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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 25, 1999
CITY HALL – ROOM 209, 7:30PM
Revised**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, and Alternate Peter Kastner.

Also in attendance: Alternates William Ryan and Michael Clarke

Absent: Anthony Battista, John Bourgeois

James Mahoney, Chairman, took a brief moment to tell Commissioner Halloran that all of the Commission members want to share their sympathy, thoughts and prayers with him and his family in the loss of his son Jimmy. Commissioner Halloran thanked everyone and is very appreciate of everyone's thoughtfulness during this sad time in his life.

- 1. Minutes of the December meeting were accepted 8-0. Also Alternate Michael Clarke's suggested corrections were made to amend the November 16, 1998 minutes. Commission members approved 8-0 to amend the minutes.**
- 2. Reports of Programs and Maintenance, are enclosed in the folders. Also included in the folders is a flyer for Ice Skating Lessons, January activities for People Over 55, Camp Fair, January 28th, Acres in the Falls, Albemarle Acres, Soccer Academy, Camp Echo Bridge, Newton North Indoor Complex Water Safety Instructor Course, basketball schedule and Newton's 7th Annual Newton Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race.**

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3. **Terry Morris, Newton North Little League: Request to install a two story Press Box/Storage area and also lighting at the little league field at Albemarle Playground on Albemarle Road:** Terry Morris, Director of Newton North Little League delivered a letter to Commissioner Halloran on Monday morning, in person regarding this evenings meeting. He asked that his proposal be postponed. The reason being is that the league has been without a president for several months. Co-presidents were elected and they needed time to evaluate the proposals in their executive capacity. He apologized for any inconvenience this may have caused to the Commission or the public. Commissioner Halloran read Mr. Morris's letter to everyone at the meeting.

The meeting was opened to the general public to give their general comments:

Arsen DerGarabedian (Albemarle Road Abutter): The little leagues are a fine opportunity for youngster to play ball. He argued against the light pollution, and why the little league needs a sound system. He commented that it cost \$13,000 to light the Albemarle fields and \$3,000 to water the fields and the taxpayers pay for it. Years ago when the concession stand was approved, it was said at that time that there would be no night lights on the field. Also, he asked the little league for a copy of the Little League Charter and they did not have it. He would like a copy of the charter. At a meeting many years ago regarding the concession stand, it was discussed that there would be no lights. Mr. DerGarabedian commented that the neighborhood has gone too far with buildings on city property. He said that Albemarle Road is being wrecked.

Alternate Commission member William Ryan commented that the field needs lights so that more children can play ball in their own neighborhood.

Alderman Brooke Lipsitt: Commented that she heard from several concerned citizens regarding additional structures on the field and that they are concerned regarding the lighting. Is there really a significant need for another building in an open space area?

(3)

Robert Krause, Abutter: Commented that the storage area/press box, lights, is a bad idea as the NNLL field is one of the most over used fields in the City. This is a close, dense neighborhood, and there are lights on the fields at the Albemarle/Craft Street end. In the original charter, it states that the area is to be used for open space. The directors of the little league have not kept to their original promise regarding the providing of the landscaping in this area. Also, the signs are to come down at the end of the little league season and they came down in October. Newton North Little League is a non-profit entity and they have not filed with the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Krause said that he has 21 signatures opposing the plan. If lights were to be installed they would cost between \$20/25 per hour and that lights produce vandalism not deter from it. There will be 500 children attending the Boy's/Girl's Club on Watertown Street next to the Horace Mann School and a lighted park area is an attraction for children. Mr. Krause commented that he would appreciate a no vote to the press box/storage area and the proposed lights.

Anna Marie Abernathy: Asked for a copy of the 1993, Newton Parks & Recreation Commission's Policy on Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands. She is concerned about proposals for buildings and batting cages at the Lyons Playground little league field near her home. James Mahoney, Chairman, gave Ms. Abernathy a copy of the policy to read regarding any questions on procedures that she might have at the field near her home.

Robert Pettipaw from Richardson Field area: If this proposal is granted it will set a danger/serious precedents effective for other fields and others will want it. His neighborhood does not like night lights and the proposal would have an effect on all little leagues. He urges the commission not to tamper with tradition.

James Mahoney, Chairman, commented that he was glad that Mr. Pettipaw, from another little league, had concerns and attended the meeting.

Dan Broderick, Newton West Little League: Would not like lights at anytime. Most little leagues could not afford them. He commented that there are over 350 kids in the little league plus there is a summer league. Having a summer facility just for little league would be great for twilight little league and used for a summer camp during day. If they had a separate field they could invite teams from other communities to play. He also commented that in the little league rules, the major league have fences for safety and the whole 9 yards.

(4)

Peter Cammerata, Abutter: What is the need for a two story building? There are enough fences in the area and is no longer an open space area. There is a concession stand, softball field, 10' foot fence, (this is the one at the Jean Cole Field) gates are padlocked, stands and a batting cage. Too many fences! Commissioner Halloran commented that the reason the NNLL field gate was locked was because the NNLL has just resodded the field.

Linda Sabiela, League of Women's Voters: Has no opinion, no site plan or has seen the written proposal, but raises questions regarding buildings on public land. In regards to children's needs, do they really need night lighting and a press box? There are a lot of buildings on Albemarle Road, do we need more! Alternate Commission member Michael Clarke, asked Ms. Sabiela to submit a letter in writing to Commissioner Halloran regarding the League of Women's Voters concerns, so that the commission would have it on record.

William Hannan, Abutter: Commented that this area is not a war zone area. Example, neighbors around the Fessenden School did not want the hockey rink. The hockey rink is now and has been in existence. The lights at Albemarle do not bother me and I live on Albemarle Road directly across the street from the field.

Marie Hannan, Abutter: I leave my shades up and the lights from across the street do not bother me.

James Mahoney, Chairman, expressed the commission's appreciation for coming to the meeting and giving their input and comments regarding the little league proposal this evening. He also commented that this project has a long way to go before anything is voted on or approved.

As per the request of the abutters, additional letters will be sent to all abutters, two weeks prior to the next meeting, letting them know if Terry Morris's proposal will be on the agenda for the February commission meeting.

- 4. **Update on Forte Park:** Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner just returned from meeting with the Finance Committee and Forte Park, Phase II, was approved 7-0.
- 5. **Nomination for Youth Awards:** In the folders are the nomination papers for the 21st Annual Youth Service Awards Program. The ceremony is to be held Monday, May 17th at City Hall in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7:00PM.
- 6. **CIP Update:** Commissioner Halloran commented that we are waiting for the certified free cash, which should be coming through in a few days, \$100,000 was set aside for trees, \$50,000 for turf control and \$50,000 for pruning of trees.

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7. **Budget Update:** Commissioner Halloran and all City Department Heads met Thursday with Mayor Cohen. This is a zero based budget with increases in energy and contractual monies for the unions. Mayor Cohen will be submitting the budget to the Board of Aldermen soon.
8. **New Business:** Alternate Commission member Michael Clarke asked about monies set aside two years ago for the Louise Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake. Commissioner Halloran commented that Carol Stapleton, Manager, is working with the Planning Department and Mike Baldi, and will have a presentation in the near future. Commissioner Halloran suggested that this item be on the February agenda.

Michael Clarke moved that, "at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Commission is required to set aside an existing, written policy or procedure of the Commission." The motion was seconded by Walter Bernheimer and passed unanimously 8-0.

Present written policies of the Commission include:

1. Policies & Procedure for Approving Alteration of Parks and Recreation Land by Private Persons or Organizations
2. Principles Governing Transfer of Parks & Recreation Land to other City Departments
3. Guidelines for Playground Signs
4. Guidelines for Naming Parks

There are also draft Fencing Guidelines under development by the Landscape Commission that the Commission has agreed to take under consideration for new fencing, but these are not a policy of the Commission.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 1999
CITY HALL – ROOM 209, 7:30PM
REVISED**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chair, Peter Johnson, Vice Chair, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternate William Ryan, Alternate Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary.

Also attending: Alternate Peter Kastner

Absent: Anthony Battista, Josephine Pepper and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the January meeting were accepted 8-0.**
2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Reports of Events and Meetings:** Enclosed in the folders are the monthly reports, letter from James Broderick regarding a petition to be put on next months agenda to discuss the Newton West Little League's request to place advertising panels on the outfield fence at Lyons Field, newspaper article from Michael Clarke, President, Newton Conservators regarding Rumford dump and newly acquired land along adjacent Wabasso Street for a new conservation and passive recreational area along the Charles River's Purgatory Cove, photo of Anthony Battista's son on cover of Loyola's Men's College, Lacrosse Yearbook, brochures, 4Ever Sports, Centre Acres, Albemarle Acres, Soccer Academy, Newton 2000 Millennium Brick, Motion Mania, 55 and Over Brochures, Funtastic Friday's, Learn to Swim Program and Summer 1999 Calendar.

In reference to the letter from James Broderick, President, Newton West Little League, proposing the placement of 43 advertising panels, which would be attached to the outfield fence at Lyons Park. Aldermen Polly Bryson and Anthony Salvucci were in attendance at this meeting. Alderman Polly Bryson received a letter in reference to the request from Newton West Little League also. Alderman Bryson asked how the system works regarding this petition. Commissioner Halloran commented that they would bring in the petitioner and neighborhood abutters to the Lyons Field area to the next Commission meeting.

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The first meeting would be for the proposal presentation discussion and public comment. And the second meeting a vote would be taken. She also asked if the vote was not approved, would the proposal come before the Board of Aldermen, and the answer was no. The Board of Aldermen has 90 days to act on it if approved by the Commission after a public hearing. I ask that you not rush into it. Thank you.

Commissioner Halloran commented that when Theodore Mann was Mayor, monies were tight. When Terry Sack approached the mayor, who liked the idea of the little league raising monies by advertising signs we had a zero based budget for fields. Mayor Mann liked the idea of a public/private partnership, otherwise some of the fields would still be in deplorable condition. Newton East and Newton North Little League have advertising signs, but there are no signs at Richardson Field. There may be a better way to raise monies besides signs. I hope signs would be a last resort.

Peter Kastner questioned whether there were other ways for the little leagues to raise monies other than the advertising signs.

Robert Platt commented that there are other places in the City that have these signs, so how can NWLL be denied the same.

Alderman Salvucci commented that the little leagues are spending the monies to maintain the fields and that Parks and Recreation could never get compensating monies into its budget.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chair, wanted to make sure that we let the little league know that it should provide the following items for our next meeting: profit/loss statement 97/98, financial statement for non-profit organization, paperwork from Secretary of State, and projected budget for 1999.

Walter Bernheimer commented that he was not a big proponent of Proposition 2 1/2 and it has not been overturned as yet. If you loose the responsibility, then you will loose the level of maintenance. Also, he would like to know the fees that other little leagues charge and that NWLL should prove that it needs the additional revenue.

Alderman Polly Bryson: When will the vote take place.

(3)

Michael Clarke: When we approved the policy, which the Law Department wrote for us, with regard to the content of signs, signs were defined as structures, so they must come under our Policies & Procedures for Approving Alterations of Parks and Recreation Land by Private Persons or Organizations. A copy of the Regulation Prohibiting Advertisement and Promotion of Alcohol and Tobacco Products to Minors in Playgrounds and Parks should also go to the little league. He also made a correction in the January 25, 1999 minutes, the final paragraph, which should read. "After a brief discussion, the following motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved 8 - 0: At least a two-thirds majority vote of the Commission is required to set aside an existing, written policy or procedure of the Commission.

James Mahoney, Chair, suggested that at the next commission meeting invite the little league to come in and make their presentation and invite the abutters in also. Therefore, a letter will go out to the abutters notifying them of the upcoming meeting and also a letter will go out to Mr. Broderick regarding the meeting.

The date of the next commission meeting was changed from March 15th to March 22nd, because not everyone could attend the meeting on the 15th.

3. **Parks & Recreation Budget:** The budget will be presented to the Commission at the March meeting. The Finance Committee approved \$100,000 for trees, \$50,000 for tree planting and \$50,000 for pruning.
4. **Terry Morris, Newton North Little League will not be at the February or March meeting.** He will let Commissioner Halloran know if he will bring his proposal to the April or May Meeting.
5. **Status: Improvements to Coves at Crystal Lake:** Carol Stapleton, Manager, brought in a penciled diagram of the improvements to the coves at Crystal Lake. The reason the diagram is in pencil is because they are still making changes in the plans. She commented that they are working with the following Departments for improvements to the Coves: Engineering, Planning, Public Works, Community Development, Martha Horn and the neighborhood. They would like to implement this by the fall of 1999. Parks & Recreation Department has set aside \$50,000 and there is \$50,000 in the CIP budget for this plan. Ms. Stapleton said that the area will be handicapped accessible. The Public Works Department will be raising the curbing so that excess water will not go down into the lake area. There are 3-4 scuppers that filter the water and 4 new gas trap areas. There will be a bench on the slope and 2 sign boards only. There is still one issue, the cut off for the access for handicap people. In regards to the landscaping, a meeting will be held with the neighbors and new trees will be planted.

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- 6. **Election of Officers:** Election of officers, Chair and Vice Chair, will be held at the March 22nd Commission meeting.
- 7. **New Business:** There was a discussion of conflict of interest issues and Peter Kastner raised the idea of providing materials that would facilitate the operation of the Commission.

Motion to adjourn. All in favor say aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.

Meeting adjourned 8:38PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 22, 1999
CITY HALL, WAR MEMORIAL/ROOM 209, 7:30PM
REVISED**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg

Alternates attending: Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Aldermen, Polly Bryson, Leonard Gentile, Anthony Salvucci, Amy Sangiolo and Kenneth Parker

Start of meeting was held in War Memorial:

- 1. Request from Daniel Broderick, President, Newton West Little League, regarding the proposed placement of 43 advertising panels, which would be attached to the outfield fence at Lyons Field.**

James Mahoney, Chairman, called the meeting to order: He asked that those who wished to speak, go to the microphone, tell what the issues are and speak in a clear and concise manner.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member: Gave an excellent presentation and discussion of slides regarding Lyons field. Slides showed improvements to park area, dugouts, carriage road leading to Auburndale Playground, section were overflow of sewerage was, play area, storage box, batters box, life course, entrance to park and picnic area. James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Peter for the presentation.

