he had checked with Red Cross and this was the information they gave him. Minutes were accepted with this correction.
2. Report of programs, maintenance and Commissioner's activities distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner's Reports:
  - A. Briefly, Mr. Halloran reported that the Department has been very busy. Many programs have been continuing in lots of the schools and at North High. Folk Dancing, Senior Citizen Programs, Youth Centers, as well as the Multi-Service Center in Nonantum, which is operating under a CETA Grant, through our jurisdiction. He said that he was very pleased with the activities, particularly after the extreme weather and blizzard which we have experienced. Maintenance is busy, and as soon as the fields are dry, we will be working on tennis courts, baseball and softball fields. Little League and School Athletic programs will be starting before long also.
  - B. Mr. Halloran reported on the new and different brochure the Department will have available soon. Instead of twice yearly - Spring and Fall - we will now plan to arrange a separate brochure for each season. In each Commission members folder was a sample of the upcoming Spring Brochure.
  - C. The second annual invitational Junior High School Girls' Basketball Tournament was held, with great success, this past weekend at North High. Teams came from many areas, such as Wellesley, Westwood, Southboro and Needham, as well as Newton. Carol, Mr. Halloran said, should get a lot of credit for this well organized, well executed tournament. Newton's team did well, coached by Laura Rice.
  - D. Mr. Halloran said that repairs which are being considered for the Gath Pool, by the Building Department, are being discussed by the Full Board of Aldermen, this evening. In accordance with a study done last summer on the problems of deck sinkage, it was they feel, due to lack of compaction at the time of the pool's erection in 1966.
  - E. Budget for Recreation Department not official as yet - he will report as soon as information is available - probably at the April Recreation Commission meeting, since the Finance Committee will be reviewing it early in April, it now seems likely.
4. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Chairman Rice now turned this meeting over to the Vice-Chairman, Nelson Baker, to conduct the election.

Mr. Baker called for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Rice nominated Nelson Baker for Chairman and Judith Dean as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Paul Burke.



Mr. Baker then called for discussion on these nominations, but there was none. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of these two candidates.

Mr. Rice, in a short speech, thanked both Commissioner Halloran and Secretary Marge Lesbirel, for their cooperation and help during his recent term of office.

At this time, with great pleasure, Commissioner Halloran presented to the outgoing Chairman, Francis J. Rice, a plaque commemorating his valuable service to the Recreation Department here in Newton.

Carol Stapleton was then called upon to take a picture of the presentation and also a picture of the incoming Chairman, Nelson Baker, and Vice-Chairman Judith Dean. Mr. Rice now turned the meeting over to the new Chairman.

5. Charles River Ice-Skating facility information: Located on Wells Avenue, Newton Center, this well known ice-skating facility is allegedly closing its doors for good on May 1st. Rumored, for some time, to be in financial straits, the MDC has been mentioned as a potential purchaser.

The Newton School Department (Athletic Department), North and South High Schools, have requested that the Mayor re-open the possibility of the City of Newton considering purchase of this facility for municipal use.

Mr. Paul Burke said that he felt that project of this magnitude should be carefully considered - not only by Recreation, but by all of the other groups which are interested, and with the Mayor's help, a committee could possibly be formed that could get all pertinent information as to cost, use, expense, etc.

Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation Commission make a recommendation to his Honor the Mayor, that a Committee be established to make a feasibility study of the purchase of the Charles River Skating facility, of at least nine members - more if his Honor felt it necessary - which would include:

- The Financial Officer of the City
- Recreation Commissioner
- Representative of the Board of Aldermen
- 3 Members of the Recreation Commission
- President of the Youth Hockey Association
- NNHS Athletic Director, James Ronayne (or his representative)
- NSHS Athletic Director, George Winkler (or his representative)

This motion was seconded by Herbert Bamel and so moved unanimously.

6. 1978 Outdoor Tennis rules and regulations: Proposed rules for the 1978 outdoor season, as recommended by Recreation's tennis supervisor, Robert Doherty, James McLaughlin and Ed Fraktman, were provided to the Commission members.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Burke that the rules as presented be accepted, and it was so voted unanimously.

7. New Business

A. Commissioner Halloran introduced Anna Marie Corsetti of Newton. She is currently doing a brief internship with the Recreation Department through the Walnut Hill School, a private school in Natick.

Mr. Halloran also said that the "Secretary of the Day Award" for which he had nominated the Commission secretary, Marge Lesbirel, will be presented next Monday, March 27th, instead of the original date of Tuesday the 21st, by radio station WHDH and the Jess Cain Show. The Commission members were very generous in their congratulations to her.

- B. Reappointment to the Recreation Commission by the Mayor and with the approval of the Board of Aldermen, has been confirmed for Nelson Baker, Howard Ferguson and Frank Fitzpatrick. This term will be for 3 years as usual.
- C. Chairman of the Commission, Nelson Baker, announced that he plans to run in the Annual April 17th Holiday Marathon.
- D. Paul Croce of the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Council, attending this meeting in place of the new Chairman who was not available this evening, inquired again about the cleanup of the "snow dump" site at the Newton Highlands Cold Spring Playground. Mr. Halloran said that Public Works is aware of the need for cleanup after the snow melts. Also in response to Mr. Croce's inquiry about a second "Life Course", in the area, it has been included in the Department's CIP Budget, but until budget information is available, there will be no way to tell if this is a possibility this year or not.

Mr. Croce reminded the Commission that the people of Newton Highlands have certainly looked with favor on this particular type of facility in the Cold Spring area.

- E. Commission members continue their interest in the drainage at the North High field. Mr. Halloran reported that he met with those concerned, on a continuing basis, and in fact, had met today with regard to these conditions at North. While the catch basins are being opened to insure drainage, no one really can predict, at this time, what conditions will be this Spring.
- F. Mr. Paul Croce inquired if any more information was available with regard to non-resident use of Crystal Lake.

Mr. Halloran explained that since the State of Massachusetts is not in favor of limiting the use to Newton residents only, there is still a question. Possibly guest passes, at some additional cost, will be proposed.

The next Recreation Commission meeting, due to the April Holiday, will be held on the 4th Monday of the month, April 24th. On the April agenda will be consideration of the Summer Swim rules and regulations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 24, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Frank Fitzpatrick, Paul Burke, Herbert Bamel, Howard Ferguson, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Since Alderman Rodney Barker was visiting the Recreation Commission this evening with a few questions, the Chairman suggested the Commission invite him to talk to the group first. His several concerns were as follows:

A. Concern for a more thorough checking of swim passes. It appears to him that as the season gets later, checking becomes less strict and people are not required to show their passes as regularly. He feels that showing of passes should be strongly enforced.

(Jim McLaughlin, Facility Manager at Crystal Lake conceded that there was a problem, but felt that this year it would be alleviated by the installation of turnstyles).

B. Concern of under 18 swim test (actually not by age Mr. McLaughlin said, but by ability), feels that we should tighten up on this.

C. Concern for the administration of the test for deep water swimming. Has talked with some adults who have expressed some dissatisfaction as to the following: (a) nature of test and its purpose? (b) what records are kept? (c) how is test administered?

Mr. McLaughlin said that the purpose, of course, of the test is safety for the swimmer, the records are kept by the day and for the entire season and the test is generally given by Dick Thomas, unless for some reason, he is absent. An effort is made to keep the test uniform and unless the Guards are really concerned about the ability of a swimmer, (and this might conceivably occur when a person is away from swimming for a lengthy period of time and appears to be having difficulty), there is only one test per person given during the season.

Another question which Alderman Barker asked was whether it was necessary to require the crawl. He told the group that many European or English children did not learn this stroke and so did poorly when tested, even though they were perfectly adequate swimmers. (This will be taken under advisement).

2. Summer outdoor swim rules and regulations and status of non-resident admissions: Commissioner Halloran arranged to have the proposed rules for this facility distributed to all members. The major change was the difference in the fee for non-resident use. (Last year, due to extremely heavy non-resident use, the Department asked the State of Massachusetts, the overall custodian of all "Great Ponds" of which Crystal Lake is one, for permission to limit the use of the swimming area to Newton residents only, but they have said this is not possible). After checking with the City Solicitor, the Commissioner has determined that a larger charge to non-Newton residents is acceptable and legal - and his recommendation includes this charge.

Mr. Paul Burke moved and it was seconded by Mr. Rice, that the Commission approve the proposed summer outdoor swim rules and regulations for Crystal Lake with the inclusion of the non-resident charge. After discussion during which Mr. Fitzpatrick said that he personally felt that the charge proposed was harsh for the the guest of a Newton resident, and Mr. Ferguson suggested a review of how this new charge worked out, next Spring, feeling that it would be easier to judge after it had been in effect for the season. It was so voted with Mr. Fitzpatrick abstaining.

B. No major changes were anticipated for Gath Pool rules, and Mr. Rice moved, seconded by Ms. Dean, to accept the proposed rules, and it was so voted unanimously.

3. Minutes of March meeting - accepted as circulated.
4. Reports of maintenance and Commissioner's activity report - distributed to members. The program report was omitted, but will be included next month.
5. Reminder of Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 26th at 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Halloran also reported that he had forwarded to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, as well as the Commission members, a recapitulation of all programs by the Department. This was done on a year round basis, rather than by seasons as it is usually done. He was most pleased with the information and the report. This report and its cover letter were sent out on April 4th. The Chairman, Nelson Baker, commended both the Commissioner and his staff for this excellent summary.
6. Setting priorities on Capital Improvement Program based upon the Mayor's recommendations: After discussion, Mr. Bamel moved, with Mr. Burke seconding, that the Recreation Department accept the budget on Capital Improvements as recommended by Commissioner Halloran for this year, and it was so voted unanimously.
7. Information with regard to Charles River Skating facility: Commissioner Halloran reported that with regard to a study on this facility, he has met with the Mayor and then right at the facility with Alderman Paul Daley, Mr. Jones of the Mutual Bank, Mr. DeGregorio, City Financial Officer, Paul Molloy, Newton Youth Hockey President. Mr. DiGregorio will get back to the group with a report on the financial feasibility of operating this area.  
  
Rumors indicate that poor administration were the reason for the financial problems. Sylvania Electric is also interested in purchasing this facility but nothing definite as yet.
8. Memorial for Dr. Leo Riley at Cabot Park: This coming Sunday, April 30th, this field will be dedicated at 12:30 P.M. when the East Little League opens. Everything is ready, the sign is up, etc. Mr. Halloran reported that he would be there for the dedication.
9. New Business:

- A. Soccer: Prior to this meeting, Bobbi Vanderwald called the Department and requested that she be allowed to speak briefly at this meeting on behalf of the Fall Soccer group.

One of the first items was the fact that they are changing their request for fields from Thompsonville to Weeks Jr. High. Mr. Halloran did not think this would cause any problems.

They are, of course, still concerned about the installation of additional lighting at Lincoln Field for the Fall season. They had with them a copy of a petition signed by 12 abutters who have okayed this project. They have assured everyone in the area that the lights would be put out at 9 P.M.

Nevertheless, there are abutters in the area who do object to the lights, and they also have filed a petition, protesting the installation of the soccer lights. These people are also concerned about year round use of this playground.

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Mr. Baker, Chairman, says that before anything is done or decided, that all families concerned should be contacted by letter and invited to attend a public meeting. In other words, both sets of petitioners will be requested to attend a public meeting so that everyone will be reassured that all concerned have been heard before the final decision is made.

Mr. Halloran said that if these lights are to be installed, an invitation to bid would have to be made before the end of June so that the proposed hearing would have to be held before that time. Date will be set later.

- B. Chairman Baker reported that he had received a letter from the Newton J.C.'s and had given this to Mr. Halloran, saying that they were interested in creating a "Mini-Park" along the median strip on Commonwealth Avenue.
- C. Mr. Halloran also spoke about the possibilities of the Department cooperating with the Kiwanis Club and Newton Police on a special Autumn road race in October. Plans are not completely finalized at this time.
- D. Mr. Paul Croce, also present with the Chairman, Angela Neilson of the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Association, asked if Mr. Halloran had heard yet when the Public Works Department planned to clean up Cold Spring and Allison. He could not tell them that Public Works is aware of the need and will beginning shortly - but does not have a date at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 15, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson Baker, Paul Burke, Herbert Bamel, Howard Ferguson, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nelson at 7:50 P.M.

1. Minutes of April meeting accepted is circulated.
2. Reports on programs, maintenance and Commissioner's activities distributed to members.
3. Commissioner's Report: Mr. Halloran said that for the first time this year, in conjunction with budget presentation for the Department, he appeared before two different committees. The first, Human Services, who made some cuts, and the second, the Finance Committee, (who generally, restored them). However, he is very concerned about a proposed 15% cut in seasonal salaries which would make it impossible to implement the proposed - and approved by Personnel Department - upgrading of experienced and qualified summer help.  
  
Final action will be completed by the Full Board of Aldermen on or before May 25th, Mr. Halloran said.
4. Plans for summer programs, swimming, playground and orientation and training: Mr. Halloran informed the Commission members that he is really looking forward to the very interesting summer programs. The Department has been working on plans since January, preparing manuals, organizing staff training plans, readying outdoor rules and regulations for swimming and playground. It has been a busy but productive period. This summer's theme will be "A Blizzard of Summer Fun". Orientation this year will take place on June 6th, 7th and 8th, for the Swim Staff, and on June 29th and 30th at the Burr School for summer playground staff. Playgrounds open on July 3rd for 7 weeks, closing August 18th; swimming opens June 10th, closing Labor Day, and the Special Camps will open and close on the same days as the playgrounds.
5. Dedication of the "Howard Ferguson Newton North High Field:" in honor of fellow Recreation Commission member. On May 19th, Friday at 3:00 P.M., this field will be officially dedicated. (The rain date is May 23rd at the same hour). Several dignitaries, including Mayor Mann and City and School officials, as well as Commissioner Halloran and members of the Recreation Commission and Department will be present at this very special program and occasion.
6. Plans for meeting with abutters of Lincoln Field in Waban: The Commission, in order to ascertain the feelings of abutters of this field, either pro or con, to the proposed lighting, has recommended that they be invited to the June 19th regular meeting of the Recreation Commission. In this way, the Commission can then make a decision based upon desire and need in the neighborhood.  
  
Commissioner Halloran will arrange to have letters sent out to all abutters prior to the June meeting.
7. Mayor's Annual Prayer Breakfast at Boston College on May 25th: Tickets were available at this meeting. Mr. Halloran and Mr. Burke are planning to attend. Several of the other Commission members will be unavailable that day but there are still a few tickets available from the Secretary if anyone would like to have one.

8. Report on Charles River Ice Skating Facility: Commissioner Halloran reported that the City Financial expert, Mr. DeGregorio is currently making an in-depth study of this facility on a financial feasibility basis. When this is complete, he will make it available to the entire committee (including the Mayor; Alderman Paul Daley, President of the Youth Hockey organization and both the Newton North and South High Athletic Directors). Included in this report, will be his opinion as to whether this facility would be a sound investment for the City of Newton or not, information as to whether outside groups are interested in its purchase and what the price of purchase would be - and if it is realistic and whatever other information he has, which would be pertinent. Mr. Halloran said that he has informed Mr. DeGregorio that the Department is willing to provide any service, or cooperate in any way with regard to this study.
  
9. New Business:
  - A. The question of meetings for the Recreation Commission during the summer was brought up. It was decided by the Commission that unless there was some special circumstance which needed immediate action, the Commission would not plan to meet during the months of July and August. This is in keeping with past summers, also.
  
  - B. Mr. Bamel reported briefly on the status of the South High School proposed athletic facility outdoors. He informed the group what the plan is in litigation at this time and it will likely be 2 to 3 months before a reply will be available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 19, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson Baker, Vice-Chairman Judith Dean, Paul Burke, Francis Rice, Frank Fitzpatrick, Howard Ferguson, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Minutes of May meeting accepted with the inclusion of Mr. Rice's name, as he had inadvertently been omitted, although present.
2. Reports on Maintenance, (May and June), program report and Commissioner's report of activities were distributed to all members. Mr. Halloran commented that Albemarle Playground was the very busiest playground and park in Newton, busy from April to Thanksgiving.
3. Consideration of proposed additional lighting at Lincoln Field for Soccer: The abutters of the area were notified ahead of time by letter, inviting them to attend this meeting.

Attending this meeting were: Mr. & Mrs. Warren Rohsenow of Windsor Road, Mr. & Mrs. John Sherman, Jr. of Windsor Road, Mr & Mrs. Harry S. Olin of Windsor Road, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Corriss of Montclair Road, Jerome Bloom of Montclair Road, and Mr. & Mrs. Donald Nordbeck of Beacon Street. These people represented the abutters and the neighbors. Representing Newton Youth Soccer were: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Wilcon, Bobby Vanderwald and Ned Muelet.

As Commissioner Halloran explained to the people present, in response to a request from the enlarging Newton Youth Soccer program, the Recreation Department has available in the current budget, funds which would allow the installation of additional lighting at the Lincoln Field Soccer area in Waban. This would serve a two-fold purpose, providing safer practice area for the children in the Soccer program during the Fall season when darkness falls by 4:30 or 5:00 P.M. The lights would not be on at the field beyond 9:00 P.M. on weekdays. It would also provide extra security and safety in the area by the very fact of the lighting. Proposed were 5 poles, 29 feet above the ground to be used only for Soccer. Available monies, \$9,000.00.

Chairman Nelson Baker now asked those present for their comments with regard to this additional lighting.

Mr. Sherman said that the lights shine in his window now and he's opposed. Mr. Nordbeck is opposed and wants to know why they don't use Angier Playground for the Soccer program. He claims that while it has poor turf, it is basically smooth and okay for a soccer field. Mr. Bloom said that activity for a program of this type brings parking problems where residents have difficulty getting in or out of driveways. In fact, cars park all the way back to the square. Mr. & Mrs. Rohsenow stated that prior to about 1954, this area had been an area of vegetable gardens for the Waban area and about this time, neighbors of the area had been asked for money by a Waban group to purchase this land for a Little League Baseball Field and they had donated money for this playground. It had been their belief at the time that the area would only be for Little League. (They had no idea how much was collected, but felt that since the neighbors gave the playground, they should have some say as to what it is used for). Commissioner Halloran and the Commission were unaware of this, and Mr. Halloran informed the group that he would certainly contact the City Solicitor and obtain a ruling as quickly as possible. Mr. Bloom, in reference to the parking problems encountered in getting in and out of his yard, suggested that his street be made a one-way street. Mr. & Mrs. Corliss said that the neighbors had not



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met together previously. His feeling seemed to be that they had met, a logical sequence could be worked out. He felt that the abutters did not object to Soccer, but seemed to feel that Lincoln Field might reach a limit, particularly if the program continued to grow. He also mentioned again the general concern about parking problems. Another concern they felt was that if additional lighting became a fact, there was no guarantee, say in 2 years, that there might be more lighting requested, and the lights, instead of going on for this limited program in the Autumn, might be used for longer periods and for other programs. He highly recommended the use of some other field.

Mr. Harry Olin expressed his concern on the basis of cost and waste of energy and money, during this time when energy conservation holds a high priority. He felt that the use of lights was to benefit the coaches, (who are parents and businessmen volunteering their time after work), and he recommended that these volunteers arrange with their various businesses and companies to take appropriate time off afternoons and this would eliminate the need for evening lighting, or hold programs Saturday mornings without lighting.

Mr. Sherman said, be realistic - once you get lights, it will go on and on, and once the lights are there, they will be used for other things. They can always change the height of poles to cover a large area. Mrs. Sherman said that the field is right behind their garden and shines right down - also the noise will disturb their baby grandchild who lives with them. Mr. Sherman stated that in his opinion, Lights are a Blight.

One person inquired if, despite objections, the Recreation Commission goes ahead and votes in favor of the additional lighting - do they, (the abutters), have legal recourse?

Chairman Baker pointed out that, at this time, he was attempting to make dialog between the two factions - the abutters, and the soccer people.

Mr. Ferguson asked if it would not be possible for the people present to state their objections in an orderly fashion. They began:

1. Do not want lights - reflection in homes.
2. Do not want the extra activity behind their homes.

An electrical engineer present then spoke up and said he would recap many of the problems, such as: fence full of holes, vandalism, kids learning new tricks and raising the devil in the square. When the Police are called, they, (the kids), disappear only to return later, drink beer and throw bottles out. The light boxes can be vandalized and all the so-called "security" simply dissolves. The soccer program should be located at Angier, not Lincoln Field.

Another neighbor suggested that instead of spending \$9,000.00 on lights, he would suggest that we hire coaches for daylight hours instead of using volunteers in the late afternoon that require practice lights.

Chairman Nelson Baker recommended to the Commission that the question of use of the playground be referred to the City Solicitor and also that another special meeting to consider this issue be scheduled after hearing from the Legal Dept.

Mr. Burke moved and it was seconded by Mr. Rice, that Commissioner Halloran contact the Legal Department of the City of Newton to determine if there are any restrictions regarding the use of Waban Playground which would prohibit the installation of lights for soccer, and also that a special meeting be called to further consider this question of additional lighting for Soccer, during July, on Monday the 17th. It was so moved.

Chairman Baker invited those neighbors and a utters to this July meeting. Commissioner Halloran urged them to attend this special meeting and will send out special letters to remind them of the date, early in July.

At this time, most of those people interested in the Waban lighting had left and a brief recess was taken by the Commission.

When they returned to the meeting, the Chairman informed the group that there was a conflict on the date selected for the 2nd and Special Meeting of the Commission to study further the question of additional lighting at Lincoln. It was then decided to change the date to Tuesday evening, July 18th. Of course this will be predicated on a response from the City Solicitor. The Commissioner said that he would arrange to send letters to all of the people that had attended the meeting.

4. Request by Angela Neilson of the Newton Highlands Area Council: Her request concerns the fact that older children are now playing hard ball at Hyde School playground, endangering the smaller children who play there. The Council is uncertain as to whom they should speak on this situation.

Commissioner Halloran explained that the Hyde School playground is only for elementary children, and a sign is posted saying that no hard ball playing is allowed. If, in the future, the parents become aware that hard ball is again being played in this area, they should immediately call the Recreation Department. He will also call this problem to the attention of summer supervisor, Joe Siciliano, who oversees this district.

5. Request for consideration of a permit for an Annual religious celebration and carnival at Hawthorn to be held by the St. Mary of Carmen Society during July: Commissioner Halloran said that he had received this request which is sent in annually to the Department. The Police and Fire Departments and the Mayor's office have had no past complaints, and Mr. Halloran said he had no objections as long as the group adhered to the rules and regulations of their contract made with the Society and the Recreation Department. Based upon this approval by the Commissioner, Howard Ferguson moved to allow this 1978 Carnival, and it was so moved unanimously.

6. As requested by Newton Police, it has been recommended that the Recreation Commission give the Commissioner the power to set year round rules for the use of Crystal Lake, for residents, abutters and non-residents: Commissioner Halloran briefly explained this request from the Police Department and also said that eventually, final approval would have to come from the Commonwealth, since this is a Great Pond and subject to State approval.

On a motion by Mr. Burke, it was unanimously voted to give Commissioner Halloran the authority to set the year round rules and regulations for the entire Lake, during any season.

7. Challenge to a softball game by the Honorable Board of Aldermen to the Recreation Commission and the Recreation Department on July 7th at 7:30 P.M. at Albemarle Softball Field: The Commission members were very enthused and will all be looking forward to this game.

8. New Business:

- A. Since Jim Murphy, the Recreation Department's Senior Supervisor is planning to retire approximately the beginning of August, many plans are currently in progress to honor him, Mr. Halloran said. The Department is planning a big celebration in the evening, inviting his family and many friends and

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associates who have worked with him for many years during the time he has been associated with the City of Newton.

