

January 27, 1992

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Herbert Bamel, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Johnson, James Mahoney, Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the December meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of various meetings attended during the past month were distributed to all present. Enclosed in the folders are brochures for different events in the Department and a trip to Italy with Mayor Mann.

Kevin McNamara, Committee for Eliminating the growth of the "FANWORT" weed at the Auburndale Cove was present to discuss the problem. He showed the Commission members 2 photo's of the Cove with the weeds protruding out of the water. It is extremely dangerous to the ice skaters and also the motors on boats. Commissioner Bhatti of the M.D.C. will be meeting this Friday at City Hall in room 202 with abutters, neighbors, Aldermen and Commissioner Halloran to discuss the problem of the weeds.

3. Budget Report FY 93': Due to budget cuts, last year 13 positions were to be eliminated. Through negotiations with the Union, the Union approved a new Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan for FY92. Because of the savings through these negotiations, the 13 positions were reinstated for FY92. However, Local 800 Union voted on a new Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan before July 1st, 1991 and the 13 positions were reinstated. The Parks and Recreation budget for FY93 \$2,857,786 resulted in a budget cut of \$294,756. With this year's budget cut, 12 maintenance positions are to be eliminated, of these 8 are retirements and possibly 4 lay offs. After much discussion, the Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to accept the 93' Parks & Recreation Budget. Mayor Mann will present the budget to the Board of Alderman sometime in March. Commissioner Halloran commented that the Department will be looking into privatization of rubbish, leaves and ballfields in the future.

- 4. Fees and Policies for Picnic, Field and Building Permits: The Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to approve the fees and policies governing Newton Parks & Recreation's picnic, field and building permits effective Spring of 1992.
- 5. 70% Recovery on Fees Dealing with Recreation Programs: In the future, the Recreation Department will be looking into the possibility of a 70% recovery fee on the Senior, Special Needs, and Youth Leagues and various programs.
- 6. Skating Update: Ice Skating opened at the Auburndale Cove on January 18th. Crystal Lake is not open as it has diversified ice measurements in different locations and also there is still open water in the middle of the lake.
- 7. New Business: No new business.

Next meeting will be held on February 24, 1992.

February 24, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Anthony Battista, Jo Pepper, Peter Johnson, James Mahoney, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the January meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commisisoner's report of various meetings attended during the past month were distributed to all present. Enclosed in the folders are Department brochures including Golf Lessons at Newton North Indoor Complex, Senior Trip brochure and Newton Pride's 1992 Spring Bulb Catalog.
3. Newton North Little League Concession Stand which is proposed to be placed at Albermarle's James E. Murphy Field: Representing the Newton North Little League were Terry Morris, Edward Boudreau and League President Tony Colella; Representing Ward 2, were Aldermen Linda Jordan Kraus and Allan Ciccone. Also present were three abutters who presented the Commission with a petition consisting of eighty nine (89) signatures in opposition to the errection of the proposed concession stand. The Newton North Little League adopted the James E. Murphy Field in 1989. Since the adoption they have made over \$30,000 in improvements, inclusive of installing a batting cage, sodding the James E. Murphy Field twice, placing of the irrigation system, and benches, along with currently spending \$3,000 a year in materials to maintain the field with volunteer help.

A request is being made on behalf of the Newton North Little League which is a charter member of Little League Baseball Incorporated, a non-profit educational corporation, to endorse the League's petition to install a concession stand at the James E. Murphy Baseball Field at Albermarle Playground. The stand would be installed at private expense and subject to receipt of the necessary permits from the appropriate departments and agencies. The concession stand would be of modular concrete design and placed behind the backstop.

After much discussion the Commission members voted unanimously (5-0) to endorse the Newton North Little League proposal to erect a concession stand of modular concrete design at the James E. Murphy Field with the following stipulations; placement, aesthetics and the time of operation.

Time of operation was determined to be an opening of 1/2 hour before the game starts and closing 1/2 hour after completion of the game from the months of April through August. The stand is to be used solely by the Newton North Little League. Aesthetics and placement were to be worked out between the abutters and Little League personnel.

The Newton North Little League would also have to seek approval of the Building, Planning, Engineering, Health Departments and any other appropriate agencies.

4. Update Fanwort Weed at Auburndale Cove: Several meetings have been held regarding the increased vegetation at Ware's Cove. An application of a herbicide called "Sonar" is to take place this Spring as a pilot project funded by the Metropolitan District Commission. Follow up meetings are still being held by the "Save the Cove" group and concerned citizens. Commissioner Halloran will keep the Commission posted as to the status of the Cove.
5. St. Mary Carman Society Request: The 1992 St. Mary of Carmen Society's Carnival request letter was received for the Annual Fiesta on July 13th, 1992 through July 19, 1992. Last year's Carnival was extremely successful due to the various committee meetings that were held between liason Commission member Anthony Battista and the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival members. The vote on the acceptance of this year's request for the Carnival will take place at next month's March 16th meeting.
6. Ice Skating at Crystal Lake and Ware's Cove: There were four (4) days of ice skating at Crystal Lake and twenty two (22) days at the Auburndale Cove.
7. Elections of Chairman and Vice Chairman will take place at the March 16th meeting.
8. No new business

March 16, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Anthony Battista, Josephine Pepper, Peter Johnson, James Mahoney, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the February meeting were accepted.
2. Annual Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman: Mr. Halloran opened the meeting for election of officers. Francis Rice was nominated for Chairman and James Mahoney was nominated for Vice Chairman. The voting was unanimous 7-0 for both Mr. Francis Rice as Chairman and Mr. James Mahoney as Vice Chairman. The Commission members extended their sincere congratulations to them both.
3. Reports of program, maintenance, etc. were distributed to all members present.
4. Newton North Little League - Status Concession Stand: Representing the Newton North Little league were Terry Morris, and League President Tony Colella. Also present were several abutters.

After much discussion Tony Battista motioned that the petition for the Newton North Little League concrete concession stand behind the backstop at the James E. Murphy Field be granted, subject to the following provisions: subject to the stand being installed at private expense and subject to necessary permits from the Health Department and Inspectional Services. Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

Tony Battista ammended the motion as follows: Little League to provide planting/screening not on Mrs. Millar's property but adjacent to sides of building or where reasonable to place.

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The Commission members voted 4-2 for the placement of the Concession Stand behind the backstop at the James E. Murphy Field subject to the stand being installed at private expense and subject to necessary permits from the Health Department and Inspectional Services. Also, the Newton North Little League will provide planting/screening, not on Mrs. Miller's property, but adjacent to sides of building or where reasonable to place.

Those who voted in favor were Tony Battista, Josephine Pepper, James Mahoney and Gwen Fineberg. Those opposed were Peter Johnson and Walter Bernheimer.

5. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Request: Representing the St. Mary of Carmen Society, Nunzio Leone, Chairman, who attended the meeting to request permission for the 56th Annual St. Mary of Carmen request to celebrate its fiesta from July 13, 1992 through July 19, 1992.

The members of the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to permit the St. Mary of Carmen request to hold the Carnival on the Hawthorn Playground from July 13, 1992 through July 19, 1992 according to the Rules and Regulations set forth in order to make this permit valid. Same Rules & Regulations as 1991 as set forth in June 24, 1991 correspondence from Mr. Halloran to Nunzie Leone.

6. Update Fanwort Weeds at Auburndale Cove: Roger Morocco commented to the Commission that the "Save the Cove" Committee has worked together with Mayor Mann, Alderman Polly Bryson and Commissioner Halloran. An application of a herbicide called "Sonar" will be applied to the Cove, in late May or early June, as a pilot project funded by the Metropolitan District Commission. The process will be monitored and followed up by the MDC.
7. Budget Update: Lay-offs are not in store for the Parks and Recreation Department for this upcoming budget year.

Transfer: Dick Ward and Bob Ryan, fence crew, will be transferred from the Public Works Department to the Parks and Recreation Department and will be included in the Fiscal 93 budget. This will take place on July 1, 1992 together with the specific equipment that is used by this crew. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains 26 miles of fence in the City of Newton.

8. Update Program Fees: The Department will see a 70% increase in recovery through an increase in user fees which include the following: swimming, tennis and Newton North High School Indoor Complex.
9. No new business.

April 27, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Anthony Battista, Josephine Pepper, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Herbert Bamel, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the March 16th meeting were accepted and also the Emergency Meeting minutes of the April 2nd Commission Meeting.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings and Activities were distributed to all members present. "Newton Recreator" included an article on former Commission member Howard Ferguson and his outstanding accomplishments and services to the Newton Community and Parks & Recreation Commission.
3. Re-discussion on Rules and Regulations of St. Mary of Carmen Carnival: Present were Alderman Jordan Kraus and Harriet Melrose, Lothrop Street Neighborhood Representative.

Alderman Kraus requested time to re-discuss the Rules and Regulations of the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival that had been discussed at the previous meeting. The only issue that Ms. Melrose had was the noise level. The volume of the music on some of the rides are extremely loud. The issues to be incorporated into the Rules and Regulations will be the noise level for the music on the rides, 20 people on a ride at a time, placement of speakers, use of a volume control meter to test noise level each evening.

Tony Battista agreed again to be the liaison of the Commission and the neighbors. He said that he would personally check the volume levels. He also mentioned that last year's Carnival was the best yet as far as no incidents.

The Commissioner mentioned that he understands the concerns of the neighbors and that he did not receive any complaints from last years Carnival. The Police details were there and also there were people walking around from the Carnival Committee with badges on to aid or assist anyone. Carlton Merrill was also there to enforce the Rules and Regulations. The Department will continue to work with the Neighborhood Committee for a safe and successful Carnival.

- 4. Request of Upper Falls Community Association to name the baseball field at the Upper Falls Playground on Chestnut Street, in honor of former Police Youth Officer Robert Braceland. Kathy Crowley, President of the Upper Falls Community Development Corporation requested that the upper portion of the playground on Chestnut Street be renamed in honor of former Newton Police Officer, Robert Braceland. The honor is due him for his many years of dedication in his work with the children of Upper Falls. The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the request to name the Upper Falls Playground on Chestnut Street the "Officer Bobby Braceland Playground".
- 5. Status: Newton North Little League Concession Stand: The Concession Stand is in place at Albemarle's Newton North Little League Field. The stand is in a great location, painted green and is open only at little league games.
- 6. Update for Youth Awards Presentation at 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers on May, 18, 1992: The Youth Awards Presentation will precede the Commission Meeting on Monday, May 18th at 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers.
- 7. Consideration of Tennis Rules & Regulations and Fees: The Rules and Regulations are the same as in the past years, and the fees increased:

Newton Centre Tennis Fee 1992:

Season Permit

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 80.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 40.00 |
| Non-Resident Adult | \$325.00 |
| Non-Resident Student | \$120.00 |
| Family Fee | Eliminated |

Hourly Rates

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 8.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 6.00 |
| Non-Resident | \$ 10.00 |

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to accept the new proposed tennis fees and Rules & Regulations for the 1992 season.

- 8. Status of Budget: The Parks & Recreation Department Budget will be presented before the Board of Alderman on Thursday, May 7th at 9:30PM.

- 9. Swim Rules & Regulations for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake: Gath Pool and Crystal Lake will open on Monday June 8th, 1992 and will close on Labor Day.

Proposed 1992 Swim Fees

Family Fee not Offered
 Adult \$20.00
 Student \$10.00

Daily Gath
 Resident Student \$ 2.00
 Resident Adult \$ 3.00
 Non-Resident \$ 6.00

Crystal Lake
 Resident Student \$ 2.00
 Resident Adult \$ 3.00
 Non-Resident \$ 6.00

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to accept the new proposed swimming fees and Rules and Regulations for the 1992 season.

- 10. New Business: Crystal Lake Boating Rules & Regulations to be discussed at the next Commission meeting on Monday, May 18th.

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May 18, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Josephine Pepper, Peter Johnson, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the April 27th and May 18th meetings will be voted on at the June 15th meeting.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings and Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures included the new Many Worlds of the Newton Parks and Recreation Department for 1992, Guide to Newton's Resources and Opportunities, Summer Fantastics, Mayor Mann's Golf Classic, and Gath Pool and Crystal Lake brochures.

Youth Awards Presentation this evening at 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers this evening.

JUDGE FRANKLIN N. FLASCHNER ADULT AWARD: WILLIAM A. MCEVOY, Jr.
(Adult over 25 years of age)

JUDGE JULIAN YESLEY YOUNG ADULT AWARD: THOMAS MCGARY
(YOUNG ADULT 18 - 25 YEARS OF AGE)

OFFICER ROBERT BRACELAND SENIOR YOUTH AWARD: HEATHER DIAMOND &
VANESSA RITZ
(YOUTH IN 9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE)

IRENE BICKELMAN JUNIOR YOUTH AWARD: BETH DEZOTELL
(YOUTH IN ELEMENTARY THROUGH 8TH GRADE)

Musical Program Featured: "NEWTON SINGERS". Sylvia Pitnof/Choral Director

3. Budget Update: Commissioner Halloran will be appearing before the Board of Alderman On Wednesday, May 13th on the Parks and Recreation Budget. There are no serious reductions in the budget this year. Dick Ward and Robert Ryan, fence crew from the Public Works Department will be transferred to the Parks and Recreation Department. As of July 1st, all City fences will be taken care of by this department.

Marathon Monies: Board of Alderman to vote on \$44,200 for new play equipment to go to the following areas:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Zervas..... | \$12,500 |
| Angier..... | \$12,500 |
| Underwood..... | \$12,500 |
| Horace Mann..... | \$ 6,700 |

Memorial Spaulding: In process of taking out old play equipment and installing new equipment on June 7th.

4. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast: to be held on Thursday, May 21st at, Boston College. Tickets \$10.00.
5. Crystal Lake Boating Rules & Regulations: Michael J. Clarke proposed a set of abbreviated Rules & Regulations for Boating on Crystal Lake copy of which is in the commission folders. Also included is a map of Crystal Lake which includes legal parking areas and public versus private land. Carol Stapleton, Supervisor and Kathy Lester of the Law Department have reviewed the Rules and Regulations and said that a disclaimer should be added to say that these are not the original rules but an abrieviated list and that the real rules would be available at the Crystal Lake Office. The map could be used however, the depths would have to be taken off as they are not true readings.
No changes in the Ice Rules & Regulations.

It was mentioned that Mayor Mann would like to see Hammond Pond, Crystal Lake and Bullough's Pond re-stocked with fish in the near future. Judy Dore, Recreation Supervisor is looking into this for the Department.

All members present recommended the Rules & Regulations, Francis Rice, Chairman, Jo Pepper and Peter Johnson.

A complete set of Rules & Regulations will be posted at Crystal Lake.

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6. New Business: Weeds at Ware's Cove: On Wednesday, May 27th weather permitting the application of Sonar to Ware's Cove will take place. Aquatic Control Technology's 16 foot boat will be launched on May 27th from the area just west of the concrete hut on the Auburndale Park side of the Cove. Fencing supplied by the Parks & Recreation Department to keep the curious away from the launch site. Warning signs will be posted every 150 feet along the perimeters of the Cove. Process should take 2 - 3 hours and we should see a daily decline of weeds.

Commissioner Halloran complimented Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner for her excellent work in the preparation of the \$17,500 MA ReLeaf Grant to plant 27 trees at City Hall. Fran is well respected by her peers for her knowledge, hardwork and positive attitude which makes her a valuable member to the Parks & Recreation Department.

June 15, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Josephine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS RICE:

- 1. Minutes of the April 27th and May 18th meeting were unanimously accepted.
- 2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events Meetings and Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures included the June Programs for People over "55", Arts In The Parks Courses, Arts In The Parks Summer 1992 Brochure, and Concerts at Jackson Homestead.

Weeds at Ware's Cove: A long awaited application of Sonar to Ware's Cove was applied on Wednesday, May 27, 1992. Considerable post-application testing will also take place in the months following the application. Aquatic Control Technology's 16 foot boat was launched on application day from the area just west of the concrete hut on the Auburndale side of the park. Fencing was supplied by the Newton Parks & Recreation Department to keep the curious away from the launch area. Only a few hours was needed to apply the Sonar. Warning signs were posted every 150 feet along all perimeters of the Cove. The Sonar takes from 30 to 45 days to do its work. The Fanwart lillies will die and eventually float away, not to return again for two years. The Department will keep the Commission posted as to the status of the weeds at the Cove.

Memorial Spaulding Playground: Parents, educators and children at Memorial Spaulding designed a new playground. The play equipment was installed on June 13th and dedicated on Wednesday, June 17th. Equipment installed consisted of climbing poles, monkey bars and tunnels. The wood structure is made of non-toxic, non-splintering Douglas fir, which is 100 feet long and handles about 100 children. The structure design was based on student drawings. The playground also includes an educational play center designed for handicap use.

- 3. Summer plans include tennis, Albermarle Acres, Centre Acres Camps, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner Camp Concerts at Jackson Homestead, Concerts at Newton Centre Green, Summer Leagues, Summer Fantastics, July 4th Celebration, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool.

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4. Newton North High School Indoor Complex Fees - Recommended Fees for the 1992/93 Season:

| | <u>1991/92 Fees</u> | <u>1992/93 Recommended Fees</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adult Resident | \$35.00 | \$35.00 |
| Student Resident | \$25.00 | \$25.00 |
| Family Resident | \$75.00 | \$95.00 |
| Non-Resident | \$95.00 | \$95.00 |
| Adult Daily | \$ 3.00 | \$ 3.00 |
| Student Daily | \$ 2.00 | \$ 2.00 |
| Non Resident Daily | \$ 6.00 | \$ 6.00 |
| ID Card (5 years) | \$ 5.00 | \$ 5.00 |
| Swim Team Member | \$ 0.00 | Student or Family Resident Fee |

The Commission voted unanimously 5-0 to approve the new fees at Newton North High School Indoor Complex for the 1992/93 Season.

- 5. Crystal Lake Boating Rules & Regulations: Enclosed is an abbreviated set of Crystal Lake Boating Rules & Regulations. Also included is a map of Crystal Lake which includes legal parking areas and public versus private land. The unabridged Rules & Regulations are available at the Crystal Lake Office.
- 6. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Update: The Carnival to be set up on July 13th & 14th and Carnival to start on July 15th through July 19th. Take down would be July 20th & 21st. The Carnival to be held at Hawthorn Playground according to the Rules and Regulations set forth by the Parks & Recreation Department Commission.
- 7. New Business: Bullough's Pond - Plans have been made to dredge Bullough's Pond this fall. A grant has been proposed to fix the banks, lighting, etc. Betsy Leitch is coordinating the procedure with the State.

James Mahoney made a motion to have James Hickey, Commissioner of Public Works, keep the Parks and Recreation Department informed and to have input into the study of the grass, trees, etc. on Commonwealth Avenue. The Commission members voted unanimously 5-0 to accept this motion.

Commissioner Halloran wished everyone a happy, healthy summer and said that he would see them all at the next meeting, September 21st.

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September 10, 1992

SPECIAL NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Josephine Pepper, Peter Johnson, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alderman Allan Ciccone, Alderman Helen Robinson, Alderman Joseph DiDuca, Alderman Linda Jordan Kraus, Alderman Anthony Salvucci, Police Captain James O'Donnell, Ouida Young, Law Department, Robert Antonellis and Neighborhood Associates.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS RICE:

Meeting requested to discuss the hours of Elvis Day to be held on Sunday September 20th.

After a lengthy discussion with the abutters, Mr. Pellegrini, Aldermen and the Law Department regarding the Elvis Day Festivities at Hawthorn on Sunday, September 20th, 1992, Commission member Anthony Battista motioned to allow the Elvis Day Permit for Sunday, September 20th, 1992 from 4:00PM to 9:00PM with the following stipulations:

- 1) No possession or consumption or sale of alcoholic beverages
- 2) If using propane tanks, permit required by Fire Department
- 3) Permit required by Health Department for food preparation
- 4) No Fireworks Allowed
- 5) Conform strictly to location, time specified on the Rules & Regulations 4:00PM to 9:00PM
- 6) Public address system to be turned off at 9:00PM, no later as it is a City Ordinance
- 7) Raffle at 9:00PM to be done verbally
- 8) Reasonable time allotted to clean up
- 9) Chief of Police to determine no parking on Lothrop and Jennison Streets, crossing at Watertown Street and number of policemen on duty at site
- 10) Police to monitor noise level
- 11) Elvis Day to be discussed at October 19th Commission Meeting to evaluate for future permit requests
- 12) Recreation Department to clean up next day
- 13) No admission fee to be charged

The motioned was seconded and the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to permit the use of Hawthorn Park in Nonantum on Sunday, September 20th from 4:00PM to 9:00PM for a concert by an Elvis look alike.

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The motioned was seconded and the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to permit the use of Hawthorn Park in Nonantum on Sunday, September 20th from 4:00PM to 9:00PM for a concert by an Elvis look alike.

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September 10, 1992

SPECIAL NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Josephine Pepper, Peter Johnson, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alderman Allan Ciccone, Alderman Helen Robinson, Alderman Joseph DiDuca, Alderman Linda Jordan Kraus, Alderman Anthony Salvucci, Police Captain James O'Donnell, Ouida Young, Law Department, Robert Antonellis and Neighborhood Associates.

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- 6) Public address system to be turned off at 9:00PM, no later as it is a City Ordinance
- 7) Raffle at 9:00PM to be done verbally
- 8) Reasonable time allotted to clean up
- 9) Chief of Police to determine no parking on Lothrop and Jennison Streets, crossing at Watertown Street and number of policemen on duty at site
- 10) Police to monitor noise level
- 11) Elvis Day to be discussed at October 19th Commission Meeting to evaluate for future permit requests
- 12) Recreation Department to clean up next day
- 13) No admission fee to be charged

The motioned was seconded and the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to permit the use of Hawthorn Park in Nonantum on Sunday, September 20th from 4:00PM to 9:00PM for a concert by an Elvis look alike.

Also enclosed is copy of a letter to the Editor at the Tab Newspaper commending the City of Newton and Mayor Theodore D. Mann for maintaining and providing for the public the excellent tennis facility at Newton Center. Mr. Abrams wrote that it is an outstanding facility that compares in playing surface to many of the private clubs in the area. Also that Robert DeRubeis, Supervisor Brian Schraffa, who supervises play and Roy Martel, maintenance, are all doing a first rate job.

Commissioner Halloran complimented Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner on her high degree of loyalty and who carries out her obligations with vigor and resolve. He is extremely impressed with her abilities to accomplish her duties and also her outstanding work habits. We would not be the Department that we are today without her expertise.

Also, the Commissioner complimented Bob DeRubies, Chief Supervisor, for his impressive abilities to work with others and to get the job done well. He is an invaluable member of the staff and a good role model for others. The Department has benefited from his numerous abilities and accomplishments which include Maintenance and Contract Writing. He is an extremely valuable asset to the Department and I am extremely proud of both Bob and Fran.

- 3. Status Tree, Grass and Building Contracts: The Tree Contract is now in its third successful year, and the Grass and Building Contracts are now in their 2nd year. The City of Newton was once again named Tree City USA for the third year in a row. The Department is extremely proud of this award and desires to continue its tree-planting ways.
- 4. Senior Citizen Cookout September 13th: The Senior Citizen Cookout was once again held at Hawthorn Park on September 13th from 12:00PM to 6:00PM. This is a charity function run by the Nonantum Children's Christmas Party Association.
- 5. Elvis Day at Hawthorn which was held on Sunday, September 20th went exceedingly well. The permit was issued from 4:00PM to 9:00PM with a reasonable time allotted to clean up. No consumption or sale of alcoholic beverages or fireworks were allowed. The raffle was conducted verbally, after the public address system was turned off at 9:00PM as requested. Elvis Day will be discussed at the October 19th Commission Meeting to evaluate for future permit requests.

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6. Capital Improvements approved by the Executive Department include the following:

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|--|------------------|
| I. Park Development | |
| a. City Hall Grounds Development..... | \$ 25,000 |
| b. Life Course..... | <u>\$ 20,000</u> |
| | \$ 45,000 |
| II. Park/Playfield Maintenance | |
| a. Turf Control Upgrade..... | \$ 50,000 |
| b. Court Repairs - NNHS & NSHS..... | \$318,000 |
| c. Field Renovations..... | \$ 80,000 |
| d. Gath Pool Cover..... | \$ 10,000 |
| e. Tree Plantings & Stump Removal..... | \$287,000 |
| f. Poison Ivy Control - Spraying..... | <u>\$ 10,000</u> |
| | \$755,000 |
| III. Facilities and Equipment | |
| a. New vehicles/equipment..... | \$101,200 |
| b. Cabot Park Building..... | <u>\$ 25,000</u> |
| | \$126,200 |

Grand Total.....\$926,200

- 7. Weeds at Ware's Cove: The Fanwort Weed at Ware's Cove is still being monitored. Meetings are still being held by the "Save the Cove" group of concerned citizens. Commissioner Halloran will keep the Commission posted as to the status of the Cove.
- 8. Harvest Fair: Saturday October 3rd, 12:00PM to 5:00PM Kiddie Rides, Sunday, October 4th, 1992 Harvest Fair 12:00PM to 5:00PM at Newton Centre Green. This year there is a welcome to Mayor Silvio Antonellis and his Delegation - San Donato, Italy - our Sister City. Also includes Fall Flower Bulb Pavilion, Entertainment, Ethnic Foods, and Handmade Crafts.
- 9. New Business: No new business.

Next meeting Monday, October 19th.

October 19, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Anthony Battista, Peter Johnson, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Feinberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary.

Also attending meeting were Alderman Wendell Bauckman, former Alderman Michael Malec, Anthony Pellegrini and Carol Stapleton, Supervisor.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN: FRANCIS RICE

1. Minutes of the September 21st meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events Meetings & Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures include Ice Skating Lessons, Senior Activities, Theatre Buffs, Newton North Indoor Complex, Nahanton Park & Arts in the Parks brochures.

Last day of Farmer's Market will be Tuesday, October 27th. Again, the 1992 season was a huge success, over 10,000 people attended the Market this year at the Cold Spring Park on Beacon Street.

The 18th Annual Harvest Fair took place on a beautiful Sunday, October 4th on the Newton Centre Green under the direction of Linda Plaut and Judy Anderson. There were over 200 booths and displays. Our compliments to Linda and her staff on their very successful day!

Special Needs Halloween Party Monday, October 26th, 7:00PM at the Hibernian Hall on Watertown Street. Sponsored by the Recreation Department and the Nonantum Children's Christmas Party Association.

3. Safety Award Presentation to Tom Cahill, Recreation Supervisor
The Newton Parks & Recreation Commission proudly presented the distinguished plaque to Tom Cahill in recognition of his outstanding and timely application of First-Aid skills while saving the eyesight of a fellow employee (Butch DeSimone) at the Gath Pool on August 4, 1992.

(2)

- 4. Naming the Fireplace Room at Crystal Lake Bathhouse in memory of John Walsh: The Commission members voted unanimously 5-0 to name The Fireplace Room at Crystal Lake Bathhouse in memory of John Walsh. John was affiliated with the Department's aquatics programs and was a lifeguard at Ware's Cove and Crystal Lake. He worked nights and weekends at Crystal Lake at various positions. He was well respected by his peers, staff and the public. He also worked in open gyms, and basketball programs as well as Gath Pool. A memorial plaque will be placed in the Fireplace Room of Crystal at the beginning of the Crystal Lake season.
- 5. Elvis Presley Day Report: The Elvis Day festivities on Sunday, September 20th went extremely well. There were no complaints received at the Recreation Department regarding the activities. The festivities started at 4:00PM and ended at 9:00PM as requested by the Parks & Recreation Commission.
- 6. Levingston Cove- Michael Clarke: Mr. Clarke recommended to the Commission that a plan be made to improve the erosion at Crystal Lake's Levingston Cove. The erosion needs to be filled in and landscaping needs to be done. He had spoken with Ken Eisenbraun of the Planning Department to ask Ken to draw up plans which could be presented to the neighbors. Walter Bernheimer suggested that steps be taken to have the plans drawn up. The Commissioner recommended that Carol Stapleton and Bob DeRubeis work with the neighbors and also Ken Eisenbraun of the Planning Department.
- 7. CIP: The Parks & Recreation Department has requested \$926,200 for the Capital Supplemental Budget FY93. The Budget was approved by the Executive Department and will go before the Board of Alderman for their approval.
- 8. New Business:

Next meeting: Monday, December 21, 1992

22

November 16, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Herbert Bamel, Anthony Battista, Peter Johnson, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN: FRANCIS RICE

1. Minutes of the October 19, 1992 meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings and Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures include Funtastic Fridays at the Hut, Skiing at Nashoba Valley, Hansel & Gretel, Bennington Puppets, Lecture Series, Friday Afternoons at the Boston Symphony, Winter Calendar of Events.

The Special Needs Halloween Party was held on Monday, October 26th, at 7:00PM at the Hibernian Hall on Watertown Street. It was sponsored by the Recreation Department and the Nonantum Children's Christmas Party Association.

3. Budget Update: The Parks & Recreation Department has requested \$926,200 for the Capital Supplemental Budget FY93. The Budget was approved by the Executive Department and will go before the Board of Aldermen on Wednesday, December 2nd, 7:45PM at City Hall.
4. Elvis Day Discussion: Mr. Anthony Pellegrini attended the meeting to discuss Elvis Day and of keeping the same hours 4:00PM to 9:00PM at Hawthorn Park in Nonantum. Bob DeRubeis was at the Park during most of the concert and left at 9:30PM. He said that everything went extremely well and that Mr. Pellegrini held up to all thirteen of the stipulations that the Commission set forth at a special hearing on September 10th. Three Policemen were on hand and the amplifier was turned off at exactly 9:00PM as requested.

There were no complaints on file at the Police Station concerning Elvis Day and no complaints were received at the Recreation Office.

(2)

Mr. Pellegrini said that the patrons enjoyed the concert more during the evening hours and that the Association would prefer to have the Elvis Concert start at 4:00PM and end at 9:00PM.

The abutters commented that at the end of the concert, the cars came out onto Lothrop Street which they were not supposed to, the cars honked their horn, workers banged pans at 9:45PM (cleaning them) and left the park at 11:45PM. On a positive note they did say that there were no fireworks this time! The four abutters in attendance said that they want the concert during the day, the same as it had been prior to the last concert two years ago.

Mr. Halloran commented that the 13th Annual Elvis Concert went on beautifully and this was attributed to all of the meetings that were held with the neighborhood to iron out the differences which included 13 stipulations. Also, he said that he would again check the incoming calls at the Police Station for that evening.

Mr. Battista said that everything went relatively well and he attended the event himself and left at 9:45PM. He did not hear any undue noise. Tony recommended that the Commission consider the same hours as the September 1993 Concert to see if any problems arise at that time.

It was decided that the July St. Mary of Carmen Carnival be discussed at the May 1993 meeting and that the Elvis Concert at Hawthorn be discussed at the June 1993 Commission meeting. Aldermen and abutters will be notified of the two meetings.

- 5. Review and Revision of Chapter 21 Article II Parks & Recreation Commission Secs. 21-46 and 21-47 of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances: On Wednesday, December 9th at 7:45PM Alderman Kraus will be bring up before the Board of Alderman the powers of the Parks & Recreation Commission. All Commission members are invited to attend this important meeting.
- 6. Capital Improvements: Programs & Services Committee, Wednesday, December 9th, 1992 at 7:45PM.
- 7. Crystal Lake's Levingston Cove: Bob DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, coordinated a meeting with the Crystal Lake neighbors, Newton Highlands Area Council and Michael Clarke for Saturday, December 5th at 2:00PM at the Bathhouse to discuss any and all Levingston Cove issues. Bob is writing a letter to Eugene Bober, Planning Department for authorization for Ken Eisenbaum to complete a tentative landscape plan which can be presented at this meeting.

(3)

8. Korean War Memorial: Fran Rice, Commission Chairman, requested the placing of a Korean War Memorial next to the Vietnam War Memorial on Washington Street at Vietnam Park. Fran Rice, indicated that a committee has been selected to raise monies for the Korean War Memorial which would be ready by March 1st.

Mr. Anthony Pellegrini and Roger Morocco, who were in attendance, had no objection to the placement of the Korean War Memorial at Vietnam Park.

The Commission voted unanimously, 8-0 to place a Korean War Memorial at Vietnam Park, next to the Vietnam War Memorial on Washington Street.

9. No New Business

December 14, 1992

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Anthony Battista, Peter Johnson, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN: FRANCIS RICE

1. Minutes of the November 16, 1992 meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings, and Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures include Senior Programs, Special Needs Holiday Dinner/Dance on Wednesday, December 16th, Arts in the Parks Winter calendar of Events, Aerobics at North Indoor Complex, Hansel & Gretel Bennington Puppets, Open House New Year's Eve, and trip to Boston Symphony

The docket item to repair the tennis courts at Newton North and South will go before the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen on Monday, January 11th at 7:30PM.

3. Ware's Cove Update: Fanwort Weed at Ware's Cove that was treated with Sonar last May is no longer visible. The weed will be checked again in the Spring and the Commission will be apprised of the situation.
4. Budget Updates: The \$3,013,317 Parks & Recreation FY94 Budget will be presented to the Board of Aldermen on January 25, 1993.
5. Ice Skating Rules & Regulations: Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department 2/5/92.

The following standards are used in determining sufficient ice thickness for safe skating:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Auburndale - Ware's Cove..... | 6" Black Ice | 9" Snow Ice |
| Newtonville - Bullough's Pond..... | 6" Black Ice | 9" Snow Ice |
| Newton Centre - Crystal Lake..... | 6" Black Ice | 9" Snow Ice |

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(2)

6. Peter C. O'Brien Humanitarian Award: Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner of the Parks & Recreation Department, was recently presented the Peter C. O'Brien Humanitarian Award at a ceremony held at the annual Massachusetts Recreation & Parks Association annual convention in Springfield.

The award is the highest bestowed by the association to one of its member professionals. The recipient must be a member of the Association and have furthered leisure pursuits, programs and parks in their area.

In addition to the award, the Commissioner received citations from Governor William Weld, State Auditor Joseph DeNucci, the State Senate, House of Representatives, Newton Mayor Theodore D. Mann, the Newton Board of Aldermen as well as numerous letters from fellow department heads, Commission Members, friends and professionals.

7. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that Walter Bernheimer would write a letter to Alderman Linda Jordan Kraus regarding the Commission's response to some of the questions that arose during the discussion at the Programs and Services Meeting on December 9, 1992. A copy of the letter would be sent to the Programs and Services Committee and also the Commission members before the next Commission Meeting.
8. No New Business.

January 25, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN: FRANCIS RICE

1. Minutes of the December 14, 1992 meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings, and Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures include Bulletin Board, People over "55", Dance for 7th and 8th graders at Hyde Community Center, Funtastic Fridays, 5th & 6th Graders at Lower Falls Community Center, February vacation week-Little Red Riding Hood Opera Express, Johnny Kelley Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race, Theatre Buffs, Happy Taps for people over "55", Weekend Supervisor on call, FY 93/94 Budget.

December 11th snow storm with tree and limb damage: Thirteen to seventeen inches of snow fell and winds gusted. Considerable amount tree damage throughout the City. The City is still in the process of cleaning up after this storm. MEMA has been contacted and the City of Newton is eligible for funds. The paperwork is being processed.

3. Budget Update: The Budget request for the FY 1993/94 is \$3,013,317.00. With the approval of the Personnel Department, the Department is hoping to upgrade the Foreman/Inspector to Foreman. The \$5,550 for the upgrade would be taken from the maintenance overtime account. A cut of 1 position through retirement has been made equalling \$24,116.00. With the approval of the Executive Department, the Department is pursuing the addition of 1 Reservation Clerk.

26

(2)

- 4. With us this evening are two employees of the City of Newton: Ron Mahan Superintendent, Crafts Street Garage and David Mandatori, Inspector Foreman, Grounds, Parks & Recreation Department:

Ron Mahan and his Department take care of all City vehicles, with the exception of power saws and grass machines. The Department has an excellent relationship with workers at the Crafts Street Garage. They are very cooperative, professional, excellent mechanics and the best thing that has happened to the Department. I am very proud to say that they do an excellent job of maintaining our fleet of vehicles. The Crafts Street Garage is very fortunate to have the outstanding services of Ron Mahan for the past seven years.

David Mandatori, educated in the Newton Public School and resides in Auburndale is our Foreman Inspector Grounds/Maintenance. Dave is an excellent worker, no task is too big or small to handle. He is responsible for overseeing snow plowing, snow removal at schools, skating areas, swimming areas, fields, care of turn, grass, work sheets and numerous other related duties. Dave is responsible for 1200 grass areas in the City and 177 of the 216 locations. He is very innovative, creative and works well with everyone. He did a magnificent job in the clearing of the last Block Buster snow storm in December. He is truly a valuable asset to the Parks & Recreation Department and I am very proud of him.

Also I am very proud of Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor. They are held in very high esteem by myself and also their co-workers.

- 5. Skating: There is not sufficient ice for skating at Crystal Lake or the Auburndale Cove as yet.
- 6. Landscaping Plan at Levingston Cove: Kenn Eisenbraun of the Planning Department drew up plans for a new Levingston Cove: the new design elements include:
 - 1) A 3-4 Foot high black iron fence which provides a visible boundary and appropriate enclosure to the Cove - park area.
 - 2) Stone gate posts and supportive plantings to define the entrances to the cove area
 - 3) A designated, permanent walk through the "park" to direct foot traffic and reduce wear on the sloped areas

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(3)

- 4) The removal of the existing canoe - launch, (to reduce asphalt)
- 5) Low retaining walls (as needed) to reduce continued erosion.
- 6) Flowering shrubs, evergreens & perennial groupings

The proposed changes will create a pleasant and welcoming "Pocket Park". Strategically placed plantings will contribute a comforting sense of enclosure with seasonal splashes of color and fragrance. The proposed improvements will preserve the cove's existing, sequestered character while enhancing the charming appearance of this intimate and valuable community amenity.

Copies of the proposed plan were given to Commission members and Michael Clarke of the Conservation Commission.

The above topic will again be discussed at next month's meeting.

7. Ware's Cove Treatment Update: Ware's Cove in Auburndale can once again be used by boaters and anglers now that a weed called "Fanwort" has been treated with a pesticide. After last year's successful pesticide application, Save the Cove plans to observe the water this year to see how quickly the weed grows back.
8. New Business: No new business

February 22, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, Peter Johnson, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also present were: Richard McGrath, President, Board of Alderman, Polly Bryson, Alderman, Peter Kastner and Anna Marie Abernathy of the Conservators, Frank Albano, Douglas Clark and Steve Cononico of the Newton West Little League and Michael Clarke.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN: FRANCIS RICE

1. Minutes of the January 25, 1993 meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings and Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures include Kid's Korner Summer Program for 1993, Senior Trips, Arts in the Parks Spring brochure and Children's Enrichment Classes, Johnny Kelly Race, Funtastic Fridays, Happy Taps, and Senior Theatre Buffs.

Also enclosed was the 1993 brochure "The Many Worlds of the Parks and Recreation Department". The last page is dedicated to Louise Delaney Ryan a loyal and dedicated Parks & Recreation employee since 1981. Judy Dore did an excellent job in preparing this very informational brochure for the diversified citizenry in the Garden City.

3. Budget & CIP Update: Mayor Mann presented the \$3,120,438.00 Parks & Recreation Budget on Monday, March 8th which included:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Fields..... | \$ 80,000. | Tree Replacements & |
| Turf..... | \$ 50,000. | Stump Removals...\$287,000. |
| Maintenance.... | \$101,200. | Pool Cover.....\$ 10,000. |
| Life Courses... | \$ 20,000. | |
| Poison Ivy..... | \$ 10,000. | |

Newton North and South High School Tennis Courts have not as yet been approved.

On Wednesday, March 17th at 7:30PM the Parks & Recreation Budget will be heard by the Programs & Services Committee in room 222 at City Hall.

(2)

4. Levingston Cove/Crystal Lake: Ken Eisenbraun of the Planning Department drew up plans for a new Levingston Cove. A meeting with the neighbors has been planned to discuss the new design. This item will be kept on the agenda for further discussion.

5. Newton West Little League: Discussion of Concession Stand at Lyons Field in Auburndale: Stephen Coninicle, President of the Little League presented a proposal for the construction of a concession stand behind the backstop at home plate at Lyons Field. The building which would be 8' high X 14' 11" wide would not recess into the hill. The building would have a concrete block foundation with a brick facade and steel overhead doors. The building would not be seen from the street.

Frank Albano commented that the group would work with the neighboring residents regarding this project. The improvements that have been made include a set of stairs, and \$29,000 in betterments into the field. Also Newton West Little League carried 27 hardship cases last year.

Peter Kastner and Anna Marie Abernathy asked that the neighbors be notified of the next Commission Meeting to discuss this issue. Alderman President Richard McGrath, met with two groups of neighbors to protect the Cities interest. The Design Review Committee would need to review the plans, security, the water situation would have to be complied with and no expansions should be made. The trailer should be taken off the premises as soon as the building (if approved) is constructed.

Alderman Polly Bryson commented that she has met with Bill Saunders of the Auburndale Community Association and the Little League to negotiate the plans.

Mr. Halloran recommended that the plans be submitted to the Design Review Committee, and that this item be put on the agenda for next month. The abutters will be notified of the meeting on March 15th. The members of the Commission voted a motion to have the Newton West League follow through on the requirements before coming back to the Commission for the Concession Stand to be voted on.

6. Fanwort Weeds at Ware's Cove Update: Save the Cove plans to observe the water this year to see how quickly the weeds grow back. The Cove can once again be used for boaters and anglers.

7. Ice Skating at Crystal Lake & Ware's Cove: Despite the cold weather, the Auburndale Cove had only 4 days of skating. Skating is now over for the season.

8. Election of Officers: At the next Commission meeting, the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be held.