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Daniel Broderick, President, Newton West Little League: The Newton West Little League requests that the City of Newton authorize the placing of advertising panels which will be attached to the outfield fence at Lyons Field. The maximum number of signs would be 43 and each sign will be approximately 8' X 3 ½'. The signs would be made of plywood or heavy duty plastic and would be green in color. They will be up from April through October. The little league has 350 children enrolled, ages 5 – 12, they had 30 teams last year and the registration fee is \$55.00 for one child and \$80.00 for a family. A certain amount of revenue is needed as the league expands, we need to maintain safe fields, uniforms, equipment replacement and umpires. This type of advertising is also at Newton North and Newton East little league fields. The advertising signs would comply with all City regulations. The little league hopes that the Commission acts favorably on its petition.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked for a show of hands for support and against. The audience was basically, half in favor and half against the signs. He commented that the commission intends to vote this evening. If approved this evening, the matter will go before the Board of Aldermen.

Marty Sender, Neighborhood Association: Mr. Sender sent a letter to his neighbors regarding the advertising signs and urged them to attend meeting. He also read a letter from Kevin Courtney, Auburndale Community Association: The letter was to register opposition of the Auburndale Community Association to the Newton West Little League's proposal for the placement of advertising signs on the Lyons Field baseball diamond's fence. Concerns were about the implications of the proposal, use of public space, use of public space to fund a private enterprise, funds to be used to improve the baseball field at Hamilton. League should press city officials to allocate the necessary funds to maintain the City's baseball fields. The use of Lyons field's baseball diamond for advertising is an inappropriate use of this public space for a private use. City field maintenance is the responsibility of the city and if a group such as the league wishes, or needs, to assume that burden, there are many less obtrusive means of raising funds.

Alderman Polly Bryson: Spoke with the Law Department regarding how the commission votes and this issue which may or may not come before the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Bryson has listened to both sides of the issue from the neighbors.

Walter Bernheimer: Asked for the little league's revenues at the last commission meeting. Commissioner Halloran commented that the Newton West Little League's statement from 1996 to 1999 are in the commission folders.

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Mr. Elliott, Conservators: Commented that he respects the little leagues, however, the Newton Conservators are opposed to the proposal by the Newton West Little League to erect 43 signs on the ballfield fence at Lyons Park. The park already has dugouts, batting cage and storage container. They ask that the commission act only after Newton West Little League has provided its financial filing with the state verifying that it is a nonprofit organization and a financial statement indicating its present income sources and expenditures, as well as the expected revenue from the signs. The conservators feel strongly about commercialized little league signs. The Youth Soccer League does more to provide and maintain their playing fields without selling signage

James Mahoney, Chairman: Asked the commission members if they had any questions:

Robert Platt asked Mr. Broderick how many signs he thought he would sell. Mr. Broderick said that he hoped to sell 20 or more to local businesses in the West Newton, Auburndale area. Mr. Platt asked if i.e Natick Tire wanted to advertise, would you accept them. Mr. Broderick said that he would probably accept. Also, it is \$250.00 to sponsor a team.

Walter Bernheimer asked Mr. Broderick to describe the growth of the Newton West Little League. Mr. Broderick said that there were 320 participants last year and 360 this year. No child is turned away for lack of monies. The league could use new uniforms this year.

Anthony Battista: The Parks & Recreation Department maintains all fields to the best of their ability. Permission was asked to adopt the field. Ten years ago Newton North Little League came before the Commission to install signs at Albemarle. Then Newton Centre Little League came before the Commission to install signs at Newton Centre. The Commission listed to all arguments for and against the advertising signs. The advertising signs at both little leagues were approved. Prior to proposition 2 ½ the fields were in disrepair. The little league fields at Albemarle and Newton Centre are in excellent shape due to monies received for the advertising signs. Also, do you, Mr. Broderick, send children door to door to collect raise monies for little league. Mr. Broderick said no, they have raffles instead.

Commissioner Halloran commented that the Department maintains all municipal grounds and all fields in the City. The Department has a public/private partnership with Youth Soccer and they do not have advertising signs. With a reduced work force, it is impossible to maintain an excellent level of all the fields in Newton. Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball, tennis, volleyball, etc., teams are using all of the fields daily all over the city.

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Anthony Battista: Commented that liquor and tobacco advertising is prohibited.

Francis Rice: Mr. Broderick, how many fields do you plan to maintain. He said Lyons, Burr, Hamilton, Williams and Franklin. Season starts in April 24th until Labor Day. Fields are used in the summer months for All-Star Playoffs with various other league outside the city of Newton.

Michael Gray, Treasurer: Commented that monies/donations are needed for uniforms, umpire fees, trophies, insurance, picnics, scholarships. There are approximately 12 children who need scholarships. No child is turned away.

Peter Kastner: Advertising should be a last resort to raise monies, all other avenues to raise monies need to be explored. According to the financial report, 1996, 97, 98, there is a balance of \$14,000. Field improvements were \$9,000, uniforms up 30% and you have not raised fees. He suggested the league should add \$30.00 to the fee from now on.

Peter Johnson: Mr. Broderick what fees do Newton North and Newton Central pay. Answer is \$60.00 each player. Youth Hockey pays \$605.00 to play hockey.

John Brooks, Islington Road: The issue here tonight is the kids. If the fields are not in good condition, the kids will break an ankle or get hurt. Children need a safe place to play. We need to work with the little league, not against it.

Christine: The issue here is kids, access, affordability, kids want to play ball. People move to this city because of the schools, the city is still growing and kids need places to play.

Red Abernathy, Islington Road: Signs should be on turnpikes. If the City is short of monies, does City Hall, Libraries, Schools put up signs. Why do we want to do this. It would be preposterous to put signs on all public buildings to raise monies.

Mr. Chavinski, Shirley Street: If the little leagues did not help out, the fields would not be in as good shape as they are now. League funds pay for maintenance to city fields. Baseball is for kids! Games are attended by families and playing ball is good for children.

Richard Dahlber: I am opposed to the signs. I walk in that area 2-3 times a week and I do not want to see advertising signs on the fence.

Christine Franks: Has 2 boys who play ball and the signs would be in the lower part of the infield where no one walks.

Alice: Has a son who plays soccer and baseball. The advertising signs would be the last straw. There must be other ways to run the league. We don't need any more advertising.

Jack, Commonwealth Avenue: To add signs to the fence would be dehumanizing the park. Need more use of the field, less policing.

Ray: When you see the field at 6:30AM it is beautiful, Which is more aesthetically pleasing, with or without signs.

Alderman Leonard Gentile: I played ball in the early 60's and have four children of my own. He talked to the Law Department and asked for advice. Being on the Board of Aldermen did not preclude him from being here now. There was life before Lyons. We used the green plywood fence as a hockey rink in the winter months. What is being requested here tonight is a request to erect signs. Revenue is needed. We need to keep the fees reasonable and maintain the fields. These fields have been in use for the past 60-70 years. Maybe the charter should be changed. Lyons Parks has been used as a baseball field for 50 years or more. This is as American as apple pie. There are a lot of areas that are totally unacceptable, not this one. Three games are going on at the same time. This is not an easy decision this evening and I wish you all the best.

Alderman Kenneth Parker: He supports all sports programs for children. Sports should be accessible to all children in Newton. He would be willing to talk to the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor regarding monies for fields. As of now we do not have enough monies to maintain the park's adequately. If Parks & Recreation does not have enough monies to maintain fields, they should ask the Mayor for more money. The parks should have some ambiance and we should have enough monies to maintain the fields.

Anthony Battista: In the next go round for the budget, do we have enough monies to support the fields. The Parks & Recreation Commission members would be willing to go to the Mayor before the next budget is approved to ask for enough monies to do all of the City's fields.

Bill Lancilotti, Woodbine Street: As a real estate appraiser, and from a valuation standpoint, there is no penalty for having advertising signs on fence. Mr. Sender read letter from Auburndale Community Association and Mr. Lancilotti pointed out that this does not include all of the Auburndale residents. Make sure that all signs are attractive.

Elizabeth: Commented that she is a direct abutter to the field. The little league asked for permission for a concession stand, batting cage. She listens to the ping, ping at the batting cage daily. Now they want advertising signs, what next.

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Mark, Woodbine St.: The City over extended themselves which has resulted in a shortfall for field maintenance. The little leagues want to handle the maintenance of the fields. The signs would be in an inconspicuous place and we should allow them to have the advertising signs.

Robert Platt: Motioned to approve as proposed, the request from Daniel Broderick, President, Newton West Little League, placing of 43 advertising panels, which would be attached to the outfield fence at Lyons Park as proposed Motion was made and seconded.

Peter Kastner: The intent of the slides was to show part of the park, raw sewerage in one area is a disgrace, and how often the sewerage has gone into this particular area, perhaps five times in the past ten years, and also I live near the park, and I can see it from my kitchen. I see dugouts, benches, concession stand, etc. My issue is whether the little league has exhausted all other avenues for raising monies. Fifty percent of Auburndale residents do not have kids. We need to submit a budget that includes the renovation of all fields. The use of advertising signs will further separate the park. Also, I would like to add that I am not a voting member this evening. One person raised \$250,000 for Millenium Park. Have they exhausted all their resources.

Michael Clarke: I agree with what Peter Kastner said to submit an operating budget for unsafe fields. Not all at once, but progressively we would get the monies. In our packets we have opinions not only from the Newton Conservators, but from Auburndale Community Association, Marty Sender, League of Women Voters, Bowen-Thompsonville Neighborhood Association, Green Decade Coalition and others as this is a city wide issue not just a neighborhood issue. We have heard from the South side of the City also. Having advertising signs is commercialization of sports.

James Mahoney, Chairman: We have a vote supporting this evening's proposal. In reference to the quality of the playing fields, we do not want kids playing on rocks, etc. We need to strike a balance, we have had great support from soccer regarding the quality of the fields. A balance can be struck here. Any comments.

Walter Bernheimer: Issues not one sided, and it not the way proposition 2 ½ works. A lot of the issues are gray. Not a good idea regarding the signs, I oppose it, and I opposed the other signs also.

James Mahoney, Chairman: Motion was made regarding proposed placement of 43 advertising panels, which would be attached to the outfield fence at Lyons Field. The commission members voted seven (7) in favor and one (1) opposed for permission to install forty three (43) advertising signs on the outfield fence of the little league field at Lyons Park.

Chairman Mahoney thanked everyone for attending the meeting this evening.

The meeting was moved into Room 209, regular room, to reconvene the rest of the commission meeting.

2. **Request from Bill Scudder, President, Newton South Little League, to use amplified sound, for one hour, during the Opening Day ceremonies of Newton South Little League which is on Sunday, April 25th at Richardson Playground.**

This issue, amplified sound during little league games, was brought to the attention of the Commission on May 5, 1997. The commission members voted 7-1 to abolish the use of the amplified sound system at Richardson Field on Allen Avenue in Waban.

Bill Scudder, President, Newton South Little League commented that the little league has a new board of officers now and they are working with the neighbors not against them. Last year they did not have use of a PA system and they had 350 children in the league. The league would like to make announcements for one hour in the morning from 10:50AM to 11:50AM. They would have short opening remarks, introductions, sponsors and the national anthem.

One neighbor asked how have circumstances changed with the neighbors from 1997.

Mr. Pettipaw would like to cooperate, but has serious doubts about the PA system. However, he believes that the little league is doing a great job. The previous years the decibel levels were loud and a nightmare. You hear them announce each player, what each player did, cheering, all day long.

Letter was read from Evelyn Campbell, 155 Beethoven asking that the request be denied, as this would be the first of many opening and closing ceremonies. When the PA system is on, the neighbors cannot hold a decent conversation, you have to go into the house and close the doors to talk. This is not Fenway Park.

Dr. Morey Daniel, member Newton South Board: Richardson is unique and in a different situation than other fields as homes are close to the field. We are raising monies for new playground equipment and are working closely with the neighbors. They are almost at their goal in raising the monies. She would like to see the league use a PA system for 1/2 an hour on opening day.

Walter Bernheimer: The 1999 little league is asking for a reasonable request for ½ or an hour to use the PA system on April 25th opening day. They have a new Little League Board and we might be able to support this on a conditional basis. No one here is being unreasonable and they can return to the Commission next year.

Anthony Battista: He has coached little league and supports it as it is important to the kids, with parades, etc. With 300 children on a field you would need amplification for that many children. I would support the use of the PA system for one hour.

Robert Platt: Motioned to allow the Newton South Little League to use a PA system, not to exceed one hour, for opening day. Motion was seconded .

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to allow the Newton South Little League to use a PA system, not to exceed one hour, for opening day. A letter will be sent to Mr. Scudder, President, Newton South Little League, regarding this on Tuesday. March 23rd.

3. **Minutes of the February Meeting:** Motion was made to approve the minutes of the February meeting with the correction of Walter Bernheimer not being a proponent of Proposition 2 ½. Motion was seconded. The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the minutes of the February meeting with the correction of Walter Bernheimer not being a proponent of Proposition 2 ½.
4. **Annual Election for Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Commissioner Halloran opened the nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Robert Platt nominated James Mahoney for Chairman. Motion was seconded. Commission members voted 7-0 to elect James Mahoney for Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Nominations opened for Vice Chairman. Josephine Pepper nominated Peter Johnson for Vice Chairman. Motion was seconded by Gwen Fineberg. Commission members voted 7-0 to elect Peter Johnson Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Congratulations to both James Mahoney, Chairman and Peter Johnson Vice Chairman on their re-elections.

- 5. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Report of events and meetings:** Commissioner Halloran commented that the usual reports are in the folders including "Over55" March programs and Worker's Workout. Also, the TV Show, Many Worlds of the Parks & Recreation Department, received an "Award of Excellence" for the TV show. The Commissioner is very proud of the producer of the show Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager.