In addition to this celebration in his honor, the Commission would like to further honor him by naming the Newton North Little League after him. As Mr. Burke said, Jim Murphy is practically the father of Little League in the City of Newton. In fact, he had checked with North to see how they felt about this and they endorse it 100%.

After briefly discussing the pros and cons of how to best do this, Mr. Burke moved that the Recreation and Recreation Department make arrangements to name the Little League field at the Newton North Little League Albemarle, the JAMES E. MURPHY NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD. This was seconded by Mr. Francis Rice and so moved unanimously.

Mr. Halloran told the group that arrangements for a sign and for ceremonies will all have to be worked out. Everyone is very enthused about this and eager to help. There will be more information on this later.

The Commission requested that Commissioner Halloran arrange for the purchase of an appropriate sign with Mr. Murphy's name on it for this field.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 18, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Mrs. Charles Pepper, Mrs. Worthing L. West and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

1. Minutes of June meeting were approved as distributed. Special meeting held in July to consider request for additional lighting at Lincoln Park will be forwarded to members shortly.

2. Reports of summer programs and the Commissioner's reports were given orally by the Commissioner. Maintenance report was distributed to each member.

3. Due to the fact that Mr. & Mrs. Leo F. Barron, Jr. were present at this time, the Commission agreed, at Chairman Nelson Baker's suggestion, that the Commission move to item #5 on the agenda. This item is in response to a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Barron requesting permission for their daughter to take part in Newton leagues. This request was based upon the fact that while their address is in Brighton, their actual homestead land is also a part of Newton, and they pay taxes in Newton and feel that as taxpayers, they should be allowed the privilege of participating in Newton programs.

The Commission talked this over and came to the conclusion that this was a isolated case and they did feel that the Barrons had a legitimate request.

On a motion made by Mr. Paul Burke, seconded by Mrs. Pepper, and upon the recommendation of Commissioner Halloran, it was voted unanimously to grant full recreation privileges to any immediate member of the Leo F. Barron, Jr. family, residing at the homesite of 52 Burton Street in Brighton, which site is contiguous with Newton.

A letter to this effect will be sent to the Barrons, as well as a statement to this effect which they can use in obtaining recreation permits or for entrance into one of Newton's many leagues.

4. Report on incident occurring at Lake Cochituate: Commissioner reported briefly on the accidental drowning on Thursday, August 10th of a young boy by the name of Mark Lightman, who had accompanied a playground group from Cabot Park to a "day excursion" trip to State Park swimming area at Lake Cochituate.

5. Report on picnic at Hawthorn: At the annual Senior Citizen picnic at Hawthorn this year, over 1,200 people participated. This has traditionally been run by the Nonantum Children's Christmas Party Committee. A permit was granted by the Recreation Department at the request of Alan Licarie, one of their officers. Ordinarily, a very successful affair, with no problems of any kind. This year, allegedly, political figures of Mr. & Mrs. Harrington were requested to leave for some reason by Mr. Pelligrini. This problem, of course, had nothing to do with the Recreation Department, but has caused a City-wide controversy. The City is now awaiting a Legal Department decision as to whether a person can be expelled from a public area during the permitted use by an organization.

6. Report on "Jim Murphy Testimonial": Commissioner Halloran reported on the tremendously successful retirement party given in honor of beloved member of the Recreation Department staff for many, many years and Senior Supervisor. Over 500 people came to honor Jim on his retirement. Paul Burke, long time friend and Commission member, was Master of Ceremonies. Speakers honoring this well known, life-time resident of Newton were: Mayor Mann, Judge Basbas,

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Monsignor Geegan, Former Mayor Howard Whittemore, State Representative Joe DeNucci, Lt. Feeley, Bureau Commander Newton Police, Joe Siciliano, teacher and Recreation leader, and Karen Drew, teacher and recreation leader, and Commissioner Halloran.

In a very moving, emotional response, Jim responded to his many friends and family present, not only thanking them, but also thanking his wife Peg, who, by her encouragement and care during his illnesses, and support, made it possible for him to function daily and be present for this evening.

Mr. Burke said that he had dropped by Mr. Murphy's home on Sunday and that both Jim and Peg had been thrilled by the whole affair.

7. Commissioner's report on following:

- 1. Since the Senior Supervisor has retired, it has been necessary to make some changes in the staff, he said. Newly appointed, awaiting Civil Service certification as a result of examination, are the following:

Senior Recreation Supervisor	Fran Towle
District Supervisor	Carol Stapleton
Assistant Supervisor	Sheila Balch
Recreation Leader - General	Jean Cole

These new appointments have been announced at the recent staff meeting at the Recreation Department by the Commissioner.

- 2. Mr. Halloran reported that he had attended the recent public meeting regarding the proposed closing of Hamilton School. The Recreation programs formerly held at this facility will probably be transferred to the Williams School.
- 3. The Commissioner reported that the Fall brochures would be ready for distribution next week, that Gath Pool closed on Labor Day, but last Wednesday, the basement, in some unknown manner, had been flooded. Police and Fire Departments were present and it had been pumped out. He said that there was no evidence of any forced entry, but that there was several thousands of dollars damage done. In a non-related repair, the deck repairs will begin shortly.
- 4. Commissioner Halloran said that he had attended the invitational National Touch Football Tournament recently held at Albemarle Playground. Except for a few frayed tempers in this hotly contested tournament, everything went great.
- 5. Mr. Halloran informed the group that the letters to all school principals on the availability of help from the Recreation Department, for Halloween parties for the children on Halloween eve. had been mailed by Diane Dragoff, the new Recreation Department representative, (who replaced retired Esther Toher), and a response by the end of September is indicated. He also mentioned that this year will be missing from the Recreation Budget, those funds usually available for cookies for the children on Halloween at the parties.
- 6. The Annual Harvest Fair will be held on October 7th on the Greene in Newton Centre.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M. and the next meeting will be held on October 16th.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Marjorie Lesbirel  
 Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 16, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul J. Burke, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Frank Fitzpatrick and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors included a Recreation class from Mt. Ida Junior College, a Field Worker, Anita Finn, from Northeastern University, and Angela Nielson, representing the Newton Highlands Area Council Association.

1. Minutes of September Recreation Commission meeting were accepted as read.
2. Minutes of the Special July Commission meeting were accepted as read.
3. Reports on programs, maintenance reports and Commissioner's report of his activities were distributed to all members of the Board.
4. Commissioner Halloran reported briefly that vandalism continues to be a major problem on recreation areas. Currently the biggest item is the replacement of damaged Soccer posts and crossbars. They have been torn down repeatedly at Albemarle, Lincoln, Burr and Hamilton. Since there has been such an upsurge of interest in Soccer this year, they were up early, and Recreation has made every effort to replace these goal posts each time. At present, in an effort to alleviate damage, the Department is planning to replace wooden Soccer posts with steel posts (which would be inserted into sleeves and would be removeable at the end of the season).

Mr. Halloran has discussed this problem with John Bliss of the Newton Soccer group. One suggestion has been to purchase some collapsible goals, but these are quite expensive and would be time consuming - to store, etc. The possibility will be explored nevertheless, for another year.

5. Retirement dinner scheduled in honor of retired Esther Toher on October 19th at the Wayland House on Route 20 in Wayland. The Commission members present were reminded about this and both Chairman Nelson Baker and former Chairman, Francis Rice told Commissioner Halloran that they planned to attend.
6. Report on Multi-Service Center at Nonantum and the end of CETA Grant Funds. Mr. Halloran reported that the year allocated by CETA to fund this project is finished. Fran Towle, Senior Recreation Supervisor has been the liason between CETA and the Recreation in this extremely successful program. She has worked closely with Jenny DeVito, a member of the Nonantum Citizen's Committee, and together they have arranged for a tremendous variety of programs for all age levels in the Nonantum area.

It had been hoped that this program could be extended, and with this in mind, a "Letter of Intent" has been forwarded to CETA, but no response has been received from them as yet. There is also a possibility of some Community Development funds being channeled to this area through Charles Thomas, Director of Planning.

7. Fall and Winter programs beginning. North High School Athletic facility opens: opening on October 2nd, the pool, gyms, running track and weight room are once again available to Newton residents. Brochures have been printed and are now available. (Indoor Fall programs in the various schools will open the week of November 6th, on a regular basis). Commissioner Halloran mentioned that the Recreation Department always works closely in cooperation with the custodians at North High. Everything he said, appears to be going well - except that the roof leaks.

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8. Harvest Fair report: Another spectacular success this year, the Annual event was held on the Newton Centre Greene, with several thousand people in attendance. It began at 10:00 A.M. and run until 5:00 P.M. Pony rides, games, crafts, etc., as well as a variety of entertainment were presented for the people who attended this happy event. The Newton Centre merchants also reaped the benefits of this event since it was held on a Saturday during business hours - with their hearty approval.
  9. Resource Guide: Originally a pamphlet - grown to a book, this very comprehensive and extensive guide has been completed under the auspices of the Recreation Department and staff. Coordinated by the Recreation Department, at the request of Mayor Mann, Amy Modley of CETA and Sheila Balch, Assistant Recreation Supervisor, have both contributed their considerable expertise and research to completing this excellent guide. Available through the Recreation Department now, the Mayor has suggested that they be distributed with a one dollar donation to be paid to the City of Newton to help defray printing costs.
  10. Halloween plans: The Recreation Department this year will be sponsoring approximately 5 evening parties at the various elementary schools. Two parades will be held in conjunction with these parties, and refreshments, custodial service and Police coverage will be funded through the Recreation Department. In cooperation with the Newton Community Service Centers, a Halloween dance at Warren Jr. High will be held on Friday evening for the older students in junior and senior high school.

Recent years have shown a considerable lack of cooperation and interest by the Parent Teacher Associations and Schools, resulting in many less parties at the schools during the evening.

11. New Business:
  - A. Nelson Baker asked the Recreation major students present if they had any questions and indicated that the Commission stood ready to respond to any questions about recreation in Newton, which they had. They seemed a little shy about asking questions and Commissioner Halloran kindly explained very briefly that there were between 50 and 60 thousand people involved in Newton Recreation programs, and that the Recreation Department operated on a 1.5 million dollar budget in which they worked closely with the Mayor and the 24 members of the Newton Board of Aldermen.
  - B. Mr. Burke inquired as to when the sign honoring retired Jim Murphy of the Department - which was presented at his retirement dinner, was to be installed? Plans formerly, were to install it next Spring in April, but Mr. Burke felt it might be nicer to do it sooner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 20, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Francis Rice, Herbert Bamel, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors included the newly chosen Special Needs Director, Gary Hofstetter, Angela Nilesen, representing the Newton Highlands Area Council Association and the Times Newspaper.

1. Minutes of the October Recreation Commission meeting were accepted as presented.
2. Reports on programs, maintenance report and Commissioner's report of his meetings and activities during the month were distributed to all members of the Commission.
3. Commissioner's oral report: Before introducing Gary Hofstetter to the group, Mr. Halloran explained that Gary had been selected from a screening of between 80 and 100 applicants. He was chosen finally because of his excellent credentials and extensive experience, and with the approval of the Special Needs parents Committee and the school Special Needs staff, as well as Recreation. The Commissioner said that he was most impressed with Gary and was not taking the opportunity to introduce him to the Commission.

Mr. Halloran commented that November was about the only relatively slow time in the entire "recreation year" since outdoor programs are gradually ending - such as football, soccer and mini-bike. He also said that there continued to be a lot of vandalism of soccer posts which disturbed him considerably since the posts are expensive to replace.

Supervisors are vacationing during this slow period.

4. Yearly review of Recreation eligibility rules for sports leagues: Copies of all sports leagues reports of membership for volleyball, softball, football, etc. were distributed to the Commission. Mr. Barry was present to respond to any queries on the men's leagues, and Miss Towle representing the women's leagues. No problems had occurred this year, evidently.

Mr. Rice then moved that the league rules be adopted as they stood to continue for another year and they are to be reviewed again in a year as usual. Seconded by Judy Dean and so voted unanimously.

5. Effect of new Municipal Immunity Law on the Recreation Department programs. In explaining this change of municipal liability, Commissioner Halloran said that cities and towns of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts now can be sued for "acts of negligence". This of course, has to be proved either as an act of omission or commission. Formerly no City or town could be sued, but Chapter 512 has now changed this, enabling an injured party to bring suit against a city or town.

Chairman of the Commission, Nelson Baker, also a lawyer, has been generous in his time in coming to the Department for a special session in interpretation of this law. In layman's language, he explained to the staff the potential involved in this law. As Mr. Halloran said, the burden is now on all City agencies to emphasize safety practices, (nothing new to Recreation as Commissioner Halloran has always stressed safety).

Commissioner Halloran expressed his great appreciation to Mr. Baker for his consideration, and for the time spent with the Recreation Department staff in interpreting this new liability law.



6. Toboggan slide: The toboggan slide, located at the Newton Centre Playground was built in 1918 or 1919 and had 2 runs - 6 feet wide and 350 feet long.

The last few years, the Building Department has inspected it each year to be sure it is in safe condition. This year, the inspector found that the concrete base had begun to deteriorate and that "the elements had taken their toll". In a letter to the Recreation Department, Commissioner Alan Fraser of the Building Department informed Mr. Halloran that it was condemned and instructed the Recreation Department to have the structure removed immediately. This has been done.

The Commission members inquired as to what it might cost to replace this structure. At this time, there is no estimate of cost due to the fact that all City Departments have been told to hold budget requests to a "0" base, and that must include the 5% payroll increases allowed so there will be no allowance for any new installations, it would seem. Recreation Department will cooperate in whatever decision is made.

7. Report on installation of the James E. Murphy sign at the Albemarle Little League Field: Originally planned for Spring - in April - when the field was dedicated, it was decided that it would be nicer to put the sign up now. This has now been done and Mr. Murphy had his picture taken in front of the sign for the newspapers. It looks terrific.
8. Consideration of change of meeting dates for Commission January and February: Due to the third Monday in each of these months falling on a holiday, it was suggested that the meeting be held on the 4th Monday instead. This was agreeable to all of the members. The new dates for Commission meetings - in January the 22nd and in February the 26th.

9. New Business:

A. Replacement of retired Senior Recreation Supervisor. Since Jim Murphy's retirement, Fran Towle is acting in this slot, Commissioner Halloran informed everyone. The final appointment will be as a result of a Civil Service Department promotional examination. Due to the Muni-classifications, the title of the position will be changed, also to Assistant Commissioner, as far as is known at this time.

B. Mr. Bamel said that South High athletic fields are presently out to bid, and bids must be in by December 12. It has now been determined that there is a right to erect whatever is available, dependent upon budget figure of \$250,000.00.

Mr. Bamel inquired about the portable bleachers now at North, and Mr. Halloran said they could also be used at South High.

C. Department holiday party will take place at the Natick Officer's Club in Natick, on Kansas Street, on December 15th in the evening. Department retirees and Commission members are being urged to attend, to join with the entire Department for this annual holiday event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 18, 1978

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Paul Burke, Herbert Bamel, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nelson Baker at 7:45 P.M.

1. Minutes of November meeting were accepted as presented.
2. Presented to all members were copies of the maintenance reports, report of programs, the Commissioner's report of his extra activities during the past month, and reports of Newton Senior Citizen trips and activities for the past few months.
3. Commissioner Halloran reported that the Department had received many compliments this year on field conditions, not only from the School Department's Athletic Department but from officials of Pop Warner, Men's Touch Football Leagues and Bernie Burke (a long time official used in both School and Recreation Leagues), who said that under some very difficult conditions when rain had mired out fields in other localities around Newton, these were the driest and best anywhere. Jim Ronayne, Athletic Director for North High commented that during November when their Department was using both North and Albemarle fields for games, the maintenance provided by the Recreation Department was superb!
4. Consideration of change of April Commission meeting to April 23rd, due to the holiday occurring on the regularly scheduled 3rd Monday, was approved by the entire Commission.
5. Mr. Halloran reported that the Department was losing a valuable office employee to the Telephone Company, Mary Jane McLaughlin, who will be leaving in early January, 1979.
6. Commissioner Halloran said that he had attended the bid opening on South High fields recently and low bids quoted 2 years ago at \$250,000.00 are now starting at \$262,000.00 - and go up to \$405,000.00. This is informational only to the Recreation Commission, since the School Committee would decide if this money was to be spent - with the approval of his Honor the Mayor.
7. Recreation budget figures were distributed to each Commission member, and Mr. Halloran carefully went over the entire proposed expenditures, explaining the breakdown of costs and programs. After this, he invited the members to ask any questions that they might have about any portion or figure, about which they would like any additional information.

Mr. Halloran also mentioned that while this is the proposed zero-increase budget, which is mandated to all City Departments, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen conceivably could make additional cuts. He also said that we could not anticipate any Capital Outlays or Capital Improvements in this new budget year. The 5% increase in salaries recently approved will have to be absorbed into the current budgets. No personnel (full time) nor programs have been cut.

Mr. Ferguson moved that the Recreation Commission accept the recommended budget for the Recreation Department as proposed by Commissioner Halloran. This was seconded by Paul Burke and so moved unanimously by the entire group.

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8. Toboggan Chute: Members of the Commission inquired as to what the possibilities might be of replacing this recently condemned slide at Newton Centre Playground.

Mr. Halloran explained that at present, due to budget, etc., there was nothing could be done. The only possibility of replacement would be if it came out of the Public Buildings Department Budget (they are looking into this - but no information is available at this time).

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 22, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Herbert R. Bamel, Francis Rice and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Chairman Baker at 7:37 P.M.

1. Minutes of December 1978 meeting accepted as read.
2. Reports of maintenance, programs and Commissioner's reports of his activities during the past month, were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner's oral report included the information that the current Recreation Maintenance Foreman, Joe Taranto, (who took over from Frank Shea when he retired last year), is now about to retire also. He is a U.S. veteran and has the accumulated time necessary to do this. Mr. Halloran said that Joe will be terribly missed for many reasons. Much of the knowledge of maintenance is carried around in Joe's head, and has never been written down. It will be very difficult to replace him with anyone as experienced and knowledgeable. Joe will go on vacation February 23rd for 5 weeks, retiring on April 1st.

Skating has been crazy this year. Auburndale, at this time, has had 18 days of skating, 4 at Bullough's and nothing yet at Crystal, in fact Crystal is only very recently skimmed over.

4. Newton Youth Hockey presentation: Tom "Tucker" McClellan was present at this meeting. He distributed a financial statement on Youth Hockey and made a slide presentation of the entire program, growth potential, finances, etc. He reported that in this new year there had been some changes in their Board of Directors, and a great deal of enthusiasm. He lauded the Recreation Department for their cooperation and for the interest and concern which Commissioner Halloran has shown in working with them on various problems. He also said that cooperation between Youth Hockey and the MDC had progressed this year.

The Recreation Department, over the past few years, has provided some funding for ice time for Newton Youth Hockey, and this year, the Hockey group says that due to the increase of cost of ice, they would like to request that \$12,500.00 be included in the Recreation Department budget, for ice time.

One interesting comment which was made by Mr. McClellan was that they do have some difficulty in knowing the names of those boys who would like to play Youth Hockey, but are financially unable to join or purchase the relatively expensive equipment needed to play. They do have scholarship funds available and would be happy to fund economically disadvantaged youths, if they knew who they were.

Mr. Burke of the Commission, mentioned that several local hockey players from the Youth Hockey program here in Newton have gone on successfully to play college hockey, giving a very good indication of what a positive result this program has had.

Mr. Ferguson of the Commission, advised Youth Hockey to consider their project next year extremely carefully when applying for funds, since budget cuts appear inevitable. Mr. Halloran complimented Mr. McClellan on an excellent presentation. He also mentioned that Recreation this year was held to a zero increase budget, but included in the budget is a request for funding for ice time for this group.

5. Budget Report: Commissioner Halloran had nothing more really, to report. He reported that the budget requests have been forwarded to the Executive Department and Recreation will now await a meeting with them.
6. Changes of dates for Commission Meetings due to holidays: Commissioner Halloran mentioned the dates upon which the Commission will meet in the upcoming months, and were dates agreeable to everyone as determined at meetings.

February 26, 1979  
March 19, 1979  
April 23, 1979  
May 21, 1979  
June 25, 1979

7. Mr. Halloran mentioned that on February 11th, the first Garden City Road Race would be run. This will be a qualifying race sanctioned by the New England Amateur Athletic Union, being the first certified qualifying event of the year for the Boston Athletic Association Marathon. Alderman Paul Daley is "ideaman" for this event.
8. Report on South High Fields: Herb Bamel of the Newton South Booster's Club and also a member of the Recreation Commission, reported briefly that in a 19 to 3 vote, there will be allowed the \$339,000.00 budget amount left over from construction of North fields to be used in construction of the Newton South athletic fields. A \$5,000.00 supplemental budget will provide a fence and there will be \$17,000.00 additional for stands. He anticipates that the facility should be operational by next Fall, track should be available before that.

He also commented that in relation to monies spent for construction, there would be an estimated six to six and one half thousand dollars saved, which now has to be used to transport teams, etc. back and forth by bus from North and South Highs.

As an off-shoot of this discussion, much concern was expressed by everyone that the high school is considering dropping most of their Junior Varsity programs. Everyone appeared to agree that absorbing these 500 or so kids into either Recreation Department programs or sports would be tough. Coaches at the schools are very concerned since Junior Varsity sports are very important. Recently, in a talk regarding juvenile delinquency, Captain Dargon of the Newton Police said that in his 22 years on the force, he has never had to arrest any youth actively involved in team sports. It is hoped that the School Committee will not eliminate these funds. The question seemed to be "where should the money be best spent?" On programs - or on rehabilitation for juvenile offenders?

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

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INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To: Ruseell J. Halloran  
Recreation Commissioner

Date: January 25, 1979

From: Charles J. Thomas  
Director of Planning & Development

Subject: Cold Springs Park

The Planning and Development Department is initiating the Site Plan approval process, according to Section 24-24 of the Zoning Ordinances as revised by Ordinance No. 644, for the development of Cold Spring Park.

The City must receive Board of Aldermen authorization by February 26, 1979 or forfeit federal funding of \$250,000.00 obligated to this project.

In order to speed the Site Plan approval, it will be necessary for the Recreation Commission to: 1) vote approval of the Mayor's final application to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for Land and Water Conservation funds obligated to the City (\$250,000.00), 2) review and approve the initial design concept.

The Department is prepared to submit the initial design concept to the Recreation Commission at your earliest convenience.

Please find attached the Conceptual Design and a topography plan of Cold Spring Park.

CJT/go  
Enc.

COLD SPRING DEVELOPMENT

February 7, 1979

Cold Spring Park, consisting of approximately 65 acres, currently contains a picnic area and two softball diamonds. Development of the park will have a multiple effect upon the City of Newton.

As it is the most centrally located Recreation facility in the City, development would allow easy accessibility for all Newton residents. Entry into the park, by motor vehicles, will be easier for potential facility users and less problematic for the abutters, as the roadway will connect with Beacon Street rather than Dunklee Street.

Concern has always been great as to the condition of the land at Cold Spring. The planned development would provide a more aesthetic atmosphere for both active and passive recreation, furnishing the City with nature trails, a second life-course, and additional tennis, softball, baseball, soccer and picnic facilities.

The park has been used, in past years, as a second picnic area, able to accommodate larger groups than are allowed at the Auburndale Cove. However, Cold Spring has received far less use than Auburndale due to the lack of sanitary facilities and additional recreation activities. The proposed development would greatly enhance the existing picnic area and would supply adequate space for three to four hundred people.