(3)

9. New Business: Annual photo of the Elections of Officers will be taken at the March 15th meeting.

MARCH 22, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Johnson, Josephine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the February 22, 1993 meeting were accepted.
2. Annual Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman: Mr. Halloran opened the meeting for election of officers. Francis Rice was nominated for Chairman and James Mahoney was nominated for Vice Chairman. The voting was unanimous 5-0 for both Mr. Francis Rice as Chairman and Mr. James Mahoney as Vice Chairman. The Commission Members extended their sincere congratulations to them both.
3. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings & Activities were distributed to all members present. Brochures include 1993 Soccer Clinic, Outdoor Adventure, Lecture Series, Museum Fine Arts, Great American watercolor guided tour, Dutch Bulb Catalog and the Johnny Kelley Road Race.
4. Newton West Little League, Construction of a small Concession stand at Lyons Playground; Frank Albano from Newton West Little League was present to discuss the construction of a Concession Stand at Lyons Playground. Letters went out to over 120 residents that about the playground notifying them of the meeting this evening. The plans for the concession stand were presented to the Design Review Committee for their review. Andrea Kelley from the Committee attended and said that the Committee took an informal look at the drawings on February 25th and that they did not meet with their standards. One of the Committee's suggestions was to install an overhanging roof. New plans were drawn up for the meeting this evening.

(2)

Mr. Albano commented that the Little League was trying to install the Concession Stand in an inconspicuous place behind the backstop. He said the plans are to include a back flow preventer, electricity and water, a roll top window, and steel door, follow up on all the codes and all rules necessary to install the stand.

The League of Women Voters of Newton, sent a letter urging that the Commission not decide on this issue before it has been approved by the Design Review Committee and has had wider neighborhood airing.

After a lengthy discussion, the Commission decided that the plans need to go back to the Design Review Committee. The Commission Stand for Lyons Playground will be on the agenda for the next Commission Meeting. A notice will be sent to the local newspapers regarding the date of the next Commission meeting.

- 5. Levingston Cove/Crystal Lake: Status same.
- 6. Korean War Memorial Update: Residents are working to erect a Korean War Vets Memorial next to the City's Vietnam War monument, on Washington Street across from the Jackson Homestead. A granite monument will be placed next to the Vietnam Memorial.
- 7. Update Budget: A meeting was held with the Programs & Services Committee on Wednesday, March 17th, 7:30PM at City Hall regarding the Parks & Recreation Department's Budget.
- 8. No new business.

April 26, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Johnson, Herbert Bamel, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the March 22, 1993 meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Reports of Events, Meetings and Activities included in the folders
3. West Newton Square-discussion of request for dedication of Captain John Ryan Memorial Park: Eugene Cronin was present to request that the park adjacent to the Police Station be named the Captain John Ryan Memorial Park. As a Civil War Veteran, as a member of General George Custer's 7th Cavalry and later in his career, he was a member of the Newton Police Department and has brought lasting honor and respect to both himself and the City of Newton.
The Commission voted unanimously 7-0 to name the park abutting the Newton Police Headquarters, after Captain John Ryan.
4. Youth Soccer, discussion of soccer field at Old Cold Springs with Steve Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer: Mr. Fauteux presented his proposal to the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission, consisting of creating a regulation soccer field at the southern most athletic field at Old Cold Springs Park. This field would service Newton Youth Soccer and Newton Girls Soccer, representing 2500 children who play organized soccer in Newton. The explosion of interest in soccer and city budgetary constraints have resulted in an inadequate number of fields to service their needs, despite the tremendous efforts of the Parks & Recreation Department. Newton Youth Soccer League is privately paying to renovate one field at Brown at a cost of \$16,000. Also they hope too add a brand new field to the existing inventory of fields and are focusing in on Old Cold Springs Park as the proposed site.

(2)

The reasons for selecting this site are:

- 1. It is a central location.
- 2. It is already an existing athletic field.
- 3. Its infrequent use.
- 4. It is easily renovated into a soccer field at a reasonable cost of approximately \$40,000, which would be done with private funds..

If this proposal is approved, construction would begin in August, 1993 and be completed in September, 1993. At the earliest, the field would be playable in the spring of 1994. It would be used for approximately 10 weeks each fall and spring season. Games would be played on Saturdays and some Sundays and weeknights. Access to the field on game days would be through the Duncklee and Beverly Road gate. The leagues would encourage car pooling. They would also encourage exiting through Beverly Road. Parking would be on the turnaround area, that is just to the right, at the bottom of the access road. This would prevent cars from driving on to the field when exiting the facility.

The proposal would involve renovating only two of the fifty-five acres at Old Cold Springs.

Issues raised by the neighborhood are:

- 1. Keeping a passive recreation park.
- 2. Increasing traffic through Duncklee Rd. for approximately 20 weeks a year.
- 3. Creating 20-25 parking spaces.
- 4. Creating environmental issues such as noise, pollution, litter and natural habitat.

Prior to the Commission meeting, Mr Fauteux contacted the neighbors and listened to their concerns. The issues raised by the neighbors were maintaining the environment, building structures, using only two soccer goals, leveling the present terrain and parking. However, he believes that the proposal effectively addresses the neighborhood and the neighborhood concerns, but he would be happy to discuss the issues with any concerned citizen or group.

The following concerns were presented to the Commission by letters or people present:

- 1 Keith Tornheim, Co-President of the Newton Highlands Neighborhood Area Council could not be present at this evenings meeting. His letter stated that the Area Council is not taking a position for or against the proposed soccer field at this time. He urges that the details of the plan be clarified and communicated to residents and users of the park, and that the Recreation Commission take due time to obtain and consider the views expressed by them. The Council is willing to gather local input at their annual Village Day on June 13th.

(3)

- 2 A letter was received from Zygmunt Jan Broel Plater, a Duncklee Rd. neighbor, regarding the benefits and detriments of the proposal. The benefits were one more soccer field and the proximity of the field. The detriments were loss of a baseball field, automobile access and parking, upgrading access road.
- 3 A letter was received from Lou Perretta, Jeff Axelrod, Nora Kula and Joan Cohen who are concerned with the focus on the park's use by large, concentrated groups, formally assembling by vehicle into the area. High volume and high traffic use is inappropriate for this area with regard to safety, congestion and disruption.
- 4 Joan Cohen from Plymouth Road, spoke on the following issues: safety, recreation use, and traffic.
- 5 Alderman Lenny Gentile spoke concerning noise, the turnaround, unsafe entrance, narrow dirt road, traffic, and safety of small children.
- 6 Alderman George Mansfield said that this issue needs wider input and that the Newton Highlands Area Council would be involved in it.

After a lengthy discussion, Commission Chairman, Francis Rice commented that no vote would be taken this evening. Also a subcommittee would be appointed to establish a policy regarding proposals, concession stands, etc. Chairman Rice motioned to defer this issue to the June Commission meeting. The Commission does not meet in July and August ,however, a special meeting may have to be held.

- 5. Lyons Field turned into a sewage pool, due to a backup in the sewerage system. Pressure from all the rain and snow forced a manhole cover in the playground to blow off and the sewage spewed into the baseball field and saturated the area. The area was cordoned off and posted warning signs were put up. The Water and Sewer Department started cleaning up the sewage and the City will place lime on the field to disinfect the ground and re-loam the grounds. The Commission will be kept posted on the situation.

- 6. Newton West Little League Concession Stand at Lyons: Steve Cononico, Newton West Little League President, and Frank Albano attended the meeting to answer any questions abutters have. They did appear before the Design Review Committee and were sent back to make new plans. A new architect was hired and the only difference is in the roof overhang. Labor would be donated, landscaping will cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 for materials.

Anna Marie Abernathy asked for a financial analysis of the Newton West Little League and also an indication as to where the cars would be parked for the games.

Marty Sender's letter questions as to whether they have carefully considered all the health and environmental implications of the concession stand proposal. Concerns are directed to potential public health issues involving water and sewer connections and waste disposal.

Alderman Dick McGrath commented that a policy should be established in these particular cases. He said that notification of abutters is not required. However, the Parks & Recreation Department did in fact send out notification to 120 abutters. He said that we should look at all the variables such as who would be serviced, financial accounting, visibility of the stand, use of the trailer, use of volunteer staffing, use of scholarships for needy children, listen to neighborhood input on vandalism. If the stand is constructed with these concerns in mind and in the future the above concerns are not considered, then the concession stand should be taken down. Presently, Alderman McGrath looks favorably on the plan and would that the Commission accept the proposal. Alderman Polly Bryson agreed with Mr. McGrath.

Peter Kastner commented that a committee should be appointed on the various uses of the park.

No vote was taken at this meeting. We will again notify the abutters as to when Lyons Concession Stand will be on the agenda.

- 7. Update for Youth Awards Presentation: May 17th, 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall, the Awards will be presented.
- 8. Status of budget: The Parks & Recreation Department's Budget was passed by the Board of Aldermen

- 9. Proposal David Brewster, Newton Arts Center project at Cold Springs: Mr. Brewster proposed to the Commission a one year public art project to take place in Cold Spring Park by three well known local artists, Marty Cain, Mags Harries, and Ross Miller. Substantial financial support from the National Endowment for the Arts. Three to six installations, to be implemented over three seasons. They would be non invasive, using non destructive installation techniques, maintaining environmental integrity. Public safety would be carefully considered throughout the project.

One or two tours with the artists would be scheduled for the public. The project would also be monitored regularly for safety and stability.

The Commission members unanimously accepted Mr. Brewster's proposal for Art in Nature. The project's schedule is as follows; summer opening, June 12, 1993, fall opening, October, 1993, spring opening, March, 1994 and conclusion, June 1994.

- 10. Consideration of Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees: The Rules and Regulations are the same as last year:

Season Permit
Newton Centre Tennis Courts

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 80.00 |
| Resident Student (Under 18) | \$ 40.00 |
| Non-Resident Adult | \$325.00 |
| Non-Resident Student | \$120.00 |

Hourly Rates **

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 8.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 6.00 |
| Non-Resident | \$ 10.00 |

** No reservation privileges: waiting list only

Tentative length of season (May 10 to September 30)

(6)

- 11. Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool: Gath Pool and Crystal Lake will open on Monday, June 14th, and will close on Labor Day.

1993 Swim Fees

Family Fee not Offered
 Adult \$ 20.00
 Student \$ 10.00

Daily Gath
 Resident Student \$ 2.00
 Resident Adult \$ 3.00
 Non-Resident \$ 6.00

Crystal Lake
 Resident Student \$ 2.00
 Resident Adult \$ 3.00
 Non-Resident \$ 6.00

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to accept the proposed swimming fees and Rules and Regulations for the 1993 season.

- 12: New Business:

May 17, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, Herbert Bamel, Josephine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the April 26, 1993 meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commisisoner's Report of Events, Meetings and Activities are included in the folders. They include The Newton Conservators Newsletter, Rules and regulations for Newton Centre Tennis Courts, Soccer Clinic, Senior Trips, Albemarle and Centre Acres Camps, Special Needs Travel Program, Arts in the Parks - All About Kids, Johnny Kelley Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race and a memo from David Naparstek, Commissioner of Health regarding Lyons Field. The main baseball field, the T-Ball field adjacent to and on the same side of Lyons can be used for play. The other T-ball field will be under reconstruction and not usable until the grass in the re-loamed areas has grown sufficiently to support play. The area outside the fence of the main field will be under reconstruction and reseeding. It poses no danger for a child who may have to enter the area to retrieve a ball, etc.
3. Budget Update: The Fiscal 94' Parks & Recreation Budget was approved by Board of Aldermen.
4. Nineteenth Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Tuesday, May 18th, 7:45AM, McElroy Commons, Boston College, \$12.00 per ticket. Call Jim Zigo, in the Mayor's office for tickets. Theme is "Wonder in Diversity".
5. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival, July 14th through July 18th, 1993: Set-up Monday, July 12th at 8:00AM. All rides and booths to be cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 20th at noon and the Society will be responsible for the damage to the grounds.

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Additions to St. Mary of Carmen letter include:

- 1) Channel speakers away from Lothrop St.
- 2) Larger rides should be kept away from Lothrop Street
- 3) Only emergency vehicles will be allowed to enter through Lothrop Street entrance
- 4) No parking on Lothrop Street, Jennison Street or Judkins Street during the Carnival. Traffic Department will block off those streets.
- 5) Noise level of Carnival personnel, rides and games should be monitored before the opening and after the closing on a daily basis.

Tony Battista recommended that the permit be granted to St. Mary of Carmen Society subject to provisions and stipulations as set forth in this agreement as subject to all of the departments in the city that have to be satisfied, based on the June 1992 letter to Nunzio Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Festival Committee. Peter Johnson seconded the vote, The Commission voted unanimously 8-0 that the Rules and Regulations for the July 1993 St. Mary of Carmen Carnival be accepted.

- 6. Stephen Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer: Discussion of soccer field at Allison. Introduction of Steve by Commissioner Halloran. Steve Fauteux reciprocates with accolades to the Recreation Commissioner and David Mandatori, Inspector Foreman of the Maintenance Department. He then went on to discuss a proposal that was put together turning Allison Park into a soccer complex. The intention of that original plan was to develop one large regulation soccer field with 106 spaces for parking. The original plan also called for lights, irrigation and fencing.

The current plan would reduce parking down to 50-60 spaces, while trying to develop as much green space as possible. Instead of one regulation field, it is the intention of Mr. Fauteux to develop 3-5 small fields that could be moved around to accomodate small sided soccer for younger children. Another option is the development of two fields running on a north and south axis. The small fields may discourage the adult use on the field. Cost would be approximately \$50,000 to create the maximum green space. Use of the existing gravel on the west side of Allison Park will be utilized for parking. The current proposal has no plans for lights.

Mr. Bernheimer suggested that the abutters be notified of the action being proposed at Allison Park and placed on the agenda for the June 21st meeting. Commissioner Halloran stated that he would notify immediate abutters before the June 21st meeting.

- 7. Parks & Recreation Commission sub-committee to review policy and procedure and private concerns for placing structures on public parks: The sub-committee has not been able to meet. They will meet with Fran Rice, Chairman, tentatively on Tuesday, May 25, 1993.

Old Cold Spring will be discussed in a special commission meeting.

- 8. New Business: No new business, next meeting will be June 21st.

June 21, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, Josephine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the May 17, 1993 Commission meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events Meetings and Activities are included in the folders. Information included the Newton Arts Center, dedication John Walsh Sr. July 1st at Crystal Lake, Baton Lessons, Learn to Swim Program, Rosenshontz Concert, Crystal Lake, Gath Pool, Letter from Eugene Bober, Cabot Little League Concession Stand Review, Korean War Memorial recognition, Tennis for Tots, Arts in the Parks Summer 93' Brochure, Summertime Arts, Conservators Newsletter, Private Projects in Public Parks, Keith Tornheim Letter/Old Colds Spring Park, League of Women Voters letter, Petition on Proposal for Old Cold Springs Park.

Pat Savage, Recreation Supervisor will be leaving the Recreation Department to fill a position as Recreation Director in the Town Sudbury on July 2nd. Pat was an outstanding supervisor and will be missed by the Department.

3. Summer plans for tennis, Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner and leagues information is in the folders. Camps, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool are all open according to schedule.
4. Newton North High School Indoor Complex fees for 1993/94 season: There is no increase in fees this season:

| | <u>Seasonal User</u> | <u>Daily Fee</u> |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|
| Student | \$25.00 | \$2.00 |
| Adult | \$35.00 | \$3.00 |
| Family | \$95.00 | \$ N/A |
| Non-Res. | \$95.00 | \$6.00 |

ID Card cost will be \$5.00 per card (good for 5 years)

Opening day of the 1993/94 season at the North Indoor Complex will be Monday October 4, 1993.

The Commission members voted unanimously 4-0 to accept the Newton North High School Indoor Complex fees for the 1993/94 season.

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5. Allison Park: Proposal from Steve Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer for proposal of soccer field at Allison Park and Brown Jr. High: Two hundred soccer teams are in the league and they do not have enough practice areas. Some of the fields are wearing out and the soccer leagues have raised some monies to improve the fields. They have already prepared a field at Brown Junior High School, in which they have installed a new irrigation system at no cost to the City.

Allison Park is a very bony and rocky area that is on the verge of being unsafe. If the field was to be renovated, it would leave a flat green space with no lights or dugouts. Steve recommends a total green space, eliminate pavement, smaller parking area for 50 cars. This would create 4 small sided fields plus he recommended a safety security gate.

Townhouse owners Mr and Mrs Cerra have a petition recommending no parking inside the playground. Parking would be on streets only. Mr. Saren does no object to the park but the parking of vehicles.

Steve said that the soccer league would pay for the renovation or an athletic field, no dugouts or structures, which would include looming and seeding 4-5 acres, strip off top loom and replace, fertilize, water, Parks & Recreation to cut grass. He mentioned that David Mandatori, Recreation Foreman, said that the fields do need work.

If their were no available parking spaces Steve would have to go back to the league to discuss this situation. This would be a safety paramount.

Mr. Fauteux was asked if the Commission approved Allison Park, when would the work begin. He said that the league wants to do Brown Junior High School first and that he would have to get back to the Commission regarding Allison if the parking is questioned.

Peter Kastner asked that something in writing be given as to the nature of the materials used and the scope of work to be done. Steve commented that the same thing would be done to Allison as was done to Brown Junior High last year.

Steve also pointed out that the MDC has an easement along Allison Park, and in the future a pathway may go through there. Alderman DiDuca said that this would be a Riverway project with a 100 foot walk area, bicycle path and in September the plans would go out to bid. He said that he is in favor of upgrading the fields, but objects to the proposed parking lot.

Tony Battista motioned to support the project without the parking and that it must be completed within the next two years. After that time passes, the soccer league would have to again go before the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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Motion was made to accept Steve Fauteux's Proposal. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously 5-0 to accept Steve Fauteux's proposal to improve the field at Allison Park for 4 soccer fields with the stipulation that it done within a year. If not, Mr. Fauteux will have to re-submit his proposal.

Junior High: The soccer league would pay for the reconstruction of another soccer field at Brown Junior High at a cost of approximately \$40,000-\$43,000. They would irrigate, re-seed. There may be room also for a third field and perhaps two fields could be done at once. This would involve moving a backstop 100 feet back and eliminate the pitcher's mound to create a third field. Also it would include taking out three scrub trees plus rotate the field from east to west. One of the concerns was the removal of the trees. This item would need to go before the Tree Warden in the City. Also what about the drainage? There are no close abutters to these fields. The marking of the fields could be worked out for soccer and lacrosse. Also fields cannot be used pending the Parks and Recreation's decision.

As for a time frame, Steve would like the approval by July for the third field. He already has approval for the 2nd field. There would be three trees in question and that the three trees would be replaced and that he would try to meet the communities needs. If approved. The area to be cleared would be approximately 100 feet off the 1st base line and 150 feet off the 1st base line and to move the backstop. It would be a three year plan to renovate the existing fields at Allison, Warren, Weeks, Hawthorn if approved. No Recreation monies would be used.

Peter Kastner, of the Conservators, said that if scrub trees are to come down at Brown Jr. High, the Commission members should go to the site and look the area over before taking a vote on the issue. Also that Russell J. Halloran has a conflict of interest as being a Commission member and also is the City of Newton's Tree Warden.

Motion was made for approval pending the removal of trees and replacements and is subject to approval of all agencies involved. Jo Pepper seconded the vote. It was 4-0 in favor of the soccer field at Brown Jr. High. One no vote by Peter Johnson who said that he has not seen the field in question and could not note.

6. Programs & Services Committee Meeting: June 23rd, 7:45PM at City Hall to discuss Parks & Recreation Ordinances. Based on Public Hearing that was held at City Hall with Board of Alderman in April.

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7. Elvis Day: Special Meeting to be held when request is received.
8. Parks & Recreation sub-committee's recommendations on proposed structures on playgrounds and parks: The committee met on May 28th and drafted a letter regarding policies on the Proposed Structures on Parks and Recreation Lands. The committee will meet again on July 20th to discuss a redrafting of the letter.

A letter was received by the League of Women Voters of Newton for their recommendations regarding Policies and Procedures for private projects on parks and recreation land.

Peter Kastner, Conservators, gave the Commission members his comments on policies and procedures to construct concession stands on Parks and Recreation Lands.

9. New Business: No new business

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JULY 20, 1993

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

POLICY

All petitions for construction of any type of structure of physical alteration to parks or recreation land, by private persons or organizations, must be deemed by the Recreation Commission to be in the long term interest of the City of Newton and meet all requirements and procedures outlined by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. Prior to any meeting at which a written proposal for a structure or physical alteration is to be presented and considered, the Recreation Department will mail notices to all abutters, neighborhood groups and current users holding permits of the facility in question. A notice of such action will also be posted at the site.
2. There will be at least two meetings to decide on any proposal. The first meeting will be for proposal presentation, discussion and public comment. The petitioner must submit the proposal to the Planning Department for administrative site plan review, as well as the Design Review Committee. Depending on its nature, the petitioner will be required to submit the proposal to the Traffic Commission, Law Department, Conservation Commission, Engineering Department, and/or other public agencies. These agencies will be given a reasonable time period in which to report their findings to the Commissioner, time period in which to report their findings to the Commissioner, prior to any decision being made by the Commission concerning the project. The Commission will be the last agency to make a decision.

Prior to the second meeting, all Commission members will make an effort to visit a proposed site. The second meeting will be for Commission discussion and vote, of which five affirmative votes of the Commission membership will be necessary for passage of the proposal.

3. Prior to any decision being made, in addition to the original proposal in writing, the petitioner must provide the Commission with requested financial information about his/her organization and details of all use and caretaking arrangements for the structure and or physical alteration.

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4. For whatever its purpose, the petitioner must demonstrate in writing the need to erect the structure. If the structure is to be used to generate revenue, the petitioner must show that other suitable avenues for fund raising have been researched or attempted.
5. In making its decision, the Commission must take into consideration the potential adverse effects that the proposal will have on the environmental and economic parameters surrounding it.
6. A written plan of action must be submitted with the proposal stating alternative plans for use or removal, should said structure no longer be used by the petitioner.
7. The petitioner will provide the Commission with an itemized estimate of the cost of construction, expected revenue raised and what the proceeds will be used for.
8. The petitioner may also be subject to other unforeseen conditions or procedures deemed appropriate by the Commission.
9. Any structure built on Parks and Recreation land will be owned by the City, upon completion, and under direct control of the Commission.

Special Commission Meeting

August 10, 1993

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Anthony Battista, Herbert Bamel, Gwen Fineberg, Josehine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alderman Allan Ciccone, Alderman Helen Robinson, Thomas Cahill, Supervisor and Joan Pellegrini

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN, JAMES MAHONEY:

A special commission meeting was held to discuss the request for Elvis Day at Hawthorn Park which was to be held on Sunday, September 19, 1993.

Commissioner Halloran remarked that Joan Pellegrini was in attendance and that she had a letter for the Commission members regarding this meeting. Ms. Pellegrini read the following letter.

August 10, 1993

To Russ Halloran:

Due to the illness of Anthony (Fat) Pellegrini and other circumstances, the Nonantum Children's Christmas Party Association has decided not to hold a Elvis Presley Day this year.

Sincerely,
Joanne Pellegrini

The Recreation Commission members and Commissioner Halloran told Joanne that they all send their best wishes to Fats and wishes him happier, healthier days ahead.

Meeting adjourned.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Herbert Bamel, Josephine Pepper, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN, James Mahoney:

1. Minutes of the June 21, 1993 Commission Meeting and the Special Commission Meeting on August 10, 1993 were accepted.
2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Reports of Events, 1993 Summer and Fall Programs: All summer programs went well including, camps, swimming and Outdoor Adventure at Nahanton Park. The Senior trip in September is to Cruise Lake Winnepesaukee, October, to Norman Rockwell Museum and November to Independence Harbor. Senior activities include, Softsteps, bowling, softball, aquatics, ballroom dancing, walking clubs, Theatre Buffs and Golf. Farmer's Market still going strong each Tuesday till October. Newton North High School Indoor program starts October 4th, fall tennis lessons from tots to teens starting September 21st. Fall programs include: Behold the Beauty Around Us, a lecture series at Nahanton Park, Children's Enrichment Program and Bulb and Plant table at City Hall.
3. Old Cold Springs Proposal: Lou Paretta gave the Commission members a proposal for Old Cold Springs at the June Meeting. He and his group of peers want to preserve the park, animals, nesting areas and leave it undeveloped as it is now.

Zig Plotter, soccer coach said that the park has many qualities and that they could work out a compromise with the abutters regarding the soccer fields. Many comments were that Old Cold Springs is open quality space and the beauty would never be retrieved if changed. It is a park with balance and tranquility.

Representative Susan Schur commented that the park is for passive recreation and a treasure in the ecological balance, and should not be destroyed.

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Steve Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer: Three thousand youngsters participate in the soccer program and they have over 200 teams. The soccer group would like to have one field that they could renovate and level off, and soccer group would pay for it. They would play there on Saturday's for four practices. Steve said that no monies have been spent on this area and the Department should think about improvements to the area.

Walter Bernheimer commented that he was opposed to the proposal because:

- 1) Word "Permanent" - means a long time
- 2) Language on proposal should be drafted properly
- 3) Development of path and park by using this language: (active use on Beacon Street side and passive use on the old Cold Springs side)

James Mahoney, commented that the Commission has developed a policy and the Old Cold Springs proposal group must use the Department's proposal form. He said that perhaps a better proposal is needed for Old Cold Springs.

Steve Fauteux withdrew his proposal for four practice fields at Old Cold Springs.

It was suggested that the Proposal for Old Cold Springs be redrafted with the suggestion to keep vehicles out of the park. Lou Peretta will work with the Commission on a new proposal to keep Old Cold Springs in its present park character.

- 4. Harvest Fair: Newton Centre Green, will take place on October 3rd from 12:00PM to 5:00PM. Rain date would be the following Sunday.
- 5. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival report to be discussed at the next Commission Meeting in October.
- 6. New Cold Springs/Nahanton Park: Steve Fauteux commented that New Cold Spring Playground on Beacon Street, should have the soccer field enlarged to an area of 60' by 100'. Part of the field is sinking and the soccer group would like to move the width and length and eliminate the mound with the shrubs on it. The mound would need to be excavated and fill in the sinking part. The cost would be \$10,000 or less with a joint effort by the Parks & Recreation Department and the soccer group. Grants would be looked into. One area is soaked all the time due to the irrigation system and the drainage.

Peter Kastner suggested that the group call William Presley and Associates, the original architect of the park, and see what was under the mound and if it was covered or left that way for a reason.

Steve said that his plan was to bring back the field to its original plan.

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Herb motioned to approve the proposal at New Cold Springs Park with approval from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Conservation Commission.

The Commission members voted 7-0 to approve the proposal for New Cold Springs Soccer enlargement.

6. Nahanton Park: Steve proposed to enlarge the field at Nahanton Park to 108' by 110':
- a) Level playing space and rotate the field
 - b) Make 2 fields out of the one for soccer
 - c) Increase size of practice field

He proposed that the overgrowth be cut back to allow for renovation and irrigation. Create a 30' buffer around the field, with parking at one end.

He met with the Friends of Nahanton Park Committee and suggested that they expand the area 30' around the park.

Concerns regarding the water for irrigation of the field are:

- a) Digging of well
- b) Pump water out of the Charles River
- c) Hook up to water at the Building

Duane Hillis brought in photo's of the passive recreation area.

Paula Chasen said that the area is a unique habitat, and enriches your spirits. As it stands now the field has a lot of uses. We need to balance the quiet places in the City and that Nahanton Park is a jewel, and a treasure and we need to protect it. The fear of expansion will eliminate the wild life. A den of foxes is known to be in the area. The photo's show a foxes den. There are a lot of animals and birds in the area and it very close to nature at the park.

Judy Hepburn said that if we increase the buffer zones on the sides, we will loose the birds who use the river. This is an excellent place for bird watching. She said that the Woodcock population is decreasing in Massachusetts and the trees and shrubs around the field create a buffer zone. The swamp in the area is almost dry and it has the Bullough's Pond effect.

Steve would like to add 30 feet on 3 sides of the field. He would like the field to measure 230 feet wide. He said that he would be willing to meet with the Friends of Nahanton Park on the following:

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- 1) Idea to renovate field and improve turf or existing space
- 2) Pump water from river with a pipe underground. Would need approval from Conservation Commission.
- 3) Drill well to irrigate field
- 4) Enlarge area by 10 yards

Fran Rice questioned who would pay the cost of running the pump and where the water is coming from.

Olive Komar said that 10' of cutback in the meadow area would destroy the habitat if the brush was cut back. It would also destroy the Woodcock Meadow. This needs to be renegotiated She said that the soccer league needs to recognize that the Woodcocks cannot be disturbed in March, April or May.

Steve Fauteux asked to come back to the next Commission Meeting.

7. No new business.

October 18, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commission, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

- 1. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted.
- 2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Reports of Events, are in the folders along with Outdoor Adventure Workshops, Middle School Party, Fantastic Fridays, Happy Taps, Programs for People "Over 55", Arts in the Parks Brochure, Arts at the Hut, Newton Pride Tree Endowment Fund, Newton North Indoor Complex Brochure and Special Needs Programs for the Fall.

Commissioner Halloran took this opportunity to thank Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, for the superior job that she has done on the MA ReLeaf Tree Grants for the City of Newton. She has worked extremely hard on several grants that will benefit the City of Newton.

- 3. Steve Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer - proposal to dig a well at Nahanton Park and to enlarge the soccer field: Mr. Fauteux could not attend tonights meeting because of a conflict of schedule. He will attend the next Commission Meeting in November.
- 4. Discussion of St. Mary of Carmen Carnival upcoming status - moved to the November 15th meeting.
- 5. Discussion of letter from Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner, Newton Conservators, regarding the Policy to erect structures or physical alterations to parks or recreation land by private persons or organizations.

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Kastner had some minor suggestions for the "Policy". After a brief discussion of the commission members, some of the ideas were incorporated into the policy.

- 1) Change the heading to read: Newton Parks & Recreation Commission's Policy on Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands.

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2) Add number 10 to the policy which is as follows:

10) Any construction will be supervised, inspected, by the City of Newton to make sure private persons or organizations have complied with plan presented. The City of Newton will oversee all facets involved in the construction process.

The Commission members voted 5-0 to accept the new suggestions to the policy.

6. Status of the Capital Improvement Program FY94': Wednesday evening the Commissioner and Fran Towle, Deputy Commission will go before the Programs and Services Committee, City Hall at 7:45PM. Items that will be discuss are:

VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

I. FY94' CIP Supplement

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Program Van | \$ 23,000. |
| 1 1-Ton Truck | \$ 30,000. |
| 2 Turf Cats | \$ 25,000. |
| 1 Trailer | \$ 4,000. |
| 1 Brush Chipper | \$ 19,000. |
| 1 Leaf Hog | \$ 4,000. |
| 1 Band Stand | \$ 3,400. |
| 1 1-Ton roller with trailer | <u>\$ 8,500.</u> |
| | \$116,900. |

II. Operating Budger FY94

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 1 Ton Truck | \$ 28,409. |
| 1 Scarifier Trap Rake | \$ 12,765. |
| 1 (Trailer to be purchased) | |
| | <u>\$ 41,174.</u> |

Grand Total \$158,074.

Turf Control Upgrade: \$ 50,000.

Recreation Area Upgrades:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Basketball Court Repairs | \$ 14,000. |
| Bleacher Replacements | \$ 60,000. |
| Field Renovations | \$ 55,000. |
| Sports Lighting Upgrades | \$ 22,000. |
| Play Equipment Replacement | |
| in Recreation non school sites | <u>\$ 25,000.</u> |
| | \$176,000. |

Bullough's Pond: Pond all dredged, fencing has been done and lighting to be installed. The pond is 6-7' deep and 4' at the shallow end. Skating might be a go this year. A dedication will take place the first Sunday of skating.

Cabot Park Fieldhouse: has been renovated and a day care center uses the facility in the afternoons. Two programs are now being scheduled for the mornings.

Cold Springs and Auburndale Life Courses: are being renovated in-house for \$20,000.

Tennis Courts at NNHS and NSHS: Are being renovated for \$154,120. at Newton North and \$82,404. at Newton South.

- 7. A special meeting needs to be set up with a Commission member, someone from the Fire Department, Police Department, an Alderman, and someone from the Health Department to discuss the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival.

Also abutters are to be notified when the item about Cabot Concession Stand appears on the agenda.

Tony Battista motioned that a letter of appreciation be written to Mr. Pellegrini for all that he has done for the City of Newton. The Commission members agreed 5-0 to approve the sending of the letter to Fats Pellegrini.



NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



RUSSELL J. HALLORAN - COMMISSIONER

70 Crescent Street, Auburndale, Ma. 02166 Telephone Office: 552-7120 Forestry and Maintenance: 552-7123
OCTOBER 18, 1993

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S POLICY ON
PROCEDURES FOR ALTERATION OF LANDS FOR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS ON
RECREATION LANDS

POLICY

All petitions for construction of any type of structure or physical alteration to parks or recreation land, by private persons or organizations, must be deemed by the Recreation Commission to be in the long term interest of the City of Newton and meet all requirements and procedures outlined by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES

1. Prior to any meeting at which a written proposal for a structure or physical alteration is to be presented and considered, the Recreation Department will mail notices to all abutters, neighborhood groups and current users holding permits of the facility in question. A notice of such action will also be posted at the site.
2. There will be at least two meetings to decide on any proposal. The first meeting will be for proposal presentation, discussion and public comment. The petitioner must submit the proposal to the Planning Department for administrative site plan review, as well as the Design Review Committee. Depending on its nature, the petitioner will be required to submit the proposal to the Traffic Commission, Law Department, Conservation Commission, Engineering Department, and/or other public agencies. These agencies will be given a reasonable time period in which to report their findings to the Commissioner, time period in which to report their findings to the Commissioner, prior to any decision being made by the Commission concerning the project. The Commission will be the last agency to make a decision.

Prior to the second meeting, all Commission members will make an effort to visit a proposed site. The second meeting will be for Commission discussion and vote, of which five affirmative votes of the Commission membership will be necessary for passage of the proposal.

3. Prior to any decision being made, in addition to the original proposal in writing, the petitioner must provide the Commission with requested financial information about his/her organization and details of all use and caretaking arrangements for the structure and or physical alteration.

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| COMMISSION MEMBERS | WARD 1 - ANTHONY BATTISTA | WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN | WARD 7 - GWEN FINEBERG |
| | WARD 2 - JAMES MAHONEY, VICE CHAIRMAN | WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER | WARD 8 - HERBERT R. BAMEL |
| | WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON | WARD 6 - MRS. CHARLES PEPPER | FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY |

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4. For whatever its purpose, the petitioner must demonstrate in writing the need to erect the structure. If the structure is to be used to generate revenue, the petitioner must show that other suitable avenues for fund raising have been researched or attempted.
5. In making its decision, the Commission must take into consideration the potential adverse effects that the proposal will have on the environmental and economic parameters surrounding it.
6. A written plan of action must be submitted with the proposal stating alternative plans for use or removal, should said structure no longer be used by the petitioner.
7. The petitioner will provide the Commission with an itemized estimate of the cost of construction, expected revenue raised and what the proceeds will be used for.
8. The petitioner may also be subject to other unforeseen conditions or procedures deemed appropriate by the Commission.
9. Any structure built on Parks and Recreation land will be owned by the City, upon completion, and under direct control of the Commission.
10. Any construction will be supervised, inspected, by the City of Newton to make sure private persons or organizations have complied with plan presented. The City of Newton will oversee all facets involved in the construction process.

November 15, 1993

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the October meeting were accepted.
2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Reports of Events are in the folders along with Arts in the Parks - Bennington Marionettes, Programs for People "Over 55", Theatre Buff, "LA Cage Aux Folles" and programs for fall events.
3. Policy/Ammended Policy for Newton Parks & Recreation Procedures for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands: On July 20, 1993 a Special Meeting was held to discuss a written policy for all petitions for construction of any type of structure of physical alteration to parks or recreation land, by private persons or organizations, must be deemed by the Recreation Commission to be in the long term interest of the City of Newton and meet all requirements and procedure outlined by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The members of the Commission voted 6-0 to accept the July 20th policy.

Minor suggestions were made at the October 18th meeting and were incorporated into the policy. The Commission members voted 6-0 to accept the ammended policy for Newton Parks & Recreation procedures for Private Organizations on Recreation lands.

4. Newton Central Little League proposal for a concession stand at Cabot Playground: Harry Lichtman has a proposal to erect a concession building adjacent to the third base line on the chain link side at Cabot Park. He has the support of the Principal at Cabot School. He said that the Little League would supply plantings around the building. The concession stand would be open 1/2 before the game and close 1 hour after the game. In addition to the building being open from April to June, the Newton Central Little League would also like the building to be open in the fall from mid-September to mid-October! The goal is to raise \$3,000 in one year.

(2)

Tom Keefe, abutter, asked questions as to what other organizations would be able to use the structure, would the building be owned by the City and would they comply with Health Regulations? Mr. Lichtman said that other organizations may use the building, the City would own the building and NCLL would have to comply with Health Regulations.

John Keefe, abutter, said that he heard that the structure would be a distribution center for other leagues. Mr. Lichtman said that he stores tonic and pop corn at his home and takes it to and from games at Cabot and other areas. Mr. Keefe said that the building would be an eyesore. He also asked who will pick up the trash after games. Mr. Lichtman said that the league picks up after each game. Neighbors complained that the majority of the trash blows into their private yards. Mr. Keefe suggested the use of ice cream trucks and canteen trucks instead.

A letter was received from Anthony Lupo regarding voters concerns from Wards 1 & 2 in reference to the construction of a building to sell beverages & food at Cabot Playground.

Some of the questions were, does it have hand sinks with hot water, who pays the taxes, who will protect the kids, where will people park during games and the area will be a hang out for kids. The neighbors are opposed to the concession stand.

Commissioner Halloran said that NCLL would have to comply with the Parks and Recreation Commission Policy and go through the proper channels for approval and then return to the Recreation Commission, i.e. Planning Department, Design, Review, Law Department, Traffic, Conservation and Health Department. Also the petitioners should have a financial statement available, how monies will be raised, plan of action, alternate plans and use of building.

This item will be on the December agenda.

5. Discussion of St. Mary of Carmen Carnival - upcoming status: Commission members folders contain a letter from Bob Antonellis regarding the Carnival atmosphere and petition from Joe Marini opposing the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival.

Nunzie Leone and Tony Gentile attended the meeting. Commissioner Halloran suggested that a meeting be held in December with a member of the Commission, a member of the Society, abutters, Joe Marini, Roger Marrocco, Father Cicune, Pastor from Our Ladys Church, Police, Fire, and two Aldermen to discuss the upcoming St. Mary of Carmen Carnival. Motion was made to organize a meeting to work towards a resolution to solve these problems. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival will be on the agenda monthly.

Nunzie said that the Carnival has run from 1935 to 1993 and that the Festival depends on the monies received from the Carnival.

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(3)

- 6. Skating Rules and Regulations: The 1993-94 Outdoor Skating Rules and Regulations were approved by the Commission members. The members voted unanimously 6-0 to accept the rules for the 1993/94 season.
- 7. Budget Update: Awaiting new budget allocations from Mayor's Office.
- 8. Beaconwood Road; offer of land for public purposes. Donato and Margaret Capasso own 3 contiguous parcels of land at the end of Beaconwood Road, which parcels total 118,820 square feet in area (Section 54, Block 22, Lots 24, 32 and 33). They wish to convey these 2.7 acres of land to the to the City of Newton at no cost and under no restriction. The Conservation Commission recommends that mayor Mann ask the Board of Aldermen to accept the Cappassos' wise offer of this land for the public purposes of flood control, wildlife habitat and passive recreation; that the Mayor ask the Board to assign management and control of the land in trust forever to the Parks and Recreation Commission because the offered land abuts the Cold Spring Park and Playground land which is under the jurisdiction and control of the Parks and Recreation Commission. (per 9/27/93 letter of Richard Staley, Chairman, Conservation Commission). A letter was sent to Mayor Mann from Commission Halloran recommending the donation of the lands.
- 9. Letter to Anthony Pellegrini: A letter will be sent from the Commission to Mr. Pellegrini thanking him for all that he has done in the City for the past 22 years.
- 10. New Business: Letter from Paula Chasan from the Friends of Nahanton Park containing suggestions and recommendation for the soccer field at Nahanton Park.

The Department also received Inter-office correspondence on 11/15/93 from Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor to Alderman Jordan Kraus, Chairman, Programs & Services Committee regarding: Revision to Parks and Recreation Commission dated November 12, 1993.

Alderman Kraus and the Programs and Services Committee made further revisions to the draft amendments concerning the Parks and Recreation Commission. The draft amendments were initially reviewed by the Programs and Services Committee at its July 21, 1993 meeting.

The proposed revision would add the following new provisions to the Parks & Recreation Commission:

- 1. Limit members to three consecutive 3-years terms; Note: Current members would be permitted to complete their current terms even if they had served more than three consecutive 3-year terms.

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(4)

2. Direct the Mayor, when making appointments, to strive to balance concerns of parks, open space preservation and recreation.

3. Require the Parks and Recreation Commission to render decision concerning parks and recreation programs and use of lands under its control in accordance with written guidelines or policies.

4. Require the Parks and Recreation Commission to adopt programs and policies which preserve and enhance access to both parks and recreational opportunities.

DRAFT REVISIONS

Section 21-46 Composition; appointment of members; vacancies; Chairman

a) There shall be a parks and recreation commission comprised of eight (8) voting members together with the parks and recreation commissioner who shall serve, ex officio, as a non-voting member of the parks and recreation commission. One resident from each ward of the City shall be appointed as resident from each ward of the City shall be appointed as permanent members by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen. Four (4) alternate members selected at large shall also be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen.

b) Appointments by the mayor shall strive to balance the concerns of parks and open space preservation with the concerns of recreation. The mayor shall seek advice and nominations for appointments to the parks and recreation commission from the conservation commission, the beautification commission and other interested groups, as well as ward aldermen when appropriate.

c) (i) Permanent members of the parks and recreation commission shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Permanent members shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive three-year terms in the same office; provided, that members in office on the effective date of passage of this ordinance may serve until the end of their current term even if they have already served three or more consecutive terms.