- 6. **Commissioner's recommended Parks & Recreation Budget for FY2000:** This is a zero based budget. Summary on page 8 in the budget books. There is a slight increase in administration for full time positions and in maintenance. Vehicles are not included in this budget, they are in the CIP budget. Mayor's recommended budget for Parks & Recreation is \$3,677,231. Mayor Cohen will be presenting the budget to the Board of Aldermen on April 5th. Commissioner commented that we can live with this budget, there are no cuts and no people going. The commissioner recommends the budget amount.

Walter Bernheimer: Commented that there should be enough monies in the budget for the City to provide maintenance to the fields and he would like to see Proposition 2 1/2 overridden.

Suggestions were made: To get the Commission members involved in the next budget in November of this year and present their findings to the Mayor for the upcoming budget next year. Commissioner Halloran thought that this was a good idea.

Motion was made to accept the Parks & Recreation Department's Budget Report for FY2000. Motion was seconded. Commission members voted 8-0 to accept the Parks & Recreation Department's Budget Report for FY2000.

- 6. **1999 Tennis Rules & Regulations:** Fees are the same as last year. Motion was made to accept the 1999 Tennis Rules and Regulations. Motion was seconded. The commission members voted 8-0 to approve the 1999 Tennis Rules and Regulations.

- 7. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22PM.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 26, 1999

NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

(REVISED)

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Alternate Commission members, Peter Kastner, John Bourgeois, William Ryan, and Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista and Walter Bernheimer

1. **Minutes of the January meeting were accepted with changes**
Minutes of the February meeting were accepted with the addition of time
meeting adjourned to room 209, approximately 9:00PM
Minutes of the March meeting were accepted with changes
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Halloran reviewed the Reports of Programs, Maintenance and brochures in the folders. Mayor Cohen has delivered his FY2000 budget proposal. Alderman Bryson has convened a meeting with Auburndale to address the issue of Newton West Little League's selling advertising space on signs that would be placed on the ballfield fence at Lyons Park. The Newton Tab published an op/ed piece by Michael Clarke on the same issue. Other items included: Playground goals for Richardson playground, Newton Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race Brochure, "Over 55" activities for April/May and Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, (May 26th at Boston College, McElroy Commons, 7:45AM). Bids are being accepted for the sink hole at Forte Park. An architectural study will be done also, However, we have received a letter from Environmental Affairs, indicating that Urban Self Help Grant funds for all park construction have been put on hold. Phase II of Forte Park has been put on hold at the moment.
3. **Update on Youth Awards Presentation**, to be held in the Board of Aldermen Chambers prior to the May 17th Commission Meeting at 7:00PM
4. **Newton Taxpayer's Association request to erect a memorial plaque in honor of Joseph A. Alexander:** Alvin Mandell and the Newton Taxpayers Association Board of Directors respectfully requested that a memorial plaque be placed at the grass triangle located at Clark and Centre Street in honor of the late Joseph A. Alexander. Mr. Alexander was President and then Executive Director of the Newton Taxpayers Association and worked for many years to improve the city. Mr. Alexander lived in Newton for 44 years and resided at 82 Miller Road. Commissioner Halloran commented that Mr. Alexander was a great gentleman

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and volunteer, who treated everyone with respect. Mayor David B. Cohen signed a Memorial Resolution in Tribute to the Life and Times of Joseph A. Alexander offered by Aldermen McGrath, Bullwinkle and Lipof.

David Scott 321 Auburndale Avenue and Paula Kay, 407 Central Street commented that Mr. Alexander loved Newton and did a lot of good for the city. The Commissioner reviewed the main tenants of the policy regarding private organizations placing structures on public lands.

Alvin Mandell: Wrote a letter to Commissioner Halloran requesting a sign or memorial plaque in honor of the late Joseph A. Alexander. Mr. Alexander dedicated many years in service to the citizens of Newton for its betterment. Mr. Mandell has received \$150.00 towards the plaque. This is not an adoption of the island, just a request to place a rock with a plaque on the traffic island at Centre and Clark Streets.

Mr. Mandell has received \$150.00 towards the plaque. This is not an adoption of the island, but rather a request to place a rock with a plaque on the traffic island at Centre and Clark Streets. Joan and Martin Saklad wrote a letter proposing to name the traffic island after Mr. Alexander. Douglas Dickson, Chairman, Landscape Maintenance Task Force's letter encourages citizens to adopt public spaces such as this. Also, that it would be a greater honor to Mr. Alexander to have this space adopted so that it would invoke his memory, be attractive and well cared for.

The Commission requested a more detailed plan for the memorial (size, wording, construction, etc.) and suggested that the Association consider placing it in the recently renovated Weeks Field park. The Association was also asked if it would consider maintaining the memorial and possible the area in which it would be located.

Commissioner Halloran commented that he would notify the abutters in the area of Centre and Clark Streets for the next Commission Meeting on May 17th for those residents who would like to attend.

- 5. **Community Preservation Act:** Douglas Dickson, Vice President, Newton Conservators, wrote a letter requesting the Commission's support the Community Preservation Act (H3202, S1513), which would enable individual communities in Massachusetts to vote in a referendum to choose to raise funds for recreation land, conservation land, historic preservation and affordable housing. Previous legislation allows the Cape and Island to already do this. The Community Preservation Act is supported by the Conservation Commission, the Newton Conservators, the Landscape Maintenance Task Force and the Newton Housing

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Partnership. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Peter Kastner for the Parks & Recreation Commission to send a letter to the House/Senate to support the Community Preservation Act. Michael Clarke seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 4 in favor and 3 opposed to support the Community Preservation Act and send letters to the House/Senate to support it.

6. **Status of Budget:** Commissioner Halloran, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Alternate Commission Member Peter Kastner and the Parks & Recreation Department's personnel attended the Board of Aldermen's Programs & Services Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 21st regarding the Parks & Recreation budget. The Programs & Services Committee passed a resolution (6-0-1) to the Mayor to increase the funding for the maintenance of park land by the amount needed to adjust for funds lost due to inflation according to the estimate given by Mr. Kastner of 12% to 15%. The Committee voted 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstained for approval of the budget. The Departments budget will now proceed to the Board of Aldermen's Finance Committee.
7. **Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** This season the opening and closing dates and the fee for swim lessons will change.

Commissioner Halloran has discussed the issue with the Executive Office regarding the opening and closing dates for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. The Commissioner recommended the opening date of June 14th and the closing date August 29th. The early closing is due to the earlier return of high school and college student workers to school. Every attempt will be made to keep the pool and lake open until Labor Day. Also, it was noted that attendance drops after the swim lessons are over. A survey for surrounding communities showed that most swim areas close the 3rd and 4th week in August.

John Bourgeois moved that Crystal Lake and Gath Pool open on Monday, June 14th and close on Sunday, August 29th if the facilities could not be staffed through Labor Day.. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The commission members vote unanimously 7 in favor and none opposed to the opening date of Crystal Lake and Gath Pool for Monday, June 14th and closing date of Sunday, August 29th.

Commissioner Halloran then recommended a swim lesson fee of \$25.00 per person. The funds raised will help pay for an increase in seasonal rates for leaders and swim personnel. This does not include the permit charge. Increased lesson fees were implemented last fall at Newton North Indoor complex with no complaints. A scholarship notice would be placed in each swim brochure.

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Two dollars of the twenty five dollar fee would go to the scholarship fund. The rate increases will start July 1st and have been approved by the Personnel and the Executive Departments.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed 7-0 to approve the swim lesson fees for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake in the amount of \$25.00 per person.

- 8. **Draft Information Manual for use by the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission:** Information Manuals were sent to all Commission members from Michael Clarke prior to the meeting. Commissioner Halloran commented that the information manual is outstanding and that Mr. Clarke put a lot of work into it. Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, also thought the manual was an excellent idea. Peter Kaster commented that the manual contained invaluable information. Mr. Clarke suggested that the commission develop its own mission statement to begin the manual. Mr. Rice suggested that the presentation of the manual occur after a committee reviewed and made recommendations. The review committee consists of: Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisors, Michael Clarke, John Bourgeois, Walter Bernheimer and Maria Plati, Chief of Policy & Communications
The following people would be included in the sub-committee: Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, Michael Clarke, John Bourgeois and Maria Plati, Chief of Policy & Communications.

Because not all of the commission members were present this evening, the item will be put on the May agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Halloran thanked Michael Clarke for the presentation and the Information Manual.

- 9. **New Business:** Mr. Kastner recommended a general discussion in reference to The Policy and Procedures Rules & Regulations for future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 17, 1999
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, John Bourgeois, Alternate Member, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays Secretary

Also in attendance: William Ryan, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke, Alternate members

Absent: Josephine Pepper

1. **Minutes of the April meeting were accepted 7-0 with 1 abstaining, Walter Bernheimer, as he was not at the last meeting.**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of Programs, Maintenance and Events:** Included was information on the Walk-A-Block Program, "Over 55" schedule, a letter from Martha Horn, Environmental Planner, Enforcement Action – Wetland Violation at Nahanton Park, 2 E-Mails from Michael Clarke: one to Mayor Cohen regarding the budget for the Parks & Recreation Department and an E-Mail to Alderman Polly Bryson on Newton West Little League Sign Compromise.

Commissioner Halloran reported a letter was sent to Senator Walsh and Representative John Rogers regarding support for H-3202 – S1513, the Community Preservation Act.

The 21st Annual Youth Service Awards: were held in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7:00PM. Commissioner Halloran commended Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, for her time and efforts in preparing and coordinating the event.

Recipients:

Judge Franklin N. Flaschner Adult Award
Harry Goober

Judge Julian Yesley Young Adult Award
Dan Alfred
David Poretz

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Officer Robert Braceland Senior Youth Award
James Duffy

Irene Bickelman Junior Youth Award
Margaret "Meg" Burns

Meeting reconvened in room 209 at 7:45PM.

- 3. **Newton Taxpayers Association request for a memorial plaque in honor of Joseph A. Alexander:** Mr. Alvin Mandell requested a plaque, in memory of Joseph Alexander, be placed on a large boulder at the grass triangle at Centre and Clark Streets. The boulder would be 2-3 feet in size and put in at the expense of the Newton Taxpayers Association Board of Directors.

A total of 68 letters were sent to abutters/residents of the grass triangle at Centre and Clark Streets regarding a request for a memorial plaque to be placed on a stone at this location for Joseph A. Alexander.

Chris Meyer, resident, did not know Mr. Alexander. However, he indicated that the park has been ruined by construction which was left by the Public Works and Engineering Departments. The park should be restored to its natural state.

Walter Strauss, resident, knew him well. He was disturbed as to why the Newton Taxpayers Association was honoring Mr. Alexander.

Mr. Mandell, Associate Director, Newton Taxpayers Association, said that no one has questioned Mr. Alexander's loyalty, or his non paid position.

Walter Bernheimer stated that memorial plaques are placed throughout the City. The Commission should use more discretion on approving future memorial plaques.

Robert Platt stated that we do have many places where plaques are placed throughout the City. He suggested the Newton 2000 Millennium Brick. For \$100 a name and inscription can be placed on a brick, which would be placed in the Salvatore A. Balsamo Millennium Park at Newton City Hall. Mr. Platt believes that plaques should not be placed just anywhere in the City.

Phyllis Strauss, resident, stated that Mr. Alexander has my respect, but she disagreed for what he what he stood. She agreed with Mr. Bernheimer, it is not appropriate to honor private citizens with plaques.

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Anthony Battista: In past years, several major improvements have been done with the carnival and there were no complaints from abutters last year.

Peter Johnson motioned to approve the request from the St. Mary of Carmen Society. Walter Bernheimer seconded.

The Commission members approved 8 for and 0 against to honor the request for the St. Mary of Carnival to celebrate its annual fiesta on July 14th through July 18th, 1999 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground. The same rules will be followed as last year. Set up will be no sooner than Monday, July 12th at 8:00AM. The rides and booths will be removed from the field by Tuesday, July 20th at noon. Closing time will be 11:00PM.

Mr. Leone thanked the Commission for approval of their request.

5. **Draft of Information Manual used by the Parks & Recreation Commission:** The date for the sub-committee meeting has been set up for Tuesday, May 25th at 10:00AM in room 222 at City Hall to discuss the Information Manual. The sub-committee will report back to the commission with its recommendations. The sub-committee includes: Commissioner Halloran, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Michael Clark, Peter Johnson, Walter Bernheimer, John Bourgeois, Commission members and Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor.

6. **Nahanton Park Wetlands Violation:** A letter was received May 13th, by Commissioner Halloran from Martha Horn, regarding an Enforcement Action – Wetland Violation at Nahanton Park, Winchester Street. There was a complaint that vegetation was removed from the side of the soccer field, near the pond, at Nahanton Park near the pond, and grass was planted in its place. Vegetation in another area was cut back to get a wheel chair to the soccer area. Those who have checked the site were Commissioner Halloran, Deputy Commissioner Fran Towle, Peter Kastner, Robert Platt and James Mahoney. The field that was built 6-7 years ago has been rotated and is now perpendicular to Winchester Street. The vegetation was cut back 8-10 feet in an area to accommodate the length of the soccer field.

Walter Bernheimer asked what could we do to alleviate the problem of this happening again in the wetlands areas. His suggestion was letters be sent out to groups who use the field area on a regular basis to let them know where the wetland areas are and that they cannot remove the vegetation from these areas.

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Paul Kay, resident, stated Mr. Alexander did do a good job. He was very pleasant and he is grateful for the work that has been done with city funds.

Peter Kastner identified with naming an area in memory of someone/something: i.e. a Crystal Lake Cove was named Levingston Cove, Allison Park was changed to Forte Park and Hawthorn Playground was changed to the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground. In other situations, people have donated money for benches with plaques to be installed in certain areas i.e. Weeks and Nahanton Park. Also, there are streets and intersections named after residents/war veterans.