Concurrent with refurbishing the picnic area, planned development would provide the City of Newton with much needed softball and soccer fields. The plan presently calls for the renovation of the two existing softball diamonds, the construction of a third softball field, one regulation and at least two youth soccer fields. With the increase in requests for soccer and softball, these additions will assist the Recreation Department in equitably allocating fields for use by Newton residents.

Tennis is an ever-growing sport. During the summer months, all of the Department's 67 tennis courts are in constant use. The plan for Cold Spring includes the construction of six tennis courts. These courts would be open to Newton residents, in addition to use by the area residents.

The development of Cold Spring Park is designed to meet the active and passive recreational needs of the Newton Community. When the area is developed it has the potential of becoming one of the finest multi-purpose facilities in the Metropolitan area.

COLD SPRING PARK STAGE I COST ESTIMATES

(ALTERNATIVE "B")

Quantity	Item	Cost per ( )	Total Item Cost	Pertinent Information
1	New Softball Field	\$10,000 (field)	10,000	No outfield fence - should include backstop and benches
1	Soccer/Football Field	\$35,000 (field)	35,000	Dual purpose goal posts needs loam and seed
2	Toilet Facilities	---	4,000	Stage I contemplates just running of sewer lines - no building
2	Bubblers	---	4,000	Stage I contemplates just running of water line - no fountains
1	Picnic area	---	20,000	1 all weather pavillion with large fireplace
1	Road	---	164,000	\$35,000 (1000' x 20' bituminous and grading) \$29,000 (1200' x 20' gravel roadway) \$100,000 (520' x 25' removal of peat and fill)
1	Parking Lot	\$30 cu. yd.	26,000	Grade, some fill needed
1	Culvert	---	15,000	Across Coldspring Brook near parking lot
1	Children's Play Area	\$ 8,000 (each)	8,000	Fill in small Improvement area (HAZARD) with fill preferably pea
1	Amphitheater	\$60,000 (each)	60,000	Entire excavation scar to be back-filled and landscaped in conjunction with Amphitheater Construction
1	Bicycle Bridge	\$ 7,000 (each)	7,000	300' long, 6' wide over peat will connect Beethoven School to park facilities



2	Storm Drain Additions	\$15 (Lin. Ft.)	8,200	1-80' length (20' under new road) 1-450' length (near Plymouth Rd.)
1	Existing Softball Field	---	3,000	Regrade right field may need fill.
4	Bike Paths	\$ 7 (sq. yd.)	29,000	1-400 sq.yds. Beethoven Avenue to Bicycle Bridge 1-1233 sq. yds. Winslow Rd. to Dunklee Street 1-733 sq. yds. Beaconwood Rd. to parking lot 1-1770 sq. yds. Plymouth to Wenham Rd.
-	Landscaping	---	6,000	Selective plantings & screening
20	Benches	\$200 (each)	4,000	Southern portion of Park
2	Sidewalks	\$12 (cu. yd.)	1,800	150 cu. yds.
2	Fieldstone Walls	100 (cu. yd)	35,000	350 cu. yds.
2	Signs	---	1,500	Beacon Street entrance and map of the park
	Park Design	---	18,500	Working drawings
2	Tennis Courts	20,000 (each)	40,000	

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ALTERNATIVE "B" STAGE I TOTAL:

500,000

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SPECIAL RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 7, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Paul J. Burke, Francis R. Rice, Herbert R. Bamel, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors included Jack Simmons of the Planning Department, who made the presentation on the Cold Spring Park, Fran Towle, Carol Stapleton and Sheila Balch of the Recreation Department, and at Commissioner Halloran's specific invitation, members of the Newton Highlands Area Council and Association, Angelo Nielson, Stan Fleischman and Paul Croce.

1. While this special meeting was called with regard to the possible development of Cold Spring Playground, Commissioner Halloran also said that he wanted the members of the Commission to know that Frank Fitzpatrick, a member of the Commission since July, 1971, had notified Mayor Mann by letter that he was resigning, due to the increasing heavy pressure of his business. The members said that they were sorry to have him leave and are looking forward to making a presentation to him at the next regular Commission meeting on February 26th. They asked the Commissioner to be sure Frank was present at this meeting.
2. Jack Simmons, (who this evening), replaced Bob Merriman due to illness, of the Planning and Development Department, generally known as the Planning Department, gave a presentation on plans for the Cold Spring area and included many visual displays showing details of this proposed development, as well as conceptual design and topography.

The Planning and Development Department is initiating the Site Plan approval process, according to Section 24-24 of the Zoning Ordinance as revised by Ordinance No. 644, for the development of Cold Spring Park.

The City of Newton must receive Board of Aldermen Authorization by February 26, 1979, (a request for an extension has been made), or forfeit Federal Funding of \$250,000.00, obligated to this project.

In order to speed the Site Plan approval, it will be necessary for the Recreation Commission to vote approval of the Mayor's final application to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for land and Water Conservation, (formerly known as Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, or B.O.R.), funds obligated to the City (\$250,000.00), 2) review and approve the initial design concept.

The Design Review Committee will be meeting next Thursday evening at the Library and this plan will go to them for their approval next, if Recreation approves.

The Commission members were provided with all pertinent figures from the Planning Department, as well as information to refresh memories that the development of this park had been originally planned and begun 13 years ago and that some funds for the acquisition of 10 additional acres of land in 1970 were provided by BOR. BOR is now pressing for further development since nothing further has been done, at this time, and funds for any City project may be withheld unless further development takes place soon at Cold Spring, as anticipated in this 65 acre park. In order to obtain reimbursement of the \$250,000.00 from federal funding, the City of Newton would initially have to appropriate \$500,000.00 for the project.

Briefly, and based upon the regional needs of the 1969 Open Space Study and the 1978 update, the Planning and Development Department recommends a City-wide park with areas for both passive and active recreation and including development of tennis courts, softball, soccer/football fields, picnic area, nature walks and footpaths and amphitheatre, a new access from the north side of the park, and some limited parking within the park. Development of Phase I is this present consideration.

Included in Phase I, in addition to field development and improvement of the existing fields, there will be running in of sewer lines for eventually anticipated sanitary facilities, a 30 car parking lot available to the Beaconwood access area, drainage and some landscaping, and this Phase will also include the working drawings of the design. (Access road from Beaconwood will be bituminous for approximately 1,000 feet, and gravel from there on to the parking area).

Judy Dean, Vice-Chairman of the Commission, said that although this park is partially located very close to the Newton Highlands Community, it is also geographically right in the center of Newton, and as such, it can be anticipated that use of the area will be City-wide. Judy Dean felt that the use of this area could present a problem as many people feel that Cold Spring is a private park and don't really look at it as a City-wide facility.

Members of Newton Highlands Community Organizations, Paul Croce, Angela Neilson and Stan Fleischman were all present and presented several of their concerns about the use of the playground. They are particularly worried about the heavy use of this area, which they feel is inevitable if developed. They feel that they do not want any roads into the park, nor parking available, since this will encourage many people to come into the area and possibly damage it's pastoral atmosphere. While they would enjoy tennis courts in the neighborhood, since there are none very close by, they would forego this pleasure, to limit impact of heavy use in the park. This group would also like to know if a Public Hearing will be held. (It will). The Newton Highlands Area Organization sent out questionnaires to area residents inviting them to respond to what use they felt would be appropriate to this area of Cold Spring Park. The general response seemed to be that they would prefer that it remain pretty much as it is at present, or in a natural state. Asked about lighting in the park, Paul Croce said that they object to additional lighting strongly and in fact, he would request that the Commission and Commissioner inform the local organization in writing that "there are no plans in the foreseeable future for additional lighting". As chairman of the Commission, Mr. Baker said, that this can certainly be done, but both Mr. Burke and Mr. Baker said that this would not, in any way, be binding in the future and could be amended at any time.

Following are some of the questions (and answers given), to the concerns of the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council and Association:

- Q. How will access into the park be handled?
- A. There will be a narrow gravel road, access from Beaconwood Road paved for approximately 1,000 feet. Present access at Dunklee will be closed for all except pedestrian traffic.

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- Q. What will the so-called "amphitheatre" be used for?
- A. This is difficult to say - but likely for theatricals, Arts in the Parks programs. (The area residents are apprehensive about "Rock Concerts" and object to \$60,000.00 being spent for something they don't really understand the purpose of).
- Q. Why will there be a road into the area and why parking area?
- A. To provide access into the area for Fire Department, Police Department, Recreation maintenance, as well as for program participants and also to avoid on street parking in Newton Highlands as has formerly occurred on Dunklee Road.
- Q. Can the neighborhood be assured that the tennis courts proposed will only be available to Newton Highlands residents?
- A. No, they would be for all Newton residents.
- Q. Can the Highlands be assured that picnic facilities developed in the park will not allow large picnic groups?
- A. No, the picnic area, however, will be limited to an appropriate number that can be comfortably accommodated according to the facilities available, as long as they are Newton residents.
- Q. Would it be possible to eliminate the alternative use of the proposed Soccer fields (football), apparently because of noise and also it seems that parents support soccer for their children rather than football?
- A. Not really, as soccer/football fields are interchangeable and used at different seasons without any change except for lining. The balance of the year while the fields were not used, they would be just open area and unmarked.
- Q. Once completed, who will be responsible for maintaining the facilities of the park?
- A. The Newton Recreation Department.

Both Paul Croce and Angela Neilson felt that any large parking area within the park or a blacktop roadway included in the plans, would bring a very strong note of protest from the area residents. Alternative to tennis courts, they suggest, is a Life Course. Jack Simmons of Planning felt that this change could be made before submitting the plans to the Design Review Committee next Thursday. Nelson Baker, in passing, said that it would be nice to have a jogging path around the perimeter of the park.

Since all information appeared to have been presented, Chairman Baker asked if a Commission member cared to make any motion upon the subject of the development of Cold Spring.

Mr. Paul Burke so moved that the Recreation Commission go on record as begin in favor of approval of the Mayor's final application to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for Land and Water Conservation funds obligated to the City and approval of the site plan defined in the letter of January 25, 1979, regarding the development of Cold Spring Park. He also included the recommendation to remove the proposed tennis courts and substitute the Life Course instead. Judy Dean seconded.

Discussion followed and Mr. Croce spoke up and suggested that the motion be changed to include his statement regarding the objection to lighting be included. It was also suggested that the motion include the recommendation that a rapid follow up of Phase II be made.

Mr. Burke said he did not want to include these in his motion and preferred that the motion remain as it was originally made. Mr. Baker called for a vote and it was so voted, as motioned by Mr. Burke, unanimously.

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Commissioner Halloran and Chairman Nelson Baker, on behalf of the Recreation Commission thanked Mr. Jack Simmons, for his excellent presentation and a motion was made to adjourn at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 19, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Jennie DeVito, Josephine Pepper. Member Emeritus, Mrs. Worthing L. West joined the group for this meeting and Carol Stapleton and Fran Towle of the Department were also present.

Meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 7:58 P.M. since Mrs. Pepper was delayed at another appointment and could not get there by 7:30 P.M.

1. Minutes of the February Commission meeting were approved as presented.
2. Reports on maintenance, programs were presented to all members.
3. (a) Commissioner Halloran reported that it has been an extremely busy winter season, skating is over for the year, with 30 days of skating taking place at the various outdoor areas. Indoor programs in the gyms, at the Nonantum Multi-Service Center, basketball leagues, badminton, Senior Adult programs and Special Needs programs, as well as the Arts in the Parks, have all been providing diversified programs in Recreation for every age and category.
- (b) Mr. Halloran also announced that Linda Plaut, the Recreation Cultural Arts Director and the inovator and administrator of the Arts in the Parks program, has been appointed by Governor King to be an Associate Commissioner with the Metropolitan District Commission. Linda will serve as one of four Commissioners. She is looking forward to these additional duties with pleasure and attended her first meeting last Thursday. The Legal Department of the City of Newton has determined that there will be no conflict of interest if Linda continues with the Recreation Department on her present contractual basis.
- (c) The Commissioner also updated the members on Jim Murphy who recently suffered a slight stroke. Jim was in the Deaconess Hospital for approximately 10 days and has now been moved to a terrific facility in Woburn that has a wonderful rehabilitation program, and he will be working with them for 4 or 5 weeks. Mr. Halloran said that he had visited Jim this past week and is impressed with the progress he has made already. The name of the facility is the New England Rehabilitation Hospital and Jim's room number is 318, and he would enjoy visitors during the visiting hours of 1:00 to 8:00 P.M.
- (d) Mr. Halloran reminded all the members present that the Testimonial Dinner for Joe Taranto, retiring Foreman after 30 years with the City of Newton, will be held April 6th at Hillcrest, and that tickets are still available until the end of next week.
- (e) Copies of the Cold Spring development plans and proposal presented to the Aldermen by the Planning Department were enclosed in the Commission folders this evening. This proposal was approved first by the Finance and Planning Committees of the Board of Aldermen and then approved by a 20 to 0 vote of the full Board and \$500,000.00 will be a bond issue for this work with a 50% reimbursment to be made by the Environmental Affairs of the Federal Government, Commissioner Halloran reported.

- (f) Mr. Halloran also told the Commission that the Board of Aldermen have appropriated an additional \$30,000.00 for the continuing improvements at Crystal Lake in the building and for the sun deck to be constructed on top of the present bathhouse.
- (g) Report on Edmands Park meeting. Concerned citizens of the area have formed a group named "Pep" which stands for People for Edmands Park. Basically, what the groups goal is, is to clean the area and make it asthetically pleasing to the neighborhood. Officials of the City and the Park Commission members were invited to attend this meeting to respond to questions on the area. Mr. Halloran said that he attended.
- (h) Novitiate Property - After meeting with Alan Schlesinger of the Combined Jewish Philanthophies, Commissioner Halloran received a letter from Mr. Norman B. Leventhal recapping the proposed use of the Novitiate lands, by both Recreation and the Combined Jewish Philanthrophies in a somewhat similar manner that the School Department and Recreation currently share facilities. The times available to Recreation would be approximately 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. on some weekdays and some time on weekends - probably Saturday. It is also anticipated that they will handle the necessary maintenance for the fields. More information on this proposed use in the future.
4. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Present Chairman Nelson Baker turned the meeting over to Commissioner Halloran for the duration of the election. In accordance with the rules and regulations as established by the Commission on June 21, 1971, an announcement of the yearly election is made to the members at the February meeting and the election takes place each March.
- Renominated and re-elected by unanimous vote of the Commission were both Nelson S. Baker, Chairman and Judith Dean, Vice-Chairman.
5. Consideration of the 1979 Outdoor Tennis Rules and Regulations: Proposed, printed rules and regulations were provided to each Board member. The only 2 real changes from the rules of the 1978 year are the inclusion of new tennis courts at the old Stearns School site and the change of time of reservations at North and South from 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. These rules are proposed on the recommendation through Mr. Halloran, of Jim McLaughlin and Ed Fraktman, who have worked closely with the tennis needs and desires of the City of Newton over an extended period of time.
- On a motion by Judy Dean, seconded by Francis Rice, it was unanimously voted to accept the rules for the 1979 Outdoor Tennis season as proposed.
6. Water Show invitation to all members: A final exhibit of skills will be presented by both Staff and pupils of the swim classes at Newton North High on April 7th.
7. Consideration of a request for a permit for a Carnival to be held by St. Jean's, (St. John the Evangelist), Commissioner Halloran explained that he had received a letter from the Pastor of St. Jean's on Watertown Street, and Harold G. Arsenault, who is Chairman of parish activities. They have requested the use of Allison Park for a carnival on Wednesday, June 6th to June 11th.

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This week, Commissioner Halloral spoke with both Father LeBrun and Mr. Arsenault at the Department office, and explained to them that it would be necessary to bring this request to the Recreation Commission for their consideration. It has not been the policy to allow carnivals on City playgrounds, except for one exception where the Annual Carnival has been held by the St. Mary of Carmen Society, and this is based upon the fact that this is a religious and ethnic Holiday and Festival. They make their request each year and are granted a permit each separate year and have to adhere to the rules and regulations set down by both the Recreation Department and the Police Department.

A carnival held by St. Jean's in the past has been located on their own grounds. This year, the Planning Department of the City of Newton informed them that this would not be allowed. Therefore, they will make this request for Allison Park.

Father LeBrun and Mr. Arsenault also visited the Mayor with regard to this question as they also want to hold a fireworks display in conjunction with the carnival. The Mayor indicated that he would like to limit any carnival to not more than 4 days and that in the interests of safety, he wants all mechanical rides strictly limited to small rides - in other words - no ferris wheel or high rides.

Commissioner Halloran and Mr. Arsenault met again late this afternoon and Mr. Halloran has suggested that they come to the Recreation Commission meeting on April 23rd to present their request to the Commission.

After discussing this subject at some length, the Commission all agreed that upon the recommendation of the Commissioner, that a "policy" be established, not only for this request, but to encompass any which are presented in the future. Assuming that the Mayor has no objections to the application, the person must apply to the Recreation Commission for approval of their request.

At this Recreation Commssion meeting, it was voted unanimously that the following policy shall go into immediate effect:

"As a policy matter concerning a request to this Commission or Department, for a carnival purpose in this City, that it be with the understanding that the Recreation Commission, has, this date, established a policy that any such carnival shall not employ the use of big rides, (such as Ferris Wheel), and that the duration of a carnival shall not exceed 4 days, (not counting setting up and taking down); small rides shall be designed for children to be visable, and that no fireworks be allowed without the express permission of the appripriate City of Newton official. Furthermore, that all rides be subject to the inspection by our own City officials, and that the vendor be required to provide a mechanical engineer to certify the safety of these rides"

8. Since there was no new business to be considered, it was voted to adjourn this meeting at 9:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 23, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Jenny DeVito, Howard Ferguson, Paul J. Burke, Herbert R. Bamel and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

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

1. Minutes of March meeting accepted as presented.
2. Reports on maintenance, programs and Commissioner's report of meetings and activities and Commissioner's report: Mr. Halloran reported that rain had held some of the Spring maintenance work back, since they couldn't work on the fields, but things are gradually drying, and Little League fields will be ready for Spring opening this coming Saturday. Cold Spring development appears to be going ahead through the Planning Department and their request for federal funding, Rich Griffin of that Department, has informed Commissioner Halloran.
  - a. Mr. Halloran reported that Jim Murphy came home from the Rehabilitation Hospital where he has been undergoing intensive therapy after his trip to the hospital -all together a period of 8 weeks. Everyone wishes him good health after this illness. The dedication of the North Little League field, in his honor, will take place this next Saturday at noon, and he plans to be present.
  - b. April 6th, Commissioner Halloran reported, was the date for the very festive retirement dinner tended Joe Taranto, retiring Foreman of the Department. Joe is planning to now live at York Beach in Maine.
  - c. St. Jean's Parish has notified Commissioner Halloran by letter that they have decided to withdraw their request for a permit to hold a carnival on Allison Playground.
  - d. The request for the annual festival permit from the St. Mary of Carmen Society has been made by Nunzio Leone. They have been informed of the policy set by the Commission and also that no big rides can be allowed, and that the actual carnival time - not including taking down and putting up will be limited to 4 days. This will be from July 12th to July 15th. Mr. Halloran also noted that he expected to meet with the Society representative and the carnival operator, some time in May.

In accordance with this request, Mr. Ferguson moved, and it was so voted unanimously, that the request for the permit be granted subject to the rules and regulations and restrictions and that the carnival operations be limited to the 4 day rule and that there be no big rides.
  - e. Commissioner Halloran provided to each member, his recommended rules and regulations for each of the outdoor, summer swim areas at Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. He also said that in the interest of energy conservation, the pool will not be heated this summer season and that it will close on Labor Day. Jean Cole will be the manager as she was last year. At Crystal Lake, Jim McLaughlin will be manager.

On a motion by Mr. Rice, seconded by Ms. Dean, it was unanimously voted to approve the recommended rules and regulations as presented, for the 1979 outdoor swim season.
  - f. Commission members have also been notified that swim lesson registration for both Crystal Lake (at Hyde School on May 15th and 17th), and Gath Pool (at Mason-Rice on May 8th and 10th), from 3 to 6 P.M. both days will take place.

9. Budget date for Recreation Department, has not been set as yet due to pending Legislation by the State on the Governor's recommended tax cap.. As soon as he is notified by the City Clerk's Office as to date, he will immediately contact Commission members, Mr. Halloran said.

3. Park Commission - Gene Blumenrich, member: Generally inactive, this organization has rarely met over the past years. There has been, apparently very little interest. Mr. Blumenrich was the only member present.

At the request of the Park Commission, a meeting of that organization was held at the Recreation Department. At that time Mr. Blumenrich and Mr. Lurensky, a past member attended. None of the other members came. At that meeting, they considered the possibility of combining with the Recreation Commission as a sort of advisory group. Since most towns and cities around have combined Parks and Recreation Departments, this would appear to be the logical sequence.

A rather ethereal organization, it does not appear to be defined by ordinance, although State Statute recognizes and authorizes Park Commission expertise but it does not have any budget, and therefore cannot function beyond an advisory capacity.

With an awareness of the problems confronting the Park Commission, Commissioner Halloran has strongly recommended to Mayor Mann, that the Park Commission become a part of the Recreation Commission. Combined, this would be the Newton Recreation and Park Department.

Mr. Blumenrich said that while there was little interest from the group, there would appear to be 3 alternatives: (1) Phase out of business? (2) Combine with Recreation Commission as an advisory group? (3) Park Commission take over the beautification roles - planting and beautifying open spaces in the City?

While there appeared to be no ready answer, Commissioner Halloran said that Recreation would not be willing to take on additional responsibility of more area without more funds and the Park Commission does not have any funds.

Mr. Burke suggested that this problem was an Administration matter and that there appeared to be several departments involved and that it might be wise to involve all of these - Recreation, Public Works, Planning, under the leadership of his Honor the Mayor. Continued discussion, at present is pointless, since nothing can be accomplished at this point.

No further action would be necessary at this time since the Commissioner has already made a recommendation to the Mayor. The Commission will simply wait to hear what next transpires.

4. New Business:

- A. Mr. Rice inquired as to how the Department goes about posting a playground in order to halt the use of the playgrounds and recreation areas being used as dog runs with resultant excreta in areas where children and adults gather.

Several suggestions resulted in response to this complaint. Since there is a dog leash law in Newton - notify Police Department; post more signs to make people aware that this is not acceptable; and talk with Chief Quinn and enlist his aid

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with the problem and finally to inform people through a news release from the Department of the health hazards inherent in this situation.

- B. May Commission meeting. Chairman Nelson S. Baker will not be available. Vice-Chairman Judy Dean will chair this meeting.
- C. Softball games vs Board of Aldermen will be scheduled after budgets are completed.
- D. Reminder that the 7th Annual Spring Fest will be held at City Hall on May 20th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 21, 1979

Present: Acting Chairperson, Judy Dean, Paul J. Burke, Jenny DeVito, Howard Ferguson, Josephine Pepper, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

(Commissioner Halloran was unable to attend this meeting due to a death in the family, and Chairman Nelson Baker was unable to attend due to a serious illness in his family). Vice-Chairperson Judy Dean chaired this meeting in the absence of Mr. Baker, and Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, represented Mr. Halloran at this meeting.

1. Minutes of the April Commission meeting were accepted after including Mr. Ferguson's name in the roster of those in attendance.
2. Reports on maintenance and programs were distributed to members.
3. Miss Towle, representing Mr. Halloran, Commissioner, reported that the recent Spring Fest activities, which had been scheduled for outdoors on Sunday, at City Hall, had been moved indoors due to rain. In spite of rain and cramped quarters, everything went very well and his Honor the Mayor, was to be congratulated on his kindness in suggesting this event move indoors under the circumstances.