(ii) Four (4) alternate members shall be appointed by the mayor following the effective date of passage of this ordinance. The initial terms of three (3) of the alternate members shall be shortened as follows to stagger expiration of the terms of the alternate members: one member shall be appointed for one (1) year; two member shall be appointed for two (2) years; one member shall be appointed for three (3) years. All alternate member appointments subsequent to the initial appointments shall be for a term of three (3) consecutive three rear terms, excluding any initial term of less than three years such member may have served.

(5)

(iii) Permanent and alternate members shall not be considered to have served in the same office for purposes of calculating the limitation of three (3) consecutive terms. Both permanent and alternate members shall continue to serve after expiration of their terms until their successors shall be duly appointed and qualified. Vacancies in the offices of either permanent or alternate members shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for any unexpired term.

(d) The permanent members shall elect one member to act as chair. In the event that a permanent member is absent or unable to act for any reason, the chair shall designate an alternate member to act.

Section 21-47. Powers and duties.

The parks and recreation commission shall advise the mayor and board of aldermen in relation to matters pertaining to sports, recreation, parks, open space and preservation of scenic beauty and shall render decisions concerning parks and recreation programs and the use of lands under its jurisdiction in accordance with written guidelines or policies. The guidelines or policies established by the parks and recreation commission shall preserve and enhance access to parks and recreation opportunities for Newton citizens. The parks and recreation commission shall also advise the mayor and board of aldermen as to the amount of money to be spent annually by the department of parks and recreation. Pursuant to Chapter 426 of the Acts of 1982, the parks and recreation commission shall have all the rights, powers, duties and obligations of a park commission as set forth in Chapter 45 of the General Laws, and shall exercise the powers of eminent domain conferred by Sections 2 and 14 of the General Laws.

Pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 87 of the General Laws, the commission may delegate its powers as tree warden under Section 5A of Chapter 47 to the parks and recreation commissioner.

The Commission members discussed the above proposal for Revision to parks & Recreation Commission and some of their concerns were the following:

- 1) Commission members were opposed to the limit of members to three consecutive 3-year term; current members would be permitted to complete their current terms even if they had served more than three consecutive 3-year terms.

Other Commissions plus the Board of Aldermen do not have restriction on terms limitations.

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(6)

2) When making appointments by the Mayor he shall strive to balance the concerns of parks and open space preservation with the concerns of recreation. The Mayor shall seek advice and nominations for appointments to the Parks and Recreation from the Conservation Commission, the Beautification Commission and other interested groups, as well as ward aldermen when appropriate.

The Mayor should not be restricted by groups in seeking nominations for appointments to the Commission.

Commissioner Halloran suggested that the December meeting be held on Monday, the 13th instead of the 20th.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 13, 1993

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the November meeting were accepted.
2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Reports of Events are in the folders along with brochures from Arts in the Hut, Parks & Recreation Brochure, Newton Pride Tree Endowment Fund, Bennington Marionettes/Cinderella, Programs for People "Over 55", Senior Aerobics and 1994 New Year's Celebration at City Hall.
3. Newton West Little League, President, Steven Cononico, is requesting permission to place a temporary storage trailer at Lyons Field. He asks that the storage trailer, 8' X 24', be placed at Lyons Field from approximately March 28th, to September 10th.

Also, Mr. Cononico is requesting permission to erect a batting cage. The batting cage would be 60 feet long, 16 feet wide and 10 feet high. The batting cage would only be used during the little league season, and for safety reasons only under adult supervision. The little league representatives believe that this structure would benefit the participating little league youth and any other children that are interested in improving their batting skills. The cage would be placed on the 3rd base side of the field at Lyons Field. The reason for the 3rd base site is that it is close to the electricity.

The Commission members suggested that Mr. Cononico read the Parks and Recreation Commission's Policy on erecting structures on Public Lands. Also, a site plan would be needed as to the placement of the batting cage and the storage trailer.

(2)

Jackie Bradley asked about the appearance of the trailer.

Marty Sender said that a pitching machine should not be left on the site. Also, that area is also used for volleyball, a walkway and other things.

Peter Kastner, representative of the Auburndale Association and also the Conservators, said that the batting cage would be on the field in a heavily congested area. Also that the structure was hideous and ugly. He does not believe that that neighborhood wants either the batting cage or the trailer. The trailer would leave permanent scars on the ground. It would be an unnecessary intrusion and the Conservators would oppose it.

Mr. Cononico said that he does not want to do anything that would upset the abutters.

Marie Abernathy said that it would be ugly and an enormous unnecessary structure. The dugouts are already ugly.

Lester Slate said he supported both structures and that it for a positive force to work with the kids. A batting cage is needed and would hopefully benefit the farm league teams and others.

Paul Keyes said that Lyons Field does not need a batting cage.

Priscilla Leitch opposed both.

Dan McCarty supports the structures.

A question was asked to Mr. Cononico regarding a smaller storage trailer, and he said that it was the smallest one that they make.

It was suggested that a site plan is needed and it should be brought back to the Commission so that the members could inspect the site. The little league would have to do its homework before it could be voted on. Details would be needed.

It was also noted that there still might be a sewerage problem at Lyons.

This request would be put on the January Agenda for the next meeting.

4. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Update: A meeting will be set up in the month of January with other City officials and neighbors, to discuss the upcoming St. Mary of Carmen Carnival in July.

(3)

- 5. Cabot Proposal Newton Central Little League Concession Stand Update: Nothing has been heard this month from the Cabot Little League officials regarding the concession stand.
- 6. Budget Update: The Department is awaiting the new budget for 1994-1995.
- 7. Aldermen vote to expand the Commission: At the December 6, 1993 Board of Aldermen meeting the following was voted on:

Section 21-46 and 21-47 of the Newton Revised Ordinances 1989 are deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following new text:

Section 21-46. Composition; appointment of members; vacancies; chairman.

a) There shall be a parks and recreation commission comprised of eight (8) voting members together with the parks and recreation commissioner who shall serve, ex officio, as a non-voting member of the parks and recreation commission. One resident from each ward of the city shall be appointed as permanent members by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen. Four (4) alternate members selected at large shall also be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen.

b) Appointments by the mayor shall strive to balance the concerns of parks and open space preservation with the concerns of recreation.

c) (i) permanent members of the parks and recreation commission shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

(ii) Four (4) alternate members shall be appointed by the mayor following the effective date of passage of this ordinance. The initial terms of three (3) of the alternate members shall be shortened as follows to stagger expiration of their terms: one member shall be appointed for one (1) year; two members shall be appointed for two (2) years; one member shall be appointed for three (3) years. All alternate member appointments subsequent to the initial appointments shall be for a term of three (3) years.

(iii) Both permanent and alternate members shall continue to serve after expiration of their terms until their successors shall be duly appointed and qualified. Vacancies in the offices of either permanent or alternate members shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for any unexpired term.

d) The permanent members shall elect one member to act as chair. In the event that a permanent member is absent or unable to act for any reason, the chair shall designate an alternate member to act.

Section 21-47. Powers and duties.

The parks and recreation commission shall advise the mayor and board of aldermen in relation to matters pertaining to sports, recreation, parks, open and preservation of scenic beauty and shall render decision concerning parks and recreation programs and the use of lands under its jurisdiction in accordance with written guidelines or policies. The guidelines or policies established by the parks and recreation commission shall preserve and enhance access to parks and recreation opportunities for Newton citizens. The parks and recreation shall also advise the mayor and board of Aldermen as to the amount of money to be spent annually by the department of parks and recreation.. Pursuant to Chapter 426 of the Acts of 1982, the parks and recreation commission shall have all the rights, powers, duties and obligations of a park commission as set forth in Chapter 45 of the General Laws, and shall exercise the powers of eminent domain conferred by Sections 2 and 14 of the General Laws.

Pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 87 of the General Laws, the commission may delegate its powers as tree warden under Section 5A of Chapter 47 to the parks and recreation commissioner.

Approved as to legal form and character:

Dan Funk, City Solicitor

Also, IT WAS ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF NEWTON AS FOLLOWS:

Section 21-1 (b) of the Newton Revised ordinances 1989 shall be amended by adding at the end of the present text of Section 21-1 (b) the following sentence:

The commissioner shall consult with the conservation commission regarding the manner of maintaining lands under the commission's jurisdiction.

Approved as to legal form and character:

Daniel Funk, City Solicitor

- 8. New Business: The Commissioner thanked all the Commission members for a successful year and wished everyone a very "Happy, Healthy, Holiday Season.

The next meeting will be January 24th.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 24, 1994

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the December meeting were accepted.
2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders along with the Parks & Recreation Field/Picnic and Building Informational Brochure, Middle School, Hyde Rock Party, live on cable 13, Cinderella with the Bennington Marionettes.

Letter from Michael Clarke regarding safe access at Cronin's Cove by April 1, 1994 or to reinstate ordinance (T-209), which allows safe access to launch a boat at Crystal Lakes, Levingston Cove.

Also, Mayor Mann appointed as an Alternate Member of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Robert Platt, 81 Deborah Road, Newton, pending confirmation of the Board of Aldermen.

Francis Rice, Chairman, Herbert Bamel, and Peter Johnson were reappointed for another 3 years as members of the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission. Term of office to expire on January 1, 1997.

The sum of \$34,500. was appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund Unreserved Fund Balance, is appropriated, granted and expenditure authorized under the direction of His Honor the Mayor by the Parks and Recreation Commissioner for the purposes of funding tree plantings along Washington Street from Newton Corner to Newtonville.

The sum of \$176,000. to be appropriated for purposed of funding the following recreation area improvements:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Park Area Improvements</u> | |
| Basketball Courts Repairs | \$14,000 |
| Bleacher Replacement | \$60,000 |
| Field Renovations | \$55,000 |
| Basketball Court Lighting | \$22,000 |
| Play Equipment Replacement | <u>\$25,000</u> |
| | \$176,000 |

(2)

The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated for purposes of funding a turf maintenance program at various locations in the City.

| | |
|--|----------|
| <u>Parks & Recreation Department</u> | |
| Parks & Turf Control Program | \$50,000 |

3. Newton West Little League, Steve Cononico, President, regarding permission to place a temporary storage trailer and erect a batting cage at Lyons Field: Steve gave the commission members a diagram of Lyons Field and placement area of a temporary storage trailer and the erection of a temporary batting cage.
 Batting Cage: Steve is asking the Commission for permission of a netted batting cage that would have six - ten foot sections/posts and would be covered with netting, the same as the one that is used at Newton North High School. It would have a brown fish type netting, 10 feet above the ground, 16' wide and 60' long. He said that it would not be a permanent structure, it would be erected in March and taken down in the middle of September. Steve showed the commission members a photo of the temporary storage trailer.

Peter Kastner, representative of the Auburndale Association and the Conservators, said that the neighbors were not petitioned and that the batting cage is an intrusion of the park.

Paul McIsaac, Dan McCarthy, David Staper, Mike Sullivan and Frank Albano were all for the batting cage and storage trailer, for the benefit of the children to play in the Little League.

The Commissioner asked Steve to come to the next Commission Meeting on Monday, February 28th and to bring a clearer diagram of the proportions as to where the batting cage and storage shed are to be placed in the park.

4. Update on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Committee: A meeting has been set up for Thursday, February 3rd, 7:30PM in room 202 at City Hall to discuss the upcoming St. Mary of Carmen Carnival. Those attending the meeting will include: A delegate from the Police and Fire Department, Harriett Melrose, Robert Antonellis, Francis Rice, Alderman Theresa O'Halloran, Alderman Helen Robinson, Diane Marini, Reverend Walter Cuenin, Roger Marrocco, Anthony Gentile, Nunzie Leone, Alderman Thomas Concannon, Russell Halloran, Commissioner, and Tom Cahill, Supervisor.

(3)

5. Budget Update: Budget Allocations for FY95 \$3,177,038 and FY96 \$3,208,876. No program cuts or any major changes in this years budget. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Supervisor, replaced Pat Savage, Supervisor in October of 1993. Joyce Danforth, Payroll Clerk, and Santos Marotta, Dispatcher, retired as of February of 1994.
6. Skating Update: Ice skating at Bullough's Pond and Ware's Cove. Crystal Lake will open for skating as soon as there is a sufficient thickness of ice.
7. New Business: Michael Clarke's letter was discussed regarding a viable and safe access for car-top boats at Crystal Lake. Mike was not in favor of a dock and would like to use the Levingston Cove as a safe access area instead of Cronin's Cove. Commissioner Halloran will look into the request, and get back to Mr. Clarke on this matter.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 28, 1994

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

- 1. Minutes of the January Meeting were accepted.
- 2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in folders along with brochures from Arts at the Hut, and Training Workshops.

Herbert Bamel is retiring as the Ward 8 Representative to the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission. Herb has been a most valuable and dedicated member of the Commission for the past 18 years and he will be sadly missed by his associate members. He is resigning due to his semi-retirement and inability to commit himself 100% to the needs of the Commission. Herb submitted his letter of resignation to Mayor Mann on February 2nd, 1994. The Commission members wish him the best on his future endeavors.

Robert Platt was appointed by Mayor Mann to the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission, as an alternate, pending confirmation of the Board of Aldermen. However, Bob is now being considered as the Ward 8 Representative, replacing Herb Bamel.

The Commissioner welcomed Robert Platt and Michael J. Clarke to the meeting. Mr. Clarke is also pending confirmation from the Board of Aldermen as an alternate to the Commission.

- 3. Budget & CIP Update: As of March 21st, there were no cuts as of yet in the Parks & Recreation budget. The Finance Committee meets again this evening at 10:00PM to discuss monies for recent snow/ice storms. So far the City has had 81" of snow.

Monies have been approved for Parks & Recreation Capital Supplemental Budget FY94 for Recreation Area Upgrades:

| | |
|--|------------|
| <u>Basketball Court Repairs</u> | \$14,000. |
| <u>Bleacher Replacement</u> | \$60,000. |
| <u>Field Renovations</u> | \$55,000. |
| <u>Sports lighting Upgrade</u> | \$22,000. |
| <u>Play Equipment in Recreation Areas</u> | \$25,000. |
| | \$176,000. |

(2)

- 4. Newton West Little League President, Steven Cononico, discussion on temporary storage shed and temporary batting cage: Ouida C.M. Young, Assistant City Solicitor, sent a memo to Walter Adams regarding the batting cage. She said that if the Little League gets permission to install the batting cage, please require it to get a license from the City for this work.

Walter Adams, Commissioner, Inspectional Services Department sent a memo to Commissioner Halloran regarding the Batting Cage & Storage Container at Lyons Playground. It is Mr. Adams determination that the two temporary structures do not need the benefit of a building permit where the duration of their existence at the site is less than 180 days. Therefore, should our department insure that both structures are promptly removed each season within 180 days of their placement, then this department has no reason to regulate them.

Steve said it would be a temporary storage shed and batting cage and that they would be placed in April and taken down in September within 180 days.

One hundred and forty five (145) letters were sent to abutters and information was sent to the Tribue, Tab and Graphic regarding this meeting.

The storage trailer is 8' by 20', light brown with a dark brown door, and would be placed at the 3rd base side of the field. The batting cage is 54' X 12' high and 16' wide, free standing, 4 posts, 3 sections, netting is black and snaps together. The cage would have an anchor bolt on each end and would be padlocked. The trailer and storage shed would be maintained by the Newton West Little League.

Ms. Abernathy was opposed to the increased use of structures on public lands at Lyons Playground.

Darlene Wansiewicz asked that the Commission members give the Newton West Little League a chance to prove themselves and that the area could be checked on a yearly basis.

Commissioner Halloran said that the Newton West Little League should be commended for attending the numerous meetings and to listening to the concerns of the neighbors. The Little League has worked with the neighbors to come up with a solution for the batting cage and storage shed.

(3)

Steve Cononico said that the batting cage is very useful, it builds confidence in the kids, good practice for kids, maintains interest, and is a great teaching aid.

Tony Battista motioned to accept the proposal of the Storage shed and batting cage with an annual review. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous 6-0 to accept the proposal of the Newton North Little League for the placement of a temporary storage shed and temporary batting cage at Lyons Playground from April to September and not for more than 180 days.

5. Ice Skating at Bullough's Pond, Crystal Lake and Ware's Cove:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Bullough's Pond: | 14 skating days |
| Crystal Lake: | 6 skating days |
| Ware's Cove: | 13 skating days |

6. Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 21st meeting.

7. Update on Committee meeting on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival. March 17th is the next meeting of the committee. At the last meeting the discussion centered on a family orientated carnival and also that the carnival be downsized, and more selective in the rides.

Tony Gentile and Nunzie Leone said that the monies that the carnival makes goes to scholarships, aides people and is also given to the special needs group for parties.

8. New Business: Gwen Fineberg, Commission member received a letter from David Erickson, Lucy Tirk, Richard Saltus and Deborah Perugi, regarding Burr Park and individuals playing basketball after dusk through the night as late at 2 A.M. in the morning. In the letter, the concerns were the bright security flood lights. One of the flood lights was removed last fall. Two lights remain. The Commissioner said that he would work with Bob DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Boston Edison on this situation. Use of a motion detector light was suggested.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 21, 1994

PRESENT: Francis Rice, Chairman, James Mahoney, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Herbert Bamel, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, FRANCIS RICE:

1. Minutes of the February Meeting were accepted.
2. Annual Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman: Mr. Halloran opened the meeting for election of officers. James Mahoney was nonimated for Chairman and Peter Johnson was nominated for Vice Chairman. The voting was unanimous 7-0 for both Mr. Mahoney as Chairman, and Mr. Johnson as Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Commission members extended their sincere congratulations to both gentlemen.
3. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders along with flyers on Middle School Party at Hyde Community Center, 1994 Soccer Clinic, 16th Annual Youth Service Awards Program, Kids Korner Summer Program, Yoga Classes, Outdoor Adventure, Newton Senior Luncheon Committee - "Unsung Hero/Heroine Award", Fantastic Fridays at Newton Centre Hut, and last but not least, the new 1994 "Many Worlds of the Newton Parks and Recreation Department" 1994 Brochure. The last page of the brochure is dedicated to Helen Murphy, a devoted recreation volunteer for the past twelve years who has donated over 5,000 hours to the City.
4. Update on Budget: Honorable Mayor, Theodore D. Mann is presenting the 94/95 Budget to the Board of Aldermen this evening at 8:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers. Commission members will adjourn at 8:00 to attend this meeting.

(2)

5. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Meetings Update: Another meeting was held to discuss the upcoming carnival. The discussion centered on types of rides, plan of the field, re-arrangement of rides, and gear to family orientation. Representatives from Police, Fire, Commissioner, Fran Rice, members of St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Committee, Aldermen, and neighborhood representatives attended. The St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Committee will request a permit for the Carnival at the May meeting.

6. Herb Bamel's last Commission Meeting - Herb recently resigned from the Commission, after serving as Ward 8's representative for 18 years. He was appointed to the Commission in 1976 and has been a valuable and esteemed member. He has also contributed greatly to the Commission with his knowledge and understanding. It is a privilege and an honor to know Herb and he will be sadly missed by his fellow commission members.

The Commission welcomes Robert Platt as the new Ward 8 representative of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Bob will be a valuable asset to the Commission. All of the commission members welcomed him to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

7. New Business: Meeting adjourned to Aldermanic Chambers for Mayor Mann's presentation of budget to the Board of Aldermen.



NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



RUSSELL J. HALLORAN - COMMISSIONER

70 Crescent Street, Auburndale, Ma. 02166 Telephone Office: 552-7120 Forestry and Maintenance: 552-7123

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 25, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Acting Alternate, Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary,

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN: JAMES MAHONEY

1. Minutes of the March Meeting were accepted.
2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of meetings are in the folders along with brochures on Hyde Out, Baton Lessons, Gath Pool and Crystal Lake Brochures, Summer 1994 Parks & Recreation poster, Article in Newton Graphic on Herb Bamel's resignation from the Parks & Recreation Commission, brochure on the Honorable Mayor Theodore D. Mann's Memorial at Boston College on Sunday, April 24, 1994.

The City of Newton was saddened by the passing of the Honorable Mayor Theodore D. Mann on April 9, 1994. More than 1000 family members, friends and constituents of Mayor Mann gathered at Boston College for a stirring tribute to the late mayor's life and legacy. The memorial was filled with emotional recollections of the state's longest serving mayor and calls for keeping his memory and legacy alive. The two hour service brought to a close weeks of official mourning for Mann, who died April 9th after a 14 year battle with leukemia. He was 71 years old.

The City has experienced a great loss. His boundless energy was infectious and he frequently inspired others to stretch the limits of their capabilities. He had a way of making people feel important. His funeral service at Congregation Mishkan Tefila on April 13th drew high ranking Democrats and Republicans alike.

Thomas B. Concannon, Jr., President of the Board of Aldermen was sworn in as acting Mayor until an election can be held.

Jim Mahoney, Chairman, welcomed Jo Pepper back to the Commission and extended best wishes to Charlie Pepper also.

(2)

- 3. Update on Youth Awards Presentation at Springfest on Sunday, May 15th, at City Hall. Springfest starts at 12:00PM and the Youth Awards start at 1:30PM.
- 4. Status of Budget: Programs and Services Committee, Board of Aldermen, passed the Parks & Recreation Budget 6-0. The Parks and Recreation Budget will be presented to the Board of Aldermen at a later date.
- 5. Tennis Rules & Regulations: Rule and Regulations are the same as last year's. They are as follows:

NEWTON CENTRE TENNIS FEE STRUCTURE - 1994

SEASON PERMIT

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 80.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 40.00 |
| Non-Resident Adult | \$325.00 |
| Non-Resident Student | \$120.00 |

HOURLY RATES**

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 8.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 6.00 |
| Non-Resident | \$ 10.00 |

** No reservation privileges: waiting list only

Tentative length of season (May 20th to September 30th)

The Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to pass the Tennis Rules and Regulations for 1994.

- 6. Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Adults (18 years & older) | \$ 20.00 |
| Students (6 to 18 years) | \$ 10.00 |
| Non-Permit Holders (daily) | \$ 2.00 (students) |
| Non Residents (daily) | \$ 6.00 |

The Commission members voted 7-0 to accept the 1994 Rules and Regulations for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake.

- 7. Status of St. Mary of Carmen Carnival: Meetings have been held with representatives from Police, Fire, Commissioner Halloran, Fran Rice, members of St. Mary of Carmen Society Carnival Committee, Aldermen, Commissioner Halloran and neighborhood representatives to discuss the types of rides, size, plan of the field, and re-arrangement of rides. Monies received from the Carnival go to charity. At the next meeting,

(3)

Mr. Carr who runs the carnival will attend. Liability Insurance for the Carnival runs into two million dollars. The City is the additional insurer.

- 8. New Business: Alderman Brooke Lipsit called Jim Mahoney regarding a list of dedications passed by the Parks and Recreation Department. The Department is in the process of preparing a list.

The Parks & Recreation Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to elect to retain the dedication of fields, benches, beautifications of street islands, and buildings with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Michael Clarke, appointed alternate Commission Member brought up the Crystal Lake Boating Rules and Regulations. This will be on the agenda at the next Commission Meeting on May 16th.

Michael suggested that we obtain a map from the Planning Department as to the outline and depth of Crystal Lake with the access areas that are available. He also suggested that we contact Roy Lamont, Traffic Engineer regarding the dropping off of boats at Levingstone Cove and the corner of Lake Avenue and Beacon Streets near the gazebo. Commission Halloran will follow up on this and bring information to the next meeting.

Michael also thanked the Commissioner for the donation of wood chips for the proposed walk/path behind the Bowen Elementary School.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 16, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Alternate Member, Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, JAMES MAHONEY:

1. Minutes of the April Meeting were accepted.
2. Report of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's report of events are in folders along with brochures from senior activities, Theatre Buffs, and Newton's Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 29th at 2:00PM. The parade will be dedicated to the memory of the late Mayor Theodore D. Mann.

Michael Clarke has officially been sworn in as an Alternate Member to the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Commission members welcomed Michael to the Parks & Recreation Commission as an alternate member.

James Mahoney reported that he attended a meeting regarding dedications, Post Audit Oversight Committee with Alderman Jordan Kraus: This committee feels that a dedication should not be awarded to just anyone and that the Board of Aldermen should have final approval.

For the fifth year in a row Newton has been named "TREE CITY USA" by the Arbor Day Association. A photo was taken with Acting Mayor Thomas B. Concannon, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Charles Burnham, Environmental Affairs and Leo Levi, Chairman, Beautification Committee.

Fran Towle has done an excellent job regarding the Washington Street planting of trees grant. A total of 64 trees are to be planted on Washington for the Mass Releaf Project. This has been an exciting project that joined the private sector with matching monies i.e. Bell Telephone, NYNEX, Handler & Burhams phase the combined efforts of the Public Works, Planning and Parks & Recreation Departments. "Adopt A Tree" has been incorporated for those residents and businesses who were fortunate to have a tree planted in front of the property.

- 3. Budget Update: The Newton Parks and Recreation Budget was presented and passed by the Board of Aldermen. CIP did well, as Newton North and Newton South tennis courts are now finished as well as softball and baseballs fields Albemarle. Upcoming in CIP is the Newton Upper Falls Fields, Basketball courts at Emerson and Cabot, bleachers, and lighting at Cabot. A extension backstop will be added to one of fields at Albemarle.
- 4. Twentieth Annual Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast: to be held on Thursday, May 26th, 7:30AM at Boston College's McElroy Commons. Tickets will be \$12.00. If you need tickets, please contact Faye.
- 5. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Update: A meeting has been scheduled with Mr. Lawrence Carr, owner and operator of the carnival that the St. Mary of Carmen Society contracts with will be coming to the City on June 7, 1994 for a meeting with the sub-committee. Purpose of this meeting is to resolve any issues the neighborhood and the sub-committee may have, prior to the request being placed before the Parks and Recreation Commission on June 20, 1994.
- 6. Boating Rules & Regulations for Crystal Lake: The Commission members approved the 1994 Rules and Regulations for 1994.
- 7. Newton East Little League/Soccer Field Renovations at Brown Middle School: Attending are Bill Edgerton & Terry Sack from Newton East Little League and Steve Fauteux, President, Youth Soccer. Steve Fauteux would like to create another soccer field at the soccer people's expense on the Wheeler Road side of the fields and move the baseball diamond to the south west corner. Terry Sack would like a third diamond in return for the soccer area and have the field irrigated. The commissioner mentioned that no trees are to be taken down in this process. At present the soccer field overlaps the baseball field. Steve brought in a penciled in diagram for the proposed soccer area. He wants to put a soccer field on the right side.

Bob Platt asked where did the \$65,000 come from to do the field. Steve replied that they charge each child \$65.00 and there are over 3500 children. They have a CIP program with a 50/50 grant basis. He said no child is denied a chance to play. Also the referees receive \$45.00 per game.

Steve said that he trying to accomodate everyone's interest in this process. He said he is not asking for monies. He would like to grade the area, loam and seed, replicate backstop and irrigate fields.

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Terry Sack opposes the soccer suggestions unless the soccer group pays \$15,000 to \$18,000 to Newton East Little League to renovate the two baseball fields as per his board members.

At the suggestion of one of the commission members, the members will need a drawing to scale of the proposal. The Commission wants to make sure everything is in the proper measurements.

A special Commission meeting will be held regarding the proposed renovation work at the Oak Hill fields on Wheeler Road which is scheduled to be done in the summer of 1994. The soccer organization will have a proposal about the relocation of the backstop and little league field furthest away from the Solomon Schecter Day School, to the corner of the Oak Hill Field opposite from 79 Wheeler Road. Commission members will be notified of the meeting date.

It was the sense of the meeting that in the future, perhaps a written proposal is needed along with two commission meetings. It may also need to be submitted to other agencies in the City.

8. New Business: Next meeting scheduled for June 20, 1994. No meetings are held in July and August, except in an emergency.

SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 13, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Alternate: Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, Sheila Butts, Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED FIELD RENOVATIONS AT THE BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL BY NEWTON YOUTH SOCCER, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN: JAMES MAHONEY

Steve Fauteux, President of Newton Youth Soccer and Ted Ritchie: Discussion on proposed field renovations at the Brown Middle School by Newton Youth Soccer: The proposal is to add a new soccer field as shown on the plans submitted by Steve Fauteux.

The Youth Soccer organization has 2500 children enrolled throughout the City from 1st grade to high school. Approximately 15 areas are used throughout the City i.e. Newton North High School, Newton South High School, Weeks, and Nahanton Park. Two Hundred teams are involved and space is needed on Saturdays for practice.

Phase I: was to Renovation of the soccer field on the east side

Phase II: develop a field adjacent to Phase I, through clearing, loam and seeding of grass
grass

Phase III: Northwest corner, move to Wheeler Road side and the baseball fields would be parallel. To create full soccer field, need more room or distance. Need additional flat green space and will still have 2 baseball fields from the northwest to the southwest corner. Wetlands cannot be taken and no trees can be taken down per Commissioner Halloran. Shrubs can be cut back.

Abutters to the Wheeler Street side claim that the parking is conjested and the cars park illegally. Commissioner suggested that they call the Police if the cars are parked illegally.

Terry Sack: Bill Edgerton, Bob Gelles, Norm Greenberg and Bill Zitsi, Newton East Little League: Terry presented a letter regarding the proposed field renovations at the Brown Middle School by Newton Youth Soccer.

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The Newton East Little League (NELL) is prepared to support the Newton Youth Soccer League (NYSL) Phase III Proposal to add a new soccer field as shown on the plans submitted to you SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. NYSL must construct a new Little League baseball diamond near Wheeler Road as shown on the plan in accordance with Little League standards, including a raised pitching mound.
2. The home plate to home plate distance between the new field and the existing field on Wheeler Road must be a minimum of 400 feet.
3. There must be sufficient room to locate the foul lines, team bench areas and backstop so that there is at least 20 feet of foul territory parallel to the foul lines unimpeded by trees or swamp.
4. NYSL must install a new irrigation and sprinkler system supplied by a new well or city water with appropriate heads to allow for automatic watering of the new field and the old during the spring and summer.
5. The infields and outfields, as well as certain foul territory areas including around the team benches, as specified by NELL of the new and the old fields must be leveled, sodded (not seed), and have proper drainage similar in these respects to the Phase III soccer field. At least one of the infield diamonds shall contain fully cut-out base paths using "Turface" as a topsoil throughout the infield and between home plate and the backstop. The other field can have a grass infield with cutouts around the bases only, again using "Turface" for the dirt areas.
6. NYSL shall install a backstop for the new field at least as high and as wide as the one at the little league field that is being replaced.
7. NYSL shall install additional fencing, as specified by NELL from the backstop area past the front of the team benches in the first base and third base foul territories, with gates, similar to the fencing now at the field being replaced. Additional high screening shall be placed to prevent foul balls from landing on Wheeler Road.
8. NYSL shall install permanent team benches at the new and old field of the same length as the permanent and temporary benches combined now at the field being replaced.
9. NYSL shall supply surplus "Turface" when the work on the infields is completed, to be left as a mound behind both backstops for later grooming use.

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10. The new Phase III soccer field cannot be used during the Spring and Summer baseball seasons.
11. Any damage to the sod or infield areas of the baseball fields caused by the use of the Phase III or other soccer fields must be repaired by NYSL by April 15 of the following year.
12. NELL required a professionally prepared plot plan so that the exact location and size of the new soccer field in relation to the baseball diamonds can be determined.
13. All work specified above on the baseball fields must be completed prior to or at the same time as the work on the Phase III soccer field.

Commissioner Halloran went to the field area with Sheila Butts, Recreation Supervisor and James McHale, Marker, and marked off the dimensions and saw that there would not be any problems. The fields on school property are maintained by the Parks & Recreation Department. We need to work with all groups and do what is best for the youth in the city.

Steve said in regards to the irrigation, the trenching process would be 10 8" wide and 18" deep, pipes would be laid in the soil and attached to the irrigation system already installed and the system would be on a clock timer. The water would come from a well, sites have not been tested as yet.

Mr. Norman, NELL volunteer: This proposal would change the layout of the fields and he is concerned with the diameter and that the field would not have enough distance 400' minimum, and the 3rd base foul line. Wants room on both sides. He lends his support and wants to make sure that there is enough room for the baseball fields.

Terry wants to sod the infield on both fields and would like a guarantee that the fields would be ready by April 1st of 1994.

Mr. Gelles said that the 2 dirt fields that they play on are atrocious. They are sandy and bumpy. Adults are in there playing at night. Concerned with the safety of the children. He believes that Phase III would chew the fields to death with the soccer cleats.

Commissioner Halloran believes that without the irrigation, the fields will be like a desert, very dry. If Forte Landscaping was hired the charge would be approximately \$7,800 per field.

Terry said he would like a check from the soccer group for \$12,000-\$15,000 and he would have his fields renovated. Terry is in favor of sub soil and grass infields. Also he would like a pile of "turfus" left behind the backstop and he would like to the work done inhouse. Also if Steve is to have the field done they have to have the fields ready by April 1st.

Steve said that if Terry wants a guarantee, leave the fields the way they are now. He said if at all possible he would try to have the fields ready by April 1st. Terry would be receiving in this deal, a new little league field with irrigation. The recreation department would buy the backstop and screening for the benches. Newton East Little League would not have to pay for anything.

Tony Battista proposed a motion to accept the proposal by Steve Fauteux, President Newton Youth Soccer to start Phase III of a new soccer field and a new little league field with irrigation to be completed by April 1st, 1994. Terry and Steve should work together regarding the sod. Motion by Fran Rice to 2nd the motion on Phase III of the field.

Michael Clarke commented that Steve does not have a written proposal as to where the irrigation and fields were to be and this is not acceptable. Also that the well is not on the diagrams and where would it be located. He said we need to follow some guidelines on this and if Steve brought in his proposal we could vote on this at the next Commission Meeting on Monday, June 20th.

Commissioner Halloran said he did not object to Steve not having the proposal in writing at this time. He has worked with all little league's in the City and the City should be paying for the renovations, however, there is no monies for it at this time in the CIP budget. He said that he has complete faith in these people. Steve is no stranger to the City and Parks & Recreation. Commissioner said that he would vouch for Steve and his group any day.

Chairman Mahoney said that the purpose of this evenings meeting was to discuss the proposal in full and vote on it. The recreation department would install a new backstop and take care of the fence in front of the dugouts. The irrigation is not a structure therefore, a policy does not need to be written on this item. Also, both fields would be irrigated.

The motion is now ammended: Tony said that subject to receiving a written proposal from Steve Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer, at the next Commission Meeting, on Monday, June 20th, the motion was ammended to accept the Newton Youth Soccer's proposal stating exactly what they will be doing to the fields at Brown Middle School of a new soccer field and little league field with irrigation to be completed by April 1st, 1994. Fran Rice seconded the motion.

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The commission members voted 7-1 to accept the proposal of the renovations of the fields at the Brown Middle School. Michael Clarke opposed.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 20, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, and Faye Hays, Secretary

- 1. Minutes of the May meeting were accepted with an addendum to change the last paragraph in item #7 from regarding the Newton East Little League/Soccer Renovations at Brown Middle School: In the future, perhaps a written proposal is needed along with two commission meetings. It may also need to be submitted to other agencies in the City. (to read) It was the sense of the the members of the meeting that in the future, perhaps a written proposal is needed along with two commission meetings. The proposal may also need to be submitted to other agencies in the City.
- 2. Reports of Program, Maintenance & Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders
- 3. Commissioner discussed the Summer plans for tennis, Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner and Leagues. Enclosed is information on the July 4th weekend, Gath Pool and Crystal Lake, Arts in the Parks Summer 1994 brochure, June 1994 Senior Information, Over 55 summer programs and Theatre Buffs.
- 4. Newton North High School Indoor Complex Fees for 1994/1995 season:

| | Seasonal User | Daily Fee |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| Student | \$25.00 | \$2.00 |
| Adult | \$35.00 | \$3.00 |
| Family | \$95.00 | N/A |
| Non-Resident | \$95.00 | \$6.00 |

There is no increase in fees for the 1994/1995 season.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Newton North High School Indoor Complex fees for the 1994/1995 season.

- 5. Karen Peirce, Special Needs Director, Rick Cass, Assistant Special Needs and Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, receiving Awards from the Understanding Handicaps Program in the Board of Aldermen Chamber this evening at 7:00PM: Congratulations to Karen, Rick and Carol on receiving the Understanding Handicaps Award for the demonstration of excellence and committment in providing extensive recreational and social opportunities for children and adults with disabilities in our community. The Awards were presented in the Aldermanic Chambers this evening at 7:00PM and received congratulations from the Commission members at the 7:30PM Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting.

- 6. Proposal letter from Steve Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer regarding renovations at the Brown Middle School by Newton Youth Soccer: Minutes of the Special Commission Meeting regarding the proposed field renovations at the Brown Middle School by Newton Youth Soccer, is in the folders. The members voted 7-0 on June 13th to accept the proposal subject to receiving a written proposal from Steve Fauteux at the Commission Meeting this evening. Mr. Fauteux did bring in the proposal which reads as follows:

On Monday, June 13, 1994 the Commission voted to approve a proposal submitted by Newton Girls Soccer League (NGSL) and Newton Youth Soccer (NYS) to renovate the athletic field adjacent to Wheeler Road next to the old Oak Hill School (the "Field"). (The Field is approximately 400' wide running along Wheeler Road and 300' deep.) The approval was conditioned on NGSL/NYS submitting a brief written description of the renovation plan by the June 20, 1994 meeting. The plan is as follows.

- 1) By no later than June 24, 1994, the backstop behind the northwest infield will be removed.

- 2) On or about June 28, 1994, the infield mix will be removed from the cut-out portion of the northwest field and the skin portion of the southeast field. The excavated areas will be filled with sandy loam.

- 3) On or about July 6, 1994, an automatic below ground irrigation system will be installed. The system will cover the entire field. (Both the existing baseball field in the southeast corner and the new infield to be created in the southwest corner will be covered.)

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4) As soon as the irrigation system is operational (approximately July 15), the field will be aerated and seeded (and top dressed as needed). (Follow-up fertilizing and slice-seeding will be done through the Spring of 1995.)

5) In August, 1994, a backstop and protective fence configuration (similar to that on the old northwest baseball field) will be constructed in the southwest corner of the field. A safety fence will be constructed along the first base line to prevent foul balls from going onto Wheeler Road. Permanent benches similar to the existing ones will be installed. Home plate will be approximately 400' from the home plate on the southeast baseball field. There will be at least 20' of foul territory along the first base line of the southwest field. Both infields will be grass with cut-out bases and pitching areas.

6) NYSL/NYS is responsible for doing and paying for the work described in 2-4 above.

7) The Recreation Department is responsible for doing and paying for the work described in 1 and 5 above.

- 7. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Request Letter: Also a recommendation from the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival sub-committee which met on June 9th: Annual letter was received from Nunzio Leone, Chairman of the St. Mary of Carmen Festival Committee dated June 14, 1994. The St. Mary of Carmen Society will celebrate its Annual Fiesta on July 13, 1994 through July 17, 1994.

The Commission voted unanimously 7-0 to allow the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival to be held at Hawthorn Playground according to the Rules and Regulations set forth by the Parks & Recreation Department's Commission.

It was suggested that at the September meeting, invite the neighbors to attend the meeting to discuss the Carnival.

The Commission thanked the sub-committee for the time spent at meetings to discuss the Carnival. Tony Battista thanked Fran Rice for a job well done and commended the neighborhood for their input.

- 8. Herbert Bamel replacement for Friends of Nahanton Park: Robert Platt volunteered to be the liason for the Friends of Nahanton Park Committee. The Commission thanked Bob for volunteering.

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- 9. New Business: Professor William Stevenson, Boston College to do a study in decision making regarding the Parks & Recreation Commission plus other City committies. James Mahoney, Chairman, asked Professor Stevenson for a copy of his final report in decision making.

Meeting adjourned 8:25PM.

Commissioner Halloran wished everyone a happy and healthy summer. The next Commission meeting will be September 19, 1994

No meeting in July or August, unless otherwise specified.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 19, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

1. Minutes of the June meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders.

Dedications: Programs & Services Committee met on Thursday, August 11th to discuss dedications. As per a memo from Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, the memo stated that the Aldermen should not take part in the dedications for the Parks and Recreation Department, School Department and Libraries. Their suggestion is to have a general policy as to the minimal procedures that residents would require to follow to request a dedication and what the Commission procedures and guidelines would be. After a brief discussion it was decided that Commissioner Halloran and Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner would draft a set of rules to present at the October Commission meeting.

Commissioner Halloran hoped that everyone had a good summer and welcomed them back.

Commissioner Halloran also welcomed William Ryan as an alternate member of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Thomas B. Concannon, Acting Mayor, appointed William to the Commission. Permanent appointment will be processed subject to the approval of the Board of Aldermen.

The Acting Mayor also appointed as acting alternates, John Bourgeois and Peter Kastner. Permanent appointment will be processed subject to the approval of the Board of Aldermen.

In folders, a Boston Magazine article regarding Newton's 13 villages, six colleges, 33 acre lake and Farmer's market in Newton Centre and other information.

City Census: a copy of the 1994 City Census results are in the folders. Parks & Recreation had a very high rating for its programs.

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- 3. Harvest Fair: Sunday, October 16th at Newton Centre Green from 12:00 noon till 5:00PM. Raindate October 23rd. Kiddie Rides, Saturday, October 15th at the Newton Centre Green.
- 4. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Update: Held in July of 1994, there was not one single complaint this year. Fran Rice and Tony Battista reported that everything went smoothly and they did not hear of any complaints. Thanks to the prior meetings held with the neighbors and Nunzie Leone, all the issues were straightened out and the Carnival ran successfully.

Tony Battista to call Nunzie Leone regarding the contract with the Carnival operator as to when the contract will be signed and have a member of the Commission be present also.

- 5. CIP: Fiscal 1995 Supplemental Capital Budget, \$373,000 for Parks and Recreation improvements and equipment.