George Williamson, resident, said he knew Mr. Alexander for a long time. He also indicated Mr. Alexander was very talented, attended all Board of Aldermen meetings and did the City a great service. He asked the Commission to please consider the plaque for Mr. Alexander.

James Mahoney stated there are many friends here this evening of Mr. Alexander's. He noticed that some commission members are hesitant about this request. He suggested that a vote be taken or reconsider another form of honoring Mr. Alexander.

Mr. Mandell noted we are not looking for something ostentatious. All the group wants is a memorial plaque on a large stone.

Motion was made regarding Alvin Mandell's request to place a stone with a plaque on it at the grass triangle located at Clark and Centre Streets in honor of Joseph A. Alexander. Motion was seconded.

The commission members voted 1 in favor and 7 against the request to place a plaque on a large stone at the grass triangle located at Clark and Centre Streets in honor of Joseph A. Alexander. The request was defeated. It was suggested that the group find another way to honor Mr. Alexander.

- 4. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival – Annual Fiesta:** Nunzio Leone, Chairman, of the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival and Robert Vasselotti attended the meeting. Mr. Leone is requesting permission to celebrate the St. Mary of Carmen's Annual Fiesta at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground on July 14th through July 18th, 1999. The carnival would be set up no sooner than Monday, July 12th at 8:00AM and all rides and booths to be cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 20th at noon. The Society will be responsible for the damage to the grounds. Carnival would operate from Wednesday, July 14th through Sunday, July 18, 1999. Closing time would be 11:00PM. The same rules and regulations as last years' would apply. (see letter) Mr. Leone said that it would be the same operator as last year, Bruce Schmick.

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Peter Kastner noted the area is to be preserved when rotating the fields. Private parties made this violation. This is a serious issue and made without the Recreation Department's knowledge. Private parties make mistakes, therefore, the boundaries need to be documented. When a footprint which denotes the boundaries of an area is done, everyone who is associated with the field should know what areas can/cannot be touched as far as removing vegetation from the area. The wildlife habitat is of particular importance to the area. Mr. Kastner realizes that the soccer group has made very important contributions to the park. He would like to maintain the relationship between the soccer groups and the Recreation Department.

Steve Fauteux, Newton Youth Soccer said Mr. Kastner's point is well taken and he will take the responsibility for the removal of the vegetation from Nahanton Park. The Recreation Department did not authorize the vegetation to be removed. Mr. Fauteux believed that there was a safety issue involved with children falling and getting the overgrowth in their eyes. The vegetation/brush was removed without realizing the area was wetlands. He did not know about the footprint of the area. He was willing to work with Martha Horn, Environmental Planner, regarding these issues.

Commissioner Halloran remarked that the brush was removed from the area was done in good faith. The soccer group was worried about children hurting themselves in the brush in that area. Steve Fauteux admitted that it was the soccer's mistake. He is prepared to meet with Martha Horn regarding restitution and the restoration of the area. The Commissioner will keep the commission apprised of the situation.

- 7. **Status of the Budget:** The budget was passed by the Board of Aldermen, 15 for 0 against and 9 absent.
- 8. **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, May 26th, 7:30AM at McElroy Commons Dining Room at Boston College**
- 9. **New Business:**

A) Commission Policy Procedure:

Peter Kastner asked to discuss the vote taken at the April 1999 Commission Meeting on the Little League signs at Lyons Playground. As per the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission's Policy on Procedure for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands, the policy states there will be at least two meetings to decide on any proposal. The first meeting will be for

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proposal presentation, discussion and public comment. The second meeting will be for Commission discussion and vote. Abutters would be notified of the meeting so that they may attend also. Because there was only one meeting to decide the issue, a compromise could not be reached between the neighbors and the Little League. We should have abided by our own rules and had two meetings. He also indicated that the previous Commission meeting's minutes stated that the Commission would have two meetings to decide the issue.

James Mahoney, Chairman said that before the meeting started he had taken a consensus vote amongst the voting members of the Commission and they agreed to a one night meeting. The rules were suspended for that evening.

Anthony Battista said if a compromise could have been made, the Commission would have done so. He felt a decision needed to be made that evening.

Walter Bernheimer said the Commission encourages parties involved to meet before the Commission meeting to discuss the issues and compromises. The Little League did have a deadline that evening.

Michael Clarke said there was no reason not to allow ourselves more time to discuss issues. There was no real rush. By voting that night, we made no friends that evening with either constituents. There were people there who did not want the signs. After the meeting, the Little League realized the problem was still unresolved because the aldermen had to vote on the sign issue as well. The Commission had a procedure and we should have followed it. Voting on it in one night was not the thing to do.

James Mahoney said that Michael Clarke had a perfectly reasonable point of view.

B) Sign of the Times:

Robert Platt: In his opinion, he did not approve of the newspaper article, "Signs of the Times", written by Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member. The article knocked the Parks and Recreation Commission saying the Commission failed to develop political clout for adequate funding for maintaining public grounds/playing fields.

Francis Rice asked why Mr. Clarke wrote the article as the President of the Newton Conservators and as an alternate member of the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission He suggested that Michael Clarke should have written the article as a private citizen. Mr. Clarke did say that he wrote the article for the newspaper as a guest commentary and did comment about the Parks & Recreation Commission because the Commission did not follow procedures.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 21, 1999
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 222, 7:30PM**

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates William Ryan, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the May** meeting were accepted
Minutes of the March meeting were accepted with changes
Minutes of the April meeting were accepted with changes

2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Halloran reviewed the Reports of Programs, maintenance and brochures in the folders. Letter to Nunzio Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen, Festival Committee for upcoming carnival, news articles; City and Boston College Settle Agreement regarding Edmunds Park, Youth Soccer /Wetlands at Nahanton Park, letter from Newton Conservators/Extension of Soccer Field at Nahanton Park. Also included Swim Lessons Registration, Programs for People "Over 55" and Plant 2000 Trees for 2000 Millennium.

3. **Newton West Little League's Amended Petition for Signs on Ballfields:** Dan Broderick, Michael Gray, Paul Cohen and John Greeley were present from the Newton West Little League. The Newton West Little League committee previously petitioned the Commission to allow them to affix temporary signs on the inside of the outfield fence at Lyons Field. At the March Commission meeting, the commission members voted in favor of installing forty three advertising signs on the outfield fence of the little league field at Lyons Park. The Board of Aldermen vetoed this proposal.

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Paul Cohen, Newton West Little League, Amended Petition: Requests permission to affix a total of 6 signs onto the back of the grandstands/backstops or nearby fences at the baseball fields at Franklin, Williams, 2 at Hamilton and 2 at Lyons. All signs will be 4 feet high by 6 feet wide, made of 3/4 inch plywood, painted green and will hold 6 to 12 name plates denoting Newton West Little League's sponsors and contributors, whose donations are used to fund maintenance of the fields. Mr. Cohen told the members that he appreciated the support that the Commission has given them. He also brought a mock up of the signs that they would like placed in the Newton West Little League areas. The signs would list the sponsors and would be placed in the four areas in early April and taken down at the end of July. At Lyons there would be two signs one on the back of the stands facing Commonwealth Avenue and one on the backstop or fencing. There will be no advertising on the signs. Also, the Newton West Little League has received approval of the neighborhood association.

Commissioner Halloran said that the Commission does not have any jurisdiction over the fields at Franklin and Williams. The Little League would have to work with the School Department on signs at school sites. The Commission does have jurisdiction over Lyons and Hamilton fields.

Peter Kastner said that he is grateful that there are no advertising logos on these signs and this is a good direction in which to go. This is a vast improvement over the other signs and they are not as visible from the street. He suggested that we vote on the signs at Lyons and Hamilton, and let the School Department vote on the signs at Franklin and Williams.

Kevin Courtney, Auburndale Community Association's decision was to oppose the signs. However, the Association's meeting was productive and the signs are not considered advertising but recognition of their donations. The neighbors and the Auburndale Community Association are in favor of this compromise, limiting the number of signs, size and color. This is a positive development.

Mr. Gray said that the Auburndale Community Association helped them to promote this idea of the new signs.

Peter Kastner said that there should have been a second meeting to decide the vote of the Newton West Little League's first proposal. Now the Little League is trying to quadruple the franchise from one to four sites and granting them a long term license. The Commission should have a good understanding of the revenue involved. What is our response to other users and other causes. The Commission needs to take into account the long term ramifications. Are we setting a precedent? We do not have to vote on this item this evening.

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Mr. Broderick said they would have six to twelve slots on each sign, and the income they anticipate would be the same. Advertising slots would be \$100-125 each. The slots are not to exceed 5 inches in height and 20 inches in length. The signs may contain only the name of the donor. Logos and additional text are not permitted. Also the little league is looking for corporate sponsors. All of the signs will be 4 feet high by 6 feet in width, constructed of 3/4 inch plywood, painted green. The monies received would go to the little league to supplement the maintenance of the field that is being done by the Parks & Recreation Department. The end result would benefit the community and children. The Newton West Little League also has a summer baseball league.

In the letter to James Mahoney, Chairman, from Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Parks & Recreation, stated that these signs are still to be treated as advertising. Therefore, they are subject to a vote of the Board of Aldermen. Along with the Board of Aldermen vote, it will be necessary for the Newton West Little League to secure approval of the School Committee, because two of the proposed sites Franklin and Williams are on school land.

Walter Bernheimer, who opposes signs, said that the new signs were a good idea and a vast improvement over other signs. This is an ad hoc thing not a precedent.

Peter Johnson asked if the Hamilton neighbors are opposed or not to these new signs. The abutters of the area should be notified of the September Commission meeting at which the neighbors may have an opportunity to be apprised of this new sign proposal.

Peter Johnson motioned to approve the signs at Lyons field.

Michael Clarke suggested 1 sign be put up for 5 years only. The annual duration of display would be from April 1st to Labor Day, dimensions, not more than 6 feet in width and 4 feet in height. Colors, green background with white lettering similar to existing Parks & Recreation signage. Wording: Newton West Little League and Newton Parks and Recreation gratefully acknowledge the contributions to the League's Field Improvement and Maintenance Program. Plaques will not exceed 5 inches in height and 20 inches in length. The signs may contain only the name of the donor. Logos and additional text are not permitted. The maximum number of acknowledgement plaques per board is 12. Should requests by other organizations, such as the Newton Central and Newton South Little Leagues arise, the above policy shall serve as a model for permitting similar donor acknowledgements.

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Walter Bernheimer is concerned not for just this group. He asked if the commission should request Newton North and Newton East Little League to follow this policy and convert their existing advertising signs to similar acknowledgement plaques. He suggested 2 signs per field for a 5 year period. He also asked that the Hamilton abutters be notified of the September Commission meeting in which the commission will discuss the little league sign issue. This is not an ad hoc thing and he does not consider this a precedence. Mr. Bernheimer said that although he opposes signs, the new signs were a good idea and a vast improvement other the other signs.

Michael Clarke moved, seconded by Peter Kastner, that the Newton West Little League be allowed to erect two plaque boards, on the back of the stands, to acknowledge donors supporting playing field improvements at Lyons Park for a five year period from April 15, 2000 to August 30, 2004. The signs will be 6' in width, 4' in height, green with white lettering, plaques not to exceed 5" in height and 20" in length and may contain only the name of the donor.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 that the Newton West Little League be allowed to erect two plaque boards to acknowledge donors supporting playing field improvements at Lyons Park for the period from April 15, 2000 to August 30, 2004. The signs will be 6' in width, 4' in height, green with white lettering, plaques not to exceed 5" in height and 20" in length, may contain only the name of the donor, and no more than 12 plaques.

Michael Clarke noted if requests by other organizations, such as the Newton Central and Newton South Little Leagues, arise, the above policy shall serve as a model for permitting similar donor acknowledgements. The Newton North and Newton East Little Leagues should be requested to convert their existing advertising signs to similar acknowledgement plaques. Because Hamilton Playground abutters had not been informed, an acknowledgement board for this site will be considered at the September meeting. Newton West Little League will approach the School Committee about placing similar acknowledgement plaques at the Williams and Franklin School sites.

- 4. **Friends of Nahanton Park:** Following a presentation of the issues at Nahanton Park by Paula Chason, Treasurer, Friends of Nahanton Park, and Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member, included a proposed wheelchair accessible pathway extension to Florrie's Path. In a walk that took place at Nahanton Park, it was discovered that the wildlife habitat had been removed along the corridor that protects the pond. It was the consensus of the commission to wait for recommendations from the Nahanton Park ad hoc committee and the Conservators Committee. The plans should incorporate the needs & interests of each party. Also, Ms. Chason heard that there may be a request for an additional playing field at Nahanton Park. She would like to discuss any changes that are to be made at the park.

Michael Clarke, said that he heard that the Gold School would like to construct a high school for 200-300 students. The students would need playing fields. There is an easement on the soccer field, which belongs to the City with an easement to the Jewish Community Center, that gives the City two nights a week and Saturday's for use. (This easement has not been enforced by the Jewish Community Center) In regards to the handicap walkway, there is a flat area of land on Nahanton Street which connects with 2 different wooded areas. The alternative pathway is to follow the dirt roadway and connect with Florrie's Path and come out onto the soccer field by the edge of the pond and skirt the edge of the soccer field and re-enter the woods where there is a path and come out at the circle on Winchester Street. There is also another alternative that they may use to come out near the turn around. Wildlife are in the two wooded areas of the park. Under the Wetlands Protection Act, it is illegal to cut any vegetation or overgrown weeds. The Planning Department has money set aside for the bluestone handicap walkway. Martha Horn, Conservation, wants all the issues resolved before she can issue an order of conditions. This includes the habitat, handicap path and the rotation of the soccer field.

Commissioner Halloran said that there was a Nahanton Park Soccer Field Alteration Enforcement Meeting which was held on June 17th with Steve Fauteux, Youth Soccer, Lowell Haynes, Planning Department, Peter Kastner, Friends of Nahanton Park, Frank Howard, Newton Conservators and Martha Horn, Planning Department.