Softball and baseball leagues are all in progress and crews are working constantly lining and caring for ball fields which get extremely heavy use at this time of the year.

Preparations are going forward for the summer playground and swim season. At present, we are awaiting the finalization of the Recreation budget which should be going to the full Board of Aldermen before too long. It would seem, so far, that the budget as presented by the Commissioner, has a good chance of funding, since both Human Services Committee and the Finance Committee as well as the Mayor have reviewed it favorably.

4. Distributed to all members present were copies of the Spring Recreation brochure, Special Needs and Arts in the Parks brochures, as well as both Crystal Lake and Gath Pool brochures and schedules.
5. Summer Plans: Miss Towle informed everyone that while the Department is still awaiting finalization of the Departmental budget, plans are continuing for the summer playground programs and for orientation and training for the leaders who will be working for the Department this year. Anticipated this year will be the new area for the Orientation and Training program, which will be held for the first time at the Newton Arts Center on Washington Park in Newtonville. Dates for this program will be tentatively June 25th and 26th, since school will be out a week earlier than originally anticipated, since there was less snow this winter than last, and schools were not dismissed for "snow days". Playgrounds will open on June 27th. Crystal Lake will open on June 16th and Gath Pool a week earlier on June 9th. North High pool will not be available this summer at all.
6. Reminder that the Mayor's Annual Prayer Breakfast will be held on May 24th at Boston College at 7:45 A.M. Reservations can be made with Marge Lesbirel, Secretary

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7. St. Mary of Carmen Society Carnival, planned for Nonantum: While Commissioner Halloran has been in close contact with the Society's representative, Nunzio Leone and the carnival operator, and has communicated to them the rules and regulations set down by the City and the Recreation Department for this carnival. They are making an effort to have an exemption from the 4 day operation rule and also to have larger rides than approved. With this in mind, Commissioner Halloran arranged to have their legal authority meet with the legal department of the City of Newton to categorize rides, also their insurance liability.

Some of the representatives arrived this evening, but were unsure of their presentation, so met with Carol Stapleton in the corridor.

Meanwhile, Mr. Paul Burke asked Jenny DeVito, Commission member from that Ward 1 area, if she had been contacted and also if she felt that the 4 day limit would impose any hardship on the group. She said that no one had contacted her about the carnival and she didn't feel that the 4 day limit would hurt the actual religious festival, but it might effect the financial profits of the carnival.

Mr. Burks, and Miss Stapleton both felt it would be adviseable to table this item for tonight and suggested that a meeting be set up with Commissioner Halloran. This was agreeable to everyone there.

8. New Business: No new business was presented. However, the Commission was informed that construction at Crystal Lake will continue during the summer swim season - which everyone is very interested in.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 25, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Herbert R. Bamel, Francis Rice and Jenny DeVito and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

(Visitors included Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Stapleton, Supervisor)

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Baker at 7:55 P.M.

1. Minutes of May meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of maintenance, programs and Commissioner's reports of activities and meetings were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner's report: Mr. Halloran reported briefly on how well Pat Forte, Recreation Foreman, who took over from Joe Taranto, recently retired - has been doing since he began in April. We have been working with some pretty old equipment, but bids have recently been opened on some new equipment. Bids covered 2 GMC Trucks, chassis for the "Pup", a new Special Needs and Senior Citizen Van and 2 sedans, all equipment to contain 2-way radios in communication with the Public Works Control Center. This way, these vehicles can be in touch at all times, to insure safety in any emergency.

The Commissioner reported that he was extremely pleased with new Special Needs Director, Gary Hofstetter, who has been doing a super job and is very efficient and very interested in the participants of his programs. He also complimented Diane Dragoff who coordinates the Senior Citizen programs, and is doing such a fine job.

In relation to playground use at Auburndale, Mr. Burke mentioned that he was concerned about unauthorized vehicles entering and parking on the field at Auburndale. This occurred recently during the permitted Antique Auto Show, which has been held annually at Auburndale when trucks or trailers that brought vehicles there for the show, drove onto the field area and parked. Since there is a large parking lot there, there is no reason for them to go onto the field. Commissioner Halloran agreed that if in the future, a permit is granted for this activity, it should be noted that they are not go to onto the field but should restrict their parking of non-show vehicles to the regular parking lot.

Mr. Halloran reported that the young son of Edward Costanzo of the Recreation Department Maintenance division had been killed in a recent tragic accident, but that Mr. Costanzo had returned to work today.

The Commissioner also said that he attended a retirement function for Ruth Fraiser and Bob Gately, of the Athletic Department of the Newton schools, this past week.

4. Request from George's Packers, Touch Football: Kevin Marden, Captain of the Packers, has requested that the team be allowed to host the Eastern Regional Touch Football Tournament again this year at the Albemarle Field. The Tournament is scheduled for September 7th, 8th and 9th.

Mr. Burke so moved, and it was voted unanimously that this request be approved.

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5. Outcome of meetings with regard to St. Mary of Carmen Society request for carnival permit: After several meetings with those concerned about the extension of time permitted for the carnival, a meeting was held with Mayor Mann and the carnival principles who requested extra time in order to make the affair profitable, also included in the meeting were the Recreation Department, the Legal Department to insure that they approved rides requested and adequate insurance, and Alan Fraser, Building Commissioner and Jenny DeVito, Ward 1 Commission member. The outcome of this meeting was to allow 5 days for the carnival operation, plus the set up and take down, as requested. The carnival operator will guarantee additional insurance coverage as required, also to ensure no liability to the City of Newton, in case of accident.

All agreements and rules and regulations governing the operation of the carnival will be in writing and agreed upon and signed by the principles.

Recreation Commission member, Jenny DeVito, of <sup>W</sup>ard 1 and a concerned resident of the area of the carnival, complimented Commissioner Halloran for all of the work and effort he has put into perpetuating the tradition of the carnival in Nonantum. Mrs. DeVito invited all of the Commission members to come to Nonantum for the religious procession, which she said was the climax of the carnival on Sunday, and is carried out in torch light and is most impressive.

6. Opening of Gath Pool and Crystal Swim Areas: Gath Pool opened June 9th and Crystal the following weekend. Mr. Halloran said that the contractors are continuing the scheduled work at the area and are anticipating early Fall as a finishing date for Crystal renovations.

Mr. Halloran also said that possibly this same area could conceivably be used for oafter school programs if Recreation was unable to continue the evening school use due to increasingly higher costs of custodial charges.

7. Playground Orientation and openings: Due to the earlier closing of schools this year since no "snow days" were used, the Department revised their plans and will open a week earlier than originally planned. Orientation for playground leaders took place today and will continue tomorrow at the Newton Arts Center on Washington Park in Newtonville. Playgrounds will open for the season on Wednesday, June 27th. Sheila Balch was in charge of arranging the orientation session this year, and Jim Murphy spoke with such charm and warmth that he received a standing ovation today from the entire group.

8. Budget report: The Recreation budget, Commissioner Halloran reported, has now been approved for the upcoming year after some worrisome days when the Aldermanic Board appeared to have knocked out \$930,000.00. This was reconsidered and reinstored so nothing will be deleted with the exception of the Capital Improvement program which remains zero.

It is hoped that in accordance with a 50% funding from the Government, it will be possible to develop the Cold Spring area. All necessary papers are on file, but response to this request is not really anticipated until Fall.

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9. New Business:

- a. Commission member, Jenny DeVito, inquired how much money was being saved this year by not heating Gath Pool and the Commissioner said it would come to about \$10,000.00, saving on the gas needed to heat the pool for the season. A really worthwhile savings.
- b. Commissioner Halloran reminded all of those present that, at their request, as in the past there would be no regular meeting of the Commission during the summer months of July and August.
- c. The Commission was informed that the request for the Senior Citizen Picnic this year had been made by Mr. Anthony Pelligrini. Commissioner Halloran has asked that the request including whether it is to be a public vs private party, is to be made to the Department in writing. He has also recommended that the affair, if approved, be held in September when it should be cooler and more enjoyable for the seniors who take part in this annual affair.
- d. Chairman of the Commission, Nelson S. Baker, said that again this year, the Recreation Commission and Department remained undefeated in their annual softball game vs the Aldermen recently held at Albemarle Field.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M. (Next regular meeting September 17th)

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

September 17, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Resigning Vice-Chairman Judy Dean, Howard Ferguson, Herbert Bamel, Paul Burke, Josephine Pepper, Jennie DeVito and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors from the Recreation Department were: Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, Senior Citizen Director, Diane Dragoff, Special Needs Director, Gary Hofstetter, Arts in the Parks Director, Linda Plaut and Supervisor Sheila Balch.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nelson Baker at 7:35 P.M.

At the invitation of Commissioner Halloran, Walter S. Bernheimer, appointed by Mayor Mann, (not as yet confirmed by the Board of Aldermen), to replace resigning Judy Dean - who has moved out of Newton, came to this meeting to get acquainted.

1. Minutes of June Commission meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of programs, maintenance, etc., distributed to all members prior to meeting.

The Commissioner reported that this past summer had been a really super summer in spite of extreme heat at times, and very high humidity. Programs for every age were provided through playgrounds, Arts in the Parks, special trips and programs, for senior adults, and a particularly active summer program for Special Needs, both children and adults.

Commissioner Halloran said that the Department, this year, had been especially fortunate in having the very interested and qualified Director of Special Needs, Gary Hofstetter. His interest and concern in Special Needs and the development of programs for all ages is becoming known throughout the State, Mr. Halloran said.

This year, the senior adults, under the able direction of Diane Dragoff, and her able assistant, Barbara Burns, have had a particularly active summer program, since this year for the first time, they have been able to devote the summer season to programs of this type, rather than spending the summer in crafts as has been necessary in the past. A cooperative venture between senior adults and special needs was a joint summer brochure. This was most attractive and very well received.

Of course, one of the outstanding programs put on annually by Recreation through Arts in the Parks is the musical show. This year, the production was "MyFair Lady", performed at Newton South High School and under the direction of Tom Leonard. Linda Plaut, Director of Arts in the Parks commented that the production was striking with good performance, terrific costumes and scenery - most of which was done "in house" by the young people themselves and their parents.

Through the media of colored slides taken this summer, Linda Plaut gave the Commission a recap of not only the Arts in the Parks

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programs through this past summer, but a little of everything else through the Recreation Department's Spring and Summer programs.

Mr. Halloran thanked the entire staff that had worked so hard this summer to make all programs a success including those people present, Linda, Gary and Diane.

3. Resignation of Vice-Chairman, Judy Dean: Judy earlier wrote to both the Mayor and Commissioner Halloran reluctantly resigning from the Commission due to the fact that she was moving outside the City.

Judy had been invited to attend the meeting this evening and was presented with a token of admiration from the Commission at this time - a marble desk set and pen, inscribed with her name and her service on the Commission.

Replacing Judy in Ward 5, Mayor Mann has nominated Walter Bernheimer, who is currently awaiting approval by the honorable Board of Aldermen. Meanwhile, Commissioner Halloran has invited him to join the group for meetings and discussions and he was present this evening.

4. Jane Pitt testimonial: The recent resignation of Jane Pitt, Executive Assistant to Mayor Mann, who left to take another position with the Department of Mental Health, was finalized by a farewell party at the Chesterbrook in Waltham and attended by many of her friends and associates. It was well attended and a good time was had by all. A small gift was presented to Ms. Pitt on the evening of the celebration, September 7th.

5. Report on Jim Murphy: The most recent report on Jim's recovery is that he is now going to the New England Rehabilitation Center in Woburn for intensive therapy. This should prove to be a very positive advance on his way home from his recent sickness and ordeal. His courage never falters and everyone wishes him well.

6. New Business:

- A. A report from Community School Commission member Carol Stapleton who represents the Recreation Department. Ms. Stapleton delivered to each Commission member a complete report of the Commission as it was provided. No action was taken, since this was a report rather than any recommendation for action to the Recreation Commission.

- B. Next Recreation Commission meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on October 15th at the City Hall as usual.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

October 15, 1979

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Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson Baker, Messers. Paul Burke, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Walter S. Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors: Deputy Commissioner Fran Towle and a group of 5 Mt. Ida Junior College students and Supervisor Carol Stapleton. Another pleasant group of visitors were the three young sons of Commission member Jennie DeVito.

1. Minutes of the September meeting of the Commission were accepted as circulated.
2. Commissioner's reports, maintenance report and program reports were distributed to all members. Commissioner Halloran commented that while September used to be the slow month for the Recreation Department when the Supervisors could finally go on vacation after the busy summer, this no longer held true, particularly in maintenance. Spring fields have to be made ready, soccer is a big program now and all soccer fields are in full use, touch football games are ongoing and the schools are utilizing athletic fields. (All members were also provided with the newly printed Fall and Winter brochures tonight).
3. Report on Harvest Fair, held October 14th; in spite of the fact that this event was held on an extremely cold, raw and hazy day, Linda Plaut the Coordinator, still managed to successfully bring together 100 booths, combining a variety of arts and crafts, as well as a good representation of Newton organizations. This is the 5th year of this successful event which the Recreation Department took over from the Bicentennial Committee. It was again held on the Newton Centre Greene.
4. North High programs begin; on October 3rd, North High recreation programs under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department from 7 to 10 P.M., Monday through Friday, and pretty much all day Saturday and Sunday began. Pool, gyms, running track, weight room and tennis courts are available to Newton residents with current photo I.D. cards. At present, there are about 17,000 citizens of Newton holding these cards.

A problem which exists is storage and offices. Commissioner Halloran has arranged to meet soon with Mr. Meecham, Principal of North High, to see if something could be worked out, particularly for some office area, since we have an enlarged program.

Starting tonight, the co-director will be a member of the permanent full time Recreation staff, and will be shared by Sheila Balch and Jim McLaughlin, both full time staff. This will reflect in a budget savings to the Department.

Members of the Commission were also informed that any I.D. over 3 years old must now be replaced. They were also told about the Master's Swim Program which will be going on at North on the second Sunday in November. Basically an older group of over 50 years of age swimmers, they are considering a team to swim competitively.

In addition to these groups, there will be a 50 mile race at the indoor track at Newton North, sponsored by the NEAA. This will begin at 9:00 A.M. on the 18th of November and will represent 200 laps around the track.

Another race outdoors, will be the February 10th, Garden City Marathon. If anything like last year, a cold, cold day can be anticipated for this run.

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5. Election of Vice-Chairperson: Chairman Nelson Baker suggested that this be delayed until all voting members were present and all were agreeable to this. It will be placed on the next month's agenda.

New Business

1. Report on Jim Murphy who is convalescing from surgery: Both Commissioner Halloran and Paul Burke reported that Jim is in good spirits and thinking about coming home from the N.E. Rehabilitation Center in Woburn, where he has been since advancing from the New England Deaconess Hospital about 2 weeks ago. He would be glad to have visitors and is in room 319.
2. Vandalism: Commissioner Halloran reported that recently the Department has experienced some vandalism at Newton Highlands Playground where vandals have ripped off steps to a building and pulled down the goal posts on the football field. A car was driven by someone over the Cabot field, but did little damage luckily.
3. Halloween Parties at schools: Six elementary schools will be having various evening parties, and there will be a dance for Junior and Senior high school students on a separate evening.
4. Nonantum Multi-Service Center: Fran Towle, who for the past 2 years, has been the liason between the Recreation Department and this service, has been working to obtain additional funding, either through a continuation of the CETA contract or through use of Community Development Funds, which are available for work of this particular type for senior citizens of the community. CETA funds would end as of March 30th. This group anticipates being incorporated as a non-profit organization very shortly, also.
5. Reminder that eligibility rules will be considered for all sports leagues at the November Commission Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 19, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Herbert R. Bamel, Jenny DeVito, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Visitors included Deputy Commissioner Fran Towle and 5 students from Mt. Ida Junior College, and Supervisor Carol Stapleton.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Baker at 7:37 P.M.

1. Minutes of October Meeting were accepted as presented.
2. Reports of programs, maintenance and Commissioner's reports were distributed to all members.

Commissioner Halloran reported that last Sunday, a very successful NE A.A.U. 50 mile indoor road race was held on the track at Newton North High, (200 laps). There were 27 entrants and this included both men and women. Mr. Halloran thanked Carol Stapleton and her staff at North for making the event the success that it was. He also mentioned that there were also some "race walkers", who traveled 25 miles during this same period. Mr. Halloran also expressed his appreciation to the Newton Red Cross who had volunteers present, and to Police Officer Bob Braceland, who was also present.

Nelson Baker, Chairman, who is always interested in foot racing and who was present on Sunday also, stated that one gentleman ran this 50 mile race on his 50th birthday.

Mr. Halloran said that the Newton Youth Soccer program planned to have their annual award presentation on December 11th at Newton North High School in the cafeteria, and someone would represent the Recreation Department at this event.

Pictures were taken of the Commission at this time also.

3. Election of Vice-Chairperson; (to replace resigned Judy Dean). Herbert R. Bamel was nominated and unanimously elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of the Commission at this time.
4. Annual Review of Recreation sports League eligibility rules: Each member present was provided with a full report, not only of the rules, but details of all league participation of residents and non-residents, as is done each year. Commissioner Halloran said that all seemed to be working smoothly, and he recommended no changes at this time.  
Mr. Bamel moved and Mrs. DeVito seconded, with a unanimous vote of the Commission, that the league eligibility rules remain the same and that they be reviewed again next year at this same time, as usual.
5. Report on Budget meeting with Executive Department: Commissioner Halloran met with the New Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, Jim Hickey, and Al DiGregorio, Budget Analyst. Again this year, the budget will be a zero-based and any cost of living Union raises will, of necessity, have to be absorbed in the budget. The Commissioner anticipates presenting the Recreation Department budget to the Commission and Chairman in early January.
6. Halloween parties report: Over the years, less interest by parents and PTA's have gradually reduced current evening school Halloween parties to Franklin, Lincoln-Eliot, Hyde, Davis, Memorial/Spaulding Schools and Special Needs participants who had a party at the Newton Centre Hut. Those parties that were held were a big success with several hundred children participating.

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7. Report on Jim Murphy's progress: Jim is now home at his new home in Waban at 69 Karen Road. He is doing extremely well, the Commissioner reports, and would probably be delighted to have visitors - just call first 244-6802. Jim plans to attend the North High Sports Award Banquet to be held shortly at the school.

8. New Business

A. Annual holiday function for Department: Commissioner Halloran reported that on the recommendation of his staff, that due to the hectic holiday schedule for everyone that instead of a party in December, it might be advisable to have another function during the slower period of the winter, in January or February.

Commission members just wanted to be sure that the Department retirees would be notified since they look forward to this annual affair. (They will be notified either by letter or telephone and a holiday card will also be sent to each one).

B. Soccer program parking in Waban: The soccer coaches have all been notified that it is imperative that parking for practices or games at Lincoln Field in Waban, on Montclair Street, be strictly limited to the resident side - not on the playground side. This is in the interests of safety for participants and also in case of fire in order to provide access for apparatus. The Department has requested the cooperation of all participants and their parents.

C. Mr. Bamel reported that he has been appointed to the Mayor's Citizen's Advisory Committee on Physical Fitness through the School Department.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

jfd

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 19, 1979

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Francis J. Rice and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nelson at 7:50 P.M.

1. Minutes of November meeting accepted as circulated. Mr. Baker gave the Commission additional information from the New England Assoc. of the Amateur Athletic Union - which is listed below and is the entrants and results of the NEAAU 40 kilometer race walking shcmpionship, also on November 18, 1979.

This combination of events was held indoors on the track at Newton North High Athletic facility which was under the jurisdiction of the Newton Recreation Department.

50 Mile Championship      24 Starters: Fred Brown Sr. NEAAAU LD Chairman

1. George Gardiner	37 Frontrunner AC	5:55:26
2. Park Barner	Enda, Pa.	6:12:03
3. Mike Kerins	44 No. Medford Club	6:17:26
4. Gerry Beagan	33 Frontrunner AC	6:46:03
5. Jack Richardson	38 No. Medford Club	6:54:51
6. Ron Kmiec	37 No. Medford Club	6:56:06
7. Fred Robbins	52 No. Medford Club	7:23:49
8. Richard Israel	50 Unat	7:41:56
9. James McGuire	Falmouth TC	7:53:16
10. Diane McLaughlin	31 CSU	8:01:28
11. Brad Weinberg	21 Unat	8:20:38
12. David Peabody	50 Greenwich County RR	9:18:16

40 Kilometer Race Waling Championship

1. George Lattarulo	No. Medford Club	4:08:47
2. Tony Medeiros	Lowell VFW	4:33:38
3. Ralph Cardarelli	No. Medford Club	4:52:49

At this time, State Representative David Cohen, who was present, was invited by both Commissioner Halloran and Chairman Nelson S. Baker to describe the proposed plan which Mayor Mann has suggested to acquire the Chestnut Hill Country Club through the use of State Funds which would also include home construction on the rim of the site. The course would then be considered a municipal golf course. In addition to golf, there would also be tennis and an area for cross country skiing, Mr. Cohen noted. His suggestion to the members was, if they felt that this acquisition to City facilities would be of benefit, that a letter be sent to the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, John Bewick, indicating their support of the plan.

After reading over the information and hearing Representative Cohen's presentation and also after hearing Commissioner Halloran say that in talking with the Mayor on this subject, it was his understanding that the facility once acquired would be sub-leased and a professional or other group, contracted to run the 18 hole golf course.

Mr. Ferguson then motioned - with Mr. Burke seconding, that the Recreation Commission go on record in support of the acquisition of the Chestnut Hill Country Club area, by the City of Newton, for recreation purposes. So voted unanimously. It was also suggested that a letter be sent indicating this support by the Commission to John Bewick, Secretary of Environmental Affairs and Commissioner Halloran said that he would have this done on the next business day.

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2. Reports of programs, maintenance and Commissioner's activities and Commissioner's reports: These reports were all distributed to all members as usual. Mr. Halloran said that the football season ended for both North and South Highs with the final games on Thanksgiving. Soccer too has finished up.

The Commissioner reported that the Department is in dire need of additional storage here at the Auburndale area since we lost storagespace at Crafts Street and at the Auburndale Yard when it closed.

So far, to the relatively mild weather, we have not had ice for skating. Mr. Halloran is hoping that by Christmas or over the holidays ice will become available for skating.

3. Newton Youth Hockey Annual Report - John Stewart, President: To help the Association with ice, since the Recreation Department does not have any ice rinks, they are again asking for \$12,000.00 to help defray cost of ice. Mr. Halloran told them that he would include in current budget requests the amount of \$12,500.00. Of course, this amount is subject to change until the final approval of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and providing the Commission indicates their approval this evening.

Mr. Burke congratulated Mr. Stewart on his presentation and made a motion to recommend that \$12,500.00 be included for ice time for the Newton Youth Hockey Association in the Recreation Department budget this coming year - it was so voted unanimously.

Mr. Baker also requested that the Recreation Department be included in the Youth Hockey mailing list so the Department will have up to date information on programs and happenings.

4. Presentation of recommended budget for the Recreation Department for the Fiscal Year 1980-81: Commissioner Halloran arranged to have a complete budget compiled and presented to each member of the Commission in notebook form as he recommended it.

The Commissioner then went over the complete budget with the Commission, responding to any questions they had on any of the figures or programs. He also told them that possibly this would not be a firm budget until as late as May, due to energy questions and the Governor's 4% tax cap.

Paul Burke moved - with Mr. Rice seconding, that the Commissioner's recommended budget for the Recreation Department be accepted as presented, and it was so moved unanimously.