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Allison Park Schematic Design | \$ 5,000. |
| Playground Apparatus | 25,000. |
| Field Renovation | 80,000. |
| Court Repairs | 40,000. |
| Bleacher Replacements | 60,000. |
| Gath Pool Diving Boards | 18,000. |
| Park Bench Replacements | 25,000. |
| Equipment Replacement | 105,000. |
| Outdoor Drinking Fountain Replacements | 15,000. |
| | <u>\$373,000.</u> |

- 6. Michael Clarke - Charles River Pathway Proposal:
On 1969 a comprehensive plan by the Newton Planning Department called for development of the Charles River pathway through Newton. In 1975 an elaborate document funded by the Ford Foundation detailed the plan. Nevertheless, the Newton section of the pathway has lain dormant for over a quarter-century.

Friends of Nahanton Park is making a section of the foot path walkable with a matching grant from the City's Planning Department. Plans are underway for a pathway at Allison Park also.

While a public walkway along the river would clearly benefit our quality of life and nearly all of the proposed pathway is already in public hands, both Newton and the MDC have been slow to proceed. Perhaps a similar approach of private groups, who have assisted the city in constructing and maintaining numerous playing field and facilities throughout the city, could facilitate Newton's section of the Charles River Pathway. Individuals and groups are already maintaining trails in city parks and conservation land. Now is the time for public-spirited groups to adopt portions of the Charles River Pathway and blaze a section that will tie Newton together through its natural linear parkway along the Charles

Phase I is getting the map to lay out the area for the walking path. Aerial photo's may be needed. Volunteers will be needed to mark the trees, and clear and rake the area.

There are some obstacles, as the right of way through private land which needs to be addressed. At the far end, the land is owned by Solomon Schecter near the parking area. Right of way and easements may be needed. Most of the land however, is City owned.

The purpose of Michael's proposal is to approve the concept of the Charles River Pathway through Newton.

The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to recommend that the Recreation Commission approve of a general plan for the walking path as presented.

Michael to bring up the status of this item at a future meeting.

- 7. New Business: Auburndale Cove (Fanwort): Gwen asked if the Commissioner had heard anything new on the Fanwort Weed at the Cove. The Commissioner said that he has not heard of any complaints from the neighbors.

Also, the Troubador Trot (3 mile race/walk) for Special Olympics will be held on Sunday, October 16th at 12:00PM, from the Troubador.

Brown School Soccer Field: Backstop to go in this week. Irrigation is in and well water is being used to irrigate the fields. All areas are loomed and seeded.

Four (4) trees will be planted at the Brown Soccer Field with Youth Soccer picking up the cost.

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Meeting adjourned: 8:45PM.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, William Ryan, Alternate (Pending) Peter Kastner, Alternate (Pending) Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

1. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Also enclosed is information on the 1994 City Census Results, "Over 55" brochure and programs, Foxwood Casino Trip, Arts in the Parks Fall/Winter Brochure and the Newton North Indoor Complex Program Brochure is enclosed. The complex opened on October 3rd, 1994.
3. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake summer figures: Crystal and Gath opened the 2nd Monday in June and closed Labor Day. It was a very successful summer swimming season under the direction of Carol Stapleton, Supervisor at Crystal Lake and Tom Cahill Supervisor at Gath Pool. Crystal and Gath attendance and permit figures enclosed in folders.
4. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival: St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Society's, Nunzie Leone and Tony Gentile, plus abutters of Hawthorn Playground will be invited to the next Commission Meeting on November 21st to discuss the Carnival.
5. Status of Capital Improvement Program FY94:

Capital Improvement Projects:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Allison Park Schematic Design | \$ 5,000. |
| Playground Apparatus | \$ 25,000. |
| Field Renovation | \$ 80,000. |
| Court Repairs | \$ 40,000. |
| Bleacher Replacements | \$ 60,000. |
| Gath Pool Diving Boards | \$ 18,000. |
| Park Bench Replacements | \$ 25,000. |
| Equipment Replacement | \$ 105,000. |
| Outdoor Drinking Fountain Repl. | \$ 15,000. |
| | \$ 373,000. |

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- 6. Discussion on Policy for Naming Recreation Facilities: Draft packet enclosed, regarding dedication, parks, areas, and facilities, which resulted from a meeting with Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis and myself. Fran did an excellent job in preparing the attached information.

After perusing the General Policies, the Chairman recommended that the Commission members take the information home, review it and bring it back to the November 21st Commission Meeting with their additions or recommendations. The dedications information needs to be finalized by the November 21st meeting. This information will be then presented to the Board of Aldermen for their December 21st meeting.

Issues to include:

- Clearly defined description for all
- Categories
- Notify abutters
- See what the libraries are doing
- Minimum amount of donation
- Establish policy
- Amendments
- Should benches be included
- Final version

- 7. New Business: Peter Kastner said that there is a meeting with the Charles River Watershed Association on October 27th, 7:30PM regarding the problem with growth of Water Chestnuts. Peter will represent the Commission on this.

Also, the MDC will hold a public meeting on November 2nd, and 16th regarding Concerned Supporters of the Metropolitan Park System. The Metropolitan Park System stands out as a magnificent regional resource supplementing the more locally focused park systems of the various cities and towns. Peter suggested a representative be sent to this meeting and a letter be sent to the MDC.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 21, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also in attendance: Michael Clarke, Alternate, William Ryan, Peter Kastner and John Bougeois, Alternates, pending

1. Minutes of the October meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Also enclosed is information on ice skating, Tumbling for young Children, Holiday Bulb Sale, Volleyball by the Experts, Funtastic Fridays, "Over 55" and Arts in the Parks brochures. Information enclosed on Weeds Choking the Charles River, MDC Design Project for Upper Charles River Reservation, letter to Kelly McClintock, Chairman, Green Ribbon Commission and article on Howard Ferguson.

One Hundredth Anniversary, Newton/Brookline Football Game slated for Thanksgiving Day to start at 10:00AM at Dickinson Stadium, Newton North High School. To prepare for the contest, the City's Parks & Recreation Department intends to dye the field a vibrant green. Newton and Brookline letters will be painted in the end zones in the team's colors: black and orange for Newton; blue and white for Brookline. The teams' symbols, a tiger and a flaming arrow, will be painted on the respective 25 yard lines. Good luck to the "Tigers".

The Commissioner mentioned that he is extremely proud of David Mandatori, Division Foreman, for all his time and efforts in the daily routine for the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division.

News Release: The City of Newton has received, for the fifth year, the Tree City USA award. The award is given to communities that strive to improve and expand its urban forest .

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Among the many projects has been the Mass ReLeaf plantings at City Hall. Mass ReLeaf requires a 50 percent match and the recipient community is responsible for maintaining the trees. Two grants for City Hall have included a planting of 18 Kousa dogwoods to line War Memorial. The second grant will enhance the pond and the front of City Hall with flowering cherry trees, the golden raintree and other flowering trees, planted in such a way as to preserve the open view of City Hall. The Washington Street design lined the street with 140 new trees. The cooperative efforts of the City of Newton Parks & Recreation Department, Planning and Public Works Departments and private businesses has resulted in more than 1,000 trees planted in Newton since 1990.

Commissioner Halloran took the opportunity to thank Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, for the excellent job that she has done in working with the Mass ReLeaf Coordinator, Jennifer Dolin, to procure these Grants.

A wonderful time was had at the Nonantum Children's Halloween Party for the Special Needs group that was held at the Hibernian Hall.

3. Discussion of St. Mary of Carmen Carnival - 1995 upcoming status: After a brief discussion, Commissioner Halloran recommended that the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival for July 1995, again be held with no changes as per last years letter of June 22nd, 1994 to Nunzio Leone, Chairman of the festival. Mr. Gentile again asked permission to use Hawthorn Park in July of 1995. Mr. Leone letter stated that the Carnival would be held on July 12, 1995 through July 16th, 1995. Set up on Monday and Tuesday July 10th & 11th, and take down on Monday and Tuesday, July 17th & 18th.

Mr. Antonellis, abutter, commented that it was the best carnival yet. This was in fact due to the committee that worked so very hard to work out the problems of the abutters, regarding noise, etc., which was headed by Fran Rice.

Mr. Annese commented that the carnival was still loud and noisy.

Tony Battista said that he would work with the abutters if they had any problems regarding the Carnival.

The commission voted unanimously 8-0 to allow the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival to be held at Hawthorn Playground according to the Rules and Regulations set forth by the Parks and Recreation Department's Commission for July 12th through July 16th, 1995.

4. Steve Fauteux, President Youth Soccer, regarding Weeks Field Renovation: The youth soccer group would like to improve the athletic fields at Weeks which are in disrepair. The proposed plan would renovate the entire nine acres into a uniformly flat, safe, irrigated, grass-covered athletic field. There would be no structures added. The backstop near the tennis courts would be removed, as well as the clay from that area. The clay would be replaced with loam. The two foot slope in the middle of the field would be eliminated, as well as the old benches. Money permitting, some of the hill along the western boundary would be removed thereby expanding the flat playing surface into that area. Some or all of the materials excavated would be used, if suitable, to fill in the bowl area next to this hill. The softball fields, presently essentially unused, would either be eliminated or used between June 15th and August 31st only. These infield areas would be grass with no cut-outs. With Steve's proposal is also a diagram of the area at Weeks. He would like to create a flat, safe, grassy, open field area with no structures.

Phase I: Remove clay
Phase II: Eliminate slope, excavate
Phase III: Flatten out crown or depressions
Phase IV: At 12 foot slope add space

Commissioner Halloran said that there will be no structures, no taking down of trees or buildings involved. Soccer group would have 2 wells driven for water, loaming, seeding and change the flat space.

Some members were not happy with the changing of the slope and asked for alterations. Members were asked to check out the area prior to the January Commission Meeting. Also questions arose regarding the parking in that area.

As for plantings the department would work with the Housing Authority to make it more attractive between the parking lot and the park. The Department would look into Mass Releaf Grant monies to establish a barrier.

If approved work on this project would be finished by August or September of 1995, per Steve.

Abutters will have to be notified for the January Meeting and a detailed scale plan worked out.

- 5. Skating Rules and Regulations: The 1994/95 outdoor Skating Rules and Regulations were approved by the Commission members. The members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the Outdoor Skating Rules and Regulations for the 1994/95 season.
- 6. Budget Update: Howard Shafer, Chief Budget Officer, handed in his resignation. He will be leaving the City of Newton to accept another offer as comptroller for a law firm. Mayor Concannon will be appointing a new Chief Budget officer and Chief Administrative Officer.
- 7. Dedications/Parks/Areas/Facilities: Draft packets were enclosed regarding dedication of parks, areas, and facilities, which resulted from a meeting with Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis and the Commissioner. At the last Commission meeting the members were asked to bring any additions or recommendations to the November meeting. The dedication information needed to be finalized by the November meeting.

The Dedications are as follows:

DEDICATIONS:

- Procedure Outline
- General Policy for Naming Park Facility Area
- Renaming of area/facility

- 1) A written request by individuals, city-wide/neighborhood groups, or organizations submitted to Parks & Recreation Commission. The request would provide historical and supportive information as appropriate to justify the recommendation.
- 2) Acknowledgement by the Parks & Recreation Commission in writing to particular group requesting the naming.
- 3) Request placed on the Parks & Recreation regular agenda or special meeting. If it is a special meeting, a minimum of 48 hours notice to the public is required. A notice sent to abutters/interested parties of facility area that a request is being presented and discussed by Parks & Recreation Commission.

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- 4) After the proposal is officially submitted to the Parks & Recreation Commission for consideration, there will be a minimum of 30 days before an official vote will be taken at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. During this time a public notice should be made to local papers, interested parties and abutters.
- 5) The official vote for approval will need 5 affirmative votes of the commission membership.
- 6) An individual considered must have made major contribution and unselfish efforts to community Parks and Recreation or have been involved with the particular facility or activity.
- 7) An individual considered may have made major donation in acquiring the property.
- 8) No official in office will be considered until such person has left office.
- 9) In naming sites considerations shall also be given to geographical location, historic or geologic features.
- 10) Dedication: Renaming of Park by State Law State Law governs re-naming of Park
G.L. c. 85, S 3 states in pertinent part

When the name of any public way, , or of any public park, is changed by the board or officer having jurisdiction thereof, if the name changed has been in use for twenty-five (25) years or more, there shall be a right of appeal from such action to the (Massachusetts Highway Department). Such appeal shall be taken within thirty days after such change, and shall be by petition of at least twenty-five inhabitants of the town in which such change has been made, requesting the reversal of such action. . . . upon the filing of such petition, a public hearing shall be given by said department, after such public notice as it shall determine, and unless the department shall approve of such change, the same shall be of no effect. (Emphasis Added.)

8. New Business: No new business.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DECEMBER 19, 1994

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates also in attendance: William Ryan, Peter Kastner and John Bourgeois

1. Minutes of the November Meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Enclosed is the Arts in the Parks Brochure, 1995 Camp Fair, Children Enrichment Classes, New Year's Open House at City Hall, Ice Skating Lessons, Tumbling for Young Children and Newton Community Youth Programs brochures.

Commissioner Halloran was pleased to announce that John Bourgeois, William Ryan and Peter Kastner were appointed as Alternate Members of the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission pending confirmation of the Board of Aldermen.

The Commissioner took the opportunity to thank Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner for the outstanding job that she has done in all phases of the Parks & Recreation Department's operation. She has done a superb job in handling all of the tree contracts, numerous grants and Tree City USA. I am very proud of her and all that she has accomplished. Fran is most definitely an asset to the Department and is not afraid to give that extra effort.

Also the Commissioner commended Bob DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor as he willingly accepts any assignments or responsibility and carries it through with the tact of a professional.

3. Budget Update: Howard Shafer, Chief Budget Officer was contacted and the Parks & Recreation Budget has not been completed as yet. The budget will be ready for the January 23rd, Recreation Commission Meeting.

- 4. New Business: The Commissioner expressed his gratitude for all of the work that went into the preparations for the the 100th Anniversary Newton/Brookline football game. The field was dyed a vibrant green, Newton and Brookline letters were painted in the end zones in the team's colors: black and orange for Newton; blue and white for Brookline. The teams' symbols, a tiger and flaming arrow, was painted on the respective 25 yard lines. My thanks to all of the Recreation personnel who contributed their time and efforts in the preparation of the field.

The Commissioner thanked James Mahoney, Chairman and Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman for the excellent job that they have done in their responsibilities for the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Halloran wished everyone and their families a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Next Commission Meeting January 23, 1995.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 23, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates in attendance: William Ryan, John Bourgeois and Peter Kastner

1. Minutes of the December meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Enclosed is the 1994 City Census Results, Mayor Concannon's Management Study, Newton's World War II Commemoration, Newton's Heartbreak Hill, International Youth Race, Picnic/Field and Building Brochure, Cinderella, Bennington Marionettes, Lifeguard Training Course, Water Safety Instructor Course, "Over 55" Programs, Pride's Visa Card, Drama Classes for children, Kids Korner summer program, Centre Acres Summer program, Albemarle Acres summer program and Camp Echo Bridge brochures.

Tony Battista commented that the new grand-stands on the various fields in Newton look great!

3. Discussion of the renovations to the Old Weeks Junior High Athletic Field. (second meeting)

Steve Fauteux, President of Newton Youth Soccer, has a proposal for field renovations at the old Weeks Junior High. His proposed plan would renovate the entire nine acres (with the exception of the hill at the end of the Hereford Road dead-end) into a uniformly flat, safe, irrigated, grass-covered athletic field. There would be no structures added. The clay from the baseball field near the tennis courts would be removed and replaced with loam. The two foot slope in the middle of the field would be eliminated, as well as the old benches. Money permitting, approximately 20 yards of the hill at the end of Hereford Road would be removed, thereby expanding the flat playing surface into that area. Some or all of the materials excavated would be used, if suitable, to fill in the bowl area next to this hill.

The softball fields would be grass with no cut-outs. Although the expanded athletic surface will allow for moving the existing fields around so that the grass is not worn out in any area, no additional fields are contemplated. Two wells have been dug along the western border of the field, one produces 45 gpm and the other 15 gpm. The water would be self supporting.

The work would begin on or about August 1, 1995 and be completed around September 1, 1995. The excavated areas could not be played on until September of 1996.

As per Steve Fauteux, this proposal would be a joint effort between the Parks and Recreation Department and Youth Soccer. Youth Soccer has spent numerous monies on other fields throughout the City which include, Brown, Albemarle, Cold Springs, Nahanton Park and Burr Park. Very little monies have been spent, in the past 30 years, on field renovations at Weeks. Weeks could be a very attractive area for leisure recreation. The goal is for more space so the games could be moved around so as not to wear out the same fields. (Brown Jr. High moves their fields around) Another important concern is the safety of the children and accidents that happen because the fields are not in good shape.

Michael Clarke asked when would the four trees be replaced at Brown Jr. High and Steve said in the early spring.

Bob Platt commented that he is very satisfied with the new improvements to the fields at Brown Junior High.

The renovations at Weeks would not interfere with picnicking, flying kites or other leisure activities. The renovations would take out any crown areas, and depressions. Clay would be removed, level areas, take out stone and install an irrigation system with no heads, and it would be hidden in the grass. The crescent shaped berm with the two foot elevation, would be done by feathering the area. The plans would make this a less severe drop.

Alderman George Mansfield, who also attended the meeting, was concerned about neighbors who called him regarding their anxiety over changes in the fields and also drainage. Neighbors expressed their concerns to him and asked that the hill area not be taken out. During the winter months children slide in the snow, and in the summer months families picnic there. Aldermen Mansfield also asked if the monies were approved by the Board of Aldermen for this project. Commission Halloran said that it is presently waiting for approval from the Finance Committee.

Over 25 residents attending this meeting raising their concerns over the following:

- 1) Would these changes effect the ecology of the area. Would like an impact study done.
- 2) Concerns over drainage in the area, especially in the fall.
- 3) Opposition to the level of grading in the area.
- 4) Questions on how to control the usage of the fields to Newton residents only
- 5) Parking problems weekdays and especially week-ends. Paul Street impassible with cars parked on both sides of street. No room for ambulance or Fire Trucks to get down the street. Need plans to control traffic problem and the towing of cars.
- 6) Noise control/commotion, yelling, etc.
- 7) Abutters would like new trees planted, new benches and picnic tables installed
- 8) Frisbee players
- 9) Signs saying whether or not fields are playable or non playable
- 10) Flooding - also flooding at "bowl" area of field and neighbors yards
- 11) Four storm drains, that get clogged with leaves
- 12) Have City Engineers check the drainage problems

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- 13) Need clearer use of regulations for the field use
- 14) Master plan needed

Commissioner Halloran suggested a committee to work with the neighbors/2 recreation commission members/police regarding the issues involved.

Steve Fauteux, asked if his proposal could be approved this evening as the plans need to get underway to make the renovation changes in the fields for the fall.

Jim Mahoney, Chairman is concerned with the neighbors reservations in regards to the "hill". However, Steve Fauteux has had a good track record with the Parks and Recreation Commission to renovate the fields. He does support the new plantings and park benches.

Alderman Mansfield said that there is an Engineering problem and if the field is leveled, where would the water go. Needed is a master plan of the area. Work with the neighbors on a renovation plan and address all issues involved. The popular opinion was to save the park, and do not level the hill.

Consensus of the meeting was that a committee be formed to discuss the renovations before the next Commission Meeting on February 27th.

Commissioner Halloran appointed Michael Clarke, Alternate member, and Walter Bernheimer, commission member, to work with, abutters, Bruce Kimball, Robert Gifford and Doug Dickson to discuss the renovations.

Commissioner also said, that the commission has reached out to the community this evening to hear their concerns for the neighborhood regarding the renovations to Weeks Field for both passive and active recreation. It is good to see the City working with the community and to make plans that will enhance the neighborhood and will address the issues of the neighbors.

The Department will look into the flood issues with the Engineering Department and report back to the Commission in February. Also, the Commissioner said that Former Mayor Theodore D. Mann agreed to match the youth soccer monies for the renovations of the fields.

At the February meeting; input will be needed from the Engineering department regarding the flooding. Residents to meet with Michael Clarke and Walter Bernheimer regarding setting up a committee to discuss the issues. A final and detailed proposal of a master plan is needed for the next meeting.

Suggestion was made for the motion to be amended:

Robert Platt amended the motion: to support the renovations, the Parks and Recreation Department will work with Youth Soccer for a proposal to renovate the Weeks fields, loom, seed and install irrigation system. At the February 27th meeting next month, we will need the information regarding the drainage. Also, develop a master plan with members of the committee that will be formed with Michael Clarke, Walter Bernheimer and abutters to Weeks Fields.

Commission members voted 6-0 in favor of the proposed idea.

- 4. Budget: The Commissioner was pleased with the 95/96 budget, no cuts were made this time. Tony motioned to approve the budget. Fran Rice seconded and the Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 for the 95/96 proposed Newton Parks and Recreation Budget.
- 5. Skating: No skating as yet at Bullough's Pond, Crystal Lake or the Auburndale Cove. Weather has been too warm.
- 6. No new Business: Next meeting on February 27th, 1995.

Meeting adjourned: 10:45PM.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 27, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Alternate members: Michael Clarke, John Bougeois, Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

1. Minutes of the January meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Also included, Spring Registrations, Funtastic Fridays, Youth Awards, Sweatshirt Order, Arts in the Parks, Tumbling for Children, Outdoor Adventure, and Soccer Clinic. Also enclosed article on locations for Middle School, newspaper article from Thomas B. Concannon, Mayor, and letter to NPRD on behalf of mens basketball team.

The Commissioner announced plans for a Cable TV show called the Many Worlds of the Parks and Recreation Department, hosted by himself. This will be a monthly occurrence with different guests each month. The first show was a complete success. Recreation personnel manned the cameras. The TV show will enlighten the residents of Newton of the numerous activities and programs run by the Parks and Recreation Department.

3. Proposal for renovations at Weeks Field: A sub-committee concerning the proposed development of the Weeks Field and Park were developed by an ad hoc committee of abutters and representatives from the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission. Abutters to Weeks are: Bruce Kimball, Doug Dickson, Rob Gillford, Curt Lamb, Paul Levy and David Deutsch. Commission members were: Walter Bernheimer and Michael Clarke:

Landscaping:

- 1) The hill at the west end of the field bordering lots on Paul Street, Centre Street and Hereward Road should remain intact with trees added.
- 2) In conjunction with the neighborhood, an additional prominent park area is to be planned by the City Landscape Engineer and landscaped with berming, trees, benches and the potential for a picnic or play area.

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- 3) There shall be a 40 foot buffer zone, which will also allow for the existing jogging path, between the playing fields and lot on Oxford Road and Paul Street. Appropriate plantings are to be made within this zone to maintain its size and add to the beauty of the area.
- 4) The softball backstop at the north (Paul Avenue) end of the field is to be reconstructed and the area of the softball infield shall not be designated as a soccer field, but may be used as a soccer practice space. The softball backstop on Hereward Road should also be reconstructed.
- 5) No more than four rectangular playing fields are to be laid out.
- 6) Pending verification of adequate drainage of the area by the City Engineer and provision for the above listed buffer zones, landscaping, softball and park areas, the entire field should be recontoured and irrigated and the playing fields leveled as proposed by the Newton Youth Soccer League (NYSL).

Regulations for Use

- 1) Not more than four playing fields will be permitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 2) Prior to approval by the Parks & Recreation Department, NYSL will consult with the Weeks Abutters Association before initially laying out the four playing fields and regularly before each subsequent relocation of the fields.
- 3) When conditions are such that damage to the playing fields may occur, the Parks and Recreation Department will post the fields as unplayable with enforcement by Newton Police.
- 4) Additional posting will be made concerning:
 - a) restriction concerning the number of fields, the buffer zone and park areas
 - b) golf playing is not permitted
 - c) Reminders to dog owners concerning relevant City ordinances

Traffic and Parking

While the Parks and Recreation Commission and its ad hoc Weeks Committee may recommend and assist in changing local traffic and parking ordinances, petitions to alter these ordinances are best made to the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Aldermen through local aldermen.

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- 1) Parking violations on surrounding streets are/will be strictly enforced by the NPD when the fields are actively used.
- 2) Parking on Paul Street and possible other nearby roads be restricted to one side to allow for passage of traffic and health and safety vehicles.
- 3) Newton shall enforce and post the existing site-plan condition that the parking facility at 1400 Centre Streets (owned by Mr. Donado) be available on weekends with it so posted by the City, so as to ease the strain of parking in the area when the fields are actively used.

The above was the proposal from the abutters and neighbors. At 7:00PM prior to the Commission meeting, the sub-committee met in the War Memorial to discuss the proposal. The Commission meeting started at 7:55PM.

Kenn Eisenbraun, City of Newton's Landscape Architect, presented a plan to the Commission:

With approximately 10 acres of open space, Weeks Field certainly contains enough space to accommodate both the needs of the surrounding community and the Newton Youth Soccer League. The proposals illustrate several workable solutions to provide for the necessary uses.

The proposed designs divide the large open parcel into several sizable playing field areas by creating a raised island park. The designated playing field areas will meet the needs of the Newton Youth Soccer League by providing large enough areas to accommodate seasonal rotation of the playing fields.

The new "Tear Drop" shaped island will connect the western slope and the eastern buffer area, creating a 2+ acres "mini-park". Evergreens and overhanging trees will provide a pleasant, shady area for parents who come to watch the soccer games. Additional low flowering shrub plantings will contribute Spring and Summer color.

Though some adjustments will be required, this site plan should help to preserve and enhance a valuable open space for the community while supporting the worthwhile recreational opportunities provided by the Newton Youth Soccer League.

Soccer league needs:

- 1) Designated & committed field areas;
 - 2 large fields (195' by 330')
- 2) Leveled and well drained playing areas
- 3) Rotation/realignment of playing fields
- 4) Irrigation of entire playing field/park areas

Neighborhood needs:

- 1) Preservation of existing open space
- 2) Preserved 40 ft. buffer (along east edge)
- 3) Retain existing uses and develop multi-uses
 - picnic areas
 - sitting areas
 - generally increase passive recreation opportunities
- 4) Designated & limited soccer use
- 5) Enhanced landscaping

Assessment:

Weeks Field is a "kidney shaped", 440,000 sq. ft. (9.8 acres) park area attached to the Weeks House, previously a public school. Except for the low sloping area on the north-western corner of the parcel, the fields are primarily level. The lower, level area totals 365,100 sq. ft. or 8.3 acres. Minor undulations within the current playing fields trap seasonal moisture and indicate the need for better drainage. The playing fields are currently overlooked by residential properties on all sides.

Since the park is mainly used for field games like soccer and softball, this open space is currently barren of evergreens, deciduous trees and shrub plantings traditionally associate with park lands. Though primarily devoted to field games, the park has been consistently utilized over the years by the surrounding community.

Other less intensive uses have included: jogging, sliding/sledding, dog walking, sun bathing, frisbee, ball throwing, unstructured play, informal tenting, picnicking and even tree house building on the western, tree lined slope. Weeks Field appears to be a well loved neighborhood open space with a history of diverse uses.

Walter Bernheimer commented that the work of the sub-committee was a good process of the community/and abutters to work on the Guidelines for Developing the Weeks Field and Park. The objectives were accomplished and a good plan was made.

Alderman George Mansfield asked for support for parking, and that we look into asking Mr. Donato, owner of the property at 1400 Centre Street to use the parking lot for off site parking on weekends.

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Michael Clarke said the soccer areas should be rotated and the trees should be replaced.

Commissioner Halloran said that he was very proud of the sub-committee of commission members/abutters/neighbors working together for this proposal at the Weeks Fields.

Steve Fauteux commented that the baseball fields would not have cutouts and that canvas bases would be used.

Motion was made to accept the sub-committee's proposal to improve the project in general as presented. The width of base off the island park near Oxford Road should be 120 to 180 feet in width. The commission would like to see the final plans when completed.

All this would be subject to funding and the Parks and Recreation pursuit of monies.

Motion seconded:

Peter Johnson said the width or base should be a minimum of 120 feet and a maximum of 180 feet, depending on the fill available, and benches installed and trees be planted.

The hill will not be affected by the plan except for a small section near Hereward Ward to allow a soccer field to fit between the hill and the 40 foot buffer zone on the Oxford Road side of the field.

The area labeled "new park" would be narrower at the base than shown in the drawings.

Two softball diamonds will be included with backstops near the Paul Street and Hereward Road corners.

Steve: The NYSL is looking for a flat athletic field. He urges the Commission to take a position on the dimension and decide on one figure.

The amendment was made for 150 feet at the base.

Jim seconded motion:

Michael Clarke, Commission Alternate - statistically the base should be 160 feet.

Motion: To change the width of the base of the island park to go from 120-180 feet to 100-160 feet. This will allow for the existing jogging path, between the playing fields and lot on Oxford Road and Paul Street.

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The Commission members voted 7-1 for the new proposal with the change of the width of the base of the island park from a minimum of 120 feet to a maximum of 180 feet - to - a minimum of 100 feet and a maximum of 160 feet. One abstained, Peter Johnson.

Peter Kastner suggested to the abutters/neighbors that they think about raising monies for trees/plantings around Weeks Fields.

Next steps to include a survey by the City Engineer, final drawings, bidding the project, and the work itself which will start in July and August.

4. Budget and CIP Update: Mayor Concannon to present budget to Board of Aldermen the first week in April.
5. Ice Skating at Bullough's Pond, Ware's Cove and Crystal Lake: No safe skating in the City.
6. Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 20th Commission Meeting.
7. New Business: No new business

Meeting adjourned: 8:50PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 20, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Robert Platt, Peter Kastner, Alternate Member, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending Michael Clarke and John Bourgeois, Alternate Members

1. Minutes of the February meeting were accepted.
2. Annual Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman:
Mr. Halloran opened the meeting for election of officers. James Mahoney was nominated for Chairman and Peter Johnson was nominated for Vice Chairman. The voting was unanimous 8-0 for both Mr. Mahoney as Chairman, and Mr. Johnson as Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission members extended their sincere congratulations to both gentlemen.
3. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Also included, Arbor Day/Earth Day festivities, March for Parks, "Over 55" Programs, Special Needs Newsletter, Youth Race brochures, Charles River (Fanwort Weeds) letter from Michael Clarke regarding a pathway through Wells Avenue, and proposed Greenhouse at the Rumford Avenue Incinerator.

Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and the Commission members officially welcomed William Ryan, Peter Kastner and John Bourgeois as alternate members of the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission as per Thomas B. Concannon, Jr. Mayor and the Board of Aldermen.

The 1995 edition of **THE MANY WORLDS OF THE NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT** was also enclosed in the folders. Commissioner Halloran is very proud of Sheila Butts and Judy Dore, Supervisors, for the outstanding job that they did in preparing this brochure.

The last page of the brochure is dedicated to Harold Springham, former Parks and Recreation bus driver, and currently caretaker at Nahanton Park. Harold logged many miles driving grateful seniors on the Recreation bus and van and never forgot a face. His new challenge is caretaker at Nahanton Park where he greets people with kindness, enthusiasm and genuine concern for other people and the environment.

4. Update on Budget: Thomas B. Concannon Jr, Mayor is tentatively scheduled to present the City of Newton's budget to the Board of Aldermen on Monday evening, April 3rd in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. All commission members will be called in the event that the budget is definitely scheduled to be presented on April 3rd.
5. Sub-Committee for Proposed guidelines for use of Parks and Recreation lands, i.e. school sites:

Commission Halloran took the opportunity to thank Bob DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, for the excellent job that he did in preparing all of the information the "Open Space Policy" for placement of a middle school on Parks and Recreation lands for this evenings meeting.

Correspondence from the school department has confirmed that the following sites have been mentioned as potential sites:

1. Old Cold Spring
2. Old Warren Jr. High
3. Weeks Playground
4. Newton Highlands Playground
5. Newton Centre Playground
6. Oak Hill School (addition on existing facility)

It was determined that a park policy be developed to protect open space from being used as potential building sites.

Commissioner Halloran stated that the school department would need four (4) acres for a building and parking lot with more land for playing fields.

(3)

If a school site is chosen on Parks and Recreation land, then permission needs to be granted by the Parks and Recreation Department Commission, Board of Aldermen, Mayor Concannon and the State Legislature. A 2/3rds vote majority would be needed by all committees.

Written guidelines would also be needed from the Law Department on this issue.

A Public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd to continue discussions about the various options for building a fourth middle school. Recommendations to be decided in April by the School Department.

If Parks & Recreation controls the land, then the request for a school site can be denied by the Commission members. The School Department would need permission from the Parks and Recreation Department, Board of Aldermen, Mayor Concannon and the State Legislature.

Written guidelines are needed from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

After a brief discussion, Walter Bernheimer volunteered to write a draft at the meeting for the general guidelines for Newton Parks and Recreation Commission, consideration of any request for giving up land for alternate use.

DRAFT

Preamble: In general, the Commission supports the concept of preserving open space in the City of Newton for the benefit of future generations of Newton citizens. In that spirit, it is the sense of the Commission that open space be diverted for other use only as a last resort, and only after all other reasonable options for such use have been found deficient.

The following questions will be considered as part of the examination of any request for giving up land:

1. What will be the impact of the loss of open space on the total supply of publicly owned open space in the City?
2. What will be the impact on the distribution of publicly owned open space throughout the City?
3. What will be the impact on the City of the loss of the specific uses of the parcel? Can these uses be diverted to other available sites or will new sites need to be found? What will be the costs of these alternatives.?

(4)

- 4. What will be the impact of the loss of open space on the specific neighborhood in which the space is located, and on the abutters?
- 5. What compensation, either monetary or otherwise, is being offered for the land? Otherwise, what is meant by substituting services or facilities somewhere else in the city.

The commission members believe that the taking of park lands should be the last step and the school department should evaluate all other alternatives.

The vote on the DRAFT POLICY will be taken up at the April Meeting.

The commission members and Commissioner Halloran agreed that Walter Bernheimer did an excellent job in drafting the guidelines for the giving up of Parks and Recreation Department lands for alternate use.

- 6. New Business: Letter from Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member, in regards to the proposed section of the Charles River Pathway through Wells Avenue. Following the recommendations of Martha Horn, Wetlands Administrator, the Conservation Commission approved this section of the pathway as a footpath with an order of conditions. Mr. Clarke walked the path with Dan Driscoll of the MDC Planning Department, who has also approved it and will issue an MDC temporary construction permit for the project.

Since the path now has all the necessary approvals from the Conservation Commission and the MDC, according to the guidelines, it now comes before the Parks and Recreation Commission for its final approval.

Motion was made as per Michael Clarke's outline to approve unanimously 8-0 the section of the pathway through the Wells Avenue as a footpath.

- Sophie Inbar, President, GEM Committee: Presented a letter to the Commission regarding Crystal Lake, Newton's Gem.

James Mahoney, Chairman of the Commission proposed that Ms. Inbar return to the April 24th Commission meeting to present her information.

(5)

A suggestion was made to form a sub-committee with Ms. Inbar to discuss the Crystal Lake issues. Francis Rice will be the chairman of the sub-committee, along with Josephine Pepper, Commission Member, Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member, Thomas Cahill, Recreation Supervisor and manager of Gath Pool, and Carol Stapleton, Recreation Supervisor, and manager of Crystal Lake .

The sub-committee will meet before the next commission meeting and report their findings on April 24th's commission meeting.

SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 13, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Alternate, William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates also attending: Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner and John Bourgeois

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN, JAMES MAHONEY

1. Discussion of General Guidelines for the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission for Declaring Park Land for Alternate Use.

James Mahoney, Chairman, clarified the purpose of the meeting for the visitors attending. A letter was received from Anne Larner, School Committee Office to James Mahoney, Chairman, regarding the use of recreation land for the site of a new middle school. She requested a final policy statement on alternate use of parks and recreation land for its discussion on April 24th.

A special commission meeting was scheduled for this evening to discuss the final policy statement in anticipation of the guidelines needed to evaluate the request of a school site on parks and recreation lands. This began with a sub-committee to identify key issues, with Peter Kastner, Walter Bernheimer, Michael Clarke and Commissioner Halloran. The key considerations were presented at the last commission meeting in March. At the March commission meeting, the members voted a draft policy for the guidelines. Guidelines were also drafted up by Michael Clarke, Alternate member.

The purpose of this commission meeting is to vote on the policy guidelines in the event the School Committee votes on one of three sites for a middle school. The policy will be put in place this evening and a final set of guidelines drawn up.

The commission will not be discussing any site under consideration and this would be premature. The commission will not act on a parks and recreation site until a public hearing is held for all to view their suggestions.

Commissioner Halloran commented that all letters received by the Parks and Recreation Department in regards to the middle school sites, Weeks, Newton Highlands Playground and Oak Hill, are enclosed in the folders for the commission's perusal.

Anne Larner, School Committee also attended meeting. She did not have a recommended site as yet. Cold Springs was no longer a recommended site. A final site vote would take place at the school committee meeting on April 24th.

Peter Kastner commented that park lands are **NOT FREE LANDS**. Do not use haste, as it effects future generations!

Michael Clarke verbally read the Policy Guidelines for Consideration of: Land Use Changes, Inter-Departmental Relinquishments of Custody, and Declaration of Surplus Parks and Recreation Commission Lands.

After several changes, the commission voted unanimously 8-0 that the Policy Guidelines for Consideration of Land Use changes, be approved pending review by the Legal Department.

Policy Guidelines for Consideration of: Land Use Changes, Inter-Departmental Relinquishments of Custody, and Declaration of Surplus Parks and Recreation Commission Lands

1. The Parks and Recreation Commission supports the long term preservation of open space in the City of Newton for the benefit of current and future generations of Newton citizens. Open space used for park, recreation and playground purposes should be diverted to other uses only as a last resort after all other reasonable options have been found deficient.

a) In considering the transfer of land for a proposed new use, the Commission will analyze the short and long term need for the new use in balance with the public trust served by the existing public open space use.

b) The Commission will insure that the intrinsic long term public values of park and playground open space are weighed explicitly and substantially in the balance and are not overridden by the expediency that publicly-owned park and playground open space does not require purchase or eminent domain. The consideration of intrinsic public values will include an estimation of the costs necessary to provide equivalents to the existing park and playground open space. The fact that using park, recreation or playground open space for a new use would be less expensive is not by itself sufficient to warrant the transfer of the land or to reject another potential alternative.

(3)

c) The Commission will not divert park and playground open space to other uses unless there has been a compelling demonstration that there is no feasible and prudent alternative, including both publicly and privately owned potential sites, as well as potential sites that are not currently in open space use.

2. In assessing the balance between the proposed and existing uses, the following questions will be addressed by the Commission in considering any request for transferring land or declaring it surplus:

a) What will be the impact of the loss of an open space parcel on the total publicly owned open space in the city?

b) What will be the impact on the distribution of publicly owned open space throughout the city?

c) What will be the impact on the city regarding the existing specific uses of the parcel? Can these uses be diverted to other available sites, and are these sites in reasonable proximity, or will new sites need to be found? What will be the costs of these alternatives?

d) Does the parcel possess unique features that cannot be duplicated at other sites?

e) What will be the impact of the loss of the open space on the adjacent abutters and surrounding neighborhood?

f) Are there legal constraints arising from: bequests, the use of federal or state funds to acquire or improve the land, or other restrictions placed when the land was transferred to public ownership by the city or from another city department to Parks and Recreation?

g) What compensatory open space is being offered for the land? If other compensation (funds, facilities, substitute services) are to be provided, are they a full and sufficient replacement?

3. The Commission recognizes that other issues may arise with regard to the transfer of land and will give them due consideration.

See MGL40S15A Transfer of land: procedure

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 24, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary.

Alternates also attending: John Bourgeois, William Ryan, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

1. Minutes of the March 20th Commission Meeting and minutes of the Special Commission Meeting of April 13th, 1995 were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings and Activities are in the folders. Also enclosed is information on the 17th Annual Youth Awards, letter from William Stevenson, Boston College, regarding a study on how policy is formulated and negotiated around environmental issues in Newton, Tree Wardens Lunch in Wellesley regarding Tree City USA Forum, Growth Award, Ware's Cove update, Nahanton Park, Field Hockey Clinic, Spring 1995 Calendar of Events, Tumbling for Children, Yoga Classes, Mayor's Community Prayer Breakfast, Summer 95 Information, Programs for "Over 55", and Sunflower Contest.

Oak Hill was chosen as a site for the fourth Middle School by the School Committee members. Weeks and Newton Highlands Playground were eliminated. James Mahoney, Chairman, attended the meeting.

Parks & Recreation Policy Guidelines for Consideration of: Land Use Changes, Inter-Departmental Relinquishments of Custody, and Declaration of Surplus Parks and Recreation Commission Lands: Commissioner Halloran complimented Walter Bernheimer for the first guidelines policy, Michael Clarke for final draft of the guidelines, Peter Johnson for his very helpful added contributions. The Guidelines was a positive undertaking and Walter, Michael, and Peter are to be commended for their time and efforts.

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(2)

The City of Newton was congratulated on being named as a 1994 Tree City USA and Growth Award recipient. The award indicates that Newton takes our municipal tree-care responsibilities seriously. This is the 6th year in a row that Newton has received such an award.

Marathon Day was extremely successful in Newton. The International Youth Race was also very successful with 800 participants. David Mandatori, Division Foreman, and his crews had the papers and debris along the marathon route cleaned up by 10:00AM the next morning. Congratulations to Dave and his crews.

- 3. Newton North Little League: Concession Stand License Extension: The License Agreement between the City of Newton and Newton North Little League, Inc. is up for renewal. The three (3) year renewal is up and Newton North Little League, Inc. has asked that it be renewed again.

In attendance: Tony Collela, President, Woody Boudreau and Terry Morris.

Commissioner Halloran complimented these three gentlemen on the outstanding job that they have done on the NNLL field at Albemarle and also the work they do with the youth of the City.

Tony Battista complimented them as well on the excellent job that they have done at the little league field.

The original landscaping design was done by Kenn Eisenbraun of the Planning Department. The shrubs, and trees were planted according to the design, however, most of the shrubs were vandalized. One tree was transplanted 3 times. Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor spoke with Woody Boudreau last week and they are looking into other planting alternatives.

Walter Bernheimer asked at one point to see a financial statement of the Newton North Little League.

Woody Boudreau said that the money made goes back into the program for, dug outs, cages, fences, and they will also put monies into Carr and Roache fields.

Motion was made to approve the License Agreement between the City of Newton and Newton North Little League, Inc. motion seconded. Commission members approved unanimously 8-0 to approve the License Agreement between the City of Newton and Newton North Little League.