Peter Kastner said that the four groups, Newton Youth Soccer, Parks & Recreation Department, Newton Conservators and Friends of Nahanton Park, should draft a plan to present to the Parks & Recreation Commission and then be presented to the Conservators.

(6)

- 5. **Report on "sink hole" at Forte Park:** Ron Marini is the contractor who will be repairing the sink hole at Forte Park. Everything will be taken out of the hole and re-piped and a new chamber installed in using the specifications by the Engineering Department. The area would also be loomed and seeded. Commissioner Halloran will keep the Commission apprised of the situation.
- 6. **Summer plans for tennis, Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner, Acres in the Falls, Outdoor Adventure, Soccer Clinic, Basketball Clinic, leagues, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** Crystal Lake and Gath Pool opened on June 14th, all summer camps open on Monday, June 28th, except for Special Needs and Acres in the Falls which start the first week in July. Men's & Women's softball started in May and tennis lessons are on-going.
- 7. **Camp Scholarship Report:** There were 73 camp scholarship requests received and accepted. Out of the 73 applicants, there were 52 individual families. Total amount of monies awarded was \$25,305.
- 8. **July 4th Festivities:** Kids Morning at Newton Centre Playground, 9:00AM to noon, Pet Parade, Open Air Market, Winnoker Orchestra at 6:00PM and Fireworks at 9:00PM.
- 9. **Newton North High School Indoor Complex Fees:** The Commissioner reported that fees increases slightly. Fees are as follows:

Seasonal Fees	Current*	Proposed**
Adult	\$35.00	\$36.00
Student	\$25.00	\$26.00
Family+	\$95.00	\$98.00
Non-Resident	\$95.00	\$96.00

*Current fee does not include ID card, which is \$500 and good for 5 years.

**Proposed fee includes cost of yearly ID card.

+Family includes 2 adults in household and all children between 6 and 17 years of age. Fee is based on 2 adults and one child.

Daily Fees	Current	Proposed
Adult (18-59)	\$3.00	\$3.00
Student (6-17)	\$2.00	\$2.00
Non-Resident	\$6.00	\$6.00

(7)

<u>Swim Lesson Fees</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Member per session	\$20.00	\$25.00
Non-Member per session	\$30.00	\$40.00

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the Newton North Indoor Complex Fees as proposed for 1999/00. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion

The Commission members unanimously approved the proposed Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 1999/00.

10. Information Manual: The revision of the Information Manual for the Parks and Recreation Commission was presented by Michael Clarke. After some discussion the following revision were accepted:

1. Reorder the chapters to place the legal documents at the end.
2. Update the Inventory of Commission Properties including a list of neighborhood and recreation centers. The list of 278 grass triangle properties under Parks & Recreation jurisdiction is still to be added.
3. Include the position of the Open Space Coordinator in the Parks & Recreation Department's Organizational Chart.
4. Include a section with the mission statements of other Newton Boards and Commissions so that Commission members will be aware of our related and sometimes overlapping functions.

The committee regarding the Manual will continue to meet to draft a Mission Statement for the Commission to be submitted in September.

11. New Business: Michael Clarke together with interested Commission members may be authorized to explore the possibilities of formalizing the existing dirt pathways along the aqueduct corridors in Newton with the following organizations: the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA), the Newton Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and other relevant agencies.

The Commissioner mentioned that the Department has a new position in the Maintenance Division for Assistant Division Foreman Grounds, starting July 1st 1999.

Commission members voted unanimously to adjourn meeting at 8:55PM.

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 27, 1999
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Josephine Pepper, John Bourgeois, William Ryan, Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Anthony Battista, Gwen Fineberg and Michael Clarke

James Mahoney, Chairman, welcomed everyone back and hoped that they had a good summer.

1. **Minutes of the June meeting.** Francis Rice motioned to approve minutes and Walter Bernheimer seconded. Minutes of the June meeting were approved 8-0.
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Halloran reviewed the reports of programs, maintenance and brochures in the folders; Newspaper article, Douglas Dickson regarding ordinance to require developers to replace all of the trees that they cut down, Friends Organizing to Restore Burr Park, Articles on Bicycle Paths in Newton, Crystal Lake's early closing, Letter to Terry Sack regarding Little League Signs, "Over 55" September schedule, Tumbling, Newton North Indoor Complex Schedule, Special Needs Fall Newsletter, Introduction to Volleyball and Newton 2000 Gala Concert. All in all in was a tremendous summer!
3. **Crystal Lake & Gath Pool closing before Labor Day due to staff going back to college and high school sports:** Crystal Lake and Gath Pool opened their facilities on June 14th. However, because of early college entry or beginning of fall high school sport practices, trained staff were unavailable to operate in a safe manner. Other early City/Town swimming closings were Wellesley, Lexington, Needham and Natick. Crystal Lake closed on August 22nd and Gath Pool on August 29th. Every attempt was made to stay open until Labor Day.

(2)

- 4. **Beautification Awards:** Beautification Awards were held on September 21st at 6:00PM in the War Memorial at City Hall. There were 31 Residential Garden Awards, 6 Business Awards, 7 Community Awards, 2 Stars of the City and Mayor's Beautification Cup were awarded.
- 5. **Commission Information Manual:** Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member was not at meeting, however, he made corrections to the information manual for this evening's meeting.

Also enclosed is a Mission Statement from the Parks & Recreation Department. In the Information Manual is a mission statement by Michael Clarke. These two statements differ and Peter Kastner suggested that the Parks & Recreation mission statement be combined and added on to with passive issues. Commission Halloran said that the Mayor's Office asked to keep the Parks & Recreation Mission Statement brief.

- 6. **Harvest Fair, Sunday, October 17, 1999:** (Raindate October 24th) Celebrate World Culture, Newton Centre Green, Center & Beacon Streets.
- 7. **Report on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** Commissioner Halloran commented that the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival went very well. There were no complaints during the week of the carnival and it was the best carnival they ever had..
- 8. **Newton West Little League:** Petitioners will be at the October 18th Commission Meeting to discuss little league signs at Hamilton Playground (Lower Falls Community Center).
- 9. **New Business:** Michael Clarke asked Peter Kastner to present a map of the Aqueducts in Newton in which the Parks & Recreation Commission is interested in exploring the feasibility of developing the aqueducts as a walkway/bicycle path. Parts of the aqueducts are open to public access. Some areas are wide open and others narrow. Mr. Kastner walked most of the aqueduct areas, however, some areas were blocked off by fences and he had to walk through people's backyards. One area was blocked where a church built a fence. There are three aqueducts in Newton, one starts at Quinobequin Road, the Sudbury one starts at Echo Bridge and the Charles River Walkway. The dominant walkway in Newton is the carriage road on Commonwealth Avenue. He commented that the aqueducts are public land and most people are unaware of these areas.

(3)

The Waban aqueduct is a complicated area. Mr. Bernheimer said that this is an non-utilized resource, with a long beautiful path through the woods, which definitely has potential. The Planning Department has maps of the aqueducts if members would like one.

Peter Kastner said that as a first step he would like to get a group together and have people walk the pathway to see the beautiful scenery and the area. He also said that Michael Clarke suggests that the area be developed as a public space.

Commission members voted unanimously to adjourn meeting at 8:05PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 1999
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Kastner, John Bourgeois, Michael Clarke, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary.

Absent: James Mahoney, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Anthony Battista and William Ryan

- 1. **Minutes of the September Meeting:** Motion was made by Francis Rice to accept the September minutes. John Bourgeois seconded. Minutes of the September were approved 6-0.
- 2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Halloran reviewed the reports of programs, maintenance and brochures in the folders; brochures on Skiing at Nashoba Valley, "Over 55", Article on new playground at Richardson Field, Newton North Indoor Complex, Baton Twirling, Ice Skating, Dance-A-Rama, Learn to Swim Program, Troubadour Trot, Night Watch.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM to the Aldermanic Chambers to hear Mayor Cohen's State of the City Address. Meeting resumed at 8:46PM. Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman could not stay for the rest of the meeting. Francis Rice was acting chairman for the continuation of the meeting.

- 3. **Newton West Little League's Hamilton Field Sign Request:** Acting Chairman Francis Rice, welcomed Mr. Broderick and Mr. Bullwinkle from the Newton West Little League, former Alderman John Stewart, and neighbors of the Lower Falls Community. Letters regarding the meeting were sent to 156 abutters, plus Aldermen Polly Bryson, Richard McGrath and Amy Sangiolo. Commissioner Halloran commented that 1 E-Mail and 1 phone call was received regarding the meeting.

(2)

John Stewart, resident, spoke regarding his concern for the ball playing fields in Newton. He does not approve of signs on public playgrounds. His concern is the quality of grass on the fields. He questioned, would signs lead to better playing fields if signs were installed.

Commissioner Halloran said that improvements have been made to the Hamilton fields in a partnership with Soccer League. The fields have been improved by instillation of an irrigation system which resulted in a better quality of new grass.

Mr. Broderick said that if monies can be raised, more improvements would be made to the fields. The monies would not be used for the upkeep of the little league.

Mr. Broderick presented an example of the sign with the actual dimensions on it. The sign would be 6' in width, 4' in height, green with white lettering. The plaques would not exceed 5" in height and 20" in length. They would contain only the name of the donor. There would be no more than 12 plaques. The monies raised would be for field improvements. The maintenance contractor, Phil Mastroianni, does most of the work for the Newton West Little League. The League would like to fix, maintain and aerate the fields in the spring.

Mayor Cohen stopped by and said hello to the Commission members and the residents.

Mr. Broderick said that the signs would be an annual renewable source of income to be used for field improvements. At this time, Mr. Broderick indicated Hamilton is not smooth because of the with many rocks on the playing area. Field improvements would address this problem. The Little League would use the fields at night from April to June. The cost per sign is \$100 to \$200 per space per year.

Commissioner Halloran said that the Little League is only asking for one sign to be installed behind the backstop and would have 6 to 12 names on it.

A resident asked Mr. Broderick, why the Little League did not meet with the Lower Falls Community Association, prior to the Commission meeting, to discuss the sign issue. The Association would have had an opportunity then to endorse or oppose the signs. Perhaps, there should have been a meeting of the whole Lower Falls Community.

A resident commented that Mr. Crehore donated the land to the City years ago. She requested that we check and see if there are any deed restrictions. Commissioner Halloran said that he would check with the Law Department to see if there are any deed restrictions.

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(3)

A resident asked why the names of the people in the neighborhood who have already made improvements to the playground area should not have their names on the sign. If one sign goes up, other interested groups will want to put up signs also. It will not be a playground any more but a place for billboards. She said that she already donated a \$300 to plant a tree. Should people who already gave their time and efforts to this playground also be honored. The problem is that the people who have already given their time and efforts have done so silently without recognition. Other alternatives to signs would be honor lists, a service booklet, names in the Tab Newspaper, patches on jackets, flyers or other alternatives to commercial advertising should be used..

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member said that 156 abutters to the playground were notified. The Little League did petition the Commission and asked to be put on the October agenda to discuss the sign issue at Hamilton Playground. If there is a better way to inform the public, we would be most happy to do so. The Commission was aware of the request for Lyons and Hamilton Playgrounds. The signs at Lyons playground were approved. The Commission does have a responsibility to the abutters and public. The Parks & Recreation Department wants to be sensitive to the needs of the community.

Commissioner Halloran said the Commission members did listen to Mr. Broderick's request in June to install 2 signs at Lyons Playground. The request was approved. Also, Kevin Courtney, President of the Auburndale Community Association was present and endorsed the use of signs at Lyons.

One resident commented that many streets were not on the list to send out to the residents. He suggested that the Lower Falls Community Association should have been notified.

Mr. Stewart, President, Newton Lower Falls Community Association, did meet and speak with Mr. Bullwinkle and Alderman Polly Bryson regarding the signs.

A resident and member of the Green Decade Coalition asked that everyone present in the room be allowed to speak to the Commission regarding their concerns.

Mr. Rice, acting Chairman suggested that the Little League withdraw their petition. He suggested Mr. Broderick and Mr. Bullwinkle should meet with the Lower Falls Community and the Lower Falls Improvement Association to discuss the sign issue and make a proposal to the Commission.

(4)

Mr. Clarke, Alternate Commission member, also suggested that no decision be made this evening and to delay the petition until it is amiable to the two groups.

Mark Kramer, resident, said that the Little League is acting like an ad agency with names on display. This is cheap advertising space that would be read by non-consumers and make a bad moral example.

Gregory Hurray, resident, is a strong supporter of the Little League. However, this is not Albemarle field, it is a different neighborhood park and should not be subjected to signs. Also, he felt the City should be paying for the upkeep of the park and not Little League donations.

Mr. Bullwinkle, Newton West Little League, suggested that the Little League meet with the Lower Falls neighbors. Mr. Broderick thought Mr. Stewart, President Lower Falls Community Association, would inform the neighbors about the discussion the Little League had with him.

John Bourgeois, Alternate Commission Member, moved that the Little League, the Community Association and neighbors meet to discuss and resolve their differences and meet later with the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member, said that there are policy issues here. If the neighborhood was unanimous, it would not mean that it may not be the right decision for the whole of Newton. The idea must be considered on an objective manner and also on the funding source.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member said the purpose of a meeting is the dialogue which requires disclosure of the public process. Financial information from the Little League indicates no raise in sponsorship fees have been made. It does not show increases for inflation. The Soccer League uses its fees to raise its monies. Different parcels of land are different things to different community areas. The Little League needs to look at its financial picture. This proposal has to be seen on its own merits.

Brian Bullwinkle, Little League: Fields are treated differently throughout the City.

Commissioner Halloran commented that at the Albemarle Fields, more money is spend because the fields have more use and the fields are lighted night. We do the best we can with the monies we have.

(5)

John Stewart, resident said the fields at Hamilton are heavily used. A well has been installed at Hamilton because of the irrigation and the well, the turf should begin to return to high quality standards for use.