5. Correction of January Commission meeting date from Januarh 14th to January 21st, was called to the attention of all members.
6. Commissioner Halloran told the group that at the January 21st Commission meeting, an update of the 1969 "Open Space" report will be made.
7. New Business

A. Commissioner Halloran reported that the Lower Falls Improvement Association has requested that the Recreation Department take over the leadership at the Hamilton School.

A meeting has been planned at the Newton Recreation Department office on next Wednesday evening. Alderpersons Carol Ann Shea, Don Budge and Dick McGrath will attend, plus other interested members of the community.

Commissioner Halloran noted that no current Recreation budget funds are available for this program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 21, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Jenny DeVito, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors present were Deputy Commissioner Fran Towle, Recreation Supervisor, Carol Stapleton and Director of Special Needs, Gary Hofstetter. Helen Heyn was also here.

Since the Recreation Commission Chairman, Nelson S. Baker was ill, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel chaired this meeting which began at 8:00 P.M.

1. Minutes of December meeting were unanimously accepted as presented.
2. Copies of all maintenance reports, reports of programs and Commissioner's activities were provided to all members.

Commissioner Halloran presented a copy of the new and up to date report on Summary of Programs provided by the Newton Recreation Department.

Paul Burke congratulated him, not only for this report, but also on the seasonal brochures recently completed.

3. Report on budget: Commissioner Halloran reported that the budget outlook is fairly bleak with a zero based budget combined with increased cost of both labor and material. The Recreation budget was submitted in December and the Department can only hope that no further cuts will be made. It will go to the Board of Aldermen by March and they then have 45 days in which to act. It is their prerogative to cut - or approve, but they are unable to make any additions.
4. Television - Channel 7 coverage of skating at Ware's Cove: Released on Boston's 6:00 o'clock news on January 10th, a report and interview by Tanya Kaye on safe ice skating areas and conditions and showing the skating area of Auburndale as the prime example of a safe and well run facility. The Commissioner and Foreman Pat Forte, were interviewed, an example of how safe ice conditions were determined was shown and T.V. coverage of the skaters in action was made.
5. Hamilton School Report: The Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association members plus 3 Alderpersons, Carol Ann Shea, Donald Budge and Dick McGrath met with Mr. Halloran and members of his staff at the Department office, to ask if it would be possible for the Department to take over all programming at Hamilton July 1st at the beginning of the new fiscal year. While this was a possibility, the Commissioner explained that it would require additional funding since the present Recreation Department budget could not be stretched to include these extra costs.

He also mentioned that Emerson School is being used by the Community and that there has been an interim use committee appointed by the Mayor, and that he is Chairman of this committee so is in close touch with the problems. Again, continued operation depends upon funding and there is no way of knowing what will happen if there is no money.

6. Update of 1969 Open Space Report: Information-wise, Commissioner Halloran said that in 1969, the Recreation Commission, along with other agencies, voted in favor of that Open Space report to the state, for active or passive recreation, on a 5 year basis.

Commissioner Halloran informed the members of the Commission that Deputy Commissioner, Fran Towle, has been working on an update of this report and before them tonight for their consideration was the complete updated report. After going over the report and inquiring as to whether anyone needed more information or any questions, he strongly recommended that the report be approved by the Commission as presented - with regards to Recreation areas.

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 25, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul J. Burke, Francis J. Rice, Howard Ferguson, Jenny DeVito and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Visitors included Carol Stapleton, Fran Towle and Gary Hofstetter

1. Minutes of January meeting: Minutes were approved as circulated.
2. Reports of programs, maintenance and Commissioner's extra activities were provided for each member.
3. Commissioner's Report: While most departments, at this time of the year, have a little slack off of activity, this has not been true at Recreation this year - and instead, not only maintenance but all activities are humming.

The Commissioner reported that at present, we have just completed several new brochures and attractive new covers for the Life Course, the Summary of Recreation Programs, as well as completely new stationary. Originally, he said, he objected to the fact that the Commission listing was at the bottom of the page, but the artist assured him that artistically, it provided a better balance. This new stationary is blue and white. He wondered aloud if anyone knew what the City of Newton's colors were - but no one really knew.

Mr. Halloran reported that he has forwarded a letter to Barry Kanner of the Planning Department telling him that the Commission at its last meeting, had approved the currently updated version of the 1969 Open Space Plan with the understanding that there were no major changes to be made in the basic concept.

Commissioner Halloran also reported on the kickoff of the City's 350th Anniversary Celebration which was the Garden City Marathon. Co-chairmen of this annual race were Paul Daley and Paul Stanley. The Commissioner was complimented by not only the race directors and Nelson Baker who was a participant, but by many other people who were present. They all agreed that this race was well run, the Department's cooperation with leadership and facilities at Newton North High were exceptional, and that Carol Stapleton and her staff were to be congratulated. Carol, who was present, modestly accepted these thanks on behalf of herself and staff, simply said, "we must do more, with less".

A Water Safety Instructors program began tonight at North High. At least 26 qualified people are in the course that have signed up through Recreation. There will be additional sign ups through the School Department, also.

One other problem has troubled the Department during this winter skating season - lack of ice at Crystal Lake on the Norwood Avenue side. While the air temperature has been only 14 degrees, the water temperature has stayed at 41 degrees - well above freezing. The State of Massachusetts was asked if they could make any determination as to why this water held this temperature and recently they reported that nothing appeared to be amiss, it was simply that a combination of natural circumstances; springs in the area, solar temperature due to unusually mild winter, and prevailing winds.

Arts in the Parks hosted a very active school vacation program. Something for all ages was available for children throughout the City every day, except Monday, which was a holiday.

4. Evaluation of fees for the Recreation Department: The Commissioner reported that due to the problems of inflation, it is more important now that the Department contribute toward the budget through fees, although all funds collected are returned to City income and do not reflect any gain in the actual Recreation Department budget.

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Mr. Halloran also asked Helen Heyn, of the Conservation Commission, who was present at this meeting, if she felt that the report was satisfactory in all respects as regards to recreation lands, etc., and she said she concurred with it.

The Recreation Commission then voted unanimously in favor of approving the concept of the currently updated version as presented by the City of Newton Planning and Development Department, of the Open Space Plan of 1969 as it regards recreation, on the motion of Paul Burke, seconded by Howard Ferguson. This was voted with the understanding that there are no major changes to be made in the basic concept.

Notice of this vote will be made by letter to Barry Kanner of the City Planning Department at City Hall, with a copy to Helen Heyn of Conservation.

7. New Soccer League: Mr. Halloran said that a new soccer league is being formed and that he has met with the principles of this league. They are all very interested and have indicated a willingness to help and cooperate with the Recreation Department in any way that they can. Mr. Bill Marshall will act as liason between the league and recreation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Next meeting will be held on February 25th (due to holiday on regular 3rd Monday meeting night).

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Fees haven't been raised by the Department for at least 3 years and various athletic equipment has risen in price due to inflation - such as baseballs and softballs. League fees pay at least a part of the expenses. A projection from the \$2,500.00 presently assessed, to an anticipated \$4,000.00, will offset at least some of the increased costs. (This is for league fees).

Jenny DeVito asked if the increase might effect any teams, but the teams generally would not have a problem, since the sponsor helps out. The only group that might have any difficulty would be those teams which were unsponsored and even then, divided amongst the players, would cause no serious hardship.

Referring to the printed report provided to each member, Commissioner Halloran commented that no change in fees was planned for tennis, but that swimming fees, which have remained unchanged for ten or more years, should be increased. His recommendation, in accordance with the report compiled by the staff and based on a swim fee survey of other communities in the area was for \$5.00 for an adult season pass, \$2.00 for a child's season pass, \$1.00 for a resident, daily swim and \$3.00 for a non-resident daily fee.

Paul Burke recommended that a \$15.00 family fee also be made available in swimming to allow a large family access to the water without undue hardship of individual fees. This would be an amendment to the original recommendation.

Mr. Rice moved, seconded by Mrs. DeVito, that the league, tennis and swim fees as recommended by Commissioner Halloran - as amended - be accepted by the Commissioner and it was so moved unanimously.

5. Consideration of the outdoor tennis rules: Commissioner Halloran reported that after checking with his supervisors and with Mr. Ed Fraktman, the summer tennis coordinator, whom Mr. Halloran has great confidence in, that everything went very well last year and he was not making any recommendations for changes this year. Jenny DeVito moved, with Francis Rice seconding, that the tennis rules remain the same for this coming summer season.

Mr. Halloran said that he planned to recommend that in the interest of conservation of energy, he planned to have tennis court lights turned off at 10:00 P.M. rather than at 11:00 P.M. in the evening. Saturday and Sunday tennis court attendants and reserve courts are available from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

6. Notice that election will be held at March meeting: In accordance with the rules and regulations for the Newton Recreation Commission, announcement of election at March meeting for Chairman and Vice-Chairman as made at this meeting.
7. Report on proposed Cold Spring Development Plans: Briefly, Mr. Halloran said while there have been some delays on the \$500,000.00 development, the Mayor has authorized selection of design and it now could be anticipated that a bid and contract will have been made by this coming summer.
8. Budget report and possible new Recreation equipment: At this time, Mr. Halloran said the Recreation budget is still intact. He also said that new automotive equipment which Recreation is in dire need of will come through a budget line item and not as a bond issue. \$130,000.00 will be bonded and the Mayor approved \$65,000.00 this year and \$65,000.00 next year. This 100% total and the preventative maintenance in the Department should made for excellent equipment. He said he was very pleased.

The Recreation budget goes before the Aldermen by March 15th and according to law, they have 45 days in which to complete the process. We will know better once they begin working on the City budgets, as to possible outcome.

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9. CETA Grant: Mr. Halloran said that the CETA Grant for the Nonantum Multi-Service Center staff and operation will end on March 18, 1980.

As a point of information, Jenny DeVito told the Commission that the Nonantum Senior Adult Center should be self-sufficient by then.

Mrs. DeVito also said that without the tremendous help given to the group by both the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner, Fran Towle, the dream of the Multi-Service Center in Nonantum would never have come true, and that they are all very grateful for this aid and help.

Since there seemed to be no additional new business, Mr. Burke moved to adjourn at 8:30 P.M. The next regular meeting will be held on March 24th instead of on St. Patrick's Day, the usual 3rd Monday.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 24, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Mrs. Charles Pepper, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Jennie DeVito, Walter Bernheimer and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary (Mr. Burke and Mr. Bamel were out of town)

Also present at this meeting were: Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Stapleton and Sheila Balch, Recreation Supervisors.

1. Minutes of February meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports on program, maintenance and Commissioner's reports of extra activities were distributed to all members.

Commissioner Halloran reported that he had sent out a letter to all interested parties in Soccer, telling that, at present, there are 3 Soccer Leagues in Newton, and that the Recreation Department was involved only to the extent of providing fields and that it was hoped in the near future that they would all get together to provide one Soccer organization for the youth of Newton - Boys, Girls and Boys and Girls. The Commissioner, Mr. Halloran, indicated that he was most willing to have all of the groups meet with him at the Recreation Department if this would be of any help to them, in all getting together.

Commissioner Halloran also said that Rose Chalfen of the Girls' Soccer League was planning to come in and meet with he and members of the staff next Monday at 3:00 P.M. Mr. Baker said that he could attend this meeting also.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman was held at this time: Chairman Nelson Baker handed the meeting over to Commissioner Halloran for the duration of the election.

In accordance with the rules of the Recreation Commission, and with a quorum present, the Chairman now called for nominations for Chairman of the Commission.

Francis J. Rice nominated Nelson S. Baker. This was seconded by Jo Pepper. No other nominations were made and the Commission voted unanimously to re-elect Nelson S. Baker as Chairman.

Nominations were now called for Vice-Chairman. Francis J. Rice nominated Herbert R. Bamel, seconded by Jo Pepper. Again, with no additional nominations made, the Commission voted unanimously to re-elect Herbert R. Bamel as Vice-Chairman.

4. Report by Commissioner: Mr. Halloran reported that the Department was very busy as usual, now getting ready for the busy Spring and Summer seasons. The Nonantum Multi-Service Center for senior citizens, operated through a grant from CETA, will finish shortly. It has been well coordinated through Fran Towle. The contract will terminate at the end of March. Fran has also acted as liason for Special Needs and Youth Centers and as always, has done a super job in all capacities.

The Department is presently preparing for tennis, senior citizens and special needs brochures. Fields are too wet to work on yet, and they will be working on them as soon as they dry.

The Mayor has contacted Commissioner Halloran about the Recreation Department coordinating the special events which will be taking place in honor of the 350th Anniversary. Some of these are: Spring Fest, July 4th Parade and Special Events, and in the Fall, the Harvest Fair.

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Budget report: Mr. Halloran reported that the Aldermen will be working on the budget soon and they then have 45 days to process it, according to laws.

Mr. Halloran also described how both he and Fran Towle had been invited to take part in the Sybil Toncology radio broadcast last Friday and how they both had an opportunity to describe the functions and programs of the Newton Recreation Department. It was a pleasant experience and good opportunity.

5. Request from St. Mary of Carmen Society for Annual celebration at Hawthorn: A request was forwarded to Commissioner Halloran in letter form, as of February 15, 1980 from the Society asking to use Hawthorn field from July 14th (set up on Monday and Tuesday), carnival opening on Wednesday, July 16th to July 20th and take down and removal completed by 5:00 P.M. Monday, July 21st.

Since there have been no problems and this is a unique festival, it was highly recommended by the Commissioner that under the same conditions as before, the Commission grant the request.

After brief discussion, the Recreation Commission moved unanimously to grant the request of the St. Mary of Carmen Society's request for their annual celebration to be held at the Recreation Departments Hawthorn Playground beginning the 3rd week of July - from July 14th set up time on Monday and Tuesday Carnival to begin on Wednesday, July 16th and continue to July 20th and with the take down and removal completed by 5:00 P.M. on Monday, July 21st.

This affair, is of course, subject to strict rules and regulations set down by the Recreation Department and agreed to by the members of the St. Mary of Carmen Society, Nunzio F. Leone, Chairman; Domonico Battista, Vice-Chairman; and Anthony Gentile, President, as listed in their letter of February 15, 1980. This will include the proper liability insurance furnished to the City of Newton; inspection of all rides by the Building Commissioner or his representative prior to opening, etc.

6. Request from Conservation Commission for confirmation of conditions under which the Recreation Department would care for public use section of the Novitiate Park, if acquired by the City of Newton. Commissioner Halloran indicated that he would make this recommendation to the Commission members.

Therefore, in a motion made by Wally Bernheimer, the Commission members on the recommendation of Commissioner Halloran, and at the request of the Conservation Commission that the Recreation Commission go on record that they accept sole custody for administration, control and maintenance of the Novitiate Park, Section 83, Block 35, Portion of Lot 4, or 31.45 acres and that it be maintained by the Recreation Department predicated upon the availability of additional funds being made available to the Recreation Department for this purpose of maintenance and work. So voted unanimously.

7. New Business: Since there appeared to be no new business, Commissioner Halloran said he would like to go on record to the fact that while there is a good deal of activity and confusion at the Recreation Department with the general public coming and going, phones ringing, etc., that Recreation Commission secretary, Marge Lesbirel, did an excellent job under some pretty hectic circumstances and wanted the Commission to be aware of what a good job she did in Public Relations for the Department. The members all gave her their best wishes also and she thanked everyone, and said she loved working for the Department.

Commissioner Halloran called to the attention of the Commission that in April the normal 3rd Monday of the month on which the Commission meets, was a holiday and therefore, the Commission meeting would be held on April 28th instead.

Jo Pepper motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 28, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Mrs. Charles Pepper, Howard Ferguson, Paul Burke, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Present at this meeting were Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Stapleton, Supervisor.

1. Minutes of the March meeting were accepted, after Mr. Ferguson pointed out that it should say that the secretary, Marge Lesbirel, "is, and will continue to do an excellent job", rather than "has done" which, he felt implied that it was past tense rather than present and continuing.
2. Reports on programs, maintenance and Commissioner's reports of extra activities were distributed to all members.

Commissioner Halloran reported that he was happy to have attended four of the five Little League openings this past week at Lyons (West), Albemarle (North), and East (Newton Centre) and South (Cabot). Carol Stapleton was present to take photographs of the opening and ceremonies.

Mr. Halloran told the group that over the past weekend, 20 Special Needs young people traveled to New Hampshire to enjoy a special overnight camping experience in Bedford, at Camp Allen. This group was accompanied by Special Needs Director, Gary Hofstetter and the following people who graciously volunteered their entire weekend for this experience: Carol Stapleton, Recreation Supervisor, Sheila Balch, Recreation Supervisor, Gina Kelly, City of Newton Nurse/Practitioner, Sue Chappie, Joan Newhard, Susan and Hisham Ashakauri. Commissioner Halloran drove up on Sunday to join the festivities also. The Commissioner said that he was very proud and happy about this very special weekend.

It was also reported by Mr. Halloran that a good friend of the Recreation Department, Bob Braceland, a member of the Newton Police Department and the Youth Officer, was recently stricken ill and has been in the hospital recently. He is currently going through chemotherapy with excellent results and expects to be back at work for a few hours per day to begin with. We are all wishing him well and a quick recovery.

With regard to Soccer, the Commissioner reported that he has talked to Rose Chalfin and she has agreed to meet with the other Soccer organization for the purpose of considering a proposal to combine the Soccer groups. Each of the three groups have been requested to make a proposal to this end. The Commissioner said that he hopes to bring more information to the Commission in the near future.

One additional item that the Department took part in was the function yesterday, (Sunday), called "McHappy Day". The purpose of this was to earn money for the Ronald McDonald House, sponsored by McDonald's and so very beneficial to children and their parents who may be undergoing treatment in one of the Boston hospitals. Both Commissioner Halloran and former Senior Supervisor, Jim Murphy, attended this McHappy Day.

3. Budget hearings: Commissioner Halloran said he wanted to express his thanks to all of those members of the Commission who took time from their busy schedules to come to one or both of these hearings at Human Services on April 10th, or Finance on April 14th. (In an aside, the Commissioner related that the Chairman of the Finance Committee said they could always tell when the Recreation budget was coming up, since it was so well supported by Department and Commission). At this time, no vote had been taken by the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen, but that Human Services Committee had voted 5 to 0 in favor of proposed budget. It will now go to the full Board, once the Finance Committee votes, and according to Mass. Law, will be completed on or before May 15th.



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4. 1980 Outdoor swim rules and regulations: Each person was provided with the proposed printed summer brochure outdoor swim rules and regulations for both Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. Commissioner Halloran reported that the changes in Crystal Lake information was due to the addition of the new Sun Deck this coming season. The Commission members inquired as to opening dates, which is June 30th. Permits will go on sale the first week of June.
5. Report on opening of clay and lighted tennis courts: Commissioner Halloran said that clay courts and lighted courts at North and South High were opening officially on April 19th, although most of the 69 courts in Newton were already open. He reported that everything went well at all of the supervised courts and tennis players are out in full force.

Commission member, Herb Bamel commended Dan Marini, the long time park maintenance man at Newton Centre for his work in making the Little League fields so nice to play on. Mr. Halloran endorsed this commendation strongly - saying that Dan does a superior job on this entire facility which includes the clay tennis courts, a busy fieldhouse and a baseball diamond.

6. Report on petition opposing St. Mary of Carmen Annual Festival at Hawthorn Park: This petition recently sent to the Mayor by some of the abutters and the abutters of the abutters at the Hawthorn Playground area in which they objected to the permit for an annual carnival - a yearly event since 1935.

Both Aldermen Joseph DePasquale and Nunzio F. Leone the Chairman of the Festival Committee, as well as Anthony Gentile, the President of the St. Mary of Carmen Society were present to speak to members of the Commission regarding this annual event and festival. At this same time, they also presented a copy of a counter-petition addressed to the Mayor, from both abutters and abutters of abutters who have no objections to the use of the area for the traditional carnival and annual religious procession of the St. Mary of Carmen Society. Many of those persons whose name appears on the petition - have already reconsidered their original opposition and have signed a petition in behalf of the carnival.

Commission members in a lengthy and thorough discussion, considered both the pros and cons of all petitions. During that discussion, Alderman DePasquale told the Commission that some of these objecting abutters are opposed to any type of activity at the playground including softball, baseball, soccer or football. Society representatives reiterated that they are more than willing to cooperate in any way which will provide a well run affair - with any necessary Police coverage and agreements of the requirements set forth by the City of Newton.

Following further discussion, the Commission members present, voted unanimously to re-affirm their original vote of March 24th, approving the request from the Society for the Hawthorn Carnival in July of 1980.

7. Spring Fest: The annual outdoor celebration will be held at City Hall on Sunday, May 18th, Mr. Halloran told the members. This will run from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., weather permitting.
8. Since there appeared to be no new business, meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M. Next meeting will beheld on May 19th, the regular 3rd Monday of the month.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 19, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul J. Burke, Jenny DeVito, Francis Rice, Walter S. Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Also present from the Department were Carol Stapleton, Fran Towle and Sheila Balch.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Nelson at 7:48 P.M.

1. Minutes of April meeting were accepted as printed.
2. Reports were distributed to all members on programs, maintenance and Commissioner's activities throughout the past month.
3. Commissioner Halloran reported briefly that the Noviate property, including 31 acres (a) of land, had been approved by the Honorable Board of Aldermen and that the Recreation Department would assume care for this area. It has tremendous potential for some great programs the Commissioner said. Possible programs, he mentioned, might be tobogganing, biking, soccer, baseball, softball, etc. These are all programs that might be considered in the future, depending upon condition of the economy.
  - (b) In considering the purchase of the new Commonwealth Country Club (the old Chestnut Hill), the Aldermanic Board voted 24 to 0 in favor of asking the Mayor to purchase this for the City. At this time, there is no way of knowing what the mayor plans to do.
  - (c) There is a new "Arts in the Parks" brochure out - samples provided to members at this meeting. They were also distributed at yesterday's Spring Fest.
  - (d) Mr. Halloran pointed out to the members the very attractive logo in honor of the 350th Anniversary which was created and designed by one of the Recreation Department's CETA personnel.
  - (e) At 8:00 P.M. tonight the Design Review will be considering the Cold Spring Development in the Aldermanic Chambers. Mr. Halloran said that he felt that they would be considering a very outstanding architectural design for Phase I - (on the Beacon Street side of Cold Spring Park).
4. Report on closing of North High indoor facility for the summer: Since the School Department will have people in there working all summer long, the facility will close for the season this coming Friday. This facility is one of our heaviest use area - largely due to the direction of Jean Cole and Carol Stapleton. Over 24,620 photo I.D. Cards have been issued to citizens of Newton for use of the facility under the Recreation jurisdiction on evenings and weekends indoors. Fields and tennis courts outdoors are heavily used under jurisdiction of Recreation when School Department is not using them.

Mr. Paul Burke suggested that figures on this use under Recreation jurisdiction should go, in letter form, to both the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen to show them the use of North High by Newton citizens. Commissioner Halloran endorsed this idea and said that possibly the Department would also do a series on the staff at North High for a public relations release.

At one point, Mr. Bernheimer inquired about the possibility of Lacrosse fields, but it was explained that generally this tears up the fields too much and limits the use for other sports.
5. Plans for opening outdoor swim areas are in progress: Gath Pool will open on June 14th with Crystal opening the following week on June 21st. Crystal Lake sun deck will be completed by the opening date - with special ceremonies taking place at the new area.