- 4. Update on Youth Awards Presentation at Springfest on May 14th at City Hall: Many nominations have been received. A final decision will be made on Tuesday, April 25, 1995.
- 5. Budget Update: Programs and Services Committee voted 6-0 for the Parks and Recreation Budget. The next meeting will be with the Finance Committee.
- 6. Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees: The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees for 1995 season.

Newton Centre Tennis Fee Structure for 1995:

SEASON PERMIT:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 80.00 |
| Resident Student (Under 18) | \$ 40.00 |
| Non-Resident Adult | \$325.00 |
| Non-Resident Student | \$120.00 |

HOURLY RATES **:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 8.00 |
| Resident Student (Under 18) | \$ 6.00 |
| Non-Resident | \$ 10.00 |

** No reservation privileges: waiting list only

Tentative length of season (May 15th to September 30th)

- 7. Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool: The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for the 1995 season at Crystal Lake and Gath Pool.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Adults (18 years & older) | \$ 20.00 |
| Students (6 to 18 years) | \$ 10.00 |
| Non-Permit Holders (daily) | \$ 3.00 |
| Students (daily) | \$ 2.00 |
| Non Residents (daily) | \$ 6.00 |

Crystal Lake and Gath Pool open June 12th and close on Labor Day.

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- 8. Report sub-committee on Crystal Lake's "GEM" request: The sub-committee includes Fran Rice and Josephine Pepper, Commission members, Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member, Thomas Cahill, Aquatics Director, Gath Pool, Carol Stapleton, Facility Manager, Crystal Lake, and Sophie Inbar, GEM Committee member.

Sophie Inbar, did not show up for the sub-committee meeting at City Hall.

Mr. Larabee left a GEM proposal for subcommittee structure, regarding the concerns of GEM members.

Commissioner Halloran met with Sophie Inbar, Thomas B. Concannon, Jr. Mayor and Carol Stapleton, Recreation Supervisor in the mayors office on Monday morning, April 24th, at 11:30AM to discuss the concerns regarding Crystal Lake.

Mr. Bonstein was in the audience regarding Crystal and his concerns are the following: dogs, dogs swimming in lake and coming out and shaking the water all over the bystanders, horse play, reserving of benches, taking up too much room on the beach with two beach towels, side by side, enforcement of the dog leash and pooper scooper laws. Carol Stapleton, Facility manager at Crystal Lake said that people take the dog signs down. Also she commented that she had to have Crystal's Rules and Regulations done up in Russian for all of the new visitors to the lake. Carol will work with Mr. Bornstein to discuss his issues. Commissioner Halloran commented that Carol Stapleton has done a super job at the lake and Josephine Pepper agreed.

- 9. Allison Park: Vote to designate Allison Park officially as parkland for purposes of State and Federal Grants. Also for concept and design.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Elaine Gentile, Director Special Projects, Public Works have been working on a State and Federal Grant for the six (6) acre Allison Park. They have met with the neighbors of Allison and they are all for the project. Also they have met with the Metropolitan District Commission regarding the walkway which would go through Waltham, Newton and Watertown. The project would cost from \$75,000 to a million dollars. Fran showed the map to the commission members for their approval. Required parking would be 40 to 100 parking spaces. The fields would be renovated, a well sunk for irrigation, lighting, areas for basketball, bocce, softball, picnic area, tot lot.

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(5)

This would be done in two phases, 1) fields and parking, 2) dress up, lighting and field house. Deadline for the grant is June 1st, 1995. If approved, the State will notify the Department at the end of the summer.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 for the concept and design and also to designate Allison Park officially as parkland.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 15, 1995

PRESENT: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Alternates, Michael Clarke, William Ryan, John Bourgeois, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternate attending: Peter Kastner

1. Minutes of the April 24th Commission meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Maintenance Program, Commissioner's Report of Events, Meetings and Activities are in the folders. Also enclosed is information on the 17th Annual Youth Awards:

JUDGE FRANKLIN N. FLASCHNER ADULT AWARD
1995 Recipient.....Terese Frazier

JUDGE JULIAN YESLEY YOUNG ADULT AWARD
1995 Recipient.....Sean Galliher

OFFICER ROBERT BRACELAND SENIOR YOUTH AWARD
1995 Recipients.....Stephanie Keefe and Lorelle Farina

IRENE BICKELMAN JUNIOR YOUTH AWARD
1995 Recipient.....Joanna Ducey

Also included in the folders, Theatre Buffs, "Over 55" schedule for May, senior brochure, Arts in the Parks Childrens Enrichment classes, Learn to play tennis, and Crystal Lake News.

Newton was again named **TREE CITY USA** for sixth year in a row by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The 1994 **TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARD** was presented to Newton for achievement in: Education and Public Relations; Planning and Management; and Tree Planting and Maintenance. We are indeed, honored to be recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation said Commissioner Halloran, and will continue in our efforts to make Newton the most livable City in the world.

Springfest was held on Sunday, May 14th at City Hall, kiddie rides, food vendors, crafts, kids activities, entertainment, great day. The sun was shining and everyone enjoyed Springfest/Mothers Day.

- 3. Acquisition of .6 acres of land, G. Arnold Haynes, on the Charles River within the City of Newton: James Comeau, MDC, representing Thomas Gray, Director, MDC and Helen Heyn, Conservation Commission discussing land acquisition in Newton:

James Comeau, MDC requesting acquisition of .6 acres of land owned by G. Arnold Haynes, within the City of Newton which the Metropolitan District Commission intends to acquire and protect for passive park purposes.

After a brief presentation the commission members voted unanimously 7-0, that the Park and Recreation Commissioners in conformity with section 79 of Chapter 92 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, hereby concur with said Metropolitan District Commission in said taking and in every attendant act and matter for approximately .6 acres of land which is now or was formerly owned by G. Arnold Haynes.

Commissioner Halloran thanked Helen Heyn, Conservation Commission, for all of the fine work that she does not only for the Conservation Commission, but also for the Parks and Recreation Department. Helen thanked the Commissioner for all of his assistance to the Conservation Commission.

- 4. License Agreement Newton North Little League/City of Newton: Robert Krauss, resident, abutter of Newton North Little Field at Albemarle, sent letter regarding his concerns for the concession stand and park.

License Extension-Newton North Little League (James E. Murphy Field at Albemarle) was sent by Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor.

Kenn Eisenbraun in the Planning Department has reviewed the original landscaping requirement contained in the License Agreement. Since the Edinboro Street residences along the eastern side of the field are well screened with an existing 100-foot wide wooded buffer, the concession stand plantings were recommended to provide screening for the western residences (across Albemarle Road). To this end the Albemarle Road residents will be greatly benefitted by the recent planting of 83 new trees along both sides of Albemarle Road, through a Mass ReLeaf Grant. As the canopies of these trees develop, they will create a permanent screen of the concession stand for the Albemarle Road residents.

(3)

As for the painting of dugouts, close inspection reveals that they were re-painted prior to the beginning of the current Little League season. The Commissioner has received confirmation from Newton North Little League that administrative personnel pick up the area around the fields for litter and debris after every game and then some.

City vehicles on the site during weekend hours have been to assist the little league personnel in readying for their opening day activities. This is a service that is accorded to all the little leagues throughout the City.

A letter was received from Michael Clarke regarding the license agreement. He offers his suggestions in revising the agreement for the next licensing period.

In reference to the memo from Ouida Young, Michael Clarke's three (3) separate issues are as follows:

- 1) Landscaping requirements
- 2) Transferring ownership of the concession stand from the Little League to the City of Newton
- 3) Charging a fee to the Little League in exchange for the License permitting the concession stand to be located on City land

Ouida enclosed a copy of the License Agreement between the City of Newton and Newton North Little League, Inc.

Commissioner Halloran commented that the Newton North Little League field looks great, one of the best in the City, the league has 325 children, and more than 5 have scholarships. No children are turned away at any time, they all play. A letter was sent from Police Chief Frank R. Gorgone stating that there has not been any complaints regarding the concession stand opening three years ago. Also received was a letter from Ken Minaker, MD., supporting the Commission and Newton North Little League. As for the shrubbery plantings near the field and concession stand, he strongly opposes the bushes, as the father of a child who was the victim of an attempted abduction in that area several years ago.

The concession stand is not a permanent structure and can be moved at any time. It is a modular cement building that has running water and a gravel base. The structure was approved by Walter Adams three years ago.

(4)

Anthony Battista was concerned with the issues in a letter from Margaret Albright and Robert Krauss to Commissioner Halloran. He said that the letter contained several discrepancies, insulting and derogatory statements towards Commissioner Halloran and the Commission. He has been on the Commission for five (5) years and has never seen such an insulting letter.

Mr. Battista motioned that the License Agreement for Newton North Little League be approved for another 3 years. Francis Rice seconded the motion without Michael Clarke's recommendations.

Mr. Robert Krauss, who wrote the original letter said that he is sorry for any hard feelings, however, the abutters were not notified of the meeting to approve the license agreement for another three year period. He also stated that plantings still need to be done at the concession stand which include 10 ivy plants and a tree. Landscaping has not been done properly, and there is insufficient screening. Mr. Krauss indicated that the original agreement was for a 3 year term to allow NNLL to recover the cost of their investment, but that it had been agreed that subsequent licensing would be on an annual basis to allow the neighbors input as to how the concession stand was complying with neighborhood objectives. Mr. Krauss felt that summarily changing the new agreement to a second 3 year term was contrary to this. Mr. Krauss also said that the dugouts were to have been painted grey, which made them stand out. he also noted what he felt was a continuing trash problem and suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission review finances of the concession stand.

Kenn Eisenbraun's letter stated that he has reviewed the concession stand building at Albemarle Field and nothing remains of the original recommended and installed landscaping. It was vandalized and removed. He recommended that since the Edinboro Street residences along the eastern side of the field are well screened with an existing 100 foot wooded buffer, the concession stand plantings were recommended to provide screening for the western residents (across Albemarle Road). However, since the plantings have disappeared he has not received any complaints from these residences regarding the damaged and removed screening landscaping. Unfortunately, no amount of planting will fully screen this small building for interior park users.

Since the new Albemarle Road trees and the existing buffer along the eastern side seem to provide sufficient screening, there may not be a need for additional plantings. He recommends that all the other maintenance conditions remain.

Commissioner Halloran commented that Albemarle is cut on a weekly basis and during the summer a maintenance worker picks up the papers daily.

Terry Morris, NNLL, said that they have spent \$34,000 to renovate the fields, not including the stand, which was \$13,000, and had volunteer's donate their time and labor. The little league fee is \$35.00 per child, whereas, the soccer group charges \$70.00. All the monies that are made are put back into the operation of the Newton North Little League.

Peter Kastner said that it may be a good idea to look at NNLL's general financial reports to protect the commission in case of any abuse.

Michael Clarke indicated that, while he applauded the work of NNLL, the construction of the concession stand had been quite controversial, when the original licensing agreement was made 3 years ago. Unfortunately, the abutters that were copied on the original agreement were not notified of the impending new agreement; consequently it was necessary to have a second meeting to allow them to have their say. Also, in its cover memo to the renewal licensing agreement that was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at its April meeting, the Newton Law Office had pointed out several issues that should be addressed in the discussion. Since that memo was not appended to the agreement given the Commission in April and Clarke had independently raised the same issues, it was necessary to discuss these items at the May meeting. Moreover, there had been no updates in the agreement presented at the April meeting, so that it could not adequately be discussed. In the 1992 agreement, NNLL had made a commitment to make plantings to screen the concession stand, by all accounts these were inadequate and did not establish themselves. Consequently, while NNLL had lived up to the letter of the agreement by making the plantings, they had not lived up to the spirit of the agreement, which was to shield the view of the concession stand. Clarke also concurred with Kastner's remarks that, in the future, NNLL should provide their general financial reports and an accounting of how income from the concession stand had been used to maintain the field and/or alleviate costs to the participants in NNLL.

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Commissioner Halloran commented that the abutters would be invited to the Commission meeting in three years, when the license agreement will be up for renewal. In fact, the Commission will invite the abutters 5 months prior to the renewal to iron out any issues that they might have.

Motion was made to extend the Newton North Little League's License Agreement between the City and League for another three years. Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to extend the License Agreement between Newton North Little League and the City for another 3 years.

- 5. Budget Update: The budget passed the Programs and Services and Finance Committee's and will be discussed at the next full Board of Aldermen's meeting this week.
- 6. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, May 24th, 7:30AM to 9:00AM, McElroy Commons Dining Room, Boston College, tickets \$12.00.
- 7. Listing of Commissioner/Commission members names, addresses, phone numbers for World Wide Web (WWW) for Parks and Recreation: Michael Clark asked the Commission and Commission members if they would like their names, addresses and phone numbers listed in the World wide Web. The Commissioner and all of the members declined.
- 8. Middle School Selection (Oak Hill School): If there is a possibility of transferring playground land to the School Committee for the new middle school, that the wetlands should be cleaned of debris. In the case of losing a playing field at Oak Hill, explore whether the School Committee can provide another site.

Two issues that need to be addressed:

- 1) Clean up debris from the wet lands on the Oak Hill School property. Martha Horn, Environmental Wetlands Administrator, has also surveyed the area and is in agreement that it be cleaned up.
- 2) Loss of field space

It was discussed that if there is a possibility of transferring playground land to the School Committee for the new middle school, that the wetlands should be cleaned of debris.

Also that if a playing field is taken for construction, the school committee should provide another site.

(7)

A letter will be sent to Irwin Blumer, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, to address the above issues and get back to the Commission before the next meeting.

(cc: to Anne Larner, School Committee)

9. New Business: Commissioner commented that James Mahoney, Chairman, did an excellent job with the presentations of the Youth Awards on Sunday, May 14th, City Hall.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 19, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, John Bourgeois, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates attending: William Ryan and Michael Clarke

1. Minutes of the May meeting were accepted after a request from Michael Clarke to change 3 items in the minutes which were on the second page, paragraph 5, fourth page, 3rd paragraph and one sentence on page 6 on number 1. The members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the minutes of the May 15th Commission Meeting with the amendments.

Robert Platt recommended that if members of the Commission have any changes in the minutes to let Faye know in a reasonable amount of time. Minutes are sent out on the Wednesday morning preceding the Monday night Commission Meetings.

2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioners Report of Events are enclosed in the folders which include MUSICtivity, Gath Pool and Crystal Lake Brochures, Summer 95 Arts in the Parks Brochure, "Over 55", Art Classes, Golf Lessons, Theatre Buffs and Summertime Funtastics.

Also enclosed in the folders is the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival letter for July 1995, letter to Irwin Blumer, Superintendent of School regarding Oak Hill, memo to Alderman Brian Yates regarding Charles River Land and memo to Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor, regarding the License Extension for Newton North Little League.

On Tuesday of last week, Fran Towle Deputy Commissioner, met with the Green Decade Coalition regarding placement of a greenhouse at Nahanton Park. The coalition is also considering Rumford Avenue, Newton North High School and Newton South High School.

(2)

Capital Improvements: CIP is divided into three categories:

| | | | |
|------|---|-------|------------------|
| I. | Park Development | | |
| | Allison Park Schematic Design | | \$ 5,000. |
| II. | Park/Playfield Maintenance | | |
| | a) Court Repairs | | \$ 40,000 |
| | b) Playground Apparatus | | 25,000 |
| | c) Field Renovations | | 80,000 |
| | d) Bleacher Replacement | | 60,000 |
| | e) Park Benches | | 25,000 |
| | f) Gath Pool - Diving Boards | | 18,000 |
| | | Total | <hr/> \$248,000 |
| III. | Facilities & Equipment | | |
| | a) New Equipment | | \$105,000 |
| | b) Outdoor Drinking Fountains | | 15,000 |
| | | | <hr/> \$120,000 |
| | Grant Total for FY95 Supplemental Capital Improvements | | <hr/> \$373,000. |

Camp Scholarship Program: Camp Supervisors for Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Camp Echo Bridge, Kids Korner summer program, Outdoor Adventure and Newton Soccer Clinic, raised monies for scholarships for summer camp. There is a need in the City for those who do not have monies to send their children to camp during the summer months. Monies were raised selling, sweatshirts, candy and pins, to send 39 children to camp from 1 to 3 weeks. Supervisors will look for new ways to raise monies for camp scholarships for next year. Fran Towle mentioned that the fundraising efforts will be re-evaluated and is she open to suggestions for fundraisers for this fall. Also James Mahoney, was thanked for his participation in the decision of the scholarship participants.

3. Commissioner Halloran discussed summer plans for tennis, Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner and leagues. It will be a busy summer with numerous activities, both active and passive, and to provide Newton's population with meaningful activities for all ages.

4. Newton North High School Indoor Complex fees for 1995/96 season:

The recommended fees for the 1995/96 NNHS Indoor Complex season are as follows:

| | <u>SEASONAL FEE</u> | <u>DAILY FEE</u> |
|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Student | \$25.00 | \$ 2.00 |
| Adult | \$35.00 | \$ 3.00 |
| Family | \$95.00 | -0- |
| Non-Resident | \$95.00 | \$ 6.00 |

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the recommended fees for the 1995/96 Newton North High School Indoor Complex fees. (fees are the same as last year).

All seasonal users must have a recreation photo ID card which will cost \$5.00 per card Seasonal User fees may be paid (and ID cards issued) beginning in the middle of August at the Gath Pool in Newtonville. Marketing strategies for the facility will include sending home flyers with all camp participants and users of the Gath Pool and Crystal Lake.

Participants interested in swimming lessons at Newton North High School this fall will be allowed to sign up for session one as early as the end of August. This walk-in registration will be held at the Gath Pool only.

The opening day for the Indoor Season will be Monday, October 2nd. The pre-season will run Monday through Friday only through October 27th. The regular season, which includes Saturday and Sunday use as well as weekday use will begin October 28th, and run through mid-May.

At this time the Department is also investigating the potential cost factor of opening the pool only at Newton North High School for use as of mid-September, and continuing use of the pool after our official closing date, through the end of May.

5. New Business: Josephine Pepper noticed that at Bullough's Pond, the fence has been taken down from Walnut Street to the building. Bullough's Pond Associates does not want the fence up. A grant is in progress for Bullough's Pond to restore the area to its natural state.

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(4)

Crystal Lake bathhouse was renovated and the outside painted pink. Police cruisers patrol the area, regarding the unleashed dogs that swim in the lake. Also they check for after hour swimmers.

A letter will be sent to Frank Gorgone, Chief of Police regarding the unleashed dogs and the illegal swimmers.

Meeting adjourned: 8:06PM.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternates, John Bourgeois, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays Secretary

1. Minutes of the June meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders which include, 1995 City Census ratings, Michael Clarke's map of the Charles River Footpath, Music Two-gether, Tumbling, Charles River Weed Clean-up, Arts in the Parks Fall/Winter Brochure, Tennis for Kids and Adults. The 17th Annual Troubadour Trot Road Race will be held on Sunday, October 15th, 1995 at 12:00PM.

Weeks Field Update:

Irrigation: The sprinkler system is now completely installed.

Grading: Paul Street end of the field has been leveled to permit safe play of soccer, softball and other sports. All of the field has now been graded and contoured to provide two large playing surfaces surrounded by slopes and berms for seating, park area and visual interest.

Park: A large raised area in the center of the field has been created. It will be planted with trees and furnished with park benches next spring.

Clean-up: The fence surrounding the field has been cleared of brush and low branches to allow planting of grass and mowing. The large rusty backstop near Hereward Road was removed and will be replaced by a low-profile version (as will the Paul Street backstop).

Commissioner Halloran commented that G. Ross who lives at 103 Oxford Road had water in his basement. The contractors cleared debris from all of the drains at Weeks so that this would not occur again.

Josephine Pepper has been reappointed as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, office to expire January 1, 1998.

The Friends of the Fountain presented a Re-Dedication of the **Child with Calla Lily Leaves Fountain** on Sunday, September 17, 1995.

3. Crystal Lake Accidental Drowning, August 2nd, 1995:
 Commissioner Halloran commented on the accidental drowning of Tanya Starzenski, 42, of Brookline, at Crystal Lake. He commended Carol and her staff for the excellent way in which everyone responded to the accidental drowning. It was fortunate that Carol had such well trained people on her staff. Mayor Concannon, Thomas Cahill, Aquatic Director were present, along with the Fire, Police, Chaulk, and Managers to talk with any of the staff to see if they needed professional help.

Commissioner Halloran and Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner reviewed all of the information, regarding the drowning, from a management point of view and said that they were satisfied with the results.

Peter Kastner thought that the Commission members should require a copy of the reports, whereas, the drowning occurred at one of the Department's facilities. He feels that a safety report should be issued to the Commission members to insure a fact of discharge of their responsibility.

He said that in approving the rules and regulations for Crystal Lake, the Commission should define the following:

- 1) Notification of impairment of individuals
- 2) Posting of lifeguards out in rafts

Perhaps the individuals that go to Crystal, should let the staff know of their medical conditions? It would be worthwhile information for future use so as we can prevent this from happening again.

Questions arose as to giving the members of the Commission confidential information pertaining to the drowning.

Commissioner Halloran commented that he is guided by the Law Department and that they have all of the information pertaining to the drowning.

(3)

Michael Clarke commented that he is a member of several safety committee's and that it helps to have outside perspectives regarding these instances. Also he asked if the woman had a seizure. Commission Halloran said that he have not heard officially as yet.

Peter Johnson thought that the drowning tragedy was handled superbly by all of the departments and staff involved.

State Chairman, Thomas Cahill of The Red Cross presented Carol and her staff a Certificate of Recognition for outstanding lifesaving efforts of the entire staff for faultlessly exercising Red Cross training in a lifesaving attempt on August 2nd, 1995.

James Mahoney, Chairman, commented that Commissioner Halloran called him immediately after the drowning to review the situation. As it happened there were 13 lifeguards at Crystal at the time due to a change in shifts. He said that this is a very traumatic time for all Crystal Lake employees and that no one could have provided a more intensive and professional search and rescue that did the staff at Crystal Lake. Everything was well documented and professionally run.

Commissioner Halloran commended Carol Stapleton and the Crystal Lake staff and that he was very proud of all of them. The City of Newton is fortunate to have Crystal Lake and a well trained aquatic staff.

Also there was an excellent article in the newspaper from Frank R. Gorgone and all members of the Newton Police Department commending the staff at Crystal Lake for the way they responded to the tragedy.

Commissioner Halloran, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member and Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, will have an informal meeting to discuss the drowning before the Rules and Regulations are voted on next April or May.

Commissioner Halloran and Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner were totally satisfied as to how the drowning situation was handled.

Motion was made to send a letter of commendation to Carol and her staff from the Commission members regarding the drowning at Crystal Lake.

Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to send a letter of commendation to Carol Stapleton and her staff from the commission members regarding the drowning at Crystal Lake.

(4)

4. Harvest Fair, October 15th, 1995 from 12:00PM to 5:00PM at the Newton Centre Green.
5. Commonwealth Avenue Centennial, 100 Years of Transportation, Saturday, October 14, 1995, 12:30PM - 2:30PM, Commonwealth Avenue and Walnut Streets, Lowell Avenue and Bullough's Pond.
6. Report on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival July 1995: Everything went well, no problems reported.
7. Update on CIP Report: The Department will hear by the end of the month from Evan Katz, Chief Budget Officer, on monies for the next go around for 96'.
8. New Business: no new business, however, Commissioner Halloran commented that Bill Saunders, ex-President of the Auburndale Community Association will write a letter to the Graphic regarding Landscape Maintenance, the Achilles Heel of the "Garden City".

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 16, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Alternates: William Ryan, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary.

1. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders. Other information includes: William Saunders letter to the Graphic, Garden City's Achilles Heel, Photo-Urban Self Help Grant for Allison Park in the amount of \$270,000., Golf lessons, Playgroup for "Over 55 and under 5", Tennis lessons, Programs for October-Over 55", Kreative Kids, Arts in the Parks, Newton North Indoor Complex, letter from Senator Warren E. Tolman, letter to Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, Crystal Lake and her staff. Commissioner Halloran complimented Carol Stapleton and her staff for the fine job conducted by the aquatics staff at the unfortunate accidental drowning at Crystal Lake.

A great weekend for activities, Saturday, October 14th, Commonwealth Avenue Centennial and on Sunday the 15th, was Harvest Fair. Both were well attended and a wonderful time was had by all.

3. Alderman Terry O'Halloran on playground tot lots and animals: Alderman Terry O'Halloran presented a letter to the Commission from J. David Naparstek, Commissioner of Health, regarding dogs and tot lots. The Newton Health Department recommends a policy of excluding dogs, whether restrained or not, from play lots which are intended for use primarily by young children. Alderman O'Halloran was seeking our assistance as to support an ordinance to ban dogs, leashed or unleashed, from all tot lots in the City of Newton.

The Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously, 8-0, to support an ordinance which prohibits dogs at all times, leashed or unleashed, from all tot lots throughout the City of Newton.

Such a policy would protect young children using Newton's tot lots from potential health and safety risks and also vicious dog attacks.

4. Crystal Lake: Susan Spatz spoke to the Commission members regarding seniors over 62 years of age paying a fee of \$5.00 to swim at Crystal Lake. She said that she would not mind paying \$5.00 to prevent outsiders from swimming in the lake.

Also, speaking for Paul Bornstein, who could not attend, Ms. Spatz thanked the Police and Parks and Recreation Departments for responding to dogs in the water and shower area at Crystal.

On the life guard stations, Ms. Spatz and speaking for Paul Bornstein, both felt that one of the life guard towers be moved away from the play area. She believes that the life guards view in that particular tower may be hampered and they do not have a clear view of the swimmers. Carol Stapleton said that she is addressing this issue and will follow up on it. Ms. Spatz said that all rules and regulations should be enforced and that the posted rules and regulations should be in different languages.

Aluminum benches have been placed at Crystal Lake. Ms. Spatz questioned as to whether or not the benches should be aluminum as when people sit on the benches in the sun, they are hot. Suggestion was to put a towel down on the bench.

6. Allison Park Grant \$270,000., Phase I: Senator Lois Pines and Senator Warren E. Tolman both support the allocation of monies for the Allison Park Project. Allison Park is a 6 acre park that abuts the Charles River and is located in a very densely populated area in the northern sector of the City of Newton. The project will upgrade the parks so that it can be used for all types of recreational activities. Phase I work will result in playable grassed fields with in-place irrigation facilities, paved parking for 40 cars, and upgraded rest room facilities to meet ADA Standards.

In a photo taken regarding the Urban Self Help Grant were, State Representative, Kay Kahn, State Representative, Rachael Kapriellan, State Senator Lois Pines, Alderman Robert Gerst, Secretary of Environmental Affairs Trudy Cox, Director of Special Projects, Elaine Gentile, Deputy Commissioner, Parks & Recreation, Fran Towle, Mayor Thomas B. Concannon, Commissioner, Parks & Recreation, Russell J. Halloran, Director, Planning Department, Eugene Bober, and

Alderman Theresa O'Halloran.

(3)

Peter Kastner commended everyone for the fine job that they did in procuring the grant for Allison Park. He said he appreciated all of the marvelous work that everyone did on the grant and he is looking forward to the upgrade of the park.

- 7. Status Capital Improvement Program: Items for submission of the Capital Improvement Process include: Weeks Field and Landscaping, City Hall Landscaping, Allison Park Design, Allison Park Development, Lower Falls Park Landscape, Court repairs, Playground Apparatus, Field Renovations, Tree Planting and new vehicles.

On another note: Camp Scholarship Program: Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner spoke regarding the upcoming Camp Scholarship Fund. A meeting was held in September to create ideas for funding. The goal is to double the \$7,000 raised last spring/winter. James Mahoney, Chairman, asked that this item be put on the agenda for the November meeting, and that if commission members have any ideas to raise funds, please bring them to the next commission meeting. This is a worthwhile funding project as it allowed 35 children to attend camp last summer.

- 8. New Business: Reminder: Nahanton Park Nature Pathway dedication on Monday, October 23rd, 3:00PM at Nahanton Park. Everyone is invited to attend.

Meeting adjourned 8:10PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 1995

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternate William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary.

Also attending, alternates, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner and Recreation Supervisor, Sheila Butts.

1. Minutes of the October meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders. Other information includes: copy of letter sent to Alderman Terry O'Halloran and the Commission's support of an ordinance which prohibits dogs at all times, leashed or unleashed, from all tot lots throughout the City, Funtastic Friday, Music Two-gether, Ice Skating Lessons, Skiing at Nashoba Valley, "Over 55" Senior News, Hyde Community Center and Arts in the Parks information.

Nahanton Park Nature Trail was dedicated October 23rd. This is the first nature trail in Newton accessible to people with disabilities.

Also, Mr. Andrew Stern and neighbors will be attending the December Commission Meeting in regards to Newton Centre Playground and the 3 foot fence around the brook.

3. Skating Rules and Regulations for 1995/96: The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Skating Rules and Regulations for 1995/96. Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department.

Hours of operation at Auburndale, Bullough's and Crystal Lake:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 3:00 - 9:00PM |
| Tuesday, Thursday | 2:00 - 9:00PM |
| Saturday, Sunday, Holidays, Vacations | 10:00AM - 9:00PM |

(2)

If attendance does not warrant keeping a facility/s open during the evening hours, it is then recommended that a cutback of hours be instituted as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday, Wednesday | 3:00 - 6:00PM |
| Tuesday, Thursday | 2:00 - 6:00PM |
| Friday | 3:00 - 9:00PM |
| Saturday, Sunday, Holidays, Vacations | 10:00AM - 9:00PM |

The following standards are used in determining sufficient ice thickness for safe skating:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Auburndale | 6" Black Ice, 9" Snow Ice |
| Bullough's Pond | 6" Black Ice, 9" Snow Ice |
| Crystal Lake | **6" Black Ice, 9" Snow Ice |

**Due to the varying water depths, unevenness of freezing, and an inability to contain the skating area, the entire Lake must be frozen in order for safe skating to occur.

**Due to insufficient lighting at Bullough's Pond and Crystal Lake, the hours of skating at these sites will be limited to daylight hours. (If lights are installed at Bullough's Pond this winter, the skating times will change)

- 4. Budget Update: Commissioner Halloran commented that in the Forecast Summary City Budget, there is a deficit of 4 million for 1997. He did not have any details as yet.
- 5. Camp Scholarship Fund: Since June 1, 1995 the Parks & Recreation Camp Supervisors have raised \$11,095.55 for the 1996 Scholarship Fund.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Continued sale of candy bars | \$ 151.75 |
| Continued sale of sweatshirts | \$ 534.00 |
| Fund raiser Pool Party at Gath Pool | \$ 871.00 |
| % of sale of bread, shopping bags, rakes, etc. at Farmer's Market | \$3,538.80 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$5,095.55 |
| | |
| CDBG Grant | \$4,000.00 |
| Newton Pride | \$2,000.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Grand total | \$11,095.55 |

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Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner commented that the camp scholarship fund is a new venture and the supervisors are seeking to make it a non-profit corporation. Newton Pride has donated \$2,000 and we are looking to solicit funds from other organizations. The camp scholarships are for Newton children only, Newton helping Newton. Fran believes that we will see many, many more applications in the 96 season as there is a growing need in Newton for scholarships for low income families. This is a win, win situation, we have great camps, and it is an opportunity for low income children to go to summer camp for two weeks.

The goal for this season was \$20,000. The camp scholarship fund is an exciting idea and the need is there for camp scholarships. The staff is eager to learn how to raise monies for camp scholarships.

Fran Rice suggested that the children on scholarships be allowed to work in the camps when of age.

The Commissioner asked if any commission members would be willing to meet with Fran Towle and camp staff to direct them into creating the scholarship fund for a non-profit organization and also to acquire information on how to raise monies from corporations.

Volunteers were James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer and Fran Rice.

Walter Bernheimer suggested that the fund needs to be structured and also create a name for the organization.

Peter Kastner suggested raising the tuition fees.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that a meeting will be held within the next few weeks with Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and camp supervisors to discuss creation of the camp scholarship fund to a non-profit organization and also how to raise monies for scholarships.

6. No new business.

Meeting adjourned: 7:55PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 1995

PRESENT: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Fran Rice, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Alternates, Peter Kastner, William Ryan, John Bourgeois, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, and Faye Hays, Secretary

1. Minutes of the November meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders. Other information includes, December's information for people "Over 55", Theatre Buffs, Middle School Party, Camp Fair 96, Funtastic Friday's, Special Needs Recreation Programs, Like To Sing, Arts in the Parks Winter brochure, New Year's 1996 Celebration Open House at City Hall.

Enclosed are the TAB's 1995 Readers' Choice Awards for Cold Spring Park:

- 1) #1 choice for place to take visitors
- 2) #1 Choice for place to jog
- 3) Honorable Mention for place for a picnic
- 4) Honorable Mention for place to rollerskate

And also enclosed is the Revised Version of Ordinance V for the Urban Tree Task Force.

3. Request to name the Nahanton Park Nature Trail in honor of Florrie Povirk, Planning Department: Jason Rosenberg, Chairman, Mayor's Committee on the Environment of the Handicapped requested that the handicapped accessible pathway at Nahanton Park be named in honor of Florrie Povirk of the Planning Department.

Honorable Mayor Thomas B. Concannon Jr, Members of the Board of Aldermen, friends and co-workers spoke in favor of naming the pathway after Florrie Povirk:

President Elect: Richard McGrath said that Florrie deserves to be remembered in the community. She is very favorably looked upon as a worker and community member and she will be sorely missed by all.

Alderman Richard Bullwinkle: Florrie is a jewel in our midst. She is a very honest person, competent and cares about the community.

Honorable Mayor Thomas B. Concannon totally agrees with everything that everyone has to say about Florrie. He is in favor of naming the handicapped pathway at Nahanton Park after Florrie.

Alderman Polly Bryson: Pleased with the impending response to name the Nahanton Park Nature Trail in honor of Florrie Povirk, Planning Department. Florrie is a sincere, forthright and knowledgeable person that went the extra mile. Super lady who deserved the dedication and recognition.

Alderman Brian Yates: Florrie did a super job at Emerson playground. She is a very dedicated, diligent worker and the children are very appreciative of the Emerson playground equipment.

Alderman Paul Coletti: Two of the key people who worked on the Upper Falls Playground were Steve Gartrell and Florrie. Her ability to communicate with others and her diligence stands out in the community. Florrie has left her mark on many areas in the City.

Alderman Leonard Gentile: Florrie worked on a project at the Franklin School, Shadow Lane. She was extremely helpful in making the area more accessible for kids. Her talent is very much appreciative and he highly recommends the dedication of the pathway.

Kevin Courtney: Florrie is a very patient, sincere, and hard working person. She found monies for the Burr School playground, which is very popular in the Auburndale area. He seconded everything that was previously said by everyone.

Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Russell J. Halloran: Highly recommends the pathway be dedicated to Florrie Povirk. He has never seen so many friends and co-workers, in his many years on the commission, present at the recommendation of a dedication to an employee of the City of Newton. Commissioner Halloran believes that this is truly a remarkable tribute to Florrie.

Alternate Commission member Peter Kastner: Who is also a member of the Friends of Nahanton Park and the Conservators, highly recommends the dedication of the pathway to Florrie Povirk.

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Peter Mazzapica, Neighborhood Association: Florrie was responsible for the curb cuts on Waltham Street, funding monies, and helped everyone who asked for assistance.

Motion was made to name the Nahanton Park Handicapped Nature Trail in honor of Florrie Povirk, of the Planning Department.

Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to name the Nahanton Park Handicapped Nature Trail in honor of Florrie Povirk.

Also, it was requested that the above part of the meeting be tape recorded by Jason Rosenberg. This so that he may take it to Florrie, who is in the Longwood Re-Hab Center, and play the tape for her. It was also requested that all letters pertaining to the dedication be also presented to Florrie, with a list of the friends and co-workers who attended the commission meeting.

Commissioner Halloran thanked everyone for attending the meeting on behalf of Florrie.

- 4. Ellison Playground Trust Fund \$9,989: The Ellison Playground Trust Fund was left to the City in the 1940's and was just re-discovered by a City worker. The monies in the Ellison Playground Trust Fund are to be expended in the Nonantum area only. Thomas Cahill, Supervisor, recommended to Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Parks and Recreation Department, the following items:

To be purchased and installed at Magni/Coletti Park:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 10 eight foot long benches @ \$540.ea | \$5,400. |
|---------------------------------------|----------|

To be purchased and installed at Hawthorn Park:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 18 wall mats @\$86.00 ea | \$1,548. |
| 1 spring see-saw | \$1,223. |
| 1 Tuffrider Horse @\$604.00 | \$ 604. |
| 1 Tuffrider RhinoDino | \$ 550. |
| 1 Tuffrider Turtle | \$ 550. |
| 57 Bags of sakrete cement mix @2.00 ea | \$ 114. |
| | <hr/> \$9,989. |

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the selection of the above items and the areas that they are to be installed in.

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- 5. Robert Merriman, Planning Department, to discuss the City buying 2 homes on Wabasso Street near the incinerator, because of the well water, dumping, river frontage and also it connects with MDC land.

Mr. Merriman was not present for the meeting.

- 6. Andrew Stern: Newton Centre Playground regarding new fencing: Jeff Andres and Mr. Allen appearing for Andrew Stern: (Friends of Newton Centre Playground) The Friends would like to see the park preserved in its natural state and not fenced in. They see no need for fencing around the water/brook area. It is a beautiful piece of land aesthetically and they would like to have the fence taken down. The fence takes away the view of the area designed by Olmstead.

Commissioner Halloran commented that the day care in that area is concerned with the children falling into the brook. Also that Dan Funk, City Solicitor highly recommended the fence be installed.

Mr. Andres said that there is a petition going around in the neighborhood and it will be presented to the Commission at a future date. Commissioner Halloran said that the Commission would work with the Friends of Newton Centre Playground regarding the fence.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member believes that fences cut down the flexibility of the area, the fences are ugly and unattractive, and breaks up the line of the playground which is now shattered by a metallic fence. Peter encourages the Commission/Department to work with the neighborhood association regarding the fence.

Commissioner Halloran said that he listened in good faith to the complaints from the personnel of the after-school care program at the Newton Centre Hut regarding the safety of the children.

Mr. Allen said that he believes that the fence should come down.

Commissioner Halloran commented that Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Judy Dore, Supervisor, will work with the neighborhood committee and community to iron out the differences regarding the fence at the Newton Centre Playground.

7. Budget Update: Board of Aldermen approved the Allison Park project in the amount of \$500,000.

Also approved was:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Lower Falls Park Landscape | \$ 20,000 |
| Weeks Field Landscape | \$ 20,000 |
| Court Repairs | \$127,000 |
| New Vehicles | \$ 65,000 |

Monies for City Hall Landscaping were held pending another meeting to discuss Crystal Lake landscaping also.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20PM

Commissioner Halloran wished everyone present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He also commended all Commission members for their vote to dedicate the Nahanton Park Handicapped Nature Trail in honor of Florrie Povirk.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

JANUARY 22, 1996

PRESENT: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Plaut, Alternates: Michael Clarke and William Ryan

Alternates also attending: John Bourgeois and Peter Kastner

1. Minutes of the December meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders. Other information includes, Kids Korner Summer Program, Ice Skating Lessons, Archery Lessons, Mayors Office for Cultural Affairs, April Vacation Soccer Clinic, Saturday Soccer Clinic, Think Summer, Camps, Albemarle Acres, Soccer Clinic, Camp Fair, Funtastic Fridays and Senior News.

Commissioner Halloran discussed the decision of the Mayor's office to switch the Parks & Recreation Department's snow plowing of the sidewalks in the City back to the Public Works Department. Department of Public Works was in charge of the sidewalks until two years ago, when Parks and Recreation agreed to do them in order to ease the load of DPW. Under the new arrangement, all snow removal responsibility will be the responsibility of the DPW, with support from the Parks and Recreation Department. Commissioner Halloran commented that it makes more sense, locating all the snow plowing under one department.

Commissioner Halloran sadly announced, that Florrie Povirk, of the Planning Department, died of lung cancer on January 10th. The nature trail at Nahanton Park was named in Florrie's honor at the last Commission Meeting. Dedication will be sometime in March.

The Newton Parks & Recreation Department cordially invites you to the Annual 1996 "CAMP FAIR" which is to be held on Tuesday, January 23rd from 2:00PM to 7:00PM at the War Memorial at City Hall.

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- 3. **FY96 Budget:** A letter was received from the Chief Budget Officer, Evan Katz, regarding the FY97 Budget Allocations for the Parks & Recreation Department in the amount of \$3,438,095. An error was made and Mr. Katz called the Commissioner with a figure of \$3,338,095, which was in error by \$100,000.

Commissioner Halloran has not recommended any reduction of personnel at this time. The monies for contract signing, longevity increases and upgrades will be taken out of two categories, Maintenance of Vehicles and Control of Snow/Ice/Tree Emergency monies. All new programs are in the Revolving Accounts, not in the operating budget.

Michael Clarke asked about the Care of Recreation Buildings and Adjoining Grounds account. Commissioner Halloran said that monies in this account includes fields that have been done, bubblers, increase heating costs, electricity, cleaning, supplies and equipment as well as lighting costs for playfields and courts are included.

Monies taken into the Department goes in the City's General Account. The Revolving Account is self sustaining.

It was suggested that at the February Commission meeting, information would be available regarding the break down of the Revolving Accounts.

Commissioner Halloran was asked if he had any concerns at this time with the budgets, and he answered that the Program Groups meets its challenges, however, he is concerned with Grounds Maintenance, no disrespect to David Mandatori, Division Foreman.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the FY97 Budget to Mayor Concannon. Vote was seconded and the Commission members voted 7-0 to approve the proposed Parks & Recreation Department's FY97 Budget.

- 4. **Nominations for Youth Awards:** Enclosed in the folders are the 18th Annual Youth Service Awards Program. The ceremony is to be held on Sunday, May 19, 1996, Springfest, War Memorial, City Hall, 1:00PM. Nominations for the 4 awards, Judge Franklin Flaschner Adult Award, Judge Julian Yesley Young Adult Award, Officer Robert Braceland Senior Youth Award and the Irene Bickelman Junior Youth Award, are due by April 15th, 1996. Nominations are welcomed from Commission members.