There is a motion before the Commission by John Bourgeois. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion. The commission members voted 6-0 that the Little League, Lower Falls Community Association and neighbors meet to discuss the issues. This is with the idea and hope that the issues will be resolved. Then the resolution would be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission in December.

Mr. Rice, Acting Chairman, thanked all of the residents for attending this evening's meeting.

- 4. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool Summer Figures:** Total revenues for Gath Pool for the summer season were \$39,945.80. Total revenues for Crystal Lake summer season were \$46,392. Commissioner Halloran said that it was an excellent summer season and that both facilities were well staffed and managed.
- 5. **Status Capital Improvement Program:** In CIP the 1st phase is \$125,000 for planting & pruning of trees, \$50,000 for Turf Control, aeration, liming, fertilizing and maintaining.
- 6. **Commission Information Manual:** Discussion of the Commission Information Manual has been deferred to the November 15th Commission Meeting.
- 7. **New Business:** Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member, suggested the Commission discuss the Parks & Recreation Information Manual and the Parks & Recreation Mission Statement at the November meeting. He also suggested that a meeting be held at the Recreation Department with the MWRA or MDC to discuss the aqueducts. Commissioner Halloran and Michael Clarke will get together on this.

Commission members voted unanimously to adjourn meeting at 10:00PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
NOVEMBER 15, 1999
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, William Ryan, Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Michael Clarke and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting:** Minutes of the October meeting were approved 7-0.
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Halloran reviewed the reports of programs, maintenance and brochures in the folders which include; "Over 55" programs for November plus Aquatic Exercise, Arts in the Parks Winter 1999-2000 Calendar of Events, news article Little League signs at Hamilton Field, Martial Arts Class, Newton 2000 Gala Concert, Newton Serves and Newton Pride's Dutch Bulb Catalog.
3. **Auburndale Cove Picnic Area: Letter from Gary Scott regarding the abolishment of alcohol at Ware's Cove picnic areas:** Mr. Gary Scott of 15 Edgewater Drive 's property abuts the Auburndale Cove's picnic area sent a letter, on behalf of his neighbors and himself, to Commissioner Halloran. The letter was regarding alcohol consumed by picnickers which could result in danger to the neighbors and other picnickers. Mr. Scott and two of his neighbors, Barbara O'Brien and Valerie Wilcox, attended the Commission meeting.

Mr. Scott and his neighbors are very concerned with the drinking of alcohol at the picnic areas at the Auburndale Cove. He said there is an increase in volume of liquor consumed.

Ms. O'Brien said that there is a lot of noise and commotion when the picnickers leave the picnic areas. The picnic participants throw their extra firewood on neighbor's lawns when they leave the picnic area so that they do not have to bring the firewood home. Also, there is a problem of picnickers not leaving the picnic area at the designated time in the evening/dusk. The trouble occurs when the picnickers stay in the parking lot after hours, drink alcohol beverages and then become loud and rowdy.

(2)

Ms. Wilcox thanked the Commission members for listening to the neighbors concerns. When the picnickers do not leave at the appropriate time, the police are called and have been responsive to their calls.

Commissioner Halloran said that flood lights have been installed in the picnic areas and also a stockade fence was put up abutting Mr. Scott's property and the picnic area.

Mr. Scott mentioned that the fence needs two more extra pieces added. Also, he said that the picnickers cars trunks are loaded with alcohol. There is a problem of picnickers hanging around after dark. He said that the Commission members should take a walk through the area at the end of the day and see the mess. Rubbish is strewn around, barrels are full and charcoals are dumped into the neighbors yards.

Commissioner Halloran said that a survey was done of surrounding cities and towns regarding alcohol permits in picnic areas. The following cities/town do not allow alcohol: Brookline, Waltham, Needham, Wellesley, Lexington, Natick, Framingham, Concord, Worcester, Weston, Canton, Wayland, Belmont, Norwood, Watertown and Sudbury. He said that alcohol has been allowed at the Auburndale Cove for the past 40 years and we have been lucky that there has not been any serious problems. Mr. Scott has been the first one to complain about the alcohol permits and alcohol at the Auburndale Cove.

Sheila Butts, Recreation Manager, also attended the meeting. Commissioner Halloran asked Sheila what her thoughts were regarding the use of alcohol at the Cove. Sheila found that the number of alcohol permits has decreased. Many companies do not request alcohol due to liability issues. While the staff has had little or no problems stemming from alcohol consumption at the Cove, she agreed that there is no need to allow alcohol at the site during scheduled or non-scheduled picnics.

Robert Platt motioned to abolish the use of alcohol at the Auburndale picnic area, at Ware's Cove. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

Peter Kastner said that another option would be to grant a license to each permit holder that would like to allow the use of alcohol and hire a Police detail.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to abolish the use of alcohol at the Auburndale picnic area at Ware's Cove.

(3)

Commissioner Halloran will write a letter to the permit users that request the alcohol before the start of the picnic permit season in February, to apprise them of the decision to abolish alcohol from the picnic areas at the Auburndale Cove.

- 4. **CIP Update:** Commissioner Halloran reported that on the docket in the CIP account there is \$50,000 for turf control and \$125,000 for tree planting and pruning. Other docketed items include money for tree emergencies. Commissioner Halloran will keep the Commission members apprised of items in the CIP account.
- 5. **Skating Rules & Regulations 1999-2000:** The 1999-2000 Skating Rules and Regulations are the same as last years with no changes. Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department (2/5/92).

Anthony Battista motioned to approve the 1999-2000 Skating Rules and Regulations. Francis Rice seconded.

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Skating Rules and Regulations for 1999-2000.

- 6. **New Business:** No new business

Meeting adjourned 8:06PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
DECEMBER 20, 1999
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, John Bourgeois, Alternate, William Ryan, Alternate, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Russell J. Halloran, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Josephine Pepper, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Peter Kastner

1. **Minutes of the November Meeting:** Minutes of the November meeting were approved 5-0.
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Halloran reviewed the reports of programs, maintenance and brochures in the folders which include; copy of letter sent to all picnic permit holders, and list of those it was sent to, regarding the use of alcohol will no longer be permitted during functions at the Cove, Tumbling, Motion Mania, "Over 55" December events, Special Needs Programs, Funtastic Play Days, Children's Enrichment Classes, Winter-Spring Schedule of Events, Ordering of Bricks for The Balsamo Millennium Park at City Hall, New Year's Open House, Cinderella, Camp Fair, Ice Skating Lessons, Sweatshirts, Proceeds to benefit the Camp Scholarship Fund and "Over 55" January Programs.
3. **C.I.P. Update:** In the CIP there is \$100,000 set aside for Tree Planting/Pruning and \$50,000 for Turf Control.
4. **Review Parks & Recreation Commission Information Manual and Mission Statement:** The Commission members voted 6-0 to defer the review of the information manual and mission statement to the January 28th Commission Meeting.
5. **Aqueducts – Michael Clarke:** Mr. Clarke would like to pass a resolution to the President of the Board of Aldermen, Brooke Lipsitt, and the Board of Aldermen regarding the Newton Aqueducts. Mr. Clarke's resolution reads as follows:

(2)

Together with the Commonwealth Avenue greenway, the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts provide the possibility of linear parkways through Newton. As Newton becomes increasingly developed, it is important to preserve and develop these aqueducts as parklands that provide safe pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists as alternative modes of transportation through the Garden City. In conjunction with the MDC Quinobequin Road, and proposed Charles River Pathway along Quinobequin Road, the two Aqueducts can be joined into a continuous circuit linking Waban, Newton Highlands, Newton Upper Falls and Newton Centre.

As Newton already own the Cochituate Aqueducts and the MWRA now offers the opportunity for formal access to the Sudbury Aqueduct, the Parks and Recreation Commission requests the Board of Aldermen to explore with the MWRA the Possibility of developing the Sudbury Aqueduct for the benefit of Newton's residents.

Items the Board of Aldermen may wish to consider include:

- 1) Ownership of the various parcels on the aqueduct surface
- 2) Access points and handicapped access
- 3) Items of safety in providing a continuous pathway
- 4) The cost of developing and maintaining the surface of the aqueducts as a greenway
- 5) An overall vision of the aqueducts and integral parts of Newton's park and transportation systems

Walter Bernheimer moved to support the resolution to support the two aqueducts being joined into a continuous circuit linking Waban, Newton Highlands, Newton Upper Falls and Newton Centre. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 7-0 to approve the resolution to support the two aqueducts being joined in a continuous circuit linking Waban, Newton Highlands, Newton Upper Falls and Newton Centre.

- 6. **Dan Broderick, Newton West Little League:** will not be attending the December Commission Meeting, He will be meeting with the Lower Falls Improvement Association on January 10th, 2000 and has requested that the Little League sign item be put on the January Commission Meeting Agenda.
- 7. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned 7:47PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
JANUARY 24, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Alternates Michael Clarke and William Ryan, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, - John Bourgeois and Peter Kastner

1. **Minutes of the December Meeting:** Minutes of the December meeting were approved 6-0.
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Halloran reviewed the reports programs, maintenance and brochures in the folders which include; Highlights of 1999 Census Questionnaire, in which he was very happy with the results in the high 90's, newspaper articles about Linda Plaut, Director of Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs and Mary Brown, Manager, Early Morning Walkers, Camp Fair January 27th, Men's Winter Basketball Schedule, Albemarle Acres Camp, Acres in the Falls Camp and Soccer Camp.
3. **Budget – February 2001 –** Commissioner Halloran reported that he has not heard yet whether the budget will be level funded or a 5% decrease. Budget to be presented at the February meeting.
4. **Dan Broderick, Newton West Little League:** Mr. Broderick met with the Lower Falls Improvement Association on January 10th at Lower Falls Community Center. The members of the association voted 34-6 against installing a little league sign at Hamilton Field. Mr. Broderick will be attending the February 28th Commission Meeting regarding the little league sign at Hamilton Field and the abutters will be notified of the meeting.

(2)

- 5. **Recommendations of Flowed Meadow Committee on Rumford Avenue**
Land: Mayor Cohen appointed a planning committee, of which Commissioner Halloran and Michael Clarke are members, to gather ideas for the reuse of the Flowed Meadow area, a wooded open space abutting Lexington Street, Auburndale Park, Rumford Avenue and the City of Waltham. James Hickey, Public Works Commissioner, declared the 36.7 of the 48.8 acres on Rumford Avenue as surplus land allowing the Flowed Meadow Planning Committee to incorporate this parcel into their master plan. Its primary use will be passive recreation. This will be the first time that Parks & Recreation and Conservation will own the land simultaneously. Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member, commented that the Wabasso Street part of the land should go to the Recreation Department for a picnic area and parking for at least four cars.

Mayor Cohen stopped by at the Commission meeting and said hello to all of the members.

- 6. **Michael Clarke – Review Parks & Recreation Commission Information Manual and Mission Statement:** Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member, met with Catherine Farrell, Law Department, regarding changes in the Information Manual for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Clarke told the members about the new changes and added pages. Also, he found out that a Parks & Recreation Committee was founded in 1882. He was asked who the information manual is for and which he replied new members of the Commission. Mr. Clarke also had changes for the Mission Statement. Several members thought that the Mission Statement was too long. Walter Bernheimer volunteered to look over the Mission statement and to rework it to a smaller version. Mr. Bernheimer will work with Mr. Clarke and other commission members in making changes in the Mission Statement. Therefore, changes in the Mission Statement will be deferred until next month's commission meeting.

Mr. Clarke also asked that in reference to the advertising signs at Newton Centre and Albemarle, are the little leagues granted permission on a yearly basis and can the signs be eliminated all together as per the request of the commission? Commissioner Halloran explained that we are the governing body and are stewards of the land, and there should be a consistent policy on little league signs throughout the City i.e. Newton Centre, Albemarle and Lyons Playgrounds. He noted that nothing is permanent! The Law Department would have to clarify this for us as to what our responsibilities and duties are in this situation. Also, the commission voted in favor of the signs and various City Departments had to vote in favor of the signs. The final decision is with the Board of Aldermen.

(3)

Michael Clarke said, lets approve the manual, all but the mission statement.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said that we need to go over the whole manual to evaluate what Parks & Recreation oversees. Her concerns were the state statues and how they were incorporated into our ordinance, especially the descriptive part, when Forestry and Recreation merged and incorporated into one. The state statues at that time need to be reviewed and in fact checked by the Law Department. She suggested that there be a final version of the manual for the commission members to look over.

Michael Clarke asked that Ms. Towle circulate her concerns and the commission can discuss any changes in the manual at the February meeting.

- 7. **Commissioner Halloran's future plans starting June 1st:** Commissioner Halloran explained to all of the commission members that, after twenty six years, he would be retiring as Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. He said that he is sixty three years old, has seven children and 13 grandchildren. He has 325 sick days and five weeks vacation. His father was a Detective-Sargent and worked forty two years for the Newton Police Department and his brother James retired as a Major in the State Police. He stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission is the best group of people he has had the privilege to work with. It was his privilege to work with three mayors which included Theodore Mann, Thomas Concannon and present Mayor David B. Cohen.

It was the Commissioner's recommendation, to Mayor Cohen, that Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner be appointed Commissioner and Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, be appointed Deputy Commission. Both Ms. Towle and Mr. DeRubeis work in a professional manner and they would do a good job of running the department, however, it will be the Mayor's call on this.

James Mahoney, Chairman commented that Commissioner Halloran is the most well know, and well regarded person in Newton. Everyone knows Russ! Because of sports, kids benefits, leagues, strong proponent for space, member of several committee's, grew up in Newton, he is a well liked, admired and a most respected person. The commission members were sad to hear that he was retiring however, they wished him the best in his future endeavors. Mr. Mahoney noted that the members will have an opportunity to see Commissioner Halloran at the next few meetings to express their thanks to him for all he has done throughout his twenty six years with the department.

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(4)

Robert Platt said that in looking at the 1999 City Census Questionnaire, the ratings for the Parks and Recreation Department are all over 90%. This is attributed to Commissioner Halloran's direct leadership at the Department.