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6. Playground orientation: This will take place on June 26th and 27th, and playgrounds will open on the 30th. Schools may possibly close sooner than originally scheduled due to them not using any snow days this past winter, but Recreation will stay with the planned date, although many of the larger playgrounds will be opened and supervised before this 30th date. They would be Albemarle, Auburndale, Newton Centre, Hawthorn and Cabot.
  7. Report on letter sent to Mayor Mann on action taken by Commission with regard to St. Mary of Carmen Society's request for July carnival at Hawthorn: Commissioner Halloran reported that as he had been requested, a letter was forwarded to his Honor but no response had been received at this time, and he assumes that the Carnival can go ahead as planned.
  8. 5th Annual Prayer Breakfast sponsored by Mayor Mann at Boston College, was attended by Commissioner and members of the Recreation staff.
  9. Report on "Spring Fest" held at City Hall yesterday: Although rain spoiled the affair, Sheila Balch, estimated that around 5,000 people did attend. The possibility of rain was covered by famous "Lloyds of London" and will pay off to Cultural Affairs Commission to refund all booth money, due to early closing in the rain.
  10. Commissioner Halloran reminded the Commission members that they had all agreed that unless there was some pressing need for a meeting, the Commission would not meet during the summer months of July and August.
  11. Report that the Recreation budget was finalized by the full Board of Aldermen on May 8th: The Commissioner reported that Recreation was very fortunate in not having any cuts made in the budget. He also reported that Recreation will operate Hamilton and Emerson and that there will be additional funds for this coordinated use, as well as building improvements which will be made.
  12. New Business: Mr. Halloran responded to a question from members of the Commission as to when ball games with Aldermen, Police, etc. would be played this summer, and said that he is arranging for dates - probably on Thursday and Friday evenings at 8:00 P.M., and that the Commission will be notified as to when they will be playing sometime in June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 16, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul Burke, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Walter Bernheimer and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary (Mrs. Pepper was in Florida on vacation)

Also present from the Department were Carol Stapleton, Fran Towle and Sheila Balch

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Baker at 7:35 P.M.

1. Minutes of the May 19th meeting were accepted as circulated with the addition of Jenny DeVito's name to members present.
2. Reports: Distributed to all members on program, maintenance and Commissioner's reports of activities throughout the past month.
3. (a) Commissioner Halloran reported that the Department will be in full swing during July and August with outdoor swim areas and playgrounds open.  
(b) The Commissioner also reported that he has seen the new model of the proposed Cold Spring Development, and that it will really be a beautiful park. Recreation will also be assuming the responsibility for the care of an additional 25 acres of recreation area of the 31 acres of Noviate land. The Commissioner told the members of the Commission that this area has tremendous potential for the future, since it is a beautiful site on the Charles River. It might conceivably become similar to the Auburn-dale Park.  
(c) Hamilton and Emerson Schools special budget monies, now included in Recreation budget, will enable the Department to coordinate the programs beginning in the early Fall - providing renovations are complete.  
(d) The Farmer's Market - open on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 7:30 P.M., beginning July 8th at City Hall on the War Memorial Circle will be coordinated by Recreation and Alderman Richmond, Matt Barron of the Department of Agriculture. CETA will provide the Market Master, and local growers will bring in fresh produce for sale each week.  
(e) Hamill Award presented to outstanding athlete and student each year at Kiwanis luncheon was going to Gary Frechette from North High and to Michael Dewire, South High.  
(f) Bob Braceland, well known and well liked Newton Youth Officer, and who has been out sick recently, was recently honored by a Youth Commission with a special award. Mr. Halloran said he was pleased to report that Bob is now back to work half a day at present, and looking good!
4. Outdoor swim areas: Gath Pool at Albemarle opened last Saturday and Crystal Lake in Newton Centre will open this coming Saturday.  
Mr. Halloran said that the sun deck at Crystal will be open for the first time this year and that at present, they are only waiting to complete the fence for the deck and once this is complete, the area will be opened to the public.
5. Summer Playgrounds: Orientation, coordinated by Recreation Department's Sheila Balch, will be held at the Newton Arts Center on June 26th and 27th. The Commissioner commended and complimented Sheila for the ongoing excellent work she performs here at the Recreation Department. Playgrounds will open on June 30th and will continue open until August 15th.

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Arts in the Parks will again be offering a wide range of programs with "Kiss Me Kate", the major musical production this year. This will be presented in early August, probably at Newton South High School auditorium.

Newton Centre Playground will host a big 4th. of July celebration combining the efforts of the Recreation Department, the Newton Centre Improvement Association, and the Newton Centre Association for Business and the Neighborhood Association. Races, doll carriage parade, etc. in the morning and at 5:00 P.M., a Family picnic. At 6:30 P.M., Arts in the Parks has arranged for a concert by the Yankee Rhythm Kings.

6. Youth Soccer Program: While it had been hoped that the three groups would be consolidated by now, this has not occurred at this time, even though Recreation has felt that it would be desirable to consolidate in the best interests of the children of Newton.

A question put forth by Mr. Bernheimer of the Commission is, due to the many people involved in separate groups, how can individual groups get fields. He is worried that it will be impossible to accomodate all.

Commissioner Halloran assured him that he would make every effort to see that all fields were distributed equitably.

Commission will not meet as agreed by members, during July and August so the next meeting will be held in September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 15, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Josephine Pepper & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Also attending were Fran Towle, Deputy Recreation Commissioner & Carol Stapleton, Recreation Supervisor

Meeting called to order by Chairman Baker at 7:10 p.m.

1. Minutes of June meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Monthly reports of July & August activities in maintenance, programs & Commissioner's reports were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner Halloran said that it was good to meet again after the summer season and a pleasure to report on another good summer although it was too hot for playground activity. Gath pool and Crystal Lake, due to this extreme heat, received very heavy use this summer.

Arts-in-the-Parks had many programs going as well the special yearly musical production. Special Needs programming included the summer day camp at Mason-Rice and swimming at the Lake as well as a resident camp conducted at Peterborough, New Hampshire. Commissioner Halloran spoke specifically about how pleased he has been in the upgrading of this fine program by the Director of Special Needs, Gary Hofstetter. The program, under his direction, is now two years old and working extremely well and received very well from the parents. He has had some coop students working with him and the entire program is most professional.

Leagues for all ages continue to be very popular - both men & women as well as young people, boys & girls of 13, 14, & 15.

The Commissioner feels that there is a certain amount of concern necessary due to declining population throughout the city and says that it may be no longer valid to have the big neighborhood playground. Instead, consideration might be given to a "day care type of program" where children might be bused to the area and stay all day - returning home again by bus. Research is now being done on the feasibility of a program of this type. He also noted that due to poor attendance at the start of the summer, the Department did close down both Cold Spring & Upper Falls playgrounds. More information will be provided later during the budget process.

The St. Mary of Carmen Society's yearly festival went well, with no problems; Early September saw the 7th Annual Senior Citizen picnic, attended by approximately 2,000 seniors, at Hawthorn playground; the annual summer musical production, performed by Jr. & High School age teens here in Newton, took place at South High this year. The musical this year was "Kiss Me Kate" and was a major highlight of the summer, coordinated through Arts-in-the-Parks & Recreation. All in all, the summer recreation activities covered every age of Newton residents, and was a very successful season.

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4. Novitiate Property & Ribbon cutting: On September 7th, the Newton Conservators arranged to have a special reception held right at the site. Mayor Mann and Commissioner Halloran, as well as other special guests were invited to the newly acquired 31 acre parcel of land. The Commissioner reported that that area has great potential for future recreation use.
5. Retirement of William Barry, Recreation Supervisor: After 22 years with the Newton Recreation Department, Mr. Barry will be retiring at the end of Sept. this year, to accept employment in private industry. Mr. Halloran will announce his selection for Mr. Barry's replacement, at the October meeting of the Comm.
6. Fall Soccer Programs: Commissioner Halloran reported that the groups had met with him. Mutually beneficial to all participants, has been the joining of the Girl's Soccer groups. Youth Soccer (for boys) with approximately 2,000 boys involved, is also a growing program. Recreation as in the past, continues to provide soccer playing fields.
7. Pop Warner football: This popular football program began about a week ago and serves both sides of the City in two groups.
8. Farmer's Market continues very popular. This program begun on July 8th by the Recreation Department as a result of Aldermen Richmond's suggestion, and with the cooperation and vote of the Aldermen and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, really "took off" in August. There has been good publicity on this and lots of vendors providing a good variety of fresh produce for Newton citizens.
9. Cold Spring Playground Development: The Commissioner gave a brief updated report on this proposed development. He has been meeting with the Planning Department's Rich Griffin and the very brilliant architect Wm. Presley and they anticipate that one year from this September the development will be completed. This project will be funded through matching funds with B.O.R.
10. Emerson School and Hamilton School re-use. Commissioner reported that funds are now included in Recreation budget to provide Community use of these facilities, or that portion which is not restructured for housing. He also mentioned that Davis School is now closed but being maintained by the Recreation Department for the time being - at least until November.
11. Proposition 2½: Some questions asked by Commission members as to how this might effect the Recreation Department. The Commissioner reported that it was his understanding that if passed, he would assume that the Department could anticipate a 40% reduction in their budget, a disastorous situation, and that heavily cut in addition to Recreation, would be Library, Human Services, Fire Police and Trash pickups. The Commissioner highly recommends that the Commission members oppose this legislation.
12. Fall football programs at High Schools are beginning. Members have been provided with a list of games at North & South, fields are being prepared. Mr. Ferguson told everyone that he would be at the main gate at Hull Street for the first game and looked forward to seeing everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 15, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Walter Bernheimer, Mrs. Charles Pepper & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary, Member Emeretis Mrs. Worthing L. West was also present

Also present from the Recreation Department were: Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, Sheila Balch, Supervisor & Sue King, Fieldworker from Northeastern University.

Present from the Newton Graphic newspaper was Sarah Clayton, reporter.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Baker at 7:38 p.m.

1. Minutes of the September 15th meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Commissioner Halloran suggested to the Chairman and Commission that the Youth Commission present, along with Steve Moskowitz, Assistant Director of Human Services for Newton, be invited to be next on the Agenda since all were present.

Bob Cohen, as Chairman, introduced the various members present, along with co-chairman Bill Seidman and including Steve Moskowitz, from Human Services who works very closely with the Youth Commission.

Mr. Cohen said they had requested joining the Recreation Commission for two reasons. The first was to request that the Recreation Commission join with them in locating suitable candidates for the annual award presented to outstanding persons in the City. Several categories include a boy/girl in the Elementary School, one for Jr. High, one for Senior High, a young adult & a Senior Adult.

What they suggest is that Recreation join them as co-sponsors for this annual award.

The second concern that the Youth Commission has, which they feel is of prime concern not only to them but to the Recreation Department, is drinking & vandalism. While they see it indirectly through the Elementary schools, the High Schools & the Street Workers they are worried as how to cope with this problem. One suggestion from the Youth Commission was to form a joint Committee with Recreation and meet at another time & consider this question, with the total input of both groups.

Paul Burke said that about 9 months ago, he implemented a panel to discuss "Drugs & Alcohol". At that time, he felt, a good input was received from those primarily involved - the kids.. This is a very difficult project to handle since it must all be done on a voluntary basis and each section of the city claims its own "turf" with traditional rivalry, defeating at its source, the ideal of "one City"

Mr. Burke stressed, as he has in the past, that it is vital to get input from the youth. He is always most willing to work on this project since he feels that alcohol is a really big problem in this city as in others.

The Commission seemed to feel that little would be gained by simply bringing together the two Commissions. Input from youth is the first necessity



everyone seemed to agree, but the question was how to accomplish this. Mr. Cohen also said that, not only these groups but liquor stores and liscensing Board, should be contacted as their cooperation will be needed.

Nelson Baker commented that the "Restitution Program" in the local courts & community was apparently working very well. Mr. Ferguson said that in his opinion, the most important sources of all were family, peers and school. Everyone present heartily agreed to this. Nelson Baker in summing up the situation said that the Commission welcomed the comments made by those members of the Youth Commission visiting this evening and that they can certainly count on cooperation at a staff level.

The Recreation Commission agreed to co-sponsor the Annual awards and Mr. Cohen reiterated that he hoped the Commission members will offer names. Commissioner Halloran assured the Youth Commission members that he and the Commission, as a group, could be counted upon to cooperate fully.

3. Re: Possibility of the Recreation Commission making a positive statement in opposition to Proposition 2½, as it affects Recreation in the City of Newton: After discussing this important issue, Paul Burke moved, seconded by Jo Pepper, that the Recreation Commission go on record in opposition to Proposition 2½. It was so voted with Mr. Bernheimer abstaining. In so doing the Commission joined with the Council on Aging & its Advisory Board, the Newton Human Rights Commission & its Advisory Council, the Newton Youth Commission & its Advisory Board and the Mayor's Committee on the Environment of the Handicapped in their opposition to Question 2.
4. Mt. Ida Junior College group present, accompanied by Ms Fran Towle, were introduced to the Commission and were encouraged to ask any questions which they might have about Recreation in the City.
5. Reports of maintenance, programs etc. usually discussed at start of meeting but were delayed due to visit of Youth Commission were revie

Commissioner Halloran reported that Willi am Barry, Recreation Supervisor for the past 20 years, has now retired and that the Department is planning a farewell party for him on November 13th - all members invited. He also said that Sheila Balch, who was formerly an Assistant Supervisor, will now take over as a regular Supervisor replacing Mr. Barry.

6. Halloween report: 3 schools will have Halloween parties this year, considerably less than in past years but parents no longer want to supervise & take part in the Halloween festivities as they used to. Commissioner Halloran said that he and the Recreation Department will make every effort to provide some budget help for Police & custodian help for as long as possible.
7. Reports on swim fees collected this past summer were distributed to members Reports on tennis fees collected were distributed to members. Tennis seemed to be down a little this year - probably due to extreme heat this year.

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Mr. Burke suggested that it might be a really good idea to let the Honorable Board of Aldermen know that the Recreation Department collected \$55,000 in user fees this past season, and that these funds were returned to City Income.

8. Reports on Farmers Market this past summer - started slowly but ended wonderfully, will go again next year based on this year's productivity. North High, Simulated Outdoor Area on 2nd floor - not open due to repairs. School will notify the Department as soon as it becomes available for use. Harvest Fair: October 5th, the 5th Annual Fair and the best of all Commissioner said. Good weather, good attendance and about 105 exhibitors present & working.

Next Commission Meeting on November 17th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 20, 1980

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Francis J. Rice, Howard Ferguson, Walter S. Bernheimer II, Paul Burke, Josephine Pepper, Jennie DiVito, and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Also present were Fran Towle, Deputy Recreation Commissioner and Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, as well as Sheila Balch, Supervisor, Recreation Dept.

From Youth Soccer & Girl's Soccer, were representatives Chuck Redman and Tom Burke, plus many various members of those groups.

1. Minutes of October 20th meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. The Commissioner suggested to the Chairman that since Soccer representatives were now present, why not have them speak on their subject right away. The Chairman concurred.

Mr. Redmond reported that they had had an excellent season with good support from the Recreation Department. In the Youth Hockey group they had 3 divisions going with 1200 participants and the girl's soccer group has approximately 825 players. He pointed out that this was a reasonable & economical sport - not so competitive that it eliminates those who are not strongly athletic. When asked how they reached potential players, he said that they were contacted through the schools, newspapers, etc. In time, the program is completely filled.

He requested consideration by the Department, of use of fields for Soccer, year around or at least, also in the Spring season and better resources on fields during the season. While they have the use of six good fields, there is a problem with goal posts - would prefer permanent goal posts rather than the temporary which they have used in many areas this past fall season.

Mr. Redmond said that both Soccer groups have been working closely together with supportive efforts and good communication.

Commissioner Halloran said he was sympathetic to their needs but that new goal posts would be a budget request and that this upcoming season, he anticipated anywhere from a 10% to 50% budget cut. The Commissioner also thanked both Sheila and Carol for their work with the Soccer groups this past year. Mr. Halloran also complimented Sheila on her comprehensive soccer report in which she said that they were provided with 8 game fields and a total of 160 practice fields.

3. Reports on programs, maintenance & Commissioner's reports of his activities were distributed to all members.

Commissioner Halloran reported that 24,000 I.D's had been distributed for use of North High; that the Harvest Fair was a big success at Newton Centre

this Fall, and that Senior Citizen programs were going strong at this time; leagues beginning to form; Hamilton School Neighborhood Center in progress and Sheila Balch is doing an excellent job as Supervisor in the area; and Special Needs programs are going well (probably the finest in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

Mr. Halloran said that he was quite pessimistic about the effects which would be felt from Prop. 2½ with the possibility of Recreation programs cut anywhere from 10% to 50%.

A 10% cut would remove approximately \$170,000 from the Recreation budget, 25%, about \$441,000 and 50%, about \$800,000. Naturally any of these cuts would drastically affect the programs with less playgrounds, probably only 1 skating area and 1 swimming area. "User Fees" may help to maintain some programs but couldn't possibly cover all programs.

Commissioner Halloran said that he would be meeting with the Executive Department on Tuesday and by then, may have a better idea of just what is to be expected in this upcoming budget. Once he is really sure just what the cuts will be, he will come back to the Recreation Commission - probably at a special meeting - with his recommendations. Mr. Halloran also pointed out to the Commission members that Recreation is particularly vulnerable in this year of low budgets, since Recreation is not a mandated program. Everyone is most concerned about this present precarious situation.

4. New Business:

- a. Nelson Baker said that for the second year, the NEAA has run a 50-mile championship race on the indoor track at North High, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and running to 9:30 p.m. He praised Carol Stapleton & her staff for keeping the facilities open & operable for this group and for having the Red Cross standing by and simply said "Many Thanks Carol!"
- b. Mr. Halloran said that Bill Barry, Supervisor, has now retired from the Recreation Department to accept a position in Private industry and that a retirement & farewell party will be held for him shortly and everyone is invited.
- c. Mr. Halloran said that South High track and football field are all completed at this time with no money left over. It looks really good, he reported and asked Commission member Herb Bamel (who lives in this area and was very instrumental in getting this field built) to check on it during the winter and early spring to see if it tends to settle or not.

Next meeting (unless a special meeting is called to discuss budgets due to Prop. 2½) will be on December 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 15, 1980

Present were: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Also present from the department were the Deputy Commissioner, Fran Towle, & Supervisors Carol Stapleton & Sheila Balch. The work/study student, Mary Moore accompanied them.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Baker at 7:40 p.m.

1. Minutes of the November meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of maintenance and programs, as well as the Commissioner's report of the various meetings and activities in which he took part, were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner's report: Mr. Halloran said that under some very tough circumstances, the Recreation Department was able to get the very wet North High football field into playable condition before that important game. Looked good, he said, the only thing that wasn't super was that Brookline won over Newton.

Alderman DePasquale is concerned about the change of Ordinance with regard to the annual carnival of St. Mary of Carmen. Since this hasn't been done yet, it must be completed before carnival time, Mr. Halloran said & Mr. DePasquale will work with the Building Department & the Board of Aldermen on this change. Everyone was interested to hear a good report on well liked Youth Officer, Bob Braceland who is currently undergoing a series of treatments at the Lahey Clinic in Burlington and then returning to Newton-Wellesley each day. Hopes to be home by Christmas.

In response to request from Executive department, Commissioner says, he has submitted 3 additional sets of figures based on a proposed cut in the Department budget beyond the current zero base, of 15%, 30%, & 50%. He will now have to await direction from them as to how the final budget must be prepared (due to Prop 2 1/2). He also mentioned that next year, user-fees will have to be considered in order to operate programs. He is awaiting guidelines from the Exec. Dept. & Legal Dept. on this subject also. The budget process will begin as soon as instructions are received. It is very likely that a Special Meeting will be called to present the Departmental budget to the Commission members.

The Commissioner reported that he is recommending that Ware's Cove in Auburndale be the only skating area to stay open this year in order to cut overall costs. It has good lighting, good parking and freezes early & has a good warming area also. One person would be on duty at Crystal & Bulloughs to prevent unauthorized and hazardess use of the areas.

Questions were asked about the legalities of posting signs such as "Not Maintained by Rec. Dept. - skate at your own risk" and/or "Facility no longer supervised or operated by Rec. Dept. - skate at your own risk"? Mr. Halloran said that he would personally check with Dan Funk, City Solicitor about liability and legality. His feeling was that this would not be acceptable.

Mr. Ferguson moved, with a second by Mr. Bernheimer, that upon the recommendation of Commissioner Halloran and in response to the constraints of Prop. 2½ that Ware's Cove in Auburndale be the skating area opened at this time. So voted unanimously. Members agreed that they were reluctantly in favor of this measure but that it appeared necessary. A news release will go out to the newspapers tomorrow on this subject.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

Approved Comm. dates:

- Jan. 19th
- Feb. 23rd (due to Martin Luther King Holiday)
- Mar. 16th (Election of Chairman & Vice-chairman)
- Apr. 27th (due to Wash. Birthday Holiday)
- May 18th
- June 15th

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

January 1, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Francis J. Rice, Jennie DeVito, Josephine Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Also present at this meeting were Alderman Rodney Barker from the Crystal Lake area and Carol Ann Shea from Auburndale. Present from the Recreation Department were the Deputy Commissioner, Fran Towle, and Supervisors, Carol Stapleton & Sheila Balch & Bob Doherty.

This meeting was called in an effort to respond to the requests of neighborhood groups to retain skating facilities at Bulloughs Pond & Crystal Lake. These two areas have not opened for skating this year due to the constraints of Prop 2½. Ware's Cove in Auburndale, was and is, open for skating with an excellent lighting system, good availability of safe ice and good parking. This sheltered cove has been open for skating, at this time, for 13 days due to the exceptionally cold weather this year. There is no charge made at this facility.

Bulloughs Pond & Crystal Lake, the Department had earlier announced, would not be open for skating this season. Salt run-off from streets had kept Bulloughs from freezing to a safe depth of ice and skating days had been very limited. Crystal Lake, last year, was only open briefly due to lack of safe ice also.

Alderman Rodney Barker, who was present at this meeting, reported that he is consistently receiving calls from people in the Crystal Lake area, requesting that this neighborhood skating area be opened up. If at all possible, he said, he would certainly like to see this happen and was willing to support the opening of the area on a "user fee" basis. He had written a letter to the Commissioner supporting this position.

From the Bulloughs Pond area, a Dr. Sigal, went to Mayor Mann with a petition of 22 families in the area asking that this area be opened and agreeing to underwrite any deficit which might occur. He also spoke with Commissioner Halloran on this subject - who explained to him that a minimum cost of approximately \$3,000 would be needed to clear, maintain and light the area, with supervision. In the final analysis Dr. Sigal said that the petitioners would be unable to provide "up front", these funds, but would guarantee to reimburse the city the difference between generated fees and the \$3,000 projected cost of opening & running Bulloughs Pond in Newtonville. Commissioner Halloran explained to those present, that to prepare the ice at these areas including plowing, brooming & planeing will not cost overtime on a weekday since maintenance crews are on duty anyway - although it would limit crews to this work only. Leadership would cost about \$161 per day. Weekends or holidays, costs would rise since to maintain ice in a safe condition, will then require overtime at a cost of about \$120 per day, plus the leadership costs which will rise to \$345 per day due to longer hours.

Mr. Halloran recommends that due to neighborhood interest, that Recreation go ahead and clear both areas - but to make a "user fee" charge of 50¢ per day for all skaters from Monday to Friday and a charge of \$1.00 per day on weekends or holidays. To control the tages which will be on sale each day, they will be color-coded and will be interchangeable between the two areas. The Legal Department has ruled that it will be legal to charge at these two areas and continue to operate the Ware's Cove facility at no charge. Mr. Halloran also recommends that clearing of areas both accomplished on Monday (and avoid overtime) and opened for skating that day. He recommended also that this be on an experimental basis, with the Recreation Department monitoring costs daily & weekly to see how successfull this experiment is.