- 5. **Tree Advisory Committee to become Tree Commission:** Urban Tree Task Force Advisory Committee will become the Tree Commission. The Urban Tree Task Force Committee, which was established in 1989, has done all that can be done as a committee. The new Commission will oversee the care and maintenance of the City's urban forest. Mayor Concannon will make the appointments to the Commission.

The Commission will budget for funds, make recommendations for existing trees, new trees, recommend funding sources and new projects.

It was asked if there would be any changes for the Tree Warden who is Commission Halloran, and his reply was no.

Alternate Peter Kastner, asked for a copy of the recommendations for the Tree Commission.

- 6. **Update on Landscape Maintenance Task Force:** A Landscape Maintenance Task Force has been set up which includes, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, David Mandatori, Maintenance Foreman, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, Douglas Dixon, Leo Levi, Chairman, Beautification Committee, Jay Berkson, Urban Tree Task Force, Kenn Eisenbraun, Planning Department, William Presley, Architect, Alan Green, and William Saunders, former President Auburndale Community Association. The plan would include a Landscape Maintenance Coordinator to: do a thorough job of planning for landscape maintenance for sidewalks, parks and other public landscapes in Newton, emphasizing removing of litter and weeds and keeping turf, flowers, shrubs and trees healthy.

Recommendations are for maintenance control are at the following sites: Civic Center (City Hall, Main Library, Commonwealth Avenue) Magni-Coletti, Commonwealth Avenue in Auburndale and the Newton Centre Green.

Two position would be established on a contractual basis, at \$20,000 each. The coordinator would be responsible for fundraising, village groups, help of Newton citizens, new ideas, and suggestions for raising grant monies.

- 7. **New Business: Weeks Jr. High/103 Oxford Road/Rain damage:**
 The home at 103 Oxford Road, which abuts the Weeks Field had a problem with flooding due to heavy rain and melting snow. This is the lowest point of the Weeks Field. There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, at 11:00AM at the site with an engineer from the Engineering Department, Steve Fauteux, President, Newton Youth Soccer, person from the Drains/Sewer department and David Mandatori, Maintenance Foreman, to work together to solve this recurring drainage problem.

Michael Clarke: Suggested that the Parks & Recreation Department supply information for Newton's Web Pages. What would be needed is staff to supply information on each park & playground in the word processing format. Mr. Clarke asked that the Commission endorse this suggestion. The Commission voted 7-0 to endorse the suggestion of the Parks & Recreation Department to supply information for Newton's Web pages on the computer.

Also, Mr. Clarke inquired about the open space (former dump site) on Pine Street in Auburndale. He asked of the feasibility of planning a park/field area on this site with a parking lot on the opposite side of the street near the new apartments.

Commissioner Halloran will write a letter to David Naparstek, of the Health Department, to ask of the feasibility in using the Pine Street site.

Meeting adjourned 8:45PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 1996

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Anthony Battista, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Alternate, John Bourgeois, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays Secretary

Alternates also attending, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner and William Ryan

1. Minutes of the January meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders. Other information includes, Newton North Indoor Complex, Swim schedules, Lifeguarding, Water Safety Instructor Course, Senior Activities, Heartbreak Hill Youth Race, Picnic & Field Information, Soccer Clinic, 1996 Spring Bulb Catalog and Fitness Clinic.

In reply to Commissioner Halloran's memo to David Naparstek, Commissioner of Health, regarding use of the former Pine Street Dump for recreation fields, it is his recommendation that the area not be used as a park nor as playing fields.

In regards to Mr. Ross' property on Oxford Road, abutting Weeks Field, a 3' gravel retaining wall has been installed and the soccer group and the insurance company will pay for the wall. This is to prevent further water drainage damage that occurred at his home recently. The Weeks Field area is irrigated by 2 wells, one presently capped, one functional, that are 500' deep. Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, has done an excellent job working with the soccer group, Engineering Department, contractors, etc.

3. Budget Update: March 18th, Mayor Thomas B. Concannon, Jr. will present the Board of Aldermen the City's Budget. The Recreation Department's cut is \$47,000, however, it becomes \$90,000 with step rate increases.

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(2)

Landscape Maintenance Task Force :

- Create 2 positions
 - a) Administrator of training program
 - b) Coordinator for fundraising

-A plan has been formed for constant effective thorough landscape maintenance for sidewalks, parks and other public landscapes in Newton, emphasizing removing litter and weeds and keeping turf, flowers, shrubs and trees healthy.

Mayor Concannon is recommending that \$75,000 be taken from the recycling monies that are in a special account for the maintenance contract.

The Committee includes: Douglas Dixon, Chairman, Commissioner Halloran, James Broderick, Leo Levi, James Hickey, Commissioner Public Works, Jay Berkson, Alan Green, Eugene Bober, Director, Planning Department, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, Parks & Recreation and Kenn Eisenbraun, Planning Department.

4. Urban Tree Commission Proposed Ordinances: The Board of Aldermen met last Wednesday evening and voted 6-0 to approved the Revised Ordinances for the Urban Tree Commission 21-60 through 21-62. This is for the establishment and purpose of the Urban Tree Commission.
5. Break-out of Revolving Accounts: As requested by the Commission members, enclosed in the packets are the Parks & Recreation Department's 1996-7 Revolving Accounts Detail Activity Report (July 1995 to July 1996):
 - a) Tree Planting Revolving
 - b) Senior Citizens Services
 - c) Arts in the Parks
 - d) Camp Programs
 - e) Recreation Activities/Classes

2 new accounts:

 - f) Landscape Maintenance
 - g) Field Renovation

Activities of Element: include a brief description of each account plus expenditures.

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(3)

6. Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 18th Commission Meeting.
7. New Business: No new business

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MARCH 18, 1996

7:30PM, City Hall, Room 209

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Members of the Commission joined Mayor Thomas B. Concannon Jr. in the Aldermanic Chamber to hear him present the FY97 Budget to the Board of Aldermen. The Commission meeting reconvened after the presentation.

1. Minutes of the February meeting were accepted.
2. Annual Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman:
Mr. Halloran opened the meeting for election of officers. James Mahoney was nominated for Chairman and Peter Johnson was nominated for Vice Chairman. The voting was unanimous 8-0 for both Mr. Mahoney as Chairman, and Mr. Johnson as Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission members extended their sincere congratulations to both gentlemen.
3. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders. Other information included minutes of the June 21, 1971 meeting in which the commission members (at that time) accepted the proposed rules and regulations for future Commission meetings, Parks & Recreation Department's Contract Specification for Landscape Maintenance, Soccer Clinic for April Vacation, Children's Enrichment Classes, April Senior Information for people "Over 55" and Jordan Marsh (Macy's) benefit shopping day to benefit Parks & Recreation Camps.

Also included was a letter from John Rosenow, President of the National Arbor Day Foundation. The City of Newton is again to be congratulated on being named as 1995 Tree City USA for the 7th year in a row. The Tree City USA award indicates that we take our municipal tree-care responsibilities seriously.

(2)

Regarding Camp Scholarships; The Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Committee awarded the Newton Parks & Recreation Department's Camp Scholarship Fund \$5,000 and the Newton Pride Committee awarded the Camp Scholarship Fund \$2,000. Our many thanks are extended to both committee's for their support.

Landscape Maintenance Task Force: Mayor Concannon recommended that funds collected from the sale of recycled goods be placed in a special account to be used to fund the City's pilot Landscape Maintenance Program, which will start in the Spring.

Newton's Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race will be held on Sunday, April 14th starting from City Hall.

"100th Anniversary" of the Boston Marathon Race will be held on Monday, April 15th, starting from Hopkinton, MA.

4. Budget Update: Mayor Concannon presented the City's budget to the Board of Aldermen on Monday evening, March 18th. The Parks & Recreation Department's budget will be presented before the Programs and Services Committee on April 17th, 1996, in room 222 at City Hall at 9:15PM. All members of the Commission are invited to attend as well as the supervisors from the Parks & Recreation Department.
5. New Business: no new business

Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 22, 1996

7:30PM, CITY HALL, ROOM 209

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternates Peter Kastner and William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Commission Secretary.

Also attending alternate commission member, John Bourgeois

1. Minutes of the March meeting were accepted.
2. **Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders.** Other information included Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration, Funtastic Friday, Children in grades 5-8, Arts in the Parks, Spring 1996 Calendar, Funtastic Friday (5th graders) Try Your Luck Party, Summer Funtastics at the Hut, April 1996 information for those "Over 55", Theatre Buffs & Senior Golf Lessons.

Commissioner Halloran, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, plan to attend the Finance Committee Meeting this evening regarding Landscape Maintenance. Monies collected from the sale of recycled goods will be placed into a special account (\$80,000) to be used to fund the City's pilot Landscape Maintenance Program, which will start in the Spring.

Crystal Lake was stocked with trout again this year.

Commissioner Halloran thanked Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, for the excellent job that she has done in managing Crystal Lake.

Another successful Boston Marathon was held on April 15th. This year's marathon commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Boston Marathon. Also, the 3rd annual Youth Marathon was held on April 14th. Both marathons were extremely successful.

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(2)

3. **Herbicide use in field maintenance contract:** Several meetings have been held with Ellie Goldberg, Green Decade Coalition, Commissioner Halloran, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and an official from the Health Department regarding the use of herbicides at Newton North and South High Schools, Nahanton Park, Burr Park, Brown Middle School, Weeks Fields and soccer field at Albemarle. Out of the 594 acres that the Recreation Department maintains, only 52 acres are slated for a new weed management program. These 52 acres are irrigated athletic fields.

The new plan will be implemented over time, with the Parks & Recreation Department working to use organic, rather than chemical methods to care for public fields. These methods will include aeration, top dressing and overseeding with herbicides used as a last resort.

Bob DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor commented that before the program can be started, the existing weeds need to be brought to a manageable level. This would require spot spraying of herbicides at the above locations. The spraying will be done while schools are on vacation. Flags will be placed on the fields to indicate the sprayed areas and people and animals will be required to stay off those areas for 24 hours following treatment.

In reference to the two newspaper articles one in the Tab and the other in the News Tribune, James Mahoney, Chairman commented that the Tab's article was the best article, regarding minimal use of herbicides and looking toward the non-use of herbicides in the future. Control of the weeds are necessary. Once the public and homeowners are well educated and informed regarding this subject, they will see that the Department is taking care of this responsibility. As of 5 years ago, there was total spraying, none has been done for the past 3 years.

Schools were notified and articles in the newspapers discussed the use of herbicides. James Mahoney, Chairman, noted the commitment to notify everyone, which clearly takes in the concerns of the Green Decade Coalition.

Peter Kastner commented that once the homeowners are made aware of organic herbicides, they will also treat their lawns, etc, successfully. Peter will write a letter regarding pre-emergents.

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Commissioner Halloran commended Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, on the great job that he has done in researching the information regarding herbicides and notifying the public about which specific herbicides will be used.

- 4. **Update on Youth Awards Presentation at Springfest on May 12th, Mothers Day:** Awards will be presented at 1:00PM, the War Memorial at City Hall. Awards will include Judge Franklin N. Flaschner Adult Award, Judge Julian Yesley Youth Adult Award, Officer Robert Braceland Senior Youth Award and the Irene Bickelman Junior Youth Award.
- 5. **Allison Park Update:** The Department has been working with the abutters of Allison Park regarding a question of a fence separating the park from the MDC River Pathway. If the fence is built, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will withdraw the grant. Commissioner Halloran to keep the Commission posted on this.
- 6. **Status of Budget:** The Finance Committee will meet regarding the Parks and Recreation Department's budget.
- 7. **Consideration of Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees:** The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the tennis fees for 1996 permit season as follows:

Season Permit:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 80.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 40.00 |
| Non Resident Adult | \$325.00 |
| Non Resident Student | \$120.00 |

Hourly Rates:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$ 8.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 6.00 |
| Non-Resident | \$ 10.00 |

- 8. **Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for the 1996 swim season:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Adults (18 years & older) | \$ 20.00 |
| Student (6 to 18 years) | \$ 10.00 |
| Non-Permit Holders (daily) | \$ 3.00 |
| Students (daily) | \$ 2.00 |
| Non-Residents (daily) | \$ 6.00 |

Crystal Lake and Gath Pool open June 10th and close on Labor Day.

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9. **New Business:** No new business

Meeting adjourned 7:50PM

Next Commission meeting to be held May 20, 1996

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REVISED

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 20, 1996

7:30PM, CITY HALL, ROOM 209

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, John Bourgeois, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending Alternates, William Ryan and Michael Clarke

1. Minutes of the April meeting were accepted.
2. **Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders.** Other information included Crystal Lake and Gath Pool brochures, 18th Annual Youth Awards, Senior Brochure, Bluegrass Festival and Tennis brochure.

Also included are the new Crystal Lake and Gath Pool brochures for summer 1996.

The 18th Annual Youth Awards were presented at Springfest on Sunday, May 19th. Francis Rice presented the Irene Bickelman Junior Youth Award on behalf of James Mahoney, Chairman.

Francis Rice suggested that next year, each one of the commission members/alternates present a most deserving candidate for one of the Youth Awards. He commented that there was an excellent choice of candidates this year. Mr. Rice also took the opportunity to thank Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Supervisor, for the excellent job that she did in preparation for the Youth Awards.

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JUDGE FRANKLIN N. FLASCHNER ADULT AWARD:

Grayce Troiano

JUDGE JULIAN YESLEY YOUNG ADULT AWARD:

Kerry Lawless and Nicole Leone

OFFICER ROBERT BRACELAND SENIOR YOUTH AWARD:

James Pomeroy & Suzanne Spencer

IRENE BICKELMAN JUNIOR YOUTH AWARD:

Jacqueline Lee

3. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival - Annual Fiesta: Nunzio Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Festival Committee sent in his annual letter to ask permission to hold the society's annual fiesta on July 17, 1996 through July 21, 1996 at Hawthorn Playground. Prior to the Commission meeting, letters were sent to 144 abutters of Hawthorn Park, and also Alderman Anthony Salvucci, Alderman Robert Antonellis, Alderman Robert Gerst, Alderman Carlton Merrill and Alderman Theresa O'Halloran inviting them to attend the commission meeting.

Alderman Antonellis commented that the set up of the Carnival on the Tuesday evening, last year, did not close down at 10:00PM as requested. It was decided that Nunzie Leone would have someone there at Hawthorn to make sure that the time to stop working on the set up would be 10:00PM.

Set up would be Monday, July 15 and 16th, the carnival would be off the field by Tuesday July 23rd. Carnival to be held July 17 through July 21, 1996.

Anthony Battista motioned that the Annual St. Mary of Carmen Fiesta be held on the above dates and that the stipulation be that the St. Mary of Carmen Society abide by the Rules and Regulations set forth in the letter to Nunzio Leone by Commission Russell J. Halloran. Vote was seconded.

The Commission members voted unanimously to accept the request from Nunzio Leone for the Annual St. Mary of Carmen Fiesta to be held at Hawthorn Park with a set up on Monday, July 15th and Tuesday, July 16th, take down will take place on Monday, July 22nd and Tuesday, July 23rd. Actual fiesta will be held Wednesday, July 17, 1996 until Sunday, July 21, 1996.

- 4. **Proposed Clock for Magni-Coletti Park:** Robert Vassalotti recommended an outdoor clock lamppost structure with the lettering of 1630, NONANTUM, The Lake, be placed at Magni-Coletti Park. It was asked that the request be grandfathered in, provided they have the proper permits from Walter Adams, Inspectional Services. To be placed to the right of where the Santa Claus is placed during the winter, and four (4) feet from the boundary on Bridge Street. The Department has been talking with the people about this for years now. This is not a new item.

Francis Rice motioned to accept the proposal for the Lamp Post Clock to be erected at Magni-Coletti Park. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the proposal to erect a Lamp Post Clock at Magni-Coletti Park with the stipulation that the proper permits are adhered to.

- 5. **MAYORS PRAYER BREAKFAST:** To be held on Thursday, May 23rd, 1996, 7:30AM at Boston College.
- 6. **Allison Park Update:** Two meetings have been held with abutters of Allison Park. Residents are requesting that a fence be put up separating Allison Park from the proposed Charles River Pathway to be constructed. Neighbors are concerned with a safety issue. Joel Lerner, Director, Division of Conservation Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, said that any fencing that would disconnect the two parks is totally unacceptable to his office and that we would lose our Grant. Mayor Concannon has informed us that the Department should proceed with the Allison Grant based on the Board approving the grant, approving the monies for the grant, and the selling of the bonds.
- 7. **Status of Budget:** The Parks & Recreation Department's budget for FY97 was approved as presented.
- 8. **New Business:**

Josephine Pepper commented that the reconstruction of both the Newton Centre ballpark and the Auburndale ballpark was excellent. Both places look great.

Commissioner Halloran said that the both jobs were done in house by the Department, under the direction of David Mandatori, Division Foreman, with new bleachers and screening also.

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Regarding the fence around the brook area of Newton Centre Park it is currently on hold pending a petition from the neighbors to take the fence down.

Michael Clarke asked to look at the plans for Livingston and Cronin's Cove at Crystal Lake.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 17, 1996

7:30PM, CITY HALL, ROOM 209

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates in attendance: Peter Kastner, William Ryan and John Bourgeois

1. Minutes of the May meeting were accepted.
2. **Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are enclosed in the folders.** Other information included past recipients of the Youth Awards starting with the year 1983, newspaper article on Nonantum's new clock at Coletti-Magni Park, July 4th Festivities, Planting of Daffodils, Newton's Olympic Torch Relay and Bluegrass Festival.

Also included is a copy of the annual letter to Nunzie Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen, Festival Committee approving the request to hold a carnival on the grounds of Hawthorn Park beginning Wednesday, July 17th until Sunday July 21st, 1996.

Commissioner Halloran congratulated Anthony Battista on his son Michael winning the 2nd consecutive State High School Lacrosse Championship at Longmeadow last Saturday.

Commissioner Halloran congratulated Alternate Commission member, William Ryan, on receiving the "Unsung Hero Award." William is the father of 12 children and 22 grandchildren.

The Board of Aldermen approved CIP Monies for the following:

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Field Renovations | \$65,000 |
| Tree Planting | \$45,000 |
| School grounds | \$45,000 |

Because Allison Park is under construction, The Newton Boy's & Girl's Club have moved their summer camp to Cabot Park. Also a temporary storage trailer will be placed behind the building for supplies during the summer months.

- 3. **Summer plans for tennis, Albemarle, Acres, Centre Acres, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner, Soccer Clinic and Leagues:**
All summer programs are up and ready and are preparing to start when school ends. Tennis has been ongoing and the soccer clinic starts June 27th. All camps will open on or before July 1st. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake opened June 10th. Look forward to a good recreational summer season.
- 4. **Newton North High School Indoor Complex fees for 1996/97:**
User fees for the upcoming season will be as follows:

| | <u>Seasonal Fees</u> | <u>Daily Fees</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Student (6-17) | \$25.00 | \$2.00 |
| Adult (18-62) | \$35.00 | \$3.00 |
| Family | \$95.00 | - |
| Non-Resident | \$95.00 | \$6.00 |

All seasonal users must have an ID card which costs \$5.00 and is good for five years. This year the Department will begin issuing seasonal permits and ID cards at the Gath Pool in mid-August. The Department will also have an early swim lesson registration for lessons at NNHS at Gath Pool after mid-August. Information will be sent to all of the Department's Camp participants as well as to those registered for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake lessons this summer.

The opening day for the Complex will be Monday, October 7, 1996. The pre-season will run from October 2 through October 25. (Monday through Friday only) Regular season activities will begin on October 26, and run through April. Regular season will include Saturday and Sunday morning swimming lessons which are held in 3 sessions running eight weeks per session.

This past spring the pool was open for an additional 2 weeks. The cost was nominal, and the pool was well used. The Department is currently investigating the cost of opening the pool only, Monday through Thursday nights in September as per Sheila Butts, Supervisor.

Newton North Complex Fees are the same as last year.

Motion was made by Anthony Battista to accept the above fees. Motion seconded by Josephine Pepper. The Commission members voted unanimously, 8-0 to accept the recommended fees for the 1996/97 Newton North High School Indoor Complex season.

5. **Camp Scholarships Report:** A camp scholarship meeting was held with James Mahoney, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Mary Brown, Recreation Supervisor, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Supervisor, regarding the selection of scholarships for summer camps. They were happy to announce that all camp registrations were accepted and 46 campers received scholarships for summer camps. Donations were received from CDBG, Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, Newton Pride Committee and Parks & Recreation Department fundraising and \$13,535 in monies were raised.

James Mahoney thanked everyone involved in the raising of monies for summer camp scholarships including the recreation supervisors, Karen Peirce, Sheila Butts, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Judy Dore and Mary Brown, who raised monies throughout the year for the camp scholarships. Mr. Mahoney also thanked Francis Rice for monies received from the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Foundation.

6. **Allison Park Update:** Aldermen Gerst, Merrill and O'Halloran sent a memo to Commissioner Halloran regarding Allison Park: Numerous residents seek a fence for the north perimeter of Allison Park, which the City of Newton plans to renovate. All three aldermen endorse their constituents' recommendation for such a north perimeter fence.

If a fence is constructed the City of Newton loses a \$275,000 grant to construct a new park and the City will lose all future grants.

Alternate Commission member Peter Kastner, spoke regarding Allison and said that there has been a move on for the past 30 years to construct a walkway along the Charles River. This is a major passive recreation/walking area and it is important because of the river. In 1971, 25 groups were consulted on this discussion of a pathway.

After a highly vigorous discussion of Allison Park the commission members instructed Commissioner Halloran to write a letter to Aldermen Gerst, Merrill and O'Halloran, regarding their full endorsement of the original Allison Park Grant Plan. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of the Allison Park plan as presented to the Board of Aldermen and to proceed with the project as originally received.

- 7. **Tree Contract Status:** Tree contract went out to bid for July 1st, 1996. Asplundh Tree Company was the low bidder for the upcoming tree contract. Asplundh Tree Company was also disqualified as they violated the bid process. Lewis Tree Company, the 2nd bidder, and the contractor for the past 6 years for the Department, has agreed to work another year until the tree contract goes out to bid again.
- 8. **July 4th Festivities:**
 10AM to Noon: Kids Morning at Newton Centre Playground
 10:00Am to Dusk: Open Air Market
 5:00PM Picnic
 6:00PM Concert
 9:00PM Fireworks at Albemarle
- 9. **New Business:** Commissioner Halloran wished everyone a very happy, healthy and safe summer season.

Meeting adjourned 8:10PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1996

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also in attendance: Alternates, John Bourgeois, Peter Kastner and William Ryan

- 1. Minutes of the June meeting were accepted.
- 2. **Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders.** Also included "Charles River Pathway" by Peter Kastner, Garden City Clean-up Days, 18th Annual Troubadour Trot & Walk, Tumblish for young children, Music Two-Gether, Children's Enrichment Classes, Kids Korner School Year Program, 1996 Fall Bulb Catalog, Arts in the Parks Fall/Winter Brochure, Newton North Indoor Complex, Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, Tennis for kids and adults, Farmer's Market bookmark and Free Bunny Pass for Tumbling.

All summer programs went extremely well including: July 4th, Gath Pool and Crystal Lake, all camps, leagues and other recreation programs.

Our congratulations to Karen Peirce, Special Needs Director, on the birth of a new baby boy on September 6th. Also congratulations to James Mahoney on the birth of a new baby girl.

- 3. **Report on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** The Parks & Recreation Department worked very closely with the Newton Police, Fire Department, Aldermen, St. Mary of Carmen Society, for a safe and successful Carnival.
- 4. **Update CIP Report:** Evan Katz, Chief Budget Officer, will report back to the Department next week on FY97 budget.

5. **Allison Park Update:** Bids opened last Wednesday, September 11, 1996 and the low bidder was Gaffny Construction from Middleton, MA.
6. **Harvest Fair:** Sunday, October 13, 1996, Newton Centre Green, rain date, Sunday, October 20th, 12:00 to 5:00PM.
7. **New Business:** Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, new golf date set for guest lunch and round of golf on October 1, 1996 per Fran Rice.

Meeting adjourned 7:40PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1996

CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternates, Peter Kastner and William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also in attendance alternate John Bourgeois.

- 1. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted.
- 2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Also enclosed is information on Skiing at Nashoba Valley, Newton North Indoor Complex 96/97 "Learn to Swim Program", Diving Program, Lifeguard Training, Halloween Party, Introduction to Volleyball and Kids Korner Parents Guide.

Newton Rewards Its Own: A press release was sent to local newspapers regarding the Outstanding Employee of the Year Award. Carol Stapleton, Supervisor, received the "Employee of the Year Award" for outstanding performance in carrying out her duties during the calendar year.

The "Innovative Contribution Award" was presented to Bob DeLuca, Newton Health Department who is ready and willing to help not only his fellow employees in his department and other City departments, but extends his helping attitude and enthusiasm to serve in his work for the citizens of Newton. Also Lieutenant Robert F. McDonald, Civil Rights Violations Officer, Newton Police Department, for his work in the area of Human Rights, Domestic Violence, and the development of PAVE, a continuation of the DARE program.

Newton is justifiably proud of the three deserving employees and we thank them for their contribution to making Newton a very special place in which to live.

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The October's Harvest Fair was again highly successful.

Due to a bad wind and rain storm during the weekend of October 19th & 20th, 8-9 City trees came down, 100 tree limbs were picked up and numerous basements of people's homes were flooded.

Included in the folders is a notice for a Free Public Symposium, "Newton's Parks & Open Spaces; Now & the Future" on Thursday, November 14, 1996, 7:30PM at the Newton Free Library. In attendance on the panel will be James Mahoney, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, Parks & Recreation Department, Richard Staley, Conservation, Douglas Dickson, Landscape Maintenance Committee, Dan Driscoll, MDC, Green Decade, Planning Department, and Andrea Kelley, Public Space Coordinator.

Also, Burton Elliott is the new President of the Conservators.

- 3. Crystal Lake and Gath Pool summer attendance figures:
Crystal Lake and Gath Pool attendance figures are enclosed in the folders.
Walter Bernheimer suggested that next fall the Department give a comparison on figures for both 1996 and 1997 for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake. Good suggestion and will be done for the next summer season.
- 4. Allison Park: Construction was started at Allison Park last week. On October 30th, 1996 there will be an official groundbreaking ceremony. Plans for the park are on schedule and the construction deadline is June of 1997.

Phase I consists of 40 parking lot spaces, basketball court, little league baseball field, tot lot, elevated (earth fill) basketball court, which will serve as a multifunctional outdoor stage for theatrical group usages, irrigation system/well, upgrading comfort station, drinking fountains. Phase II is to dress the entrance, lighting, picnic area, tot equipment, exercise trail, bocce court.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commission, has done a great job working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the Allison Park project. Gaffny Construction is the contractor and everything is on schedule.

Peter Kastner mentioned that the Newton Conservators are sponsoring a walk with Dan Driscoll from the MDC next week, regarding encroachment of property.

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5. Status Capital Improvement Program: The Department should hear this week from the Mayor's Office regarding CIP on Gath & Crystal, Nahanton Park entrance on Winchester Street, City Hall Landscaping, Motor Vehicle replacement, Court Repairs, Lighting at Albemarle, Tot Lots and Tree Replacements.
6. New Business: A suggestion was made for the Commission members to change the seating around the table for the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. This was taken under advisement.

Meeting adjourned: 8:04PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1996
CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, John Bourgeois, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also in attendance: Alternates, Peter Kastner and William Ryan

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting** were accepted.
2. **Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders.** Also included, Introduction to Volleyball, Ice Skating Lessons, Lacrosse League, Curious George Performance, Newton's Commemorative Throw, "Over 55" December listings, Like Lazarus, play, Water Aerobics, Low Impact Aerobics, Hyde Community Center, Live TV Broadcast, Middle School.

Highlights of 1996 Census, Parks & Recreation, Public Facilities Maintenance, 96.8%, Senior Adult Recreation Programs 97.0%, Adult Recreation Programs 95.8%, Outdoor Recreation Facilities 95.8% and Youth Recreation programs 95.6%. Parks & Recreation Department rated in the top 90%.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner is the point person for attending meetings on Dog Parks in the City. At the first meeting the discussion included, sites, criteria, creating dog owner associations, municipal role and other canine issues. Safe fenced areas where dogs can run loose and play with other dogs may be the wave of the future.

3. **Report on Parks and Open Space Forum:** On Thursday, November 14, 1996 at 7:30PM at the Newton Free Library, Public Officials discussed our open space operations, projects and future plans. James Mahoney, Chairman of the Commission, was one of the panelists: others panelists included: members of the Newton Conservators, League of Women Voters, Green Decade Coalition, Newton Neighborhood network who all answered questions from people in the audience. Mr. Mahoney, Chairman commented that more public dialogue is needed regarding open space in the Garden City of Newton.

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Peter Kastner, alternate member commented that Mr. Mahoney did an excellent job in answering questions at this meeting.

Commissioner Halloran commented that the Commission welcomes any issues, and that an issue can be place on the agenda and brought up at a monthly commission meeting. The Commission is willing and happy to work with the public on issues that concern them.

Burton Elliott, President, of the Newton Conservators, said that Open Space has never been a high priority in the City of Newton. It is hoped that the Wabasso Street property will be bought by the City and turned over to the Parks and Recreation Department. We want to keep Newton the "Garden City".

Also it was suggested that Faye mail copies of the Boston College Open Space Study to Commission members.

Commissioner Halloran thanked Chairman, James Mahoney for the excellent job that he did at the Newton's Parks & Open Spaces symposium on Thursday, November 14th, 7:30PM at Drucker Auditorium, main library.

4. **CIP UPDATE:** The CIP Budget for FY97 is \$521,000. This includes:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Facilities & Equipment..... | \$211,000. |
| Park and Playfield Maintenance... | \$ 45,000. |
| Park Benches..... | \$ 15,000. |
| Crystal Lake Coves | |
| Phase I Landscaping..... | \$ 50,000. |
| Nahanton Park Landscaping..... | \$ 17,500. |
| City Hall Landscaping..... | \$ 55,000. |

| | |
|-------|------------|
| Total | \$521,000. |
|-------|------------|

5. **Allison Park Update:** Groundbreaking Ceremony held for landscape improvements to Allison Park. The restoration of the park will be done in two phases. Phase One will consist of field renovations and irrigation system from well water and drinking fountains. Parking spaces and upgraded comfort stations will be completed before Phase Two, which will include lighting, picnic areas and an exercise trail.

6. **Skating Rules and Regulations for 1996/97:** The commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Skating Rules and Regulations for 1996/97. Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department.

(3)

Hours of operation at Auburndale, Bullough's Pond and Crystal Lake:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 3:00PM - 9:00PM |
| Tuesday, Thursday | 2:00PM - 9:00PM |
| Saturday, Sunday, Holidays, Vacations | 10:00AM - 9:00PM |

*Bulloughs Pond and Crystal Lake close at dusk daily

If attendance does not warrant keeping a facility or facilities open during the evening hours, it is then recommended that a cutback of hours be instituted as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday, Wednesday | 3:00PM - 6:00PM |
| Tuesday, Thursday | 2:00PM - 6:00PM |
| Friday | 3:00PM - 9:00PM |
| Saturday, Sunday, Holidays, Vacation | 10:00AM - 9:00PM |

The following standards are used in determining sufficient ice thickness for safe skating:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Auburndale - Ware's Cove | 6" Black Ice, | 9" Snow Ice |
| Newtonville - Bullough's | 6" Black Ice, | 9" Snow Ice |
| Newton Centre - Crystal Lake | 6" Black Ice, | 9" Snow Ice |

- 7. **Update on Summer Camp Scholarships:** This summer forty six (46) applications for camp scholarships were received. Fortunately there was enough monies for the forty six children to go to summer camp. The Camp Scholarship Fund granted \$8,580 in scholarships from monies raised, plus \$4,000 in Community Development Scholarships. Total given \$12,580.

Scholarship Breakdown by Program:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------------|
| Camp Echo Bridge | \$ 250 | CD Funds | \$ 250 | Camp S. Funds |
| Albemarle Acres | \$1,490 | CD Funds | \$3,600 | Camp S. Funds |
| Kids Korner | \$ 160 | CD Funds | \$1,305 | Camp S. Funds |
| Centre Acres | \$2,100 | CD Funds | \$3,350 | Camp S. Funds |
| Outdoor Adventure | \$4,000 | CD Funds | \$8,580 | Camp S. Funds |

- 8. **New Business:** No new business.

Again, Commissioner Halloran thanked James Mahoney, Chairman, for the excellent job that he did as a panelist for Newton's Parks and Open Spaces at the Drucker Auditorium on Thursday, November 14th.

Meeting adjourned: 8:38PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1996
CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman
Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper,
Peter Kastner, Alternate, William Ryan, Alternate,
Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays,
Secretary

1. **Minutes of the November meeting** were accepted.
2. **Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders.** Also included is a newspaper article by Burton Elliott, President, Newton Conservators regarding A Balanced Open Space Plan for Newton, Special Needs Program Winter/Spring Newsletter, Mayor's New Year's Open House, Funtastic Fridays Party, Children's Enrichment Classes, Winter/Spring and Archery Lessons.

Walter Bernheimer predicted that there would be 14 ice skating days and Josephine Pepper predicted seven for 96/97.

James Mahoney, Chairman, complimented Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, for receiving the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association 1996 Community Branch "**Professional of the Year Award**" on December 12, 1996. Also Commissioner Halloran received a City of Newton Testimonial Citation from the Honorable Mayor, Thomas B. Concannon, Jr., Board of Aldermen and the citizens of Newton in which they extended him their most heartiest of congratulations of his being chosen for this most prestigious award.

All of the Commission members congratulated Mr. Halloran and said that they were very proud of him and his accomplishments.

Commissioner Halloran commented that the Parks & Recreation Budget would be presented at the January Commission Meeting.

3. **Allison Park:** Weekly meetings are now being held until construction is completed. James Mula, City Engineer said that the project is on schedule and completion should be the end of June 1997.

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4. **Budget Update:** Unofficially the Parks & Recreation budget will be cut by \$100,000, Fire \$750,000, Police \$500,000 and schools \$1,500,000 and Public Works \$300,000.
5. **New Business:** Francis Rice announced that the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Commission will be holding a fund-raiser on June 7th, 1997 and monies raised would go to the Newton Boys and Girls Club and also the YMCA.

It will also be the 100th Anniversary of the Golf Course and Mr. Rice asked everyone's help that day to successfully run the fund-raiser. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Josephine Pepper asked the status of the Newton Highlands football field and Commissioner Halloran commented that there is \$25,000 in the CIP account for restoration of the field.

Also it was mentioned that William Ryan, Alternate Commission member has twenty four (24) grandchildren. Mr. Ryan received congratulations from all of the Commission members.

Meeting adjourned 7:50PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1997

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Peter Kastner, Alternate, William Ryan, Alternate, John Bourgeois, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

1. **Minutes of the December meeting** were accepted.
2. **Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders.** Also included in the folders are: Community Professional of the Year Award as presented by the Mass Parks & Recreation Association to Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, re-appointment of four commission members, list of term expiration dates for commission members, information on the purchase of Wabasso Street property by the City/property to become a passive park, ordinances for volunteer work on city property, letter from Gertrude & Oscar LaRosee regarding the re-naming of Allison Park to the "Richard Forte" Park, selling of city street trees that are taken down, and the selling the firewood to raise monies, Center Acres summer program, Kids Korner summer program, Fun with Math and Crafts, Children's Enrichment Classes, Lifeguard Training, WSI Instructor Course, swim lessons, diving programs, Hansel & Gretel, Ice Skating lessons and men's basketball schedules.

Also Commissioner Halloran commented that Francis Rice is the longest serving member of the Parks & Recreation Commission with 26 years of devoted service.

3. **Update on Allison Park:** On target with a completion date of June 30th, 1997. Meetings are held weekly regarding the construction progress. The Allison Park land was given to the City by the Allison family in 1881. Commissioner Halloran has inquired through the Law Department if there are any deed restrictions in re-naming Allison Park. Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner will submit information regarding the acquiring of Allison Park at the February Commission meeting.

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4. **Nominations for Youth Awards:** The 19th Annual Youth Awards nomination forms are in the folders. Nominations are being accepted for four awards. The deadline for nominations is April 11, 1997. Ceremony to be held Sunday, May 11, 1997, 1:00PM, Festival of the Arts, War Memorial at City Hall.
5. **Budget Update:** Anticipated Parks & Recreation's budget cut for 98' is \$100,000.
6. **CIP Update:** A request was sent to the Board of Aldermen requesting \$521,000 for Parks and Recreation Capital Supplemental Budget FY97. This year's CIP is divided into two categories, Park/playfield Maintenance and Facilities and Equipment. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 5th to present the CIP budget to the Programs and Services Committee, Leonard Gentile, Chairman.
7. **New Business:** There was a discussion as to holding a special meeting early in February to present the budget to the Commission. It was decided that the budget would be presented at the regularly scheduled February 24th meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 8:04PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1997

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30pm

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Anthony Battista, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates, John Bourgeois, William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alternate Peter Kastner

1. Minutes of the January Meeting were accepted.
2. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders. Also included in the folders are: There were (16) sixteen days of ice skating at the Auburndale Cove, newspaper article on appointed commission's and committee's, brochures on Outdoor Adventure, Arts in the Parks Winter/Spring, Newton Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race, Funtastic Friday, Senior Volleyball Benefit, Senior Men's Softball and March Senior Programs. Commissioner also mentioned that Stephanie Pelkowsky, Supervisor, will be a mother for the third time next month. She is our Director for the Newton Cable TV Show, Many World of the Parks and Recreation Department and does an excellent job. James Mahoney, Chairman, also commented that an excellent job is being done at the Friday night ski program at Nashoba, of which Stephanie is in charge. A fundraiser is also being held at Post 440 to help send our 1996 Massachusetts Senior Olympic Women's Volleyball Gold Medal Winner to the National Games in Tucson, Arizona, which includes Parks & Recreation's Judy Dore and Mary Brown, Supervisors.

Thomas B. Concannon, Mayor, has sent a letter to the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Commission requesting that \$5,000 be donated to the Parks & Recreation Camp Scholarship Fund.

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- 3. **Parks & Recreation Budget:** Mayor Concannon's recommended budget for 1997/98 was \$3,474,158, slightly higher than 1996/97 operating budget of \$3,460,148. Mayor Concannon to present the budget at the March 17th Board of Aldermen's meeting at 7:45PM in the Aldermanic Chambers. Commissioner Halloran highly recommends the Parks and Recreation budget. Anthony Battista motioned to recommend the budget with Francis Rice seconding. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 for the proposed 97/98 Parks & Recreation Budget.
- 4. **Election of Officers:** Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 17th Commission Meeting.
- 5. **Allison Park Update:** Construction is on schedule and they are on target for a completion date of June 30th, 1997. A meeting is scheduled at Allison for next Thursday.
- 6. **Re-Naming of Allison Park:** Gertrude and Oscar Larosee of 288 California Street have requested that Allison Park be re-named the "Richard Forte" Park, in memory of one of Newton's deceased Vietnam war veterans who grew up in the neighborhood. The Department has checked with the Law Department and there are no deed restrictions in re-naming the park.

As per the "General Policy for naming Parks", abutters will be sent letters regarding the next Commission Meeting to discuss the re-naming of the park, press release will also be sent to the newspapers informing the general public of this discussion.

- 7. **New Business:** Francis Rice, Commission member and Chairman of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, discussed the upcoming Newton Commonwealth Foundation Golf Outing on June 7, 1997 which is the "100th Anniversary of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course".

Mr. Rice distributed information regarding the outing on June 7th and asked for everyone's help in making the 100th Anniversary of the Golf Course a complete success.

Meeting adjourned 8:35PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1997

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Anthony Battista, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Alternate John Bourgeois, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

- 1. Minutes of the February meeting were accepted.
- 2. Annual election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:
The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 for James Mahoney as Chairman of the Commission.
The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 for Peter Johnson as Vice Chairman of the Commission.

The Commission members congratulated both James and Peter as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- 3. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Commissioner's Report of Events are in the folders, March Senior activities, Fundraiser, senior volleyball, Arts in the Parks Winter/Spring events, Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Brochure. Also included newspaper article, "Peers honor Newton Recreation Chief" Commissioner Halloran.

News article regarding Jean's Snack Bar Senior Olympic Volleyball Team that will represent the Parks and Recreation Department's Women's volleyball team to represent Massachusetts at the National Senior Olympics in Tucson, Arizona in May. Recreation teammates include Judy Dore, Supervisor, Mary Brown, Senior Director, Jean Cole, Assistant Senior Director and Judy Slamin. The Commission members certainly wish the volleyball team the best at the games in Arizona. Fundraiser to be held on Friday, April 4, 1997 at Post 440.

At 7:45PM the Commission members met in the Aldermanic Chamber for Mayor Thomas B. Concannon's presentation of the City of Newton's budget to the Board of Aldermen. Meeting reconvened at 8:30PM in room 209.

Commissioner Halloran also informed the commission members that Howard Ferguson, former commission member passed away on March 17th, 1997. Mr. Ferguson was a devoted and dedicated member of the commission for 19 years from August 1972 to April 1991. "Fergie" was 88 years old and will be sadly missed by the Commission members.

4. Discussion and vote on the re-naming of Allison Park in memory of Richard Forte. Request received from Gertrude and Oscar LaRosee to rename the park to one of Newton's deceased Vietnam Veterans who grew up in the neighborhood.

Also in attendance were Alderman Theresa O'Halloran, Alderman Robert Gerst and Alderman Carleton Merrill.

Gertrude and Oscar LaRosee spoke regarding their letter to the Commission about re-naming Allison Park the Richard J. Forte Memorial Park. Richard spent a great many hours of time at Allison Playground, plus he lost his life in Vietnam in the line of duty, and they said it would be wonderful to honor Richard in this way, by naming a park after him. Commissioner Halloran also highly recommended the name change and said that it would be a privilege and honor to do so.

Many members of the community present and were all in favor of naming the park after Richard. Commission member Anthony Battista fully supports the re-naming of the park and commented that Richard gave the supreme sacrifice to his country, his life.