New Business: No new business

Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY 28, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates Michael Clarke, William Ryan and Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Josephine Pepper, Anthony Battista, John Bourgeois, Peter Johnson and Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner

Aldermen Polly Bryson and Kenneth Parker also attended the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the January Meeting: Minutes of the January meeting were accepted 8-0.**

2. **Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner's Report:** There were 7 ice skating days this season at the Auburndale Cove. No skating at Bullough's Pond and Crystal Lake according to the guidelines for safety. There were 3 snow storms this season that the Parks & Recreation Department's Maintenance crews took care of. There are brochures in the folders of upcoming events as well as an article about our Chairman, James Mahoney. Mr. Mahoney a senior vice president at Fleet Boston Financial was named to the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees. Congratulations Mr. Mahoney

3. **Dan Broderick, President, Newton West Little League regarding the installation of little league signs at Hamilton Playground:** Mr. Broderick is concerned about the condition of the fields at Hamilton Playground. He met with the Lower Falls Improvement Association on January 10th at Lower Falls Community Center. The members of the association voted 34-6 against installing a little league sign. Mr. Broderick was concerned with the safety of the ball players at the Hamilton Fields. Mr. Broderick indicated monies need to be spent to improve the fields and we can't expect Parks and Recreation to maintain all of the fields. He said that reaction to the sign at Hamilton was amazing, especially when for example, someone said to him "if you put up a sign we will take it down and we don't want Auburndale to dictate to Lower Falls."

(2)

Mr. Broderick said that the good news is that National Development, 2310 Washington Street in Newton has agreed to donate \$1,500 per year for the next 5 years to repair fields. Mr. Mark Paris of the National Development Company was also present this evening. Therefore, the Newton West Little League withdraws the petition to install a little league sign at the Hamilton Field. The little league has accomplished its goal in raising monies for repair of fields where kids can play safely.

Peter Kastner thanked Mr. Broderick for the time and efforts he put into the proposal for the little league sign. Mr. Kastner also said thank you to Mr. Paris for the private donation. Because this is private monies for public use, we would need documentation as to what is to be done. Also, Mr. Kastner suggested that commission have a review process. Perhaps the requesting group/individual should appear before the Recreation Commission for approval with their recommendations as to what is to be done with the monies.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner will ask Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, to oversee the field work being done by the contractor, Phil Mastroianni at Hamilton Playground.

Mark Paris of 540 Grove Street, works at the National Development Company is donating the monies. He has children in the little league and supports all that the little league tries to do. The National Development Company also donates monies to soccer as well. The commitment will be \$1,500 per year for 5 years to the Newton West Little League.

Alderman Polly Bryson is thrilled to hear that monies are being donated to the little league. This is a wonderful solution, and she thanked Mr. Paris for the donation. This is a compliment to those who work with children and the community gives their thanks for the donation.

Alderman Kenneth Parker was delighted with the donation and was glad the issue of signs did not come to a head. The Parks & Recreation Department need to be advocates for bad playing fields, liability, financially, and should expect quality playing fields. Some fields are sub standard level and loaded with rocks. He said that Dr. Michael Clarke did a study of open space in the parks and the maintenance of the fields have gone down quite dramatically. He also thanked the National Development Company for the donation and everyone for their time and efforts in this matter.

(3)

Walter Bernheimer, who is normally opposed to signs in general, said that it is not active or passive it is organized vs not organized about signs in playgrounds. We should maintain all our field areas. He suggested to Alderman Parker that he lead everyone in a City petition to overturn Proposition 2 1/2.

Alderman Parker said that the Parks & Recreation Department always receive get the monies they ask for in the budget. Perhaps they should ask for more monies. Walter Bernheimer said that's not the way it works! Also, Proposition 2 1/2 should be overturned.

Michael Clarke: Thanked Mr. Broderick, President, Newton West Little League, for the work that they do with the little league and the children. The National Development has now provided monies to repair the fields. In regards to the letter from Douglas Dickson, President of the Newton Conservators, he suggests that the Commission set a consistent, city-wide policy on advertising signs, for example, concerning Lyons Field and other major league fields where signs exist. Mr. Dickson proposes that as the stewards of our parks, the Commission bring its existing agreements with the Newton East and Newton North Little Leagues into line with that of Newton West Little League. He urges the Commission to look beyond this proposal to develop a broad solution to this city-wide issue. Mr. Clarke said that in the spring, the fields will be worked on and we should look for more monies for fields, through Programs and Services and the Board of Aldermen.

Peter Kastner suggested that the Commission appoint a group to develop anew policy by January 2001, a new policy for those little leagues who want advertising signs and those who have signs in place now. This should be a consistent policy. It was suggested that Walter Bernheimer chair the committee. Mr. Bernheimer accepted.

Alderman Parker said that the Parks & Recreation Department controls the land and the Board of Aldermen approve the signs. Parks & Recreation can take the advertising signs down when the yearly proposals come up for renewal.

Andy Stern, co-chair, Landscape Advisory Council said that Mayor Cohen charged his group to look for creative ways to provide monies to add to City funding. He feels a moratorium on signs should be held and forestall any more little league sign requests.

Steve Luenberg: Lower Falls playground is in the middle of their community with homes around all sides of the playground. He would like to see a compromise regarding the signs and resents the community labeled as obstructionists.

(4)

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Mr. Paris and the National Development Company for providing a solution to the sign problem at Lower Falls.

Peter Kastner: Asked that a letter be sent from the Newton Parks & Recreation Department to National Development thanking them for their donation.

- 4. **Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 20th Commission Meeting:** Robert Platt requested that the election of officers be changed to the April 24th Commission meeting as several people will not be attending the March meeting.

Robert Platt motioned and Francis Rice seconded, that the elections be held at the April meeting instead of the March meeting.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to change the date of the elections to the April 24th meeting.

- 5. **Commissioner's recommended Parks & Recreation Budget FY2001:** Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, substituted for Commissioner Halloran for this meeting:

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said that there is a different format this time, FY2001 Budget was level funded, 5% or 3%. Level means the same monies as last year's budget.

<u>Level Funded:</u>	<u>3% Budget Cut</u>	<u>5% Budget Cut</u>
\$3,683,072	\$3,571,541	\$3,486,209

Level Funded: (\$3,683,072)

There is a vacancy in one of the HMEO positions that will not be filled \$30,035 and an anticipated retirement of a Working Foreman Laborer, \$33,010, that will not be replaced. If level funded the monies would not be removed from the budget to disbursed to low fund accounts.

Use savings for: Maintenance of vehicles increase of \$4,000. Care of Buildings & Grounds increased by \$2,000.

R & M Public Property \$30,035, Ground Care Suppl/Trees \$25,010 and Safety Equip & Clothing \$2,000.

3% Budget Cut: (\$3,571,541)

In the 3% budget cut, a portion of the money from the HMWO and Working Foreman Laborer positions would have to be cut out of the budget. Decreases would be: Maintenance of Vehicles \$4,000, Care of Buildings & Adjacent Grounds \$2,000, Care of Public Grounds: R & M Public Property \$10,035, Ground Care Suppl/Trees \$20,020 and Safety Equipment & Clothing \$2,000.

(5)

Water & Sewer: A savings in the City water costs will result with the installation of wells at 3 of the most costly sites. The cost of installing a well is approximately \$12,000. Based on the installation of 3 wells, the savings would be \$111,531.

5% Budget Cut: (\$3,486,209)

In the 5% budget cut, the savings from the HMEO & Working Foreman-laborer positions would have to be eliminated. The decreases would be: Recreation Administration, Elimination of a Recreation Manager \$48,801, Commissioner's Longevity \$675 and a savings of \$10,856 if promotions are made within the department.

Decreases: Maintenance of Vehicles \$4,000, Care of Buildings & Adjacent Grounds, \$2,000, Care of Public Grounds: R&M Public property \$30,035, Ground Care Suppl/Trees \$25,010 and Safety Equipment & Clothing \$2,000.

Water & Sewer: A savings in the City water costs will result with the installation of wells at 3 of the most costly sites. The cost of installing a well is approximately \$12,000 each. Bases on the installation of 3 wells, the savings would be \$196,863. Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, came up with the idea of the wells at Newton North, Newton South and Cold Springs after checking the water bills.

Peter Kastner said that the water monies have been grossly mismanaged by management. The Department should have known about the seriousness of the water figures in the past years.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner said that wells have been installed at Franklin, Weeks, Warren, Nahanton Park & Hamilton fields, Newton South High School and Forte Park.

Francis Rice asked if the costs were realistic and the idea of saving monies by installing 3 other wells is great.

Walter Bernheimer: Could wells in a level funded budget be redistributed into other areas.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said at this point there is no level funded budget, just a 3% to 5% funded budget.

Walter Bernheimer would like to write a letter regarding the short changing of the City of Newton and overturn Proposition 2 1/2.

SB

(6)

Michael Clarke said if we don't ask, we don't get the wells and congratulations on finding the 5% savings.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said that Commissioner Halloran, Robert DeRubeis and herself, met with the Executive Department last week and again Wednesday of this week regarding budget cuts.

Peter Kastner said that if it is within our power, constraints are the best we can do. Mayor Cohen sets the numbers. The Commission should write a letter to Mayor Cohen as to what we think the budget should be.

Michael Clarke: The Parks & Recreation Department works for the Mayor. The Commission does not. The Commission should write a letter with their specific recommendations.

Peter Kastner said that he respects our Mayor and the budget process. However, if we believe that the fields are in disrepair, more monies should be forthcoming.

Walter Bernheimer: There are things we can do and make do. If the quality is not good, how do we decide quality.

Robert Platt said they are having 3% to 5% budget cuts everywhere.

Francis Rice asked if we save monies in our budget, does the savings go back into the general fund and not Recreation.

James Mahoney, Chairman: On behalf of the Commission and on behalf of the Recreation Department we should consider level funding.

Walter Bernheimer proposed that James Mahoney, Chairman, write a letter as a commission regarding the wells. If the Department saves monies on the wells, \$73,000, then the monies should go back to Recreation to provide programs, field repairs, etc.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner said that without the wells people will have to be cut from the budget.

Francis Rice: The first year we would lose monies. However, the 2nd, 3rd or 4th year we would start to save monies by digging the wells.

(7)

Michael Clarke, who works at Boston College, said the cost of the buildings are figured into their budget, which was a wise financial decision.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said the repairs to the buildings are in the Building Department's budget.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that he would draft a letter about the level funded budget, with the exception of the savings generated by the substitution of wells for city water at three sites, Newton North, Newton South and Cold Spring Park.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said the Mayor's office proposes 3-5% changes in the budget.

Michael Clarke motioned to approve a level funded budget, less the wells.

Peter Kastner seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Parks & Recreation Department's level funded budget with the exception of the savings generated by the substitution of wells for city water at three large fields.

- 6. **Michael Clarke: Mission Statement/Manual:** Mr. Clarke said there were a few changes as is in page 4 and the goals and responsibilities are moved to the end of the manual.

Walter Bernheimer said that the mission statement should stand alone on a separate page.

Michael Clarke motioned to approve the mission statement and the Information Manual.

Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously to approve the mission statement and the Information Manual.

Michael Clarke, creator of the manual, thanked everyone for their support.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said that the fences item in the manual are still in draft form and should not be voted in yet. Also, has the Landscape Fency Policy been approved? The organizational chart should be changed also

(8)

Robert Platt said that Fran Towle is bringing up issues after the vote.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that the information manual is for Commission members only, for policy and procedures information. The regulations should not be binding.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner talked with Catherine Farrell of the Law Department about some of the comments in the manual. Catherine has some questions regarding the manual and feels that they need to be reviewed.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said the purpose of the manual is not to set regulations.

Motion was made for a disclaimer of the Manual, and to wait for the review by the Law Department.

The motion to approve the manual was superceded.

Robert Platt said the purpose of the manual is for the commission members however, the Law Department should take a look at it before the commission approves it.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to rescind the vote on the manual until the Law Department looks over the manual.

Michael Clarke informed the Commission members that Programs & Services Committee will be taking up his proposal for access through the Newton aqueducts on March 24th, 7:45PM at City Hall. All commission members are welcome to attend.

7. **New Business:** Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, said that everyone knows Commissioner Halloran is retiring at the end of May. She announced that a retirement function for the Commissioner would be held on:

Retirement Party
June 15, 2000
Post 440
6:00PM Get together
7:00PM Dinner
Program Saluting Commissioner

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MARCH 20, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Anthony Battista, Walter Bernheimer, Josephine Pepper, Robert Platt, Alternates William Ryan and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the February meeting.** Minutes of the February meeting were accepted 6-0.
2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Reports of Events and Meetings**
3. **Newton Community Center's proposed tot lot sign for Davis Playground:**
Attending were Lonnie Schroder, Elizabeth Mimms and Jonathan Jackson from Newton Community Service Center on Waltham Street. Their request is to install a sign at the new playground in the back of the old Davis School to acknowledge the donors. The NCSC have received grant monies from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$62,000 for community and economic development which will go towards improving the Davis Intergenerational Community Playground. Monies have been set aside for a 3-tiered sign acknowledging major contributors in the amount of \$2,600.

Francis Rice said that he is opposed to the sign and perhaps the sign could be installed in the building itself. Also, he said that there are no other donor signs like this in the City. The response from Ms. Mimms was that there is a donor sign at the Horace Mann School Playground. Mr. Rice also asked if they had a diagram of the sign and what the dimensions were. The answer was that the sign has not been designed as yet and the monies for the sign has to be spent by June 30th, 2000.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman took over as Chairman for the evening as Mr. Mahoney, Chairman had another commitment.

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(2)

Alternate commission member Peter Kastner commented that the land in question is under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Department. The sign process includes two meetings. The second meeting the abutters to the property will be notified so that they may attend the meeting. No decision is made during the first meeting. If the sign is approved, the proposal will also have to be approved by the Board of Aldermen. The Commission is concerned about the issues of signage regarding plaques and signs and especially donor signs. It was suggested that installing plaques are a better way of thanking the donors.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, said that the sign should be inside the building. Also, how many donor names are there. The answer was approximately 12.