Mr. Ferguson then moved and it was seconded, that in accordance with the recommendations made by Commissioner Halloran, that clearing of Bulloughs & Crystal begin on Monday, January 12th and skating start that afternoon on an experimental basis with a "user fee". Monday through Friday, a permit would be sold for 50¢ per person, per day, and on weekends or holidays, the charge will be \$1.00 per person, per day. This will be on an experimental basis with the department monitoring daily, all costs. It is also understood that Ware's Cove in Auburndale will continue on a no-charge basis that signs will be posted in the other areas to state that Auburndale skating area is free and no charge made.

Chairman Baker opened this for discussion at this time and Mrs. Pepper emphatically stated that she was strongly opposed to this and felt this was discriminatory to the South side of the City. She felt that if any charge is to be considered for any program in the City, the burden of cost should be shared by the entire city.

Mr. Halloran pointed out that Auburndale had already been opened at no charge and that it would be difficult to change at this time, but Mrs. Pepper still felt that this was unfair.

Aldersperson Carol Ann Shea inquired as to whether there would be a charge for skating at Ware's Cove this year just to clarify the point and was told that it will continue this year as a free skating area.

Again the question as to whether it was legal to charge in one area and not in another was brought up. The Commissioner had already checked this with Dan Funk of the Legal Department and it is permissable. Paul Burke also commented at this time that when he was a member of the Honorable Board of Aldermen, the Legal Department, at that time also ruled that it was the prerogative of the Recreation Commission to set or charge fees.

Mrs. Pepper further verbalized her objections saying that she felt that there were too many leaders on duty; that it was going to be too easy to duplicate the proposed card/permit & that the department should make up the money lost on maintaining these 2 areas by charging fees for Spring programs instead of charging for skating.

Mrs. DeVito arrived during this last part of discussion and also felt strongly that no charge should be made for skating at Bulloughs & Crystal.



A vote was taken at this time with 4 Commission members in favor and 2 opposed.

Although this motion passed, both Mrs. Pepper & Mrs. DeVito felt strongly that 2 areas cannot be opened on a "fee" basis and 1 area at a "no fee" basis.

Meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 19, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul Burke, Howard Ferguson, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Also present from the Recreation Department were Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Supervisor Carol Stapleton. Meeting Convened at 7:40 p.m.

1. Minutes of December 15, 1980 Commission meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Report of program, maintenance & Commissioner's report of meeting & events attended, were distributed to all members.
3. Presentation by Attorney Elliot Cohen on behalf of the Marriot Corp. Representing the Marriot Corp, along with Tom Connannon & Dennis Risby the architect, he informed the Commission the plans proposed to enlarge both the hotel itself and an underground garage. Original parking did not include sufficient space. Once this new facility is built, there will be enough parking for 1164 vehicles - which brings it up to code. The new building will also include a different access to parking within the garage but the general topography of the land will remain much the same.

Plans include many possible improvements beneficial to the citizens of Newton also. They include wooded walks along the shore of the river, additional plantings and attractive landscaping, a picnic area & boathouse.

They also plan to request a temporary parking area in the Norumbega area for 25 cars during construction, for which they would pay a monthly rental of \$20,000 to the Conservation Comm.

When asked why they made this presentation which included a written report on their needs, they responded that they have experienced some negativism in 1980 from the Conservators and they really need City - wide support. They pointed out that Marriot is probably the largest tax payer in the City of Newton and employes a large staff. At least 25 Additional staff will be hired once the expansion is completed.

4. Recreation Budget: Commissioner Halloran said that by this coming Friday, all City Departments will have received their dollar amounts. Once the budget is prepared, there will be a Special Meeting with the Commission members.
5. Experimental Skating at Bulloughs & Crystal: After the special meeting on January 11, 1981, with Commission members, this program was begun on a "user fee" basis. Both of these areas were cleared & broomed for skating on the 12th. The charge will be 50¢ per day Monday through Friday and \$1.00 per person on weekends or holidays. Strict accounting will continue each week on this program and free skating continues at the Ware's Cove, Auburndale skating area.

Mr. Bamel inquired about possible loss in this experiental program and whether Dr. Siegel (who earlier went to the Mayor to request the opening of these facilities) would underwrite any loss - up to \$3,000 as he and the neighbors had indicated?

If a loss occurs, Dr. Siegal will be contacted to determine if they are indeed, prepared to cover this loss as they had earlier said they would be glad to do if the skating could just be made available to the area.

Mr. Rice inquired as to how few members of a staff could actually run these areas? Commissioner responded that probably 2 or 3 could actually run these areas except for safety considerations & the new liability laws. Due to this consideration, the Department maintains a regular and safe number of staff in all skating areas.

6. Reminder that Election of Chairperson & Vice-chairperson will be taking place in March, was given by Mr. Halloran.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

Mrs. DeVito invited all members present to come to her home for refreshments after the February Commission meeting on the 23rd.

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SPECIAL RECREATION COMMISSION BUDGET MEETING

February 7, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Paul Burke, Josephine Pepper, Walter Bernheimer, Francis Rice, Jennie DeVito & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. Herb Bamel was delayed and arrived late, Mr. Ferguson could not attend as he was to accept an honor at the Shereton/Tara in Framingham at a Sport Function.

In preparation for this meeting, Commissioner Halloran arranged to have detailed accounts of the entrie proposed Recreation Department budget.

Each member was given the detailed packet of all accounts including instructions by the Executive budget officer, organizational chart, proposed cuts in budget with resulting figures & budget figures for the past year, as well as the proposed "user fee" schedule.

Chairman Nelson Baker opened the meeting and turned it over to the Commissioner.

Commissioner Halloran went through the entire budget, page by page, explaining the cuts necessitated by Proposition 2½ and how they would each affect programs & personnel. Upon completion of each page, he invited all Commission members to ask any questions that they might have on any and all items included in the budget. Each member, as the budget progressed, asked relative questions as they occurred to them, making a very smooth transition through the various accounts.

Again, at the close of his presentation, Commissioner Halloran asked again if there was anything that might be unclear, or if he could explain any additional facts relative to this budget process. Mr. Halloran also carefully went through the proposed "user fees" which may be implemented to help in offsetting some of the cutbacks in the upcoming budget due to Prop 2½.

Paul Burke moved, seconded by Fran Rice, to approve the Commissioner's recommended Recreation Department budget and fees, as presented. It was so moved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 23, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Jennie DeVito, Walter Bernheimer and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Additional people present from the Department were: Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Carol Stapleton, Supervisor and Gary Hofstetter, Dir. of Sp. Needs, Field Worker Lou MacDonald, Sp. Needs, (Northeastern U.) & Jim Green, (B.U.)

1. Minutes of regular & special meeting held in January were distributed to all members. It was voted to accept the minutes of both meetings as read. Mrs. DeVito requested that it be noted that Fran Towle was present at the Special Meeting held on February 7, 1981.
2. Reports of maintenance, program & Commissioner's report of meetings & events attended during the past month were distributed prior to the meeting.
3. Presentation by John Stewart on Newton Youth Hockey Program: A very complete, written report was distributed to the members. Mr. Stewart reviewed briefly, the growth of this popular program over the years and the help that had been provided by the Recreation Department in providing help for the cost of ice time.

He spoke realistically about the concerns of Prop 2½ in relation to the possibility of budget cuts in programs and said that he was anxious that the Department maintain funds in their budget to help support this growing program. He also said that the Youth Hockey program was grateful for all support which had been provided by Rec. over the last 5 or 6 years.

Mr. Stewart said that cost of ice is going up each year and that while they work hard in fund raising for the program, it doesn't cover it and he hopes that the City will not eliminate funding.

4. Information about proposed restaurant at 50 Winchester St. adjacent to Newton Highlands playground: Commissioner Halloran informed the group that he had been notified that this request for liquor license at this proposed restaurant, had been "withdrawn without prejudice". This will mean that it can be presented again in the future if they decide to reapply.
5. Notice that Election of Chairman & Vice-Chairman in accordance with rules & regulations of the Commission, will take place at the March meeting was given by Commissioner Halloran.
6. Reports on the experimental skating - with fees - at Bulloughs Pond & Crystal Lake, indicated that this program was partially successful and did cover a portion of the cost for leadership and maintenance in these areas.

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7. Selection of a Commission member to serve on the Committee for the selection of a candidate for the annual Youth Service Award, co-sponsored by Youth Commission & Recreation Department. Mr. Rice volunteered to serve on this committee.
8. Commissioner Halloran introduced to the group present, Gary Hofstetter, Director of the Special Needs programs, Lou MacDonald, Univ. of Mass. Special Needs, Field Worker spending time with Mr. Hofstetter and his programs and Jim Green, Spec. Needs from Boston University.

Mr. Halloran also introduced Mr. & Mrs. Small present & observing the meeting, and expressed his pleasure in having any interested citizen attend a Commission meeting.

Commissioner Halloran announced that the Annual Garden City Marathon will be run on Sunday, March 8, beginning at Noon - starting off on Hull Street to Walnut to run the 26.6 certified course all within the boundries of Newton. This is a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon and includes the famous "Heartbreak Hill" Chairpersons are Alderman Paul Daley & Donald Stanton.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The entire group was invited to Mrs. DeVito's home for refreshments afterward, and the generous hospitality of she and her husband and her entire family, was enjoyed by all of those who attended.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 16, 1981

1. Minutes of the February meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of maintenance, program and the Commissioner's reports of meetings and events which he participated in during this past month of February, were distributed to all members.
3. Election of Chairman & Vice-chairman: Chairman Nelson S. Baker turned the meeting over to Commissioner Halloran for the duration of this annual mandated election.

Mr. Paul Burke nominated for re-election, Nelson S. Baker, as Chairman and this was seconded by Jennie DeVito. No further nominations were made and nominations were closed. Herb Bamel was re-elected unanimously.

After pictures of the elected Chairman & Vice-chairman were taken with the Commissioner and pictures of the entire Commission were taken, the gavel was returned to Nelson S. Baker, to continue the meeting.

4. Commissioner Halloran reported on the progress of the Recreation Budget, telling the members that he has met with the Executive Department and that the budget prospects, while curtailed considerably, still looked adequate to continue many programs.

One of the casualties of the reduced budget will be the leader who works with the Senior adults. This position will become a contractual position with less hours per week. Diane Dragoff, the Commissioner reported who led the program since the retirement of long-time leader Esther Toher, has decided to resign & accept employment in private industry in graphic arts. Judy Dore will be taking over this position on a contractual basis and should be an excellent & positive leader for the senior adult programs.

Mr. Halloran also reported on the annual Garden City Marathon which was just recently run and which is a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon. The monies earned through this race which is run by Alderman Paul Daley & race coordinator Don Stanton, are used in the fight against child abuse. The Recreation Department always cooperates in this, providing leadership & facilities. It was a big success, good weather, good turnout, the Commissioner said.

5. Youth Awards Selection: Mr. Halloran said that the next meeting of the selection Committee would be on Thursday, March 19. Final selection for these awards to both the Jr. & Senior Youth, will probably be made at this meeting with the actual presentation to be made at a later date. This will be the 3rd annual awards program sponsored by Recreation Commission & the Youth Commission of the City of Newton and is presented in 3 categories to candidates who are judged on the basis of demonstrated good citizenship and service to their fellow youth and community.

No further regular business was before the Commission. However, the Commissioner commented on several additional subjects such as:

- a. Many thanks to Jennie DeVito for her generoud hospitality and a lovely evening at her home in February.
- b. That the Commissioner & Deputy Commissioner Fran Towle, would be meeting with the new "Scan Committee" next Friday.
- c. That as an incentive to early retirement and in conjunction with the cuts to be made due to Prop 2½, that the City of Newton was offering a special early retirement program to those near retirement age which could be most attractive, if they are qualified.
- d. That he expected that the budget process would most likely be completed by March 31. It will then go to the Board of Aldermen for processing.
- e. That the next Commission meeting would be a week later than usual due to the April holiday on the 20th - the usual 3rd Monday of the month. Herb Bamel said that he would be in Pheonix, Arizona at the time of the April meeting.

Mr. Burke then moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 27, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul Burke, Jennie DeVito, Howard Ferguson, Francis J. Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Mrs. Chas. Pepper & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Also present from Recreation Department were Deputy Commissioner, Fran Towle, & Supervisor Carol Stapleton.

1. Minutes of March meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of programs, maintenance & Commissioner's activities were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner Halloran reported that maintenance for recreation is at one of its very heaviest times - with field preparation for softball, baseball, lacrosse. Tennis courts are being cleaned & groomed and preparations will be started in May for the annual Springfest held at City Hall on the 17th.

The Commissioner reported on the very sad and untimely death of Bobbie Braceland, well known and loved by young & old in the City and a member of the Newton Police for 22 years. After a long illness, Bobbie died on March 31st. The Commissioner had visited him at the hospital only that afternoon.

Mr. Halloran said that he had recommended, as a member of the Youth Commission, that one of the Awards presented annually jointly by the Youth Commission and the Recreation Department, be named the Robert Braceland Award. This would be particularly appropriate since Bobbie has done so much in the City of Newton, not only for troubled youth but for Schools, Scouting and Youth programs in general.

Youth Awards will be made at special ceremonies at the Newton City Hall on May 4th at 8:00 p.m. All members are invited. Chub Ryan of the Newton Recreation Department will be the recipient for the adult award this year for his contribution to the quality of life in Newton. The first adult award of this type went to former Senior Recreation Supervisor, James E. Murphy shortly after his retirement and last year to Robert Braceland.

Mr. Halloran also noted that he was most appreciative for all of the help and assistance he received in the budget preparation from Fran Towle, Carol Stapleton and Kathy Brearly.

In response to Mr. Bernheimer's query about the progress of the Cold Spring Development program, the Commissioner told the group that at present, the project is "on hold" due to Prop 2½ and that the \$250,000 matching funding from the Heritage Committee is still available at this time but that this is only one of many projects within the suspended CIP programs for the City.

Commissioner Halloran briefly touched on the recent serious fire which took place at the Hyde School in Newton Highlands square. At this time, it is uncertain as to whether classes will be relocated or they may arrange to use classrooms in the unharmed portion of the Hyde School building until temporary repairs can be made in the damaged building of the school.

4. Budget reports on Recreation budget: Recreation budget was presented to members of the Human Services Committee by Comm. Halloran on April 10th. It was approved on a 5 to 0 vote with no changes recommended. On April 16th, he presented this to the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen. No vote was taken at that time. However, Chairman Nelson S. Baker remarked that all present at both of these hearings had been impressed with the manner in which Commissioner Halloran presented and handled this matter.
5. Youth Award Ceremonies: This will take place at the city of Newton Aldermanic Chambers on May 4th. Both Commissioner Halloran & Fran Rice were on the selection Committee and all 4 of their selections were chosen. The Mayor will make the presentations that evening at 8:00 p.m.
6. New Business:
  - (a) Commission member Walter Bernheimer reported that he has had complaints about the two tennis courts at Newton South that have 1-inch wide cracks in them. Mr. Halloran said that lack of Capital Improvement Programs will likely result in problems, not only here but in other areas since what is needed now is not simply maintenance but repair. Money for an estimated \$35,000 repair for courts is simply not available at this time due to Prop 2½ and there has not really been any CIP money for the last few years.
  - (b) Mr. Rice mentioned that the Life Course at Auburndale is in need of more tanbark & sand on the running path connecting the stations. Commissioner Halloran suggested that he meet Fran Rice down there and they can go over the area and check it over. Mr. Rice said that it might be possible, he thought, that he might come up with a donation to provide some funds to help defray the cost of replacing the surface of this path.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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NEWTON RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 18, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul J. Burke, Francis J. Rice, Walter S. Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. Howard Ferguson was unable to attend this evening as he was at an Executive Meeting for coaches.

Also present from the Recreation Department were: Fran Towle, Deputy Comm. and Carol Stapleton, & Sheila Balch, Supervisors

Meeting was called to order by Chairman at 7:45 p.m.

1. Minutes of April meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of programs, maintenance & Commissioner's activities were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner reported on Spring Fest, the Annual Spring event held on (a) City Hall greensward each year. This event is co-sponsored by Recreation and the Cultural Affairs Commission. He said that he felt this was the most successful Spring Fest that had been held, good weather, good crowd, good booths - as many as 140, plus entertainment for both children & adults and games for children. Several thousand people attended. Congressman Frank, Mayor Mann and Alderman Taglianti attended also.  

Commissioner Halloran commended members of the Recreation staff who worked all day at this affair to contribute to its success such as Linda Plaut, Sheila Balch, Fran Towle, Mike Butts, Jean Cole, and Judy Dore.
- (b) Mayor's 7th Annual Community Prayer Breakfast will be held on Friday morning, May 29th. Commissioner Halloran invited all members to attend if possible.
- (c) Mr. Halloran explained to the members that a group of residents at the Crystal Lake facility were interested in having a fence built to separate private & public areas on the Lake. They are willing to collect and give \$5,000 to pay for this fence. The problem appears to be twofold: objection by the Conservation Commission and the fact that this is a "great pond" and subject to State regulations, rather than a simple municipal area. At present it would seem that it will not be possible to erect a fence.
- (d) Commissioner Halloran reminded members that the June meeting will be held on the 15th and that unless some unusual problem arose, the Commission did not usually meet during the hot summer months of July & August. All agreed that this was a good idea.
4. Consideration of request for annual Hawthorn Festival for St. Mary of Carmine Society. In accordance with the rules of the Recreation Commission, the Society first provided a letter requesting permission to held this festival from July 13th to 19th at the Hawthorn area. Actual festival will operate from Wed. July 15th to Sunday, July 19th with set up on Monday, the 13th and take down complete by 5:00 p.m. on Monday the 20th.

The carnival portion of the Festival will be under strict regulation as always, with the rides inspected by the Newton Building Commission prior to opening; insurance certification in the amount of two million dollars; no thrill rides to exceed 20 persons at a time; carnival operators to meet with Rec. Commissioner prior to opening to discuss details; type & amount of rides will be same as previous years.

Commission members inquired of the Commissioner, if there had been any opposition expressed to the department this past year. Mr. Halloran said that as far as he was aware, there had been none. Members of the Society present, Leone, Battista & Gentile all agreed that they had not received any adverse comments either.

Since no decernable problems had arisen last year, and the affair is of ethnic origin held for many years, there seemed no apparent reason for any objections and the Recreation Commissioner recommended approval to the Commission.

Paul Burke moved to allow the St. Mary of Carmine Society to held its Annual Celebration the third week in July at Hawthorn playground, subject to strict rules and regulations set up by the Recreation Department and the City of Newton, based upon the recommendation of Commissioner Halloran. Mr. Rice seconded and it was so moved unanimously.

Commissioner Halloran stressed at this time, that the Society must work closely with the many City of Newton Departments involved in this event such as: the Executive Department, Allen Fraser of the Building Dept. and Liscening Dept. Carlton Merrill. It is vital that all rules & regulations set down by the City of Newton are adhered strictly to by the Society and its associates. A letter including rules & regulations from the Recreation Department will be sent shortly. Commissioner Halloran will also meet with the Carnival operator to assure adherence of these rules & regulations. Police Department will also be notified.

5. Report on passage of Recreation Department budget: Mr. Halloran reported that the budget has been passed by the Board of Aldermen with an 8% reduction - pretty much as presented but with a few minor changes in sewer charges and reinstatement of the Youth Center at Hyde School.
6. Outdoor Swim Rules for Crystal Lake & Gath Pool: Preliminary proposed copies of rules & regulations were provided to all Commission members. Few changes had been made except that Saturday swim will begin later than in previous years and swim lessons will be completed early in August.

Gath Pool will open June 13th and Crystal Lake will open June 20th. Pre-season & post-season swim times will be posted in both facilities. New user fees, as approved by both Recreation Commission & Board of Aldermen, will be in effect this season. Student \$5, Adult \$10 & \$25 for family. (Crystal out-of-city swimmers will pay \$4 for use of that facility)

7. Consideration of recommendation for summer supervised playgrounds:  
After careful study and consideration by both the Commissioner and his staff, & due to declining population enrolled in schools, and taking into consideration the fact that there are many more full-time working parents who really require day-care programs, it was decided to recommend that 17 playgrounds be supervised this year. All playgrounds are open and maintained as usual - but not supervised.

After careful evaluation by the Commission, Mr. Rice moved to accept changes recommended in the report provided to Commission members by Com. Halloran. In this report, it was recommended that 17 playgrounds be supervised this year. Mr. Bernheimer seconded, and it was voted unanimously to approve this change.

8. New Business:

- (a) Nelson Baker, Chairman of the Commission, reported that he had received a very nice letter from the Human Services Dept. with regard to the Youth Award ceremonies in which the Recreation Dept. and Commissioner are as co-chairpersons and which was recently held at City Hall. Mr. Baker did the presentation on behalf of the Commission and Human Services was appreciative and thanked him for the co-sponsorship of Recreation.
- (b) Commissioner Halloran reported that at the recent, annual cookout of the Recreation Department at Wares Cove in Auburndale, Jim Ronayne retiring Athletic Director of North High and close associate with Recreation, had been invited to attend as a guest. It was with great pleasure that Commissioner Halloran presented a surprise award in the form of a plaque, to Jim Ronayne for his many years of service to the City of Newton, and for his always dependable cooperation with the Recreation Department.

At this same cookout, Commissioner Halloran presented to a very surprised and pleased, Marge Lesbirel, an award plaque for her loyalty and friendship to the Recreation Department for so many years. Both her daughter, Midge and her Granddaughter Nikki, were with her to share in this very happy event and the entire recreation staff present, joined in congratulating her.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m. Next meeting on June 15th

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

Minutes of June 15, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Jennie DeVito, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Walter Bernheimer, Francis Rice & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary (Nelson Baker was absent due to being involved in a 5 week trial case).

Since the Chairman, Nelson Baker, was unable to attend due to trial, and Vice Chairman Herbert Bamel was not present, Commissioner Halloran requested Paul Burke to Chair this meeting. Meeting was then called to order by acting Chairman Paul Burke at 7:35 PM.

1. Minutes of May meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Copies of all reports on maintenance, programs & Commissioner's reports of his meetings & events during the last month, were distributed to all members present.
3. Commissioner Halloran reported that he had spoken with Nelson Baker and that it was unlikely he would be able to attend this evening since, as a lawyer, he would be tied up in a 5-week trial.

Mr. Halloran said that the Recreation Department, including maintenance was as always, extremely busy at this particular time of the year - getting ready for the summer season, preparing fields, getting the pool and lake in order and ready for opening in June. At this time of year, Little League baseball is in full swing and Recreation softball leagues are playing a full schedule. Schools are still in session and with heavy athletic field use by them.

Some of the highlights of this past month, the Commissioner said, were the special surprise dinner at Post 440 for Jim Ronayne, on the occasion of his retirement as Athletic Director at North High. This was a great occasion since Jim is well liked and has been with the City of Newton 21 years and will now accept a golf-pro position, on Cape Cod.

During this same month, a retirement party was held for Coach Possett, at Valle's Resuarant at Chestnut Hill. He was well respected and liked by all.

For the 44th year, the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival, will be held at the Hawthorn playground. Nunzio Leone, again will be in charge. This will be held during July as usual (see permit info. in May minutes) The final torch light procession to the Church, the main focus of the festival, will be held Sunday evening.