Alderman Carleton Merrill urged the commission to re-name the park as this would be a great place to preserve the young man's memory.

Alderman Theresa O'Halloran supported the re-naming of the park to the Richard J. Forte Memorial Park. Richard was a native son who gave his life for his country and the Forte family would be pleased of the re-naming of the park.

Alderman Robert Gerst supported the re-naming of the park to memorialize Richard and said that all of the people here tonight are for the re-naming of the park to the Richard J. Forte Memorial Park.

Anthony Battista motioned that Allison Park be re-named the Richard J. Forte Memorial Park. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

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Walter Bernheimer commented that he was not sure if it was appropriate to name the entire park after one person. Also he was not sure as to what an appropriate name would be. He would like to have chosen from a variety of other names pertaining to the park as a whole.

Anthony Pellegrini commented that he was in favor of the re-naming of the park.

James Mahoney commented that a letter was sent in by Peter Kastner, Alternate commission member, and that Peter could not be here tonight. Peter's comment was that he felt it was best to name parks after locations or neighborhoods whenever possible. He recommends that recognizing Richard Forte by reinforcing his association with the site by field specific naming and involving the community in a process to come up with a new park name that is relevant to the location, community and nature of the park - but not name the park after an individual.

Mrs. LaRosee commented that Richard loved and lived at Allison Park. A friend of Richard's commented that it would be a lasting memorial to a friend that lost his life at the front lines in the Army Infantry during the Vietnam War.

Alderman Merrill commented that all the streets in Oak Hill Park are named after World War II veterans and that Richard Forte served his country well.

Peter Johnson also commented on the re-naming of parks after one particular person also.

Commissioner Halloran said, he most highly recommends the re-naming of Allison Park to Richard Forte Memorial Park.

James Mahoney Chairman, commented that the 1994 adoptive policy guidelines were used in conjunction with the re-naming of the park and the policy was adhered to.

Commission members voted 6-2 to rename Allison Park the Richard J. Forte Memorial Park. Members opposed were Walter Bernheimer and Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman.

- 5. CIP Update: Parks and Recreation projects will be voted on later this evening by the Board of Aldermen.
- 6. Budget Update: April 9th, the Parks and Recreation Budget will be presented to the Programs and Services Committee in Room 222.

(4)

7. 1997 Tennis Rules and Regulations: Fees are the same as 1996, only change was the hours. The Commission voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the 1997 Tennis Rules and Regulations.
8. New Business: No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 28, 1997

City Hall - Room 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternates William Ryan and Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary.

Also attending John Bourgeois, Alternate Commission member

- 1. **Minutes of the March meeting were accepted.**
- 2. **Reports on Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Reports of Events and Meetings.**

Also included in folders, the Newton Women's Volleyball team being sent to the Senior Olympics in Arizona, article on Howard Ferguson, former commission member, Commission members re-appointed, Francis Rice, Peter Johnson and Robert Platt, Arts in the Parks, Senior Activities, Golf Lessons, Cultural Events Calendar, Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Centennial Tournament brochure and Kids Fun Fest.

The Marathon Route was cleaned up the next day by 10:00AM in the morning by City workers.

- 3. **Update on Youth Awards Presentation at Festival of the Arts (formerly Springfest) on May 11th.** Mayor Thomas B. Concannon, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Francis Rice, Commission member, to be presenters at the Youth Awards on May 11th, rain date, following weekend.
- 4. **Allison Park Update:** Weekly meetings are being held on Tuesdays and construction plans are on target for completion date of June 30th. Dedication this summer or after Labor Day.
- 5. **Status of Budget:** On April 9th the Programs and Services Committee voted 8-0 for the Parks & Recreation Budget. Budget to go before the Board of Aldermen this evening at 7:00PM.

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6. **Tree Storm Damage:** Enclosed letter sent to the Honorable Mayor Thomas B. Concannon Jr. on April 17th regarding the appropriation of \$485,332 to cover the costs incurred for tree and snow emergencies from July 1, 1996 to April 30, 1997.

Commissioner commented that this was the worst tree storm ever for damage to trees in Newton. The Parks & Recreation Department is working in cooperation with the Public Works Department and tree contractor to clean the City of the storm damage to trees. Tub Grinders are grinding up the brush at Rumford Avenue and Nahanton Park. A meeting is being scheduled with Richard Robinson to discuss restrictions on the dumping of brush at Nahanton Park in the future.

Also Commissioner Halloran praised Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner regarding the excellent job that she has done in coordinating the clean up of the April Fool's Day snow storm that left the City devastated with fallen tree's and tree limbs. Fran has worked very closely with the Public Works Department, contractors and Richard Metro, Superintendent of Urban Forestry.

7. **Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** Swim Rules and Regulations for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool are the same as 1996. The swim facilities will be open the second Monday in June until Labor Day. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the swim rules and regulations for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool for 1997.
8. **Request to use garden plot on City Hall Drive for purpose of restoring the water fountain to be dedicated in memory of the deceased employees of the City of Newton:** Robert DeRubeis, Acting Director of Personnel, has requested permission for the use of the garden plot on City Hall Drive for the purpose of restoring the water fountain to be dedicated in memory of the deceased employees of the City of Newton. After a brief discussion the Commission voted unanimously 8-0 to recommend the use of the garden plot for the purpose of restoring the water fountain, subject to compatibility of the Olmstead Plan.
9. **Letter from Elliot Loew, President Newton South Little League, requesting a special meeting to discuss use of P.A. System at Richardson Little League Field.** A letter was written to James Mahoney, Chairman, from Elliott M. Lowe, President, Newton South Little League regarding Richardson Playground and the use of amplified sound to announce games. Also information was received from Burton Elliott and Robert Pettipaw regarding the sound system complaint.

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After a brief discussion it was decided that a special commission meeting needed to be held. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5th, 7:30PM at City Hall regarding the PA system used for little league games at Richardson Field on Allen Avenue in Waban. Elliott Loew, Burton Elliott and Robert Pettipaw will be invited to attend.

10. **New Business:** Francis Rice is still procuring ads for a commemorative book for the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Centennial Tournament on Saturday, June 7, 1997. He also complimented Josephine Pepper for her assistance for this worthwhile cause.

Meeting adjourned: 7:02PM

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SPECIAL NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 5, 1997

7:30PM, CAFETERIA, CITY HALL

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternate John Bourgeois, Russell J. Halloran and Faye Hays Secretary

Also attending Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member

A special meeting was held to discuss the issue of an amplified sound system during Little League games at Richardson Playground on Allen Avenue in Waban.

Commissioner Russell J. Halloran welcomed everyone to the meeting including Elliot Loew, President, Newton South Little League, Jerry Silverman, Treasurer, John Furst, Player Agent and Robert Pettipaw, resident, neighbor, abutter to Richardson Field.

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and invited Mr. Pettipaw to speak first.

Robert Pettipaw represented 28 families in the Richardson Field neighborhood area. He commented about the loud decibel level of the amplified PA system that is used evenings and weekends during the Little League baseball season. He said that every time a batter gets up his/her name is announced. Also he spoke of Section 20, 13B of the Nuisance Ordinance for the City of Newton. The listening of the amplified PA system all week, plus all day on Saturday's, leads to stress and heart attacks and that you can hear the calling of the games a quarter of a mile away. Mr. Pettipaw also said that you can hear the umpire call the sounds verbally without a sound system. He said that he is not against the children playing the games, just the sound system. Residents should not have to suffer the weekly and weekend sounds of the amplified sound system.

Mr. Pettipaw surveyed other cities and towns including, Boston, Needham, Watertown, Wellesley, Norwood, Waltham and Belmont. Needham has opening day announcements, Waltham has a PA system for the All Star Games as does Belmont.

Comments from the audience were:

- Sounds like a rock and roll band and you cannot open the windows at home
- Lives next to playground and cannot sit outside during games
- Lady has lived in her house for the past 30 years, and the last 10 have been the worst with the PA system
- A mother-to-be would like peace and quiet in the neighborhood with a new baby coming soon
- A neighbor supports the Little League but not the sound system
- Neighbor works at home and this is an infringement of his rights to privacy
- It is wonderful to have the kids at the playground playing ball but hearing each batter's name is not necessary
- Two residents agreed that they do not mind the amplified sound system at the games and they do enjoy watching the games

Elliott Lowe, President of Newton South Little League: introduced Jerry Silverman, Treasurer and John Furst, Player Agent

Mr. Lowe sent a letter to James Mahoney, Chairman, Commission regarding an amplified sound system at Richardson Playground on Allen Avenue in Waban, to announce batters, and messages to spectators, opening day ceremonies, playoffs and tournament play. He requested a meeting of the Commission to address this issue since neighbors are strongly opposed to the amplified sound system.

Mr. Lowe said that the sound system is used for a purpose, for experience for little leaguers. The sound system has been used for the past 10 years and he said last year he heard a complaint from one neighbor only. He was surprised that people were complaining. The sound system is used from May to June, 6 1/2 weeks per year. The sound system has a volume control on it and he is willing to lower the volume which is 1 1/2 - 3 on the dial. Playoffs are starting on June 12th and he would like to be able to use the sound system. He is willing to agree to keep the volume at a lower decibel level for the balance of this season. Memorial Day they have playoffs and a City series and would like to be able to use the amplified sound system. Mr. Loew has hired 3 responsible announcers for the games.

Comments from commission members were: is it necessary to call out each name and number of player, Newton North Little League does not use PA System, what is the decibel level, the playground is right in the middle of residential homes and an amplified system should not be used without the permission of the Commission, if abutters object to the system, cancel it unless an agreeable compromise can be agreed upon, the vote should be a yes or no vote!

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John Furst said that he hoped that there are no bad feeling against the Little League.

Robert Platt motioned to abolish the amplified sound system at Richardson Field in Waban for Little League Baseball. Walter Bernheimer seconded.

Elliott Loew asked that the commission consider that this is the first time he has been confronted with the sound system issue and for the commission members to consider his proposal which merits attention to lower the decibel level.

Walter Bernheimer commented that if Mr. Loew could come to an agreement with the abutters, that he could return to the Commission for another discussion and vote.

The Commission members voted 7-1 to abolish the use of the amplified sound system at Richardson Field on Allen Avenue in Waban. Peter Johnson opposed.

James Mahoney, Chairman, commented that members of the Commission could make a motion to reconsider the vote and no one made the motion.

Meeting adjourned: 8:40PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 19, 1997

7:30PM, ROOM 209 AT CITY HALL

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Alternate William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending alternate commission member Peter Kastner

1. **Minutes of the April meeting were accepted. Also, minutes of the special May 5th meeting were accepted after a change in the last paragraph of the minutes.**
2. **Reports on Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Reports of Events and Meetings.** Also included in the folders, three letters from Elliott Loew, reappointment of Michael Clarke, Commission member, 19th Annual Your Awards brochure, men's & women's softball game schedules, senior brochures, Theatre Buffs, June Senior programs, Low Impact Aerobics, Arts & Parks brochure and Norumbega Park Centennial
3. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival - Annual Fiesta:** Nunzio Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Festival Committee sent a letter to the Parks & Recreation Department requesting the St. Mary of Carmen Society's celebration of its Annual Fiesta on July 16th, 1997 through July 20, 1997 at Hawthorn Playground. The Parks & Recreation Department sent a letter to 154 abutters/Aldermen regarding the meeting for the July Fiesta. Commissioner Halloran recommended that the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival be held again at Hawthorn Playground with the same rules and regulations as the past three years. There have been no problems for the past three years and the Commissioner commended Bob Vaselotti for being a liasion with the neighbors and seeing to the safety of the area. Alderman Robert Antonellis was in attendance.

The Carnival would be from July 16, 1997 to July 20, 1997, set up July 14th and 15, and take down, July 21st and 22nd.

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Anthony Battista requested that there be no fireworks in the streets and Nunzie Leone, Chairman of the St. Mary of Carmen Festival committee agreed.

Commissioner Halloran proposed that the Society meet all the rules and regulations made by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Motion was made to approve the Annual Fiesta Celebration. Motion was seconded.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the request from Nunzio Leone for the St. Mary of Carmen's Annual Fiesta from July 16, 1997 to July 20, 1997. Set up on Monday, July 14th and Tuesday, July 15th, and take down Monday, July 21st and Tuesday, July 22, 1997.

The members of the St. Mary of Carmen Society thanked the Commission members for the approval of their request and also introduced four new young members of the St. Mary of Carmen Society.

- 4. **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, May 22nd, 7:30AM to 9:00AM, McElroy Commons Dining Room, Boston College, tickets \$12.00.**
- 5. **Allison Park Update:** Meetings are held weekly at the site and completion date is the end of June.
- 6. **Status of Budget:** The budget was submitted as presented as passed by the Board of Aldermen and committee's.
- 7. **New Business:** No new business

Meeting adjourned: 7:45PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 16, 1997

7:30PM, ROOM 209 at City Hall

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: alternate commission members Peter Kastner and Jack Bourgeois

1. Minutes of the May meeting were accepted.
2. Reports on Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Reports of Events and Meetings are enclosed in the folders. Also included in the folders, July 3rd and 4th celebrations, letter to Nunzie Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Carnival - July, First Aid/CPR classes, Bluegrass Festival, The Newton Report and Senior Programs.
3. Summer plans for tennis, Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner, Soccer Clinic, leagues, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. All camps start June 30th and if any commission members need pool passes, please contact Faye at the office.

At the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course's Golf Tournament, run by Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Commission member, won the golf lessons prize. Congratulations to Jo!

4. **Newton North High School Indoor Complex Fees for 1997/98 season.**

Recommendations for 1997/98 season:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Students (6-17) | \$25.00 seasonal | \$2.00 daily |
| Adults (18-62) | \$35.00 seasonal | \$3.00 daily |
| Family (2 adults & children under 17) | \$95.00 seasonal | |
| Non-Resident | \$95.00 seasonal | \$6.00 daily |

All seasonal users must have an ID card which costs \$5.00 and is valid for five years.

Opening day is Monday, October 6th.

Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to keep the same Newton North High School Indoor Complex fees as per the previous year.

5. **Camp Scholarships Report:** There were 63 applicants for camp scholarships this summer season. Fortunately there has been enough monies raised to send all 63 applicants to summer camp. Monies were received from CDBG, also Great Harvest Bread was sold at the Farmer's Market all season and the Department made .25 per loaf. Over \$1,000 was raised by selling the bread. The Commissioner thanked Francis Rice for a generous donation of \$5,000 from the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Foundation. The Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the CDBG guidelines for low to moderate income families.

The Parks & Recreation Department worked hard this past year to raise monies for the scholarship fund by having fundraisers and selling items.

The scholarships were awarded June 16, 1997. The Department is pleased to announce that 63 individual children were awarded camp scholarships to the sum of \$19,150.00 This totals 218 weeks of Camp. The Commissioner thanked James Mahoney, Chairman, Mary Brown and Stephanie Pelkowsky for their participation in the selection of Camp Scholarships.

6. **Allison Park Update:** The project should be finished at the end of June, grass will be planted in early fall and the dedication of the park will be after Labor Day.

(3)

7. **July 4th Festivities:** Include Kids Morning at Newton Centre Playground, Grande Pet Parade, Decorated doll carriages, Open Air Market at Albemarle Field, 5:00PM Picnic, 6:00PM Children's Choir, Fireworks at 9:00PM with Tony Gentile, Master of Fireworks. This was sponsored by the Newton Pride Committee.

8. **New Business:** No new business. There are no meetings during the months of July and August. Commissioner Halloran wished everyone a great happy and healthy summer.

Meeting adjourned: 7:55PM

205

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

CITY HALL - ROOM 209 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending alternates: Peter Kastner, Jack Bourgeois, William Ryan and Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the June meeting were accepted.**
2. **Reports of summer programs, maintenance, Commissioner's reports of events and meetings are enclosed in the folders.** Also included are the Accomplishments of the Parks & Recreation Department, Highlights of the City Census, yearly letter to Mayor Concannon, Newton North Indoor Complex fees, join the Newton 2000 Committee, Children's Enrichment Classes, Tumbling, "Talkabout" for parents & toddlers, Over 55, senior programs, Music Together, Fall Bulb Catalog, Commonwealth Golf Course's 100th Centennial and Arts in the Parks brochure.

Commissioner Halloran welcomed everyone back from their summer vacation including Michael Clarke who is back from his sabbatical in Washington D.C.

The dedication for Weeks Field was held Saturday, September 6th. James Mahoney, Chairman, and Josephine Pepper, of the Parks & Recreation Commission attended the ceremonies along with Douglas Dickson, Chairman, Landscape Maintenance Committee and Chairman of the Tree Commission.

The Commissioner commented that it was a good summer, camps, leagues, July 4th celebration, Farmer's Market, concerts and all of the other recreation programs went very well. On Saturday, June 7th, the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course celebrated their 100th centennial. Overall, it was one of the best summers that the Department has had.

3. **Report on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** There were no complaints this year, regarding the Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival held at Hawthorn Park.

Elvis Day will be held on Sunday, September 14th, in honor of Joanne Pellegrini, wife of Anthony Pellegrini. This will be the last Elvis Day festivity at Hawthorn. There were no complaints to the Police Department, however, two people called the office saying that the program ran overtime.

- 4. **CIP Update:** CIP items voted on by the Board of Aldermen were Vehicle replacements, playfield improvements, Crystal Lake Cove Improvements, Albemarle lighting improvements, Gath Pool Accessibility Improvements, tennis court improvements, park bench replacments tree plantings, City Hall Landscaping and Reverend Ford Playground Improvements.
- 5. **Allison Park/Richard Forte Memorial Park:** Dedication to be held in the middle of October. The sod is down now and the area needs to be loamed and grass seed planted. Notices will be sent and poster made for the dedication.
- 6. **Beautification Awards:** Awards to be held on Monday, September 22nd, 1997 in the War Memorial at 7:00PM. One of the "Community Awards" is being given to Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, for her sustained efforts to win grants for tree plantings along Washington Street from Newton Corner to Newtonville and Hornbeam tree plantings on Walnut Street, Newtonville, plus additional grants for trees at Newton City Hall.
- 7. **Harvest Fair:** To be held on Sunday, October 19, 1997 at the Newton Centre Green.
- 8. **New Business:** Commissioner Halloran commented that Phil Mastroianni Corp., re-sodded the football field at Newton North High School and it looks great.

Also, meetings have been held to determine storm-snow & tree disposal sites. Areas being considered are: Elliot Street Yard, Newton Upper Falls Playground, lower level, Nahanton Park, Edmands Park, Commonwealth Avenue (carriage Road at Lyons Park).

On agenda for next meeting: Letter of October 3rd, 1997, to Mayor Thomas B. Concannon Jr., regarding locations and procedures for disposal of snow, trees and debris left after a storm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 1997

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Alternate Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Alternates, William Ryan and Peter Kastner

1. **Minutes of the September meeting were accepted.**
2. **Reports of summer programs and maintenance are enclosed in the folders.** Also included are the FY98 Capital Budget, Newton Works Out, Harvest Fair, Introduction to volleyball, Special Needs Programs, Beautification Awards, Learn to Swim Program, Diving lessons, Ice Skating lessons, Skiing at Nashoba, and Newton 2000.

The dedication of the Weeks field was a public and private project that bonded together groups to make what is now considered one of the finest parks in the City. The project leaders included Steve Fauteux, Boys Youth Soccer, Paul Levy of Girls Youth Soccer, Kenn Eisenbraun of the Planning Department, Douglas Dickson, Chairman, Landscape Task Force and staff of the Recreation Department. The land was excavated and reshaped to use the area for passive recreation. Shade trees, including crabapples were planted along with shrubs and flowers.

Also enclosed in the folders is the 1996-1997 Annual Report from the Urban Tree Commission.

3. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool summer attendance figures:** Total revenues for Gath Pool for the summer season were \$42,958.00. Total revenues for Crystal Lake summer season were \$54,943.00. Commissioner Halloran said that it was an excellent summer season and that both facilities were well staffed and managed.

(2)

- 4. **Richard J. Forte Memorial Park Update:** Richard J. Forte Park, formerly Allison Park, was dedicated on Sunday, October 19th, 11:00AM. Those attending included, Thomas B. Concannon Jr. Mayor, Joseph DeNucci, State Auditor, Peter Koutoujian, State Representative, members of the Board of Aldermen, Alfred Guzzi, Veterans Agent, James Mahoney, Chairman, Recreation Commission, Honor Guards, Vietnam War Honor Guards, Police and Fire Department Honor Guards and trumpeter Alan Mannarino, and many others including 200 residents. Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Parks and Recreation was Master of Ceremonies.

Richard Forte was a Nonantum native who died in the Vietnam War shortly before his 21st birthday and a frequent visitor to Allison Park. The neighborhood requested that the park be named after Richard. The renaming ceremony coincided with the completion of a \$500,000 renovation of the park paid for by City and state funds. Commissioner Halloran said that in his opinion, this was the most moving and best dedication that he has ever been to. Also, he commended Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, for her time and efforts in seeking the grant and following it through to the dedication.

- 5. **Status Capital Improvement Program:** For Parks & Recreation includes:

PARKS/PLAYFIELD MAINTENANCE:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| a) Cheese Brook-Bullpen Landscape | \$ 35,000 |
| b) Field Renovations | \$ 60,000 |
| c) Bleachers | \$ 30,000 |
| d) Court Repairs | \$ 66,000 |
| e) Park Benches | \$ 15,000 |
| f) Playground Apparatus | \$ 12,500 |
| g) Tree Planting | <u>\$ 55,000</u> |
| | \$ 268,500 |

FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| A. Gath Pool - Lifeguard Chairs | \$ 13,500 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|

(3)

B. Equipment

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| a) 3 Snow Blowers | \$ 3,000 |
| b) 1 Portable Water tank | \$ 2,500 |
| c) 1 Sod Cutter | \$ 3,000 |
| d) Brush Chipper | \$ 25,000 |
| e) Super Rake | <u>\$ 13,000</u> |
| Total | \$ 60,000 |

CIP FY98 Grand Total: \$328,500

6. **Discussion: Letter of October 3rd, 1997, to Mayor Thomas B. Concannon Jr., regarding locations and procedures for disposal of snow, trees and debris left after a storm.** A disaster planning committee was formed to establish locations and procedure for dealing with storm debris. The committee chose temporary storage of trees and brush debris sites which included Newton Upper Falls Playground lower level, Nahanton Park and Edmands Park off Blake street.

The Parks and Recreation Commission endorses the policy of the letter and the sites. However, in reviewing the letter, the commission believes in the good neighbor policy and to compensate the community. The commission will write a letter to the Mayor to request incremental funds for improvements to those sites in the amount of \$25,000 each to be set aside in FY98.

The Commission members voted 7-0 to send a letter to Mayor Concannon, endorsing the policy of the Storm-Snow & Tree Disposal Letter regarding the sites, and request incremental funds for improvements to those sites in the amount of \$25,000 each to be set aside in FY98.

7. **New Business:** Commissioner Halloran welcomed Michael Clarke back.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1997

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, Alternate William Ryan

Also attending, Alternates John Bourgeois and Peter Kastner

Absent: Walter Bernheimer and Alternate Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting were accepted.**
2. **Reports of programs, maintenance, Commissioner's Report of Events and Meetings are enclosed in the folders.** Also enclosed is a letter to Mayor Thomas B. Concannon Jr., from James Mahoney, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission regarding Storm-Snow & Tree Disposal. The letter supports a good neighbor policy. And to compensate the community around each site, the commission requests incremental funds for improvements to those sites in the amount of \$25,000 each to be set aside in FY 98.

Also enclosed are newspaper clippings for the dedication of Forte Memorial Park and the Renovation to Weeks Field, Halloween Party flyer, Hyde Community Center Middle School Event, Live T.V. Broadcast, Arts in the Parks, Winter Calendar of Events, Newton's Nexus Public Transportation and a new program entitled Night Watch.

3. **Request to re-name Hawthorn Playground the Joanne Pellegrini Memorial Playground:**
A letter and petition was received to respectfully request that Hawthorn Playground, located on Hawthorn Street in Nonantum, be re-named in memory of Joanne C. Pellegrini. Joanne was born on November 28, 1931 and passed away at the age of 65, on April 25, 1997. She is survived by 7 children and 16 grandchildren. Joanne was also a dedicated Recreation Department employee for over 31 years, part-time seasonally and full time summers.

(2)

She was involved in numerous neighborhood activities which included, Cerebral Palsy, Senior Citizens Activities, Senior Citizen's Cookout, St. Mary of Carmen Society Festival, Nonantum X-Mass Party, Our Lady's Help of Christian Church, Parks & Recreation Special Needs Programs, Roller Blades Hockey Team, Pop Warner Football, Little League and many others. She was the originator of the David Riffe Scholarship fund, and a true leader in changing the Newton Boys Club into the Newton Boy's & Girl's Club, so that no one was left out.

She was also a Justice of the Peace, performing numerous ceremonies in Newton, as well as a Notary Public, performing duties of each office for no remuneration.

David Sellers, Andrew Magni, Nicholas Gentile, Joseph Capalbo, James Marini, Theresa O'Halloran, Alice Webber, Joan Marie Leary, Claire Leone and Florence Grillo and a large list of supporters, propose that the Hawthorn Playground be named in honor of Joanne because of her tremendous contributions to the entire Nonantum area, especially on this site. They request that the Hawthorn Playground be re-named the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground.

Anthony Battista, Commission member, commented that Joanne Pellegrini was an outstanding woman, who was involved in numerous neighborhood activities in Nonantum, and Hawthorn Playground be re-named the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground. Also, there is no other park in Newton, named after a woman. Due to the Parks & Recreation Policy requesting 2 commission meetings, he suggested that the commission waive and suspend the policy this evening so that the requesters do not have to come back another time.

Alderman Theresa O'Halloran: Commented that Joanne Pellegrini was a very special person to everyone in the area. Alderman O'Halloran helped start and form the Newton Community Schools. Invariably, I asked Joanne for her help and assistance. She took colored slides and pictures of all our programs and because of that the City of Newton received, for citizen participation, the All American City Award. Joanne helped with everything, she was a very quiet and deserving person who worked behind the scenes. Alderman O'Halloran supports the petition.

Alderman Robert Gerst: It was a pleasure and honor to support the nomination to re-name Hawthorn Playground, The Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground. He whole heartily supports this nomination for Joanne and it is the right thing to do. Also he commented that the renaming of Allison Park to the Richard Forte Memorial Park was meaningful and successful.

(3)

Dr. James Marini, Principal Newton North High School: Stated he grew up on Hawthorn Street, next to the park and at the end of each summer they had a field day. Joanne ran the programs and parades for the field day and it was a very emotional thing for him. She took Hawthorn and made it a true community center, with day and night programs. She opened program to young women. The teens engaged in productive things, and Joanne made a real difference in their lives. Joanne gave of herself especially for the young girl's in Nonantum. Naming the playground in memory of Joanne is good testimony to all that she has done for Nonantum.

Alice Webber: Both she and Joanne worked at the Girl's Club portion nights for 10 years. Joanne was a true leader. She also was instrumental in many programs at the Newton Multi Service Center. Joanne worked to get 500 girls to come to the Boy's Club and ran the dances also. There is a mural of Arthur Fiedler painted on the outside wall at the Hawthorn Center. The idea was hers and also she helped to paint the mural. She was a mother to all kids! Also there was a tribute to Joanne in the local newspaper, November 5th, written anonymously by someone from Waltham in remembrance of her wonderful qualities. Ms. Webber read the article.

David Sellers, Executive Director, Newton Boy's & Girl's Club: Joanne was instrumental in changing the Boy's Club to the Newton Boy's & Girl's Club. Kids sought her out! She gave them her opinion of things and she worked very closely with them doing craft programs. It is an honor to Joanne to re-name Hawthorn Playground, the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground. She was a great person and it would be a great honor to name the playground after Joanne! He endorses the petition.

Peter Kastner: It is great naming the playground after a woman. And indeed Joanne Pellegrini has made a significant contribution to the Hawthorn area. She was a community participant! His concern is waiving the standard procedure of two meetings before a vote is taken. If we waive the policy this evening, he would like to establish for the record as to the reason why we are waiving the policy.

Peter Johnson: Said that he was 100% behind Peter Kastner regarding the waiving of the procedure.

Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner: He knew Joanne most of his life and knew her as Joanne Marchione. She was a leader at Hawthorn and was responsible for numerous activities. She was one of the motivators in making the Boy's Club, the Boy's and Girl's Club. She also worked with the Special Needs Program at the Parks & Recreation Department. There are no deed restrictions as per the Law Department. I highly recommend this request. The re-naming of an area was established by the policy in 1994. She is very well know in Nonantum. There are many leaders of the Newton Community here this evening to support the re-naming of the Playground, Alderman Theresa Halloran, Alderman Robert Gerst, Dr. James Marini, Principal, Newton North High School, Alice Webber, Joseph Biotti and David Sellers, Director, Newton Girl's & Boy's Club. Commissioner Halloran recommends that Hawthorn Playground be re-named the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground. Joanne was very well known in the area and he would recommend that the Commission waive the general policy this evening as Joanne is not a stranger and in this case it is not someone that we do not know.

Joseph Biotti: Has known Joanne Pellegrini for many years, and he supports the petition.

James Mahoney, Chairman: Thanked everyone for their overwhelming community support. It is important to maintain the policy that was established in November of 1994, by the Parks & Recreation Commission, for the naming/re-naming of a playground. It is a precedent for future decision if we waive the policy. For Mr. Pellegrini to be here this evening, it must be a very emotional experience. However, it is unwise to ignore the policy that was established. It was suggested that a vote be taken this evening and a confirming vote be taken at the December meeting. The vote would be to show respect and support for those attending the meeting this evening.

Robert Platt said that he is in favor of the petition and asked if at some point that that a dedication be made while the person is still alive.

Peter Kastner asked if there were any monies to put into the landscaping of the playground. Commissioner Halloran said there are no monies in the CIP at this time, however, he would be glad to work with the Nonantum community to dress up the park.

Anthony Battista agreed that the commission go by the policy and he supports it. He personally thinks that it is about time that we recognize an outstanding woman such as Joanne Pellegrini.

(5)

Mr. Battista motioned that a vote be taken this evening and a confirmation vote be taken at the December meeting. Motion was seconded.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to re-name Hawthorn Playground in the Nonantum section of the City, to the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground and will confirm the vote at the December meeting.

Commissioner Halloran said that a notice will go out to the newspapers and abutters before the next meeting regarding the re-naming of the playground..

- 4. **CIP Update:** A letter has gone to the Board of Aldermen requesting \$328,500 for Parks & Recreation's Capital Supplemental Budget FY98.

Parks/Playfield Maintenance:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| a) Cheesecake Brook-Bullpen Landscaping | \$ 35,000 |
| b) Field Renovations | 60,000 |
| c) Bleachers | 30,000 |
| d) Court Repairs | 66,000 |
| e) Park Benches | 15,000 |
| f) Playground Apparatus | 12,500 |
| g) Tree Planting | <u>50,000</u> |
| | \$268,500 |

Facilities & Equipment:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| A. Gath Pool - Lifeguard Chairs | \$ 13,500 |
| B. Equipment: | |
| a) 3 Snow Blowers | 3,000 |
| b) 1 Portable Water Tank | 2,500 |
| c) 1 Sod Cutter | 3,000 |
| d) Brush Chipper | 25,000 |
| e) Super Rake | <u>13,000</u> |

Total \$ 60,000

Grand Total: \$328,500

(6)

- 6. **Richard J. Forte Memorial Park Dedication:** The Richard J. Forte Memorial Park was dedicated on Sunday, October 19, 1997 in Nonantum. Full military honors were given to Richard J. Forte who gave his life for his country in 1968 at the age of 20.

Commissioner Halloran thanked Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, for her time and efforts in seeking the State Grant, for the former Allison Park, and following it through to the dedication. Also he would like to thank James Mula, Engineer on his daily contact with the contractors.

- 6. **Skating Rules & Regulations 1997-1998:** The commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Skating Rules and Regulations for the 1997-1998 season. Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department.
- 7. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting Adjourned 8:10PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1997

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

PRESENT: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates, John Bourgeois, William Ryan, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke.

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista & Josephine Pepper

1. **Minutes of the November meeting were accepted.**
Also, in minutes of the October meeting, the figures on #5 were amended.
2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Reports of Events and Meetings:** Included in the folders Tumbling for Young Children, Special Needs Winter/Spring Newsletter, Mayor's Open House and Senior Activities. Also a news article regarding Newton North Graphic Arts Class creates signs for the Parks and Recreation Department, and a news article on Judy Slamin, part time recreation leader, and her induction into the New Agenda Northeast Women's Hall of Fame. Judy's contribution to volleyball (since 1969) makes her a worthy candidate. She is involved in most every aspect of volleyball in Newton. Her dedication to the expansion of the game among girls and women in Newton earned her that honor.
3. **Confirming vote on the re-naming of the Hawthorn Playground to the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground.** At the November Commission meeting the Commission members voted 8-0 to re-name Hawthorn Playground, the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground.

Eugene Cronin, friend of Joanne Pellegrini, asked to speak and commented that he visited Joanne in the hospital when she was ill. He said that she was the perfect woman, and the Commission would be honoring a very fine woman.

Francis Rice motioned to re-confirm vote to rename Hawthorn Playground, the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground. John Bourgeois seconded. The Commission members voted 8-0 to re-name Hawthorn Playground, the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground.

Alderman Carlton Merrill commented that he was in favor of re-naming the Hawthorn Playground, the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground.

After a brief discussion the members decided to comply with the General Guide Outline dated November 1994 as set forth by the Parks & Recreation Commission in the renaming of an area/facility. After the proposal is officially submitted to the Parks & Recreation Commission for consideration, there will be a minimum of 30 days before an official vote will be taken at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Also, the members discussed the idea of a brochure with a history of Newton's Parks. The Department would work with Jackson Homestead to obtain information for the brochure.

Alternate Commission member Michael Clarke suggested a plaque be put on/near all recreation signs that an area is named after, so that people can have a brief history of who the person is and why the area is named after that person.

4. **John Allen, regarding fence around brook at the Newton Centre Playground:** Mr. Allen sent a petition to the Department in May reflecting the desire of the recently installed fences be removed from the Newton Centre Playground. The petition states that a citizen's group is concerned with preserving the aesthetic quality of the Newton Centre Playground. The petition respectfully requests that the Parks & Recreation Commission agree to remove the offending fences.

Commissioner Halloran commented that his recommendation is to paint the fence black.

Concerns in taking the fence down are: day care centers in the area are big users of the park, daily visitors, students from Mason Rice School and sports participants. One comment was, it hard to imagine the area and that a diagram is needed for a discussion.

It was suggested that Douglas Dickson, Chairman, Landscape Maintenance Task Force, Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, and any commission member who could attend, meet at the Newton Centre area on Tuesday, December 17th to check the fence in question. John Bourgeois and Michael Clarke agreed to go with the Commissioner and Douglas Dickson, on Tuesday at 10:00AM. This is the only park in the City with a brook running through it.

Mr. Allen commented that the area is parallel to the brook near Bowen Street adjacent to the footbridge and tennis courts. He said that the fence is not attractive and not necessary.

Commissioner Halloran commented that the commission would work with Mr. Allen to find a solution regarding the fence and if there are any legal problems, that they would be referred to the Law Department.

Mr. Allen also asked about the taking down of the Little League signs on the Newton Centre Little Fields as to when they are to be put up and when they are taken down. He also asked about the colors of the signs, which he thought were only supposed to be green and white, (now they have different colors in them), and also if a sign is vandalized, it should be restored as soon as possible. He suggested that the Little League has not acted honorably on these issues in the past four to five years according to the rules and regulations.

It was suggested that Mr. Allen return for the next Commission Meeting on January 26th and also invite Terry Sack, President of the Newton Centre Little League to discuss the issues further.

5. **C.I.P. Update:** As per the enclosed information the Board of Aldermen voted \$328,500 for the Parks & Recreation Department's Capital Supplemental Budget for FY98. Alternate Commission member Peter Kastner asked about the \$35,000 for the Cheesecake Brook-Bullpen Landscaping. The brook area from Watertown Street to Eddy Street would be cleared and landscaped to prevent erosion and present a more aesthetic area. Also new fencing would be installed. Mr. Kastner suggested the Department contact Kenn Eisenbraun from the Planning Department, and ask him for suggestions for the clean up and the landscaping. Commissioner Halloran said it was a good idea and he would contact Mr. Eisenbraun.

- 6. **New Business:** Gwen Fineberg, commented on the Newton 2000 Task Force meeting that she attended. She said that Karen Peirce, Director of Special Needs, did an excellent job and she is very proud of her and all that she does for the Special Needs Children. Special Needs activities would be going on the Web site soon as well as recreation information. The meeting was held to discuss visions for the future, suggestions and ideas for the year 2000.

Ms. Fineberg also suggested that Mayor Elect David B. Cohen, be invited to Special Needs Programs so that he can see what is done for the Special Needs children/adults. The Newton North High School Special Needs Track Program has at least 50 children with adult volunteers. Commissioner Halloran said that the Parks & Recreation Department's Special Needs Program is the finest in Massachusetts and he is very proud of Karen Peirce, Special Needs Director, and Rick Cass, Assistant Special Needs Director. Rick Cass, Assistant Special Needs Director is resigning from the Parks and Recreation Department as of the end of the year. Rick has been with the Department for 19 years. He will be teaching classes at Boston College next year. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

A Special Needs Christmas Party will be held at the Hibernians Hall on Wednesday, evening, December 17th at 6:30PM.

It was also suggested that the Commission invite Mayor Elect David B. Cohen and the new Planning Director, Michael Kruse to a Commission meeting in April or May.

Commissioner Halloran wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Meeting adjourned 8:45PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1998

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

- 1. **Minutes of the December meeting were accepted.**
- 2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Report of Events and Meetings:** Included in the folders are brochures for Albemarle Acres Summer Camp, Soccer Clinic, Newton Soccer School, Centre Acres Summer Camp, Kids Korner Pre-School, Puppet Theatre, Arts in the Parks, Winter/Spring brochure, Camp Fair and Kids Korner School Year Program. So far there have been no safe skating days in the City of Newton. Also included in the folders is a note from "Fat Pellegrini" thanking the Commission for voting to re-name Hawthorn Park, the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Park.

On Tuesday, February 3rd, between 2:00 & 6:30PM, the department will hold it's yearly Camp Fair in the War Memorial at City Hall.

- 3. **John Allen, Newton Centre Playground - fence:** The day after the last commission meeting, Commissioner Russell J. Halloran, John Bourgeois, Douglas Dickson, John Allen, Mr. Andrews and Josephine Pepper went at the Newton Centre Playground to check the chain link fence around the brook area. The Planning Department will contact the Recreation Department regarding the taking down or leaving up the fence in question.
- 4. **Terry Sack, Newton East Little League Signs:** Terry Sack, President of the Newton East Little League and Michael Harper, Newton East Little League, attended this evenings commission meeting regarding neighbor/neighbors complaints that the original request's recommendations have not been adhered to. On January 28, 1991, the Parks & Recreation Commission members voted 5-0 in favor of the Newton East Little League's request to install the 4 X 8 signs providing they follow all policies and procedures. The next procedure was to go before the Board of Aldermen for their approval.

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Eugene Bober, then Director of Planning and Development approved the I installation of 36 temporary signs with conditions and that the final design for the proposed signs be submitted to the Director of Planning and Development and the Urban Design and Beautification Commission for review and approval. A Constructive Grant was issued because the Board of Aldermen failed to act on time.

Attending this evening's meeting were Terry Sack, President, Newton, Newton East Little League, Michael Harper, Newton East Little League and John Allen, resident/abutter of Newton Centre Playground.

A letter was received from John Allen, by the Department, regarding the little league signs at Newton Centre Playground. The signs should have been installed for 12 weeks, little league season, only. Mr. Allen's complaint was that the signs are installed in April and left in place for five to six months and the fence that the signs are on are all different shades of green. One sign was taken down for repair and never put back up. The Newton East Little League has not adhered to all of their original commitments.

Terry Sack, President of the Newton East Little League commented that in addition to minor and major league teams he also has fall leagues playing at the Newton East Little League field. The league has many sponsors for the teams and a good selling point for the sponsors is to leave the signs up until the end of the fall season. He has 18 signs with a revenue of \$250.00 per sign. The cost for a child to play little league ball is \$80.00 for older children and \$60.00 for younger plus scholarships are given. There are 420 children in the league. The monies go for uniforms, etc., maintenance to fields, sprinkler systems, rebuild sod and re-do the infield this year.

Issues are the length of time the signs are actually up, the color of the signs and the repairs to signs be done promptly .

After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Robert Platt to allow the signs to be installed no earlier than April 1st and taken down no later than August 31st and that the fence that the signs are on be uniform in color (green) on the border and back of fence. Also, if Mr. Allen has any problems regarding the Newton Centre Playground, little league area, he is to call Mr. Sack. Motion was seconded by Francis Rice.

(3)

The Commission members voted 7-1 to allow the little league signs to be installed on the fence at the Newton Centre Playground, Newton East Little League Field, no earlier than April 1st and taken down no later than August 31st. The fence that the signs are on are to be uniform in color, green, on the border and back of the fence.

Mr. Sack said that he may return to the Commission to extend the time allotment to the end of the fall season.