On May 27th, Mr. Burke reported, a special "Roast for Russ Halloran" was held at Valle's at Chestnut Hill. It was a super time for him sponsored by the Newton Kiwanis. Many dignataries, including Mayor Mann, were present. As Mr. Burke note, only one other Department Head in the history of the City of Newton, over many years, has ever been honored like this. Mr. Halloran responded that he had enjoyed every minutes of the affair and how happy he had been to have so many good friends join him at this special affair since veryone seemed to have such a great time - including himself - and that he was most appreciative to his friends and the Newton Kiwanis Club.

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4. Gath Pool Opening: Preparations were completed and Gath pool opened last week on Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 PM. Rules & regulations are available tonight here at this meeting if Commission members are interested. There was a good crowd at the opening, Mr. Halloran said, due to warm weather. Crystal Lake will open next Saturday, on the 20th of June.
  5. Playground opening: Orientation for playground personnel will be held at the Newton Art Center on Washington Park in Newtonville, on June 25th. Playgrounds open on Monday, June 20th for the summer season and will be open until August 14th.
  6. Village Day - Newton Highlands: A black tie dance, in conjunction with the annual event, was held this year at the Crystal Lake Bathhouse on Friday, June 6th. This was an excellent affair, with good coordination between those Committee members involved from the neighborhood, and the Recreation Department. This is the first time an event of this type has been ehld in this beautifully renovated bathhouse. All involved agreed that this was a lovely event.
  7. Summer Commission meetings: Commissioner Halloran reminded all the members present that the Commission had agreed not to meet during the hot, summer months of July and August unless there was some special necessity. The next Commission meeting therefore, will be held in September, on the 3rd Monday. This will be September 21st.
  8. New Business:

- a. Mr. & Mrs. Small, as concerned citizens, were present and asked the Commission the reason why the tennis rules state that participants must wear shirts while playing tennis? They would like to see this rules changed, they said, so that men could play barechested.

Commission members responded that even though traditionally all tennis players were expected to were white, Newton tennis rules were relaxed for public tennis courts and players could wear any "socailly acceptable attire,with men wearing shirts" One of the chief reasons for wearing shirts, was for the comfort of the players. As Mr. Bernheimer said, in a vigorous game of tennis, it is inevitable that players sweat profusely and a shirt absorbs this perspiration.

No changes were recommended in the tennis rules by any of the Commission members.

- b. The second suggestions that the Smalls made, was limate the reserve system of tennis at the light South High Courts - which is - and has been - in existence for several years. This permitted system allows a Newton resident with a permit, to reserve ahead, a court once a week courtside, for an hour.

Eliminations of this attendnat would also eliminate the control of these courts, to the exclusive use of Newton residents. This fact was pointed out to the Smalls by a Commission member. There would also be the question of liability to players, and the fact that on heavily used courts such as these, there

would be no one to administer first aid, nor call for help should there be an accident to a player.

The Commissioner said that he would certainly ask the District Supervisor to evaluate the need for a tennis attendant at the South High tennis courts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



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Recreation Commission Meeting

Minutes of Sept. 21, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul J. Burke, Howard Ferguson, Francis Rice, Mrs. Chas. Pepper, Mrs. Worthing L. West (Member Emeritus) & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary. Mr. Bernheimer was away on business in New Jersey and Mrs. DeVito on business in Quincy.

Also present from the Recreation Department were Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner & Carol Stapleton, Associate Manager.

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Baker.

Minutes of June meeting were accepted as presented.

A special note to be included in the minutes was made, that the Smalls, who attended the June meeting & had posed the questions of:

1. Why can't men play tennis bare chested?
2. Why pay for a tennis attendant to make reservations and also limit tennis play to Newton residents?

Mr. Halloran said that he had communicated verbally with them after the last Commission meeting.

2. Reports of programs and maintenance for the past summer, were distributed to all present members.
3. Commissioner's reports on summer that:
  - A. Recreation was very busy, with many events taking place. i.e. Special Needs Day Camp, Special Needs resident camp playground tennis lessons for children & adults at North High, plus tennis play in all courts (not as heavy, it was observed, as in previous years however)
  - B. Playground attendance off - in spite of the fact that the total number of playground this years was reduced from 29 to 17. Since so many parents both work, it may be that the idea of Day-Camps for young children must be explored - instead of playgrounds. Playgrounds closed in August on the 14th.
  - C. Jim Ronayne, former Newton North High Athletic Director, and with whom the Recreation Department has been fortunate, to work closely with over many years, has resigned at the close of the school year. He has accepted a position as golf pro on Cape Cod. He will be sorely missed, Mr. Halloran said. Replacing him as Athletic Director at North High, will be Tom Williams.
  - D. Metal soccer posts are being constructed in cooperation with Newton Public Works Department. These should prove to be sturdier than the wooden posts.
  - E. Senior Citizen picnic, held at Hawthorn, was a big success and the Recreation leaders who worked, did an excellent job under the direction of Carol Stapleton, the person in charge of this facility.
  - F. Dedication of the Special Needs ramp, was held at Crystal Lake. The Mayor & many invited guests, including both handicapped & non-handicapped, were present to take part in the "first in the State", access ramp for public

- G. Crystal Lakes Annual Swimming Demonstration and show, took place at the close of the season and both Jeanette West and Gil Champagne, were present to take part and hand out the yearly awards to the boy & girl of the year.
- H. At the annual Women's softball banquet this season, the Mary Lou O'Halloran award was presented to Marilyn Sicurella.
- I. South Gridiron looks good, Mr. Halloran said. Herb Bamel, Commission member from the area, agreed!
- J. The mural at Hawthorn is terrific. Everyone is urged to go down and see this mural which depicts Arthur Feidler conducting the orchestra on the Boston Esplanade, in the 1812 Overture, at the 4th of July concert.
- K. Herb Bamel mentioned that he felt the planned symphony concerts scheduled by the Arts-in-the-Parks program for Recreation, is really fabulous. Wonderful selection of conductors and programs.
- L. New positions reported in Recreation Department by Commissioner: Carol Stapleton elevated to Associate Recreation Manager, Marge Lesbirel to Administrative Assistant and Kathy Brearley to Principal Bookkeeper. Fran Towle, of course, remains as Deputy Commissioner.
- M. Harvest Fair, coordinated by this Department, will be held on the Newton Centre Green, on October 4th. The new mural planned for this area, will be dedicated on that day.

There was no additional business. Mrs. West, who was visiting the Commission on one of her rare visits, complemented Linda Plaut on her Arts-in-the-Parks, program. She also said she was very excited and pleased about the completion of the Special Needs ramp at Crystal Lake. She was pleased to have been included in the dedication of this ramp since she has always been particularly interested and concerned about Crystal Lake facilities.

Mrs. West also reported that a 4 x 8 sign had been removed from the water at Crystal Lake, which said "No Swimming" and she suggested that this be replaced. She was most generous of her praise of Commissioner Halloran as the Head of the Department - who she feels - has done an excellent job for the Recreation Dept.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Next meeting will be held on October 19, 1981

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

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Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

Minutes of October 19, 1981

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Francis Rice, Jennie DeVito, Howard Ferguson, Josephine Pepper, Walter Bernheimer & Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Also present at this meeting were: Carol Stapleton and Fran Towle. Ms. Towle brought with her, several students from her Mt. Ida Junior College who are currently in the Recreation curriculum.

1. Minutes of September Commission meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of programs, attendance and maintenance were distributed to all members.
3. Commissioner Halloran reported the following information:
  - a. The Farmer's Market was terrific this year! As many as 19 farmers participated, with lots of citizen participation & really good involvement by all. Sue King from the Newton Recreation Department was the Market Master this year, and did an excellent job. (Sue is currently a Northeastern University student, doing her field work with the Recreation Department). Two weeks remain in this season, and after this year's success, it should be bigger and better next year.
  - b. September is a relatively slow month as far as recreation goes, since most of the ongoing programs of the summer are over and Fall & Winter programs have not yet begun. Maintenance is still involved in marking fields and will be clearing leaves before too long. Senior adult programs are continuing vigorously at this time, under the direction of Judy Dore.
  - c. Soccer continues to increase in popularity and participation, with Recreation Department providing fields. In an effort to combat vandalism of wooden soccer posts; and in cooperation with Fred Arata of the Public Works Department, 5 sets of steel goal posts have been constructed and installed. These were constructed on the same principal as those successfully constructed and used, by the Town of Needham. Little vandalism has occurred in those areas where these metal goal posts have been installed as they are very strong.

Sheila Balch and Carol Stapleton are the two liason person for the Recreation Department to the two soccer organizations. Little complaint has been received with regard to fields, although Mr. Bernheimer noted that fields are extremely dry at this time, and there is a little rockyness at the Auburndale soccer field.
  - d. The annual Harvest Fair, was held on October 4th. This was the 6th annual Fair and a big success, with over 10,000 people present and over 100 vendors taking part. It was an absolutely gorgeous Fall day.

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4. Baseball field at Albemarle Playground: Upon a request and recommendation by Commissioner Halloran, it was brought before the Recreation Commission, that the regulation baseball field at Albemarle, be named the Paul J. Burke Baseball Field, in honor of his many, many years of involvement and work with the youth of Newton, not only in baseball as a manager, coach and player, but for his committment over the last 35 years in all concerns of the youth of Newton.

All Commission members were very enthusiastic about this, and Mr. Ferguson moved that the regulation baseball field at Albemarle playground be officially named, "The Paul J. Burke Baseball Field" - and that dedication of this field take place this coming Spring. This was seconded by Mr. Rice, and the Commission members voted unanimously in favor of this proposal.

5. Muscular Dystrophy & Newton Jaycees Soccer Special: Carol Stapleton will be in charge of this special program which will be held at Newton North High on November 15th between noon and 3:00 PM. This will be held outdoors if the weather is good - inside at North High, if it rains. It will involve approximately 300 children, aged from 7 to 17. Carol explained that there will be 4 or 5 goals set up, and to earn money, each person will try and get sponsors. It will be managed in somewhat the same manner as a swim-a-thon has been done in the past. Demonstrations will also be held, showing how to juggle a soccer ball with both your feet, and your head. The Athletic Director at North High, Tom Williams, plus a South High person, will also be involved.
6. Progress report on indoor programs at Newton North High: The indoor program opened on October 5th. This was the first year that in addition to the photo I. D. necessary, a fee system was implemented at \$10.00 for a student, \$15.00 for an adult and \$35.00 for a family.

It will be difficult to tell much before mid-January, if this fee system is succesful and whether it is a problem with the public. Necessitated by the restraints of Proposition 2½, it will be necessary to obtain about \$87,000 in fees, to cover this program. The pool maintenance itself, is handled by the Public Buildings Department.

7. Budget process will be beginning in mid-November, Commissioner Halloran told the Commission members.

Next meeting will be held on November 16th. Mrs. Pepper said she would not be present as she plan to be on vacation in Hawaii, at that time.

Since there was no new business, Mr. Rice moved to adjourn at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary

Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

November 16, 1981 Minutes

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Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Nelson S. Baker, Vice-Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Paul J. Burke, Francis Rice, Howard Ferguson, Walter S. Bernheimer, Jennis DeVito and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary.

Also present were: Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager. Two visiting students from Mt. Ida Junior College also came to this meeting.

1. Minutes of the October meeting were accepted as circulated.
2. Reports of maintenance, attendance and program were distributed to all members. Commissioner's reports of activities during the past month were also distributed.
  - (a) Commissioner Halloran reported that October had been a busy month as far as maintenance was concerned, with lots of school sports continuing, plus Pop Warner football, soccer and touch football. Although touch football is no longer run by the Recreation Department, we still provide playing fields and mark these fields. This has been a problem this year due to quite a lot of rain.
  - (b) Jim McLaughlin resigned from the Newton Recreation Department and has now been employed on a permanent basis as a Supervisor for the Waltham Recreation Department. A farewell dinner was held for him by the Newton Recreation Department personnel. He & his wife attended.
  - (c) Recreation is preparing for the dedication of the newly constructed mural at Newton Centre. A lot of Community participation went into this creative art mural composed of ceramic peices made in the Newton Centre studio of Lilli Ann Killan Rosenberg. She has now combined these into an attractive, free standing, mural at Newton Centre. Partial funding for this project was provided by a grant from the Massachusetts Council of Arts, and approved by Mayor Mann and the Board of Aldermen.
  - (d) Progress on the preparation for the City of Newton take-over of the former Chestnut Hill Golf Course, has been made. Commissioner Halloran has been requested by his honor, Mayor Mann, to convene a meeting of this Committee and to recommend 2 members from the Recreation Commission to join the group as a part of this Management Committee. Both Howard Ferguson and Walter Bernheimer have agreed to serve on this Committee. Larry Marino, City Comptroller & Commissioner Halloran are included with Mr. Halloran as ex officio. There is a clear edict Mr. Halloran said, that this golf course must fund itself.

Commission members are very interested in the City's use of the area and wonder if other uses could be made; i.e. cross country skiing? More information will be made available later on. Barkin Development is the construction company involved in building the condos planned for a portion of this area. On the December Commission agenda, more information will be forthcoming.
3. Skating and skating fees planned for the 1981/1982 season: Supervision is planned for Ware's Cove in Auburndale, Bullough's Pond in Newtonville

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and Crystal Lake in Newton Centre. However, a fee must be charged in order to maintain these areas. If the fee charge is not adequate, the area will have to be closed. Each area must pay for itself. Commissioner Halloran recommended the following steps:

Step I. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for Auburndale, Bulloughs & Crystal Lake, be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday Friday:	3:00 to 9:00 PM
Tuesday, Thursday:	2:00 to 9:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays or Vacation **	10:00 am to 9:00 PM

Step II. If attendance does not warrant keeping a facility, or facilities, open during the evening hours, it is recommended that a cutback of hours be instituted as follows:

Monday, Wednesday	3:00 to 6:00 PM
Tuesday, Thursday:	2:00 to 6:00 PM
Friday	3:00 to 9:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays, Vacations:	10:00 am to 9:00 PM

Step III. The third step recommended, if attendance does not justify the hours a facility remains open, would be to close the facility for the remainder of the skating season.

\* 1980 - 1981 Skating hours: Monday thru Fridays, 2:00 to 9:30 pm  
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays & Vacations: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

\*\* Christmas Day, New Years Day, Martin Luther King Day, & Washington's Birthday

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1981 - 1982 Recommended Skating Fees

It is recommended that the fee structure initiated by the Commission last year at Crystal Lake & Bulloughs Pond, be carried over to the upcoming skating season, with the addition of a "user fee" at Ware's Cove in Auburndale.

Weekday Fee:	50¢ per person (ages 6 to 60)*
Weekend & Holiday Fee:	\$1.00 per person (ages 6 to 60)*

\*Children under six years of age and senior adults, sixty or older, are admitted free of charge.

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Commissioner Halloran said that the general public, of course, be notified of any possible changes before the skating season begins, so that they would be aware that a good response from skaters would assure that particular area being kept open.

Wally Bernheimer felt strongly that the 50¢ fee was much too low as this would certainly not cover the cost of keeping a particular area open. He said that \$1.00 would be much more appropriate and

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not beyond the reach of any parent or child in Newton.

Most members seemed ready to accept the recommendations on fees prepared by Recreation - to be tried on a trial basis - but with the understanding that if it appeared that one of the three areas was not going to generally pay it's own way, that a review would be made, by the entire Commission, at a Special Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Paul Burke that the recommendations on skating at Auburndale, Crystal and Bulloughs, along with the fee recommendations, be implemented on a two week trial basis. This was seconded by Mr. Ferguson.

After discussion, in which Mr. Bernheimer again protested that this fee was not high enough, and that before an area was closed for lack of funds, that the \$1.00 fee be charged, to see if funds could be increased and the closing of an area be prevented, this motion was put to a vote.

It was voted 5 in favor of the recommendations and 1 opposed. (Mr. Bernheimer again reiterated that he wasn't opposed to skating or fees but still felt this wasn't a high enough fee).

While it was not a part of the motion, it was clearly understood by the entire membership present that before any area was closed, that Commissioner Halloran would call a Special Meeting of the Commission members, to discuss possible closing.

This will also be discussed at the January meeting.

4. Report on Muscular Dystrophy and Newton Jaycees Soccer Special to be held outdoors on November 15th at Newton North High, was cancelled due to heavy rain. A smaller version was moved indoors in the S.O.A. upper gym area. \*(Simulated Outdoor Area )
5. New Business:
  - (a) Mr. Paul Burke thanked the Recreation Commission members for the honor conferred on him by the membership at a recent meeting where they voted to name the Albemarle baseball field "The Paul J. Burke Baseball Field". The concensus of the Commission expressed was that "it was well deserved". Mr. Bamel says that he is looking forward to seeing Mr. Burke many time - many years - at this same field!
  - (b) Nelson Baker reminded the Commission members that as he had previously notified the Mayor, the Commissioner and Commission members, this would be his last meeting as a member of the Commission and the Chairman. He said he would miss being Chairman and his associations with the members of the Recreation Commission, over the years.

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Recreation Commission, the Vice-Chairman, Herbert R. Bamel; will not become Chairman. Mr. Bamel acccepted the gavel from Mr. Nelson.

Nominations were then accepted for a Vice-Chairman. Paul Burke nominated Jennie DeViot, with Mr. Bernheimer seconding this

the nomination. No other nomination was forthcoming and nominations were closed. The Commission voted unanimously for Jennie DeVito as Vice-chairman.

Annual election of officers will be held in March 1982. Members will, of course, be notified of the upcoming election in February which is in accordance with Recreation Commission rules.

Mrs. DeVito expressed her thanks to the Commission members and said that she was looking forward to working with the Commission as Vice-Chairman.

Everyone joined in thanking Nelson Baker for his efforts as Chairman of the Commission where he had done such a good job for many years. All agreed with Commissioner Halloran, that Nelson had done an outstanding job.

Pictures were taken of the outgoing and the incoming Chairman and Commission and Nelson Baker was presented a plaque in appreciation for his work as Chairperson.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary



Newton Recreation Commission Meeting

December 21, 1981 Minutes

Present: Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Chairman Herbert R. Bamel, Vice Chairman, Jennie DeVito, Paul J. Burke, Francis R. Rice, Howard Ferguson, Walter Bernheimer, Mrs. Charles Pepper and Marjorie Lesbirel, Secretary

Also present were: Recreation Manager, Carol Stapleton & Recreation Supervisor Sheila Balch.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bamel, at 7:35 PM.

1. Minutes of the November meeting were approved as circulated.
2. Reports of maintenance, program and Commissioner's reports of activities were distributed to members.
3. Commissioner Halloran's report included:

- (a) Reported reluctantly, that Gary Hofstetter, Special Needs Director for the past three years, has resigned to go into private business. Mr. Halloran said that Gary has done an outstanding job in this position and has been a shiny example for not only the City of Newton, but for the entire State. He said he was very sad to see Gary leave, that he had established a fine tradition and was well liked by both the parent and the participants in his programs.

Gary will continue to live in Newton and continue to be involved in Special Needs - both in some of the programs as well as continue to hold a position on the Mayor's Committee on the Handicapped.

Commissioner Halloran said that Lou MacDonald will be replacing Gary as the new Special Needs Director. He has the support of the Special Needs parents since he has worked in the Newton Special Needs programs with Gary, over a period of time, and is trained & educated in Special Needs.

- (b) The Recreation Department budget process, Commissioner Halloran reported, will begin shortly, and should be completed in January. He has hopes to be able to present the Commission with his proposed budget

Mr. Bamel asked the Commissioner, what he considered would be the major problems in the continual erosion of the Recreation Department budget. Mr. Halloran responded that in his opinion, the prime concern was the lack of a Capital Improvement program. Without Capital Improvement facilities, problems begin, due to deterioration of facilities and equipment. For instance: cracks in tennis courts, basketball courts, play equipment deteriorating, painting and maintenance of facilities delayed and heavily used fields worn out and no funds to re sod them.

Mr. Bamel wondered if the Recreation Department couldn't request additional funds from the Board of Aldermen for some of these necessities. However, Mr. Burke said that the Board of Aldermen were unable to initiate money matters - this must originate in the Executive office.

4. Consideration of a family permit for the skating season: Commissioner Halloran received a letter from a citizen who lived on Ware's Cove and Mr. Bamel also received a call from a person suggesting a season permit for skaters instead of paying the daily fee.

The Recreation Department is always willing to cooperate with citizens, but had hesitated to implement a season pass as the winter skating season is so unpredictable. Some years have only a few days while other have gone as long as a couple of months.

This year, in particular, it will be vital that fees cover maintenance and leadership for all of the areas since the budget is strictly limited. The daily fee was implemented at 50¢ a day weekdays and \$1.00 per day on weekends and holidays. A review will take place every three weeks, of all areas, and if response is not adequate, the particular area - or areas - will be closed.

While the Recreation Department is more than willing to help out families by having a seasonal pass - providing it covers the cost for an area - it will absolutely not be able to refund any monies if, for some reason, (i.e. warm weather, heavy snow or rain and melted ice) makes it necessary to close one, or all, of the skating sites. Daily fees will continue to be available, of course.

Mr. Burke moved to recommend that a season pass be made available for families and individuals - at \$10.00 for an individual - and \$25.00 for a family - and with the understanding that no refunds will be made.

Discussion followed on the pros and cons. Mr. Bamel inquired if the Commissioner felt that fees would cover the total cost of operating skating areas but Mr. Halloran said he felt they wouldn't.

Mr. Burke was asked if he would consider amending his motion to make the charge for an individual \$15.00 rather than \$10.00 - and he agreed to do this. The motion was so amended. Mr. Rice seconded this motion and it was so moved unanimously.

The Commission members asked that they receive a weekly report individually, each week, on the skating situation, and that no changes or closing of areas take place before January 19, 1982. Mr. Halloran said that this would not be a problem at all and he will be glad to see that they are all kept informed. Mr. Bernheimer will notify Mr. Songer on the action taken by the Recreation Commission and Commissioner Halloran will notify Mr. Scofield in the Auburndale area.

5. Report on distribution of the new Senior Adult cookbook by the Recreation Department: Commissioner Halloran reported that this "Senior Secrets" book - as it was named - was a tremendous success. Input from all Newton Seniors was invited, and an attractive cookbook was printed.

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Cost to the general public will be \$5.00 and to Senior Adults, only \$3.00. Each Commission member was given one at Judy Dore's request, at no charge. However, all members of the Recreation Commission insisted on donating a generous cash amount to the Senior Adults and Secretary, Marge Lesbirel, was asked to deliver this money to Judy Dore.

6. Report on results of first meeting of the new Newton Commonwealth Foundation Golf Course Management Committee. Mr. Halloran had been requested by the Mayor, to organize this group and arrange for them to meet. Both he and Larry Marino, City Comptroller, were name ex officio. Also at the Executive Department's request, 2 members of the Recreation Commission were invited to join this Committee. Mr. Halloran suggested Mr. Berheimer & Mr. Ferguson, both of whom - agreed. First meeting was held at City Hall on December 8th of this 17 member Management Committee. Business included the election of officer - with Tom Elkind as Chairman. Consideration of the draft of a contract is to be worked out with a private contractor for 4 years - which was distributed to each member of the sub-committee - will be considered at their sub-committee meeting on January 6th.

The next regular meeting of this group will be held on January 12, 1982 at 7:30 PM, at City Hall and will be under the direction of the new chairman, Tom Elkind.

7. Since there was no contemplated new business and the meeting room was unheated and very cold with everyone with their coat on, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. It was suggested by Chairman Bamel, that the Commission plan to meet at the Recreation Department in Auburndale if this present room continued to be so cold and unheated - as it was this evening.

Commissioner Halloran extended his good wishes for the holidays now and for New Years, to all present.

Next meeting will take place on January 18, 1982.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie Lesbirel  
Secretary