5. **Nominations for Youth Awards:** Awards to be presented at the Festival of the Arts, City Hall on May 10, 1998. Applications were given to all commission members.
6. **Budget Update:** Evan Katz is no longer the Chief Budget Officer. Treasurer, Stephen Cirillo, is the interim Chief Budget Officer until Mayor Cohen appoints a new one. Public Works Commissioner, James Hickey is the interim Chief Administrative Office until Mayor Cohen appoints a new one. The 99' budget will be given to the departments in 2-3 weeks.
7. **New Business:** No new business

Meeting adjourned 8:33PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1998
CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, recording secretary

- 1. **Minutes of the January meeting were accepted.**
- 2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Report of Events and Meetings:** Included in the folders are brochures for Water Safety Instructor Course, Learn to swim program, Over 55 brochures, Children's Enrichment classes. Re-appointment of Josephine Pepper, memo from Commissioner Halloran to Kenn Eisenbraun, Planning Department regarding a fence abutting the brook at the Newton Centre Playground and letter to Terry Sack regarding the Jay Gordon, Newton East Little League field.
- 3. **Terry Sack, Newton East Little League:** Alteration of last months vote of field sign dates and approval for other improvements to site as per a written request .

a) Sign dates: At the January meeting the Commission members voted 7-1 to allow the advertising signs to be installed annually at the Jay Gordon Field. The earliest the signs may be erected is April 1st and the latest the signs must be removed is August 31st. Mr. Sack has requested that the dates be changed to April 23rd to September 30th. After a brief discussion it was decided that Mr. John Allen should be invited to attend the next commission meeting before a vote is taken.

b) Construction of a backstop at Oak Hill Field: Mr. Sack is requesting permission to erect a backstop, in the amount of \$2,950 at the Newton East Little League's expense, on the far corner of Oak Hill field. Commissioner Halloran and Thomas Cahill, Recreation Manager, have walked around this field area and said that the erection of a backstop would help not only the little league but the school as well. It is the 4th diamond in the complex and there would be no cutting of trees. The Commission members voted 7-0 for the backstop to be erected in the far corner of the Oak Hill field pending receipt of a plan to be brought to the next meeting.

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c) Power Source: A power source is needed for the portable PA system and also used for a pitching machine. The PA system would be used for opening day, All Star Day and the City Series. (6 times per year this year and thereafter 2-3 times a year)The power source would be placed behind the little league backstop. The Commission voted 7-0 to allow the Newton East Little League to place a power source behind the little league backstop.

d) Electronic Scoreboard: Request for an electronic scoreboard approximately 4' X 5' or 5' X 10', will have 2 different designs and will be a permanent fixture. Will be near the right field foul line and replace the one that is there. After a brief discussion it was decided that Mr. Sack return to the March meeting with size, color, etc.

e) Request for Log Cabin style storage compartment: Mr. Sack requested placement of a 6' X 8" log cabin style compartment, green, pre-fab to be placed behind the backstop in replacement of the metal one. This would be to store little league equipment for players, umpires, game balls and a batting machine. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Mr. Sack return to the March meeting with detail plans and it would be discussed in reference to the Parks & Recreation Commissions structure policy. Also bring photo's as to where scoreboard is to be placed.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, asked Mr. Sack to bring a plan for the storage shed and electric scoreboard to the March 16th meeting. Also, letters would be sent to the neighbors abutting the Newton Center, Jay Gordon, Newton East Little League field, notifying them of the upcoming meeting and inviting them to attend if they wish to do so. Also, Mr. Sack was asked to send the information to the commission members prior to the next meeting.

- 4. **Parks & Recreation Budget:** Commissioner Halloran commented that there will be no staff reductions in the next budget and the budget will be presented to the Commission at the March meeting.
- 5. **Election of Officers:** Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 16th Commission Meeting.
- 6. **New Business:** Michael Clarke commented that he spoke with Dan Driscoll from the MDC about a walkway all along the Charles River through the Auburndale Cove area and other sections of Newton. Boardwalks may be needed in some of the walkway's wet areas including the Cove. Mr. Clarke said he has not seen a final draft of the plan as yet, although he has walked the route through the Auburndale Cove. Also he said that he would bring a map to the next meeting.

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He asked that Mr. Halloran write a letter to Mr. Driscoll regarding the pathway and boardwalks. Mr. Clarke will send information about this to Commissioner Halloran. Mr. Halloran said that he has worked on many projects with Dan Driscoll and he would be happy to call or write to him regarding the project.

The MDC is also in the process of clearing a pathway along the Charles River behind the Post 440 area through to Forte Park/California Street area. This project is expected to be done by July.

Mr. Clarke said that Dan Driscoll of the MDC would be at the next Conservators meeting on Thursday to discuss the pathways.

Meeting adjourned 8:28PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1998

CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner, Commissioner Russell J. Halloran and Secretary Faye Hays

- 1. **Minutes of the February meeting were accepted.**
- 2. **Annual Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Francis Rice nominated Peter Johnson for Vice Chairman. Anthony Battista seconded. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to re-elect Peter Johnson for Vice Chairman. Robert Platt nominated James Mahoney for Chairman and Francis Rice seconded. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to re-elect James Mahoney Chairman.

The Commission members congratulated both James Mahoney as Chairman and Peter Johnson as Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Look forward to another great year of leadership.

- 3. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Report of Events and Meetings:** Included in the folders are brochures for Tumble N' More, 1998 Senior Theatre Buffs, Forever Fit and Baton Twirling. Also included is a Draft for the Recommendation from the Mayor's Transition Environmental Task Force from Michael Clarke and a letter from Richard Bristol, President NSLL Board of Directors regarding the use of the PA system at Richardson Field playground for Little League Baseball games. Also a letter from David Greenfield regarding the opposition of a PA system at Richardson field.
- 4. **Terry Sack, Newton East Little League:**
 - a) Request for an electronic scoreboard 4' X 8' to be placed at the right field foul line to replace the wooden one that is there:
Letters were sent to 58 abutters of the Jay Gordon Field in Newton Centre regarding his request for three items for the Newton East Little League. There was no response to the letter the letter that was sent out and Mr. John Allen was the only abutter of the Newton Centre Playground that attended this evenings meeting.

(2)

John Allen, abutter, to the Newton Centre Playground, said that he has no objection to the electronic scoreboard. If an electronic scoreboard with advertising is installed, the advertising signs on the wooden little league fences could be taken down.

Terry Sack said that the suggestion was well taken, however, there are 18 sponsored signs sold at this time. Also, if all of the advertising was to be placed on the electronic scoreboard the cost would be prohibitive.

Robert Platt motioned that the commission approve the electronic scoreboard 8' X 6' with the stipulation that the little league pay for it, be approved by Inspectional Services, and the wires be placed underground. Anthony Battista seconded.

Peter Kastner asked if an electronic scoreboard should be classified as a permanent structure and would be classified under the Parks & Recreation's structure policy. Also, the proposal should go through the Design Review Plan.

Informational: There are electronic scoreboards at Newton North High School and at Newton South High School.

Motion was made to put the electronic scoreboard under permanent structures, therefore, the proposal would have to go by the Parks & Recreation's policy on procedures for alteration of lands for private organizations on recreation lands. Vote was 2 yes and 6 no. Amendment failed.

Motion was made to amend the previous motion: Robert Platt motioned that we approve the electronic scoreboard with the specified dimensions, (8' X 6' or smaller), the electrical wires to go underground, with approval of the City and no advertising on scoreboard.

The Commission members voted 6 for and 2 against to approve the electronic scoreboard with the specified dimensions, (8' X 6" or smaller), the electrical wires to go underground with the approval of the City and no advertising on the scoreboard.

- b) Request to place a 6' X 8' green pre-fab log cabin style storage compartment behind the backstop in place of the metal box for storage of equipment for the little league players and storage.

(3)

This was the second time Mr. Sack appeared at the Commission meetings regarding the storage compartment which takes two meetings to decide on any proposal presentation, discussion and public comment. The petitioner must submit the proposal to the Planning Department for administrative site plan review, as well as the Design Review Committee and Law Department. After their findings the proposal would come back to the Parks & Recreation Department's Commission meeting to make the final decision. The information received this evening is informational.

Regarding the storage structure, it made of wood and has a Plexiglas window with door. Concerns were, windows being punched out, hinges taken off and since the structure is wood, may be set on fire. James Mahoney suggested a more secure plan with a more detailed use and also how the facility would be taken care of in case of vandalism.

John Allen suggested that the structure be placed further away and be properly maintained.

Mr. Halloran suggested that Mr. Sack work with Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor regarding the adhering to of the Parks & Recreation's policy procedure and the caretaking of the structure and removal. No vote taken. Recommendation made to follow conditions and procedures as per the policy and return to the Commission for a final vote.

- c) Request to amend the Commission's previous January 1998 vote of allowing the advertising signs to be installed annually at the Jay Gordon Field from April 23rd to September 30th instead of April 1st to August 31st annually.

Mr. Sack said that the little league season starts the last Sunday in April and runs into the fall season. He requests that advertising signs be installed from April 23rd to September 30th.

Peter Johnson motioned that the commission change the dates that the advertising signs are to be installed from April 1st to August 31st to April 23rd to September 30th, annually. Anthony Battista seconded. The commission members voted 2 in favor, 5 against and 1 abstaining. Therefore, the January 1998 vote of the advertising signs be installed at the Jay Gordon Field from April 1st to August 31st annually remains.

(4)

- 5. Commissioner's recommended Parks & Recreation Budget for FY99.**
Commission Halloran explained that this is a 0 based budget for FY99. There is a fiscal summary on page 8. Appropriation is \$3,552,188 and the Mayor's recommended budget is \$3,584,134. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Parks & Recreation Budget for 1999. Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Parks & Recreation Budget for FY99.

Revolving Accounts: Motion was made and seconded to approve the Revolving Accounts for FY99. Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Revolving Accounts for FY99.

- 6. 1998 Tennis Rules and Regulations:** Fees are the same as last year. The Commission voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the 1998 Tennis Rules and Regulations.
- 7. New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned 9:00PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 27, 1998
CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates in attendance: William Ryan, John Bourgeois and Michael Clarke

1. Minutes of the March meeting were accepted.

2. Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Report of Events and Meetings: Commissioner Halloran commented on the dedication of the former Hawthorn playground to the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground, which was held on Sunday, April 26th, 2:00PM. Those attending included: David B. Cohen, Mayor, Rev. Walter Cuenin, Our Lady's Church, Joseph DeNucci, State Auditor, Theresa O'Halloran, Alderman, James Mahoney, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission, David Sellers, Newton Boys and Girls Club, James Marini, Principal, NNHS, Anthony Salvucci, Alderman, Boston Gaelic Fire Brigade Band-Pipe and Drums, and several members of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Monthly reports are enclosed in the folders, including brochures on senior programs, golf lessons, Theatre Buffs, Funtastic Fridays, Kids Fun Fest, Spring Tennis, and a comment regarding Mrs. Worthing West: Started as a commission member on March 14, 1950, Chairman from January 1958 to April 1972. Total years as chairman was 14 years. Total years as a commission member 24 years!

Also, the City of Newton again received the Tree City USA Award for the ninth year in a row. Newton also received the Tree City USA Growth Award. It is national recognition from The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Also enclosed is a memo from Martha Horn, Environmental Planner regarding the Upper Falls Playground, snow storage and she found no evidence of environmental damage. Another memo from Martha was in regards to the Oak Hill School backstop and the wetlands. The wetlands will not be altered by this project.

3. **Update on Youth Awards Presentation:** To be held in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers, 7:00PM prior to the May 18th Commission Meeting.

4. **Forte Park Driveway, from California Street to entrance to Park: No Parking:** A \$78,000 grant has been received to alleviate the parking problem on the access way to Forte Park. The plans are to restrict parking on the access way from California Street to the park. The area is a 40 foot wide strip of land which is part of Forte Park. The parking is being prohibited because of safety concern for pedestrians, including children, who will walking or biking in the access way to and from the field and playground. It is also being prohibited because this access way is entirely park land.

Designs are being put together for drainage, curbing, plantings and trees. Commissioner Halloran and Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, have already met with the owner of the business abutting this property and the homeowners.

The following rule was adopted by the Commission: Parking is prohibited on the portion of Forte Park which is a forty foot wide strip of land from California Street to the parking lot for the park (a distance of approximately 245 feet). The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve prohibited parking on the portion of access road from California Street to Forte Park.

5. **Request from friends of Jerry Angino to have Nahanton Park named after him. This was referred to the Friends of Nahanton Park for their recommendation to the Commission in May:** There was an article in the Newton Tab on April 2nd, regarding efforts to have Nahanton Park named in honor of Jerry R. Angino, by Vincent Cucchi. Mr. Angino passed away on February 28th, and worked for the School Department for over 40 years as a teacher, guidance counselor and supervisor of attendance.

Commissioner Halloran referred this item to Duane Hillis, President, Friends of Nahanton Park to discuss the request for dedication and get back to the Commission before the next meeting.

6. **Status of Budget:** The Programs and Services Committee of the Board of Aldermen passed the Parks & Recreation Budget 6-0 with 1 abstaining.

7. **Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** Season begins June 8th. For the first time Labor Day falls on September 7th, school opens September 2nd. The recommendation for this year from August 31st to September 7th is week days Gath Pool and Crystal Lake will be open from 3:00PM to 6:00PM and weekends 1:00PM to 6:00PM. Fees stay the same.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the swim rules and regulations for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool for 1998.

8. **Terry Sack, President, Newton East Little League:** Sign request with advertising. Also attending is representative of Coke Cola, Kim and two sign sponsors, Shelly and Betsy.

The Commission was asked to reconsider the vote taken at the last commission meeting which was April 1st to August 31st. Mr. Sack requested that the commission change the vote from April 24th to September 30th. This vote was considered at two previous meetings. Walter Bernheimer motioned to allow the Newton East Little League to post their signs from April 24th to September, 1998 only. The Commission voted 5-3 to change the dates with the stipulation that Newton East Little League representative would have to return next year as this is only on a yearly basis.

In reference to the scoreboard, the commission voted at the last meeting 6-2 to approve the electronic scoreboard with the specified dimensions, 8'X6' or smaller), the electrical wires to go under ground with the approval of the City and no advertising on the scoreboard.

Mr. Sack recommends two advertising signs be put on the electronic scoreboard, Coke Cola and Honda. Kim from Coke Cola recommended that two vending machines be placed at the recreation building (Newton Centre Hut) outside, under the overhang of the building with two recycling bins. The machines would be toned down regarding the lights on the machines.

There are 3 tonic machines placed outside the Albemarle Fieldhouse, 2 at Crystal Lake inside and 2 outside. Monies go to the Camp Scholarship Fund. Monies from the tonic machine at Newton Center would go to Coke Cola.

The little league request is to add 2 advertising signs to the electronic scoreboard, panels being 1 foot by 8" each plus 2 tonic machines.

The Commission members voted 8-0 against the vending machines at Newton Centre field.

A study will have to be done by the department regarding further inquiries into adding tonic machines to City parks. The Law Department and Planning Department will be contacted as well as a committee will be set up to study vending machines in parks and revenue from them. The committee members will include, James Mahoney, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Russell Halloran, Commissioner.

Terry Sack asked approval for just the Honda sign on the electronic scoreboard.

Walter Bernheimer motioned that we allow the Honda advertising panel to be attached to the electronic scoreboard sign. Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 4 for and 4 against allowing the Honda panel on the scoreboard.

9. Richard Bristol - Newton South Little League (Richardson Playground)

Letter regarding PA system: Enclosed in the folders is a copy of a letter from Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member, sent to James Mahoney, Chairman, regarding a letter that was going out to neighbors of the Richardson field about a PA system. It asked if the neighbors minded the use of a PA system at Richardson field on two separate occasions. No one from the Richardson area/or members of the little league attended the meeting.

10. New Business: Mayor David B. Cohen briefly visited the meeting and thanked all of the commission members for their volunteer service to the Commission and the City.

Motion to adjourn: 8:55PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 18, 1998
CITY HALL - ROOM 209, 7:45PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Josephine Pepper, John Bourgeois, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates in attendance: Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

1. Minutes of the April meeting were accepted.

2. Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Report of Events and Meetings:
Commissioner Halloran commented on the dedication of the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground, formerly the Hawthorn Playground, and Ms. Pellegrini's endless dedication to the Nonantum Community. Also, Newton again received the Tree City USA Award from the National Arbor Day Foundations for the **ninth** year in a row. Newton also received the Tree City USA Growth Award. The award was created to recognize environmental improvement and high levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities. Also included in the folders is information on recreation programs and a brochure on the 20th Annual Youth Awards, which was presented this evening in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7:00PM.

JUDGE FRANKLIN N. FLASCHNER ADULT AWARD
Recipients: Richard Cass and Frederick Stern

JUDGE JULIAN YESLEY YOUNG ADULT AWARD
Recipient: Ethan Wood

OFFICER ROBERT BRACELAND SENIOR YOUTH AWARD
Recipient: Renata Dover

IRENE BICKELMAN JUNIOR YOUTH AWARD
Recipients: David Tannenwald and Timothy Walton

- 3. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival - Annual Fiesta:** Nunzie Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Festival Committee attended the meeting with his request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Society Annual Fiesta on July 15, 1998 through July 19, 1998 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground.

Letters were sent to 154 abutters of the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground, formerly Hawthorn Playground, informing them of the meeting. Commissioner Halloran commented that the carnival has gone well for the past few years with no complaints. Mr. Marini and his daughter, Diane, abutters to the playground, were also there attending the meeting.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Society Annual Fiesta on July 15th through July 19, 1998 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground. Motion was seconded.

The commission voted 8-0 to approve the request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Society's Annual Fiesta from July 15th through July 19, 1998 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground according to the same rules and regulations set up by the Parks & Recreation Department at last years commission meeting. Mr. Leone said thank you to the Commission members.

- 4. **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, May 20th, 7:30AM at the McElroy Commons Dining Room, Boston College, tickets \$15.00:** Keynote speaker, Rob Burton, former star running back for the New England Patriots.
- 5. **Reports regarding Newton East Little League sign at Newton Centre Playground. New recommendations, policies and procedures regarding signs on little league fields.**

Attending were Mayor David B. Cohen and Catherine Lester from the Law Department, Terry Sack, President, Newton East Little League, James Koch, President, Boston Beer and Sally Jackson from Boston Beer.

The Boston Globe printed an article and photo regarding "Parents Score It An Error", in reference to a liquor advertisement sign for Boston Lager Beer at the Jay Gordon Field Little League field in Newton. The sign read: Boston Beer - "Our beer is carefully aged before drinking. You should be, too." The 4 X 8 sign was taken down immediately, May 5th, 1998, and a proposed set of rules and regulations were drafted by the Law Department and Mayor's office.

Commissioner Halloran commented that there are only two places in the City where little league advertising signs are placed: Newton Center (Newton East Little League) and Albermarle (Newton North Little Field). Monies from the signs are used to defray costs of maintaining the fields and supporting the leagues.

In reference to the Rules and Regulations, submitted by the Law Department and Mayor's Office, Commissioner Halloran proposed changes in Section 3, Removal. - Such notice shall include the time by which such a sign must be removed, provided, however, that such notice shall provide for no less than three (3) calendar days in which to remove such signs. - CHANGE TO: Such notice shall include the time by which such a sign must be removed. Also, - The Commissioner is hereby authorized to remove a sign found to be in violation of Section 2 upon three (3) days prior notice as provided herein. CHANGE TO: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to remove a sign found to be in violation of Section 2. The Commissioner shall provide notice of his action or intended action as soon as reasonably possible.

Mr. Koch, President of Boston Beer said that he supports the little league, which is an excellent organization and he did not think that the Boston Beer sign was inappropriate for underage children.

Mayor David B. Cohen also attended the meeting. Mayor Cohen commented that since a controversy has taken place, we need to re-examine our guidelines in dealing with advertising on public playing fields. Signs using a beer name and logo explicitly encourages drinking, especially on ballfields where children play. Under age drinking is against the law. Signs on fields have messages on them and these types of signs do not belong on little league ballfields. Beer message signs are inappropriate on little league fields and in parks.

Peter Kastner commented that the Mayor is correct in his comments about the sign.

James Mahoney, Chairman, commented that we need a policy in place so that we can deal with these types of issues. He was sure that the sign was put up with good intentions, however, the Parks and Recreation Department needs regulations for future signs and also vending machines in parks.

Walter Bernheimer commented that he is an advocate of free speech and still believes in the concept of free speech. He suggested that we need to draw the line as to what is offensive/inoffensive and exercise good judgment.

John Bourgeois commented that people should use common sense and if the sign is obtrusive, it sends the wrong message. The commissioner is doing his job by taking the sign down if it sends the wrong message.

Alternate Michael Clarke, not a voting member this evening, commented that he agrees with the proposal's Rules and Regulations on Signs. He asked that the commission not take a vote this evening so that the members can go over the proposal in detail. Mr. Clarke was opposed to voting for the rules and regulations this evening.

Robert Platt, commented that he disagrees with Mr. Bernheimer, and hopes that the commission will vote tonight regarding alcohol and tobacco signs in the parks. He agrees wholeheartedly with Mayor Cohen, the Law Department and the proposed rules and regulations.

Terry Sack, President, Newton East Little League, said that there was only 1 complaint on the beer sign. He indicated that the sign has been up for the past five years. Mr. Sack has no problem with what was written on the sign and said it serves as a public service message.

Robert Platt, motioned to pass the rules and regulations with the changes Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner made. Motion was seconded.

The Commission voted six (6) for, two (2) abstain and zero (0) against, for the Rules and Regulations Prohibiting Advertisement and Promotion of Alcohol and Tobacco Products to Minors in Playgrounds and Parks. The proposal will have the changes made by Commissioner Halloran in Section three. Copies of the new rules and regulations will be given to the commission members at the June meeting.

6. **Status of Budget:** The City's budget was passed by Programs and Services and Finance Committees. The budget is expected to be passed by the full Board of Aldermen this evening.
7. **New Business:** Friends of Nahanton Park - regarding the letter to dedicate the park: An article was placed in the newspaper by Mr. Cucchi to write letters to the Department to re-name the Park to Jerry Angino, who worked for the School Department. Commissioner Halloran suggested that the Friends of Nahanton Park take up this item at the next Friends of Nahanton Park meeting. The Friends of Nahanton Park will report back to the Commission/Department when they have made their decision.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, commented that there is a lot of illegal dumping going on at Nahanton Park. He would like to recommend higher illegal dumping fees. Mr. Kastner said he would be glad to be on a sub-committee regarding illegal dumping on parks and playgrounds.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

Next meeting to be held June 15, 1998

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 1998
CITY HALL – ROOM 209 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Alternate William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates in attendance: Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner

Also in attendance, Eugene Cronin, Robert Vassalotti, Nicholas Gentile, Alfred Guzzi, Jr., Agent at Veterans Services and Carol Stapleton, Manager

1. **Minutes of the June meeting were accepted 8-0.**

2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner’s Report of Events and Meetings are enclosed:** All summer events went extremely well. Camps were full, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool were well attended, softball leagues played their games, 4th of July a success again. Folders include brochures from Newton Works Out, Recreation Programs for People “Over 55”, Special Needs Recreation programs, Childrens Enrichment Classes, Arts in the Parks Fall-Winter Brochure, The Frog Prince and The Princess & The Pea Puppet Show. Also included is a newspaper write up on Robert Platt, Commission Member, who is a lifelong Newton resident and is also known to insiders as a fund-raising wizard for his friends. Irrigation was installed at Newton Highlands football field. On Sunday, October 25th at 11:00AM there will be a dedication. At the Bullpen/Cheesecake Brook area a new fence is being installed. The brook area has been cleaned out and the work should be finished in a week. A well was installed at Franklin Playground, fields resodded and a new basketball court was installed. New lights were installed at the Albemarle complex and a City Department softball game was held at Albemarle which included 5 Recreation staff, Mayor David B. Cohen, and Commissioner Halloran as an umpire. Commissioner Halloran said that this is his 25th summer with the Recreation Department and all in all it was an outstanding summer.

(2)

3. **Request to name Korean, World War II and Vietnam Memorial area on Washington Street across from Jackson Homestead and adjacent to the Mass Turnpike on Washington Street: Newton War Veterans Memorial Park:**

On behalf of the Newton Veterans, Robert Vassalotti and Nicholas Gentile, the World War II Veterans Council respectfully requests to name the City owned property adjacent to the Mass Pike, on Washington Street, across from the Jackson Homestead in Newton Corner, the Newton Veterans Memorial Park. Currently there are 3 memorials there which include: Vietnam Veterans Memorial, World War II Veterans Memorial and Korean Veterans Memorial. If accepted, the sign to be installed would be identical to the one placed at the Richard Forte Memorial Park. Included are letters of support from the above veterans groups and Alfred Guzzi, Jr., Agent at Veterans Services, recommending the name of the park.

The area is a fifth of an acre with approximately 8,142 square feet. In reference to the Parks & Recreation Policy, the commission is not naming anything after an individual, it would be the naming of an area. Francis Rice motioned to name the area "Newton Veterans Memorial Park". Questions were raised as to going by the policy and having the item on the agenda for two meetings. The rules were officially suspended for this item. The type of sign, which is the same as the one at Forte Park, was discussed and everyone liked it.

Motion was seconded to name this parcel adjacent to the Mass Pike, on Washington Street, across from the Jackson Homestead in Newton Corner, the "Newton Veterans Memorial Park." Commission members voted 8-0 to name this parcel of land adjacent to the Mass Pike, on Washington Street, across from the Jackson Homestead in Newton Corner, the "Newton Veterans Memorial Park."

Eugene Cronin, (Honorary Mayor of West Newton) War Veteran, and member of several committee's throughout the City thanked everyone for their vote this evening. He also said that "memories are the treasures of your mind" and he has several happy memories in Newton.

4. **CIP Update:** Commissioner Halloran said that he would have a CIP update at the end of October. He has not heard from the new administration as yet regarding the CIP.

(3)

- 5. **Forte Park Update:** A Community Development Grant in the amount of \$80,000 paved the way for an access road from California Street into the Park area with plantings and curbing which should be finished by the end of October.

Also, the sink hole which occurred on June 13th is cordoned off and the Law Department is checking to see who will pay for the damage.

- 6. **Beautification Awards were held on Monday, September 14th, 7:00PM in the War Memorial at City Hall.**
- 7. **Harvest Fair to be held on Sunday, October 18, 1998 at the Newton Centre Green.**
- 8. **Accidental drowning at Crystal Lake on July 29, 1998/closing of facility early in season on August 30th, staff returning to college/school/teaching positions.**

The Crystal Lake season closed early this year on Sunday, August 23rd, instead of Labor Day. This was due to the fact that staff returned to college/school and their teaching positions. Carol Stapleton, Manager alerted the public as to the early closing of the facility and also there was a notice in the Tab Newspaper. As per the enclosed, a letter was sent to Mayor David B. Cohen regarding the early closing of the facility.

Commissioner Halloran reported on the accidental drowning at Crystal Lake on June 29, 1998, of Reynold Sergeant, a 17 year old youth.

The Commissioner commented that he was on vacation in Nova Scotia at the time of this incident. He was in contact with Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner on a daily basis until his return. He reminded Commission Members that in their monthly folders were copies of newspaper articles and letters sent to each staff member at Crystal Lake by Dolores Hamilton, Director of Human Resources and himself, complimenting them on their response to this situation.

The Commissioner introduced Carol Stapleton, who was in attendance at this meeting and she reported on the Fund set up to assist the family with the costly expenses of this tragedy. Carol also reported on the memorial Service held on Saturday, August 1st in honor of Reynold at the Mary Immaculate Church in Upper Falls. Carol also explained about the City Wide Crisis Team and its response to the tragedy.

Once again, the Commissioner commended Carol and the entire staff at Crystal Lake.

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9. **Aldermen N. Lipof, R. Lipof and Tattenbaum offering a Memorial Resolution for Jerry Angino and requesting that the conservation area on Nahanton Street adjacent to the Charles River and located on the site of the former Angino Farm be named the "Jerry Angino Conservation Area."**
The land in question is conservation land and does not come under the guise of the Parks and Recreation Land. Therefore, the agenda item was tabled and the information will be forwarded to the Conservation Commission in care of Martha Horn.

Peter Kastner, Alternate member, suggested that there is over 30 acres of Angino land and someone should have the Mayor's office contact the family to donate the site to the City.
10. **Report on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** Everything went very, very well except for a fight between the carnival works at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground and the fireworks on the last night of the Carnival.
11. **New Business:** Land at Rumford Avenue was discussed. A plan should be in use for passive recreation land at Rumford Avenue. A sub-committee was formed to include: James Mahoney, Chairman, Michael Clarke, Walter Bernheimer and a person from the Planning Department.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Next meeting to be held on October 26, 1998

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 1998
CITY HALL – ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates, William Ryan, John Bourgeois, Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also in attendance: Phil Perkins and Terry Morris, NNLL

1. **Minutes of the September meeting were accepted 7-0.**
2. **Reports of programs, maintenance, Commissioner's reports are enclosed in the folders:** Brochures include, Over 55 brochures, Newton Works Out, Fall/Winter schedule of events, Mayors Office for Cultural Affairs, Puppet Show, Princess and the Pea, Skiing for grades 3 – 5. Commissioner commented that Newton North Indoor Complex is in full swing, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, is here to comment on the Camp Scholarship program. There is a slight problem with the fencing around the Bullpen, Albemarle Brook, from Eddy Street to Watertown Street. Neighbors are split as to whether they want the fence to stay up or the fence to come down around the brook. The project is on hold at this time until the neighbors meet. George Mead, Safety Officer has been working with the neighbors to rectify the situation.
3. **Newton North Little League renewal of concession stand at Albemarle:** Phil Perkins and Terry Morris of the NNLL attending the meeting. They are requesting that the License Agreement for the Concession Stand for Newton North Little League be renewed for the next three years.
Commissioner Halloran recommended that license agreement be extended for another three years. Francis Rice motioned to extend the license agreement for another three years. John Bourgeois seconded. The commission members voted 7-0 to extend the Newton North Little League License Agreement for the Concession Stand, for the next three years. Law Department will be notified of vote to extend agreement.
Mr. Morris commented that the Roche Field has been rotated and that Newton North Little League is spending \$10,000 to re-do fields. He also mentioned that the storage container leaves the field when not in season.
Mr. Morris to return to the November 16th commission meeting to discuss a press box and storage for Newton North Little League.

- 4. **Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager – Camp Scholarships:** Commissioner Halloran commented that Stephanie has been working for the Newton Parks & Recreation Department since she was 15 years old. She attended U Mass Boston, married with three children and lives near Burr Park. Stephanie was a life guard, assistant manager and manager of Crystal Lake, produces the Parks & Recreation's Cable TV Show, Works with Special Needs, Youth Awards, Youth Groups, NNHS, playground installations and runs the women's softball and 2 camps during the summer months.

Raising of monies for camp scholarships started in 1995. Recreation Managers have been raising monies ever since and 1998 has been the most successful. The department provided 67 children from one to four weeks of camp experience, totaling 206 weeks of camp at \$19,515.00.

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Donations | \$ 6,966.00 |
| CBDG | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Fundraising | \$14,572.64 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$24,538.64 |

Donations were received from private agencies and patrons. The Department especially thanks the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course for their \$5,000.00 donation. Monies were raised by a movie, swim party, special needs and selling of sweatshirts.

Commissioner Halloran commented that he is very proud of Stephanie, Karen Peirce, Judy Dore, Sheila Butts and Mary Brown who are instrumental in the raising of camp scholarship monies. The commission members congratulated Stephanie on the outstanding job she has done not only as raising monies for camp scholarships but also the job she does as a Recreation Manager.

Commissioner Halloran commented that Francis Rice was honored by Boston University. He received the Moose Washburn Award for supporting Boston University programs.

- 5. **Forte Park Update:** The access road to Forte Park is just about finished. The dedication for Forte Park was held in October of last year. Forte Park was formerly Allison Park.

The sink hole is fenced off for now. The project is in the hands of the Law Department to see what contractor is responsible for the collapse of the sink hole. Hopefully this will all be resolved by next spring.

(3)

Phase II of Forte Park will include sports lighting, picnic areas and an exercise trail, bocce, landscaping, softball and soccer.

- 6. **Status Capital Improvement Program:** Mayor David B. Cohen has agreed to two definite CIP items: \$100,000 for Tree Plantings and \$50,000 for Turf Control that are not included in the regular operating budget. Also, the Commissioner commented that the number of fields that the maintenance department maintains has doubled.

Francis Rice commented that Kevin Osgood, Golf Course Manager of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course should be contacted if anyone has problems with pesticides. Mr. Osgood knows what treatments to use and has been contacted by other golf courses including Franklin, Chelmsford and the City of Boston.

- 7. **New Business:** Michael Clarke discussed Rumford Avenue. It is hoped that the Public Works Department deeds over the land to the Recreation Department for passive land. It would be nice to have a canoe launch site in the Purgatory Cove, Wabasso Street area. He said that if the commission members have a chance to visit the site. Rumford Avenue City land should be used for passive recreation.

Commissioner Halloran commented that he would be at the Land Use meeting on the next evening, regarding two parcels of land that will be given to the Parks & Recreation Department as a part of Cold Springs Park. He commented that they are relatively small parcels of land.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 1998
CITY HALL- ROOM 209, 7:30PM

Amended Minutes

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Anthony Battista, William Ryan and John Bourgeois

1. Minutes of the October meeting were accepted 7 - 0.
2. Reports of programs, maintenance, Commissioner's reports are enclosed in
The folders: Brochures include; Ice Skating Lessons, Tumbling for Young Children, Skiing at Nashoba Valley, Over 55 for November and Mayor Cohen's CIP list.
3. **Linda Plaut: Arts in the Parks received the 1998 Dorothy Mullen National Arts and Humanities Award**, from the National Recreation and Park Association, for first place in Class II which serves a population between 75,001 and 199,999. Linda Plaut, Director of Arts in the Parks attended the meeting. A photo for the newspaper was taken at the meeting with James Mahoney, Chairman, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Linda Plaut, recipient of award. Linda started with the Department in 1974 on the Bi-Centennial Committee and became a full time employee. She also works for the Mayor's Office for Cultural Affairs. Linda thanked all of the Commission members for their support throughout the years. She thanked Judy Anderson and Frances Shrand, who work in her Department and also her many, many volunteers for the success of all her programs.
4. **Rusty Thompson: Naming of new Millennium Park, "The Salvatore A. Balsamo Millennium Park"** on grounds of City Hall. Enclosed in the folders is a letter from Rusty Thompson, Chair of the Millennium Park Committee. Her request is that the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission vote permission to allow the Newton 2000 Millennium Fund to construct a passive recreation park on the grounds of Newton City Hall and to name it: The Salvatore A. Balsamo Millennium Park.

Also attending meeting: Irwin Thompson, Stanley Gaffin, Maria Plati, Marion Presslev and Phillip Kubzanzky.

Linda Plaut gave an outline of the purpose of creating a Millennium Park and their goals.

As we approach the next millennium, Newton 2000, a non-profit organization of Newton residents, is organizing community events and projects that will honor our city's past explore the present and begin a dialogue to ensure a promising future for all of our citizens, families, neighborhoods and businesses.

This is a unique opportunity to bring together residents from every village through activities that will foster community involvement and civic participation and enhance our city in the process. The Newton 2000 project includes task forces studying community issues, celebratory events and a Millennium Endowment Fund.

The purpose of creating a Millennium Park is to: Celebrate the Millennium; Create a passive recreational space for public use; Integrate Newton City Hall and the Newton Free Library; Increase public awareness of the City and its history; Connect Newton City Hall and the Newton Free Library in a more direct way.

Rusty Thompson, Chair, who is organizing the whole project gave a brief description of the area in question. The area is on the Homer Street side of the War Memorial at City Hall, from the War Memorial Circle which will include plantings around the area of the department heads parking lot. Benches will be Placed in the area to make it user friendly.

Mr. Salvatore A. Balsamo, Founder and CEO of TAC Worldwide Companies of Newton Upper Falls made a donation of \$250,000 to the Newton2000 Fund. In recognition of this donation, Rusty Thompson requests permission to name the Park, the Salvatore A. Balsamo Millennium Park.

Also, members of the Newton 2000 Committee include: Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner Parks & Recreation, James Hickey, Commissioner Public Works, Marion Pressley, Architect, Mr. Kaufman, Christine Samuelson, Alderman, Peter Vanderwalker, Linda Plaut, Director, Arts in the Parks and Rusty Thompson, Chair of Committee and Robert Platt Co-chair of the Newton 2000 Committee Rusty commented that his plan would not inhibit the Frederick Olmstead Plan but the Millennium Park plan, would enhance it. Plan would include landscaping seating, and a plaque. The plans would go through all protocol including Mayor Cohen.

Marion Pressley, Architect, commented that the plan does not affect the Frederick Olmstead design.

Also, the committee is inviting individuals to participate in an ideas competition for design of the Newton Millennium Park. The objective of the design competition is for ideas. The deadline is December 4, 1998. Robert Platt motioned to name the passive recreation park on the grounds of Newton City Hall "The Salvatore A. Balsamo Millenium Park."

James Mahoney, Chairman, commented that in view of the circumstances and deadline for the purpose of this park, the vote needed to be expedited. The criteria has been fulfilled and is not controversial. Commissioner Halloran personally feels that the policy should be waived this evening.

Peter Kastner commented that the Commission has a policy for naming a park, which requires two meetings, and the abutters of the area notified to attend the meeting, so that the public has a sense of participation. Also, that while it was a generous gift of \$250,000 it would be appropriate under the policy to name the park after Balsamo.

James Mahoney, Chairman, commented that we are only naming a portion of the grounds at City Hall, and that the issue is not as prominent for a public notice. There is a lot of representation of the committee, including Mayor Cohen and the Board of Aldermen who are behind the efforts.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, commented that while we appreciate the gift and the naming of the park, that this request does not fall under the policy to have two meetings.

Francis Rice commented that the land is under the Parks and Recreation Department's jurisdiction.

The Commission members voted to suspend the 1994 policy "Procedure for Naming a Park". Commission members voted 5 yay, 2 nay and a abstention.

Robert Platt's motion was seconded and approved.

The commission voted 5 yes, 2 nays and I abstaining to name the area on the grounds of Newton City Hall, The Salvatore A. Balsamo Millennium Park

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member, suggested that a letter be sent to Mr. Balsamo from the commission, thanking him for the donation and the votes that were taken this evening. Motion was made and seconded.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to write a letter from the Commission thanking Mr. Balsamo for his donation and informing him of the votes that were taken this evening.

5. Terry Morris, Newton North Little League, request to install Press Box and Storage area at the little league field at Albemarle. Mr. Morris did not attend meeting and the item deferred to the December meeting

6. CIP Update: Mayor Cohen's FY99 Capital Plan: In the first go around, the amount the Department will be receiving will be \$ 150,000. There will be \$ 100,000 for Tree Pruning and Planting and \$50,000 for Turf Control.(see # I 's on list) For numbers 3 & 4 on the list, the department will have to wait to see what kind of winter we have, as to what monies are left, and will find out in April. The Commissioner will keep the Commission posted on this.

7. Skating Rules and Regulations 1998-1999: Skating Rules and Regulations for 1998-1999 are the same as last years. The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Skating Rules and Regulations for 1998-1999. Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department.

Suggestions were made as to how to announce when there is ice skating: Announce on Newton Cable Show, Recreation hotline number 965-5253 and put flag on **Commonwealth Avenue for Cove.**

New Business: No new business.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 1998
CITY HALL – ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, William Ryan, Alternate, John Bourgeois, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary. Also attending Alternate Peter Kastner.

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper and Alternate, Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the November meeting were accepted 8-0.**
2. **Reports of programs, maintenance, are enclosed in the folders:** Brochures include: Special Needs Winter/Spring Newsletter, Kids Korner 1999, Over 55 programs, Step n' Dance Classes, Camp Fair, January 28, 1999, Tumbling for young children, New Year's Open House, letter to Salvatore Balsamo and news article.

Question was asked about ice skating at the Auburndale Cove and Commissioner Halloran said that you would need a week of extremely cold weather, 6 inches of black ice or 9" of snow ice.

Robert Platt, amateur meteorologist, commented that we should be having a week of low temperatures and no snow for Christmas.

3. **Terry Morris, Newton North Little League, request to install press box and storage area at the little league field at Albemarle:** Motion was made to move this request to the January meeting as Mr. Morris had not arrived. The first meeting would be the presentation, the second meeting would include all abutters to the Newton North Little League field at Albemarle and the third meeting the commission members would take a vote.

Commissioner Halloran commented that letters are to be sent to the abutters in the area which would include Albemarle Road, Watertown Street, Randlett Park and Petrillo's Market area. He also suggested that an announcement of the Commission meeting and the request be sent to the newspapers before the next meeting.

Mr. Morris arrived at 7:55PM. Mr. Morris commented that the advertising signs at the Newton North Little Field have been up for the past seven to eight years. The advertising raises monies for the little league. The little league has been responsible for maintaining the field and has invested over \$10,000 to refurbish the field. The bleacher stands were donated from Boston College and the revenues from the concession stand go towards maintaining the facility. A batting cage is also located in this area as well as a sprinkler system for the field. Commissioner Halloran commented that this is the best maintained field in the City.

Mr. Morris gave out diagrams of where the proposed two story facility is to be placed. The lower area would be for storage and the top area would be a press box area. The storage area would be for keeping the advertising signs, equipment, turfus, rakes, shovels, etc., during off season. At this time a storage box is rented from April to October. The storage box is taken away in October and returned in April. The cost of the storage box is \$100.00 per month. The height of the building would be no higher than the backstop. It would have a hip roof and the storage area would be made of cinder blocks. The press box would have a wooden frame with clapboard siding. The cost of the building would be between \$5,000 to \$8,000. The Little League to raise the monies for the building.

The press box would be needed for district tournaments, game announcements, opening day and hosting city series for the little league. Also for a point of information, the Newton North Little League won the "State Championship" this year.

The Albemarle complex is used for swimming, men's & women's softball touch football, soccer, Babe Ruth baseball and basketball. This is the heaviest used park area in the City.

Mr. Morris also commented that there is a lack of playing fields in the city as the little leagues now have competition from the soccer groups for field usage. The reason he is requesting night lighting is because of a lack of playing fields. The lights would increase the use of the field by 40-50%. The Newton North Little League Committee is interested in the Musco Light Structure System.

If accepted, the City would have full liability. It was suggested that both proposals be brought to the next Commission meeting.

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4. **C.I.P. Update:** Commissioner Halloran and Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, to attend the Finance Committee Meeting on Monday, January 11th for Recreation CIP items. Items included \$100,000 for trees, \$50,000 for tree plantings, \$50,000 for tree pruning and \$50,000 for fields and turf maintenance.
5. **New Business:** Commissioner Halloran wished everyone a "Happy and Healthy Holiday Season."

Meeting adjourned: 8:40PM