Francis Rice said that the NCSC may want to consider placing a donor sign on the building itself, therefore, they would not need the permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Halloran said that the new tot lot is absolutely beautiful. A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into the project. Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, was the liaison person from the Department, and he also worked on this project. Tony Bibbo, has been the Director of Newton Community Center since 1962 and has done an excellent job. Lonnie Schroder, from the Community Center has also done wonderful things for the community including working with seniors and children.

Ms. Mimms said that it would be nice if the "Spray Pool" had a plaque on it thanking the donor R.P. Holmes Plumbing Company.

Commissioner Halloran said that plaques are no problem and they would not need the Department's permission to install plaques. He thought it was an excellent idea that the sign be installed on the building and the NCSC would not need the Department's permission. If the group from NCSC would like to see some plaques on benches, they can visit Weeks Playground.

Ms. Schroder, Ms. Mimms and Mr. Jackson thanked the Commission members for their time and ideas. They will consider installing a sign on the building and the use of plaques.

4. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman postponed to the April Meeting:**
The election of Chairman and Vice Chairman was postponed to the April Meeting when all of the commission members would be present.

- 5. **Update on budget FY2001:** Commissioner Halloran spoke with Sanford Pooler, Chief Budget Officer today regarding the Parks & Recreation Budget for FY2001. Mr. Pooler said that the Department would be receiving a 3% budget cut, no position's were eliminated, and the Chief Supervisors position and Payroll Clerk's position were still in the budget. There will be two vacant positions, 1 retirement, 1 deceased. The three wells will be dug at Newton North and Newton South High Schools and Cold Spring Park. In his opinion, this was not a bad budget cut. Also, there may be a volunteer position added to the budget, but will be in Linda Plaut's payroll. Also, Commissioner Halloran hoped that Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner would be moved up the Commissioner's position and that Robert DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, would be moved up to the Deputy Commissioner's position.

Francis Rice asked when the Commissioner's last day would be. He replied, that he would be off the payroll as of June 1st, 2000 and his last day in the office would be May 9th. The last Commission meeting for the Commissioner would be the May meeting. He also commented that in his 26 years with the Department, the Recreation Commission members were the best group he has ever worked with.

- 6. **2000 Tennis Rules & Regulations:** Fees are the same as last year. Motion was made to accept the 2000 Tennis Rules and Regulations. Motion was seconded. The commission members voted 5-0 to approve the 2000 Tennis Rules and Regulations.
- 7. **New Business:** Alternate Michael Clarke, regarding the Commission Manual; Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Michael Clarke met with Catherine Farrell of the Law Department regarding items in the manual. Michael Clarke asked that the Mission Statement be adopted with the change of "stakeholders" to "interested parties" be made. Francis Rice motioned to adopt the Mission Statement. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion. The Commission members voted 5-0 to adopt the Parks & Recreation Commission mission statement in the manual.

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(4)

Items discussed with Fran Towle Deputy Commissioner, Catherine Farrell of the Law Department with Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member:

1. Reference to "Boston College" on the title page be deleted and placed on an acknowledgement page to follow.
2. Replacement of "stakeholders" in the mission statement with "interested parties."
3. Title be changed to Responsibilities of the Commission and legal citations added.
4. Section on History (page 5) should present in more detail the changes that took place in 1982.
5. Section of "Administration of the Parks & Recreation Department": All references to the City's Public Open Space Coordinator should be deleted.
6. The organization chart should be replaced with that from the city budget document
7. Public shade trees should be defined in the section on Inventory.
8. The Commission does not own the Cochituate aqueduct. The section on Linear Parkways be deleted.
9. Summary section on Newton's Open Space plan should be replaced by the appropriate pages of the Open Space Plan.
10. Change title on Recurring Items.
11. Provision for "Overriding Written Policies & Procedure" the titles do not correspond with the documents.
12. To be added when received – summary section on programs and other items.
13. Need a better picture of Kennard Park.

The above items in the manual will be discussed at the April meeting.

Also, Mr. Clarke discussed the Flowed Meadow Group. The Flowed Meadow Committee thought it was a good idea for the Parks & Recreation Department to relinquish their holding on the Wabasso Street property and give it to the Conservation Commission.

(5)

Martha Horn, Conservation Commission, and Michael Kruse, Director, Planning & Development, will be asked to attend the April meeting regarding the Flow Meadow Project. Michael Clarke asked commission members to take some time and look over the Wabasso Street property.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Wb

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
APRIL 24, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Gwen Fineberg, Walter Bernheimer, Francis Rice, Alternates; William Ryan, Michael Clark, Peter Kastner, Russell J. Halloran, and Andrea DeRubeis, Secretary

Absent: Robert Platt, Peter Johnson, Josephine Pepper, Tony Battista

1. **Minutes of March meeting:** Minutes of the March meeting were accepted 7-0.
2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance, Commissioner's Reports of Events and Meetings:** Commissioner Halloran goes through the information that is in the folder of each member. Also takes this opportunity to announce that Tony Battista will be leaving the Commission, due to his busy schedule as a Middle School Principal in North Attleboro. Jennie DeVito will replace him on the Commission.
3. **Request to name Old Davis School Playground:** There is a request to name the Davis School Playground after Tom Torchia. Commissioner Halloran knows of none more deserving to have a park named after him than Tom Torchia. He informs Commission members that in their folders are letters from Representative Koutoujian, Kenneth Brennan, Dan McGinnis, Fred Guzzi and the Childcare Commission in support of the naming. There are also letters and signatures from abutters, with more letters expected to come in. Commissioner Halloran then introduces those present in support of the naming of the playground after Tom Torchia. Included in the group are Mr. & Mrs. William Troy, Maria Plati, Fred Guzzi, Mr. Tom Torchia's sister and Alderman Carleton Merrill. Chairman Mahoney reminds those present that the policy of the Commission is to take the naming under consideration in the first meeting and then take a formal vote in the second meeting. With that introduction, Chairman Mahoney then opens the floor to those present to make comments regarding the naming of the playground.

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William Troy reads a statement that highlights the impact that Tom Torchia had on the West Newton community and specifically the Davis school area. Tom Torchia's sister thanks the Commission for taking the time to consider this request. She recollects that there are four generations of Newtonites represented by her family. Fred Guzzi reads a letter that was signed by himself and Paul Guzzi, favoring the naming of the playground after Torchia. He states that he got to know Tom during the 1970's, and his efforts in West Newton were tireless. Alderman Merrill speaks of so many youngsters today who felt Tom's hand. Even kids outside of Newton were strongly influenced by him.

Under the procedure, the proposal was officially submitted with a strong case being made on Tom Torchia's behalf. Commission will take further action at the next Commission meeting on May 15th, 2000 at 7:30PM in Room 209. Michael Clark asks for clarification on what the appropriate name of the park will be. It will read, "Tom Torchia Playground". He also feels that a plaque should be present, signifying who Tom Torchia was and his contributions to the community.

4. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** It is scheduled to take place from Wednesday, July 12th, 2000 through Sunday, July 16th, 2000. Commissioner Halloran informs members that there have been no problems over the last three or four years. Tony Gentile informs the members that the new contractor will be Mr. Sam Pino. Mr. Pino has been under contract with Newton Pride, providing rides at Albemarle and City Hall. Letters were sent out to 100 abutters informing them of the request before the Commission, no abutters present. Alderman Merrill comments on the marked improvement over the years and attributes it to the removal of one carnival operator. Commission unanimously approves the St. Mary of Carmen request subject to the terms outlined in the regulations put forth by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Tony Gentile addresses on behalf of the St. Mary of Carmen Society, many thanks to Commissioner Halloran for his help and assistance over the years. He has been a true friend of the Society and will be deeply missed.

5. **Elections of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Gavel turned over to Commissioner Halloran for the election of the Chairman. Francis Rice nominates James Mahoney for the position of Chairman. Gwen Fineberg seconds it. With no other nominations, a vote is taken and James Mahoney is voted Chairman by a 7-0 vote. The gavel is turned over to the Chairman for the election of the Vice-Chairman. Francis Rice nominates Peter Johnson as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Wally Bernheimer. With no other nominations, a vote is taken and Peter Johnson is voted Vice-Chairman by a 7-0 vote.

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6. **Flowed Meadow – Martha Horn:** Martha Horn is scheduled to come into the May 15th, 2000 meeting. Michael Clark reports there is nothing new on Flowed Meadow from the prior month.
 7. **Update on Youth Awards:** Youth Awards are scheduled for Monday, May 15th, 2000 in the Aldermanic Chambers. Commission meeting will begin after the Youth Awards.
 8. **Status of Budget:** March 22, 2000, Parks & Recreation appears in front of Programs & Services to address their budget. Mayor Cohen is adding \$25,000.00 into the budget for a Cultural Affairs volunteer coordinator. He has also announced his intention to elevate Fran Towle into the position of Parks and Recreation Commissioner and elevate Bob DeRubeis to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Department is not going to fill the Chief Supervisor's position. The monies from that position will be used to supplement other areas of the budget.
 9. **Consideration of Swim Rules, Regulations and Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** Fees are the same as last year. Recommended opening dates for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake are the second Monday in June, with the closing date at both sites scheduled for August 27th, 2000. The earlier date is dictated by lifeguards going back to school, which limits manpower. It has been proven even with adequate manpower, the numbers do not warrant remaining open later in the season. Fran Rice motions to accept the swim rules and regulations, seconded by Wally Bernheimer. Commission votes 7-0 to accept the fees and regulations.
 10. **Information Manual:** Michael Clark passes out copies with changes and addresses the group.

Policies and Procedures- Recurring items by approximate month. Some things are hard and fast, while others are more vague and they have been modified to say that. Wally Bernheimer suggests deadlines for requests for sports organizations for the current year.

Page 10- Organizational Chart- Peter Quaranto should be moved into Forestry. Louis DeSimone should be under Dave Mandatori as part of Maintenance Administration. Fran Towle wanted reference to the Public Open Space Coordinator deleted. Independent contractors would not normally be placed on an organizational chart. Organizational chart usually only contains full-time paid employees.

Recreation Programs- Re-formatted to fit into columns.

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Cochituate Aqueduct was deleted because it is not under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Department. It is decided that the definition of a public shade tree should be placed in the manual.

Page 31 is a new addition to the manual. Excerpted those items that would fit into one page. Newton's framework of land that would apply to parks in some way. This is a whole page and it should be read and discussed in the next meeting. Fencing policy should be addressed at the next meeting as well.

Final page of manual is dedicated to Russell Halloran.

11. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting is on May 15, 2000: Youth Awards, 7:00PM, Aldermanic Chambers before Commission Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea M. DeRubeis
Recording Secretary

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
MAY 15, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In Attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Anthony Battista, Robert Platt, Alternate John Bourgeois, Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner, Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates: Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner and William Ryan

Absent: Josephine Pepper

1. **Minutes of the April Meeting:** Minutes of the April Meeting were accepted 8-0.
2. **Reports of Program and Maintenance:** Commissioner Halloran discussed items in the Commission folders of each member. Also, he took the opportunity to thank everyone for the luncheon with Mayor Cohen and the Commission members. He thanked everyone for the plaque with his name on it including a photo of all the Commission members. Commissioner Halloran said it has been an honor and a privilege to serve on this Commission. He has been on many commission's throughout the years and this was truly the best commission he has ever served on. The commission members are outstanding members of the community and it has been a pleasure to work with them.

Commissioner Halloran, who was astounded and honored, with having a Youth Award named after him. The award would be called the Russell J. Halloran Lifetime Achievement Award.

Also he thanked Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, for the tremendous job that she did in coordinating the 22nd Annual Service Youth Awards, sponsored by the Recreation Department. Stephanie is an outstanding Manager, who produced the Many Worlds of the Parks & Recreation Department on Channel 9 NewTV at the former Hyde School, runs the women's softball league, chaser for snow routes, runs Kids Korner and Centre Acres Camps and was a lifeguard at Crystal Lake. Tonight Stephanie outdid herself with another presentation of awards.

(2)

- 3. **Request to Name Old Davis School Playground:** A petition and numerous letters were received by the Parks & Recreation Department in favor or re-naming the Old Davis School Playground in honor of the late Thomas A. Torchia. Some of the letter received in favor of the re-naming of the playground were from Joseph DeNucci, State Auditor's Office, Kenneth Hamilton, President, Newton Teachers Association, former Alderman Peter Harrington, State Representative Peter Koutoujian, Kenneth Brennen, Auburndale Co-operative Bank, Paul Guzzi and Fred Guzzi, Veterans Services and numerous others. Commissioner Halloran said that he knows of none more deserving to have a park named after him than Tom Torchia.

Chairman Mahoney opened the floor for discussion.

Ellen Ryan, neighbor, said that Tom was a good neighbor, community activist, had a love of gardening and that he should be honored. However, she felt that the playground name should stay as Davis Playground.

State Representative Peter Koutoujian said that he knew Tom for 3 years. Tom did a lot for the community and the Newton Community Service Center. Mr. Torchia took part in all local events and reached out to the community. Representative Koutoujian asked that the commission members consider renaming David Playground, the Tom Torchia Playground.

Eugene Cronin said that he has known Tom all Tom's life and that the commission members take favorable action and name the playground after Tom Torchia, a most deserving person. Mr. Torchia deserves the honor for his dedication to the West Newton Neighborhood.

Mr. Herman, resident, Eden Avenue, commented on Tom's many accolades and is in favor of changing the name of the playground.

Steve Fairchild, 483 Waltham Street is proud that Tom is being honored and is in favor of changing the name of the playground.

Francis Rice made the motion to change the name of the Davis Playground to the Thomas A. Torchia Playground. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to rename the Davis Playground the Thomas A. Torchia Playground.

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4. **Status of Budget:** Commissioner Halloran said that there were items added into the Parks & Recreation budget. They include a volunteer to work with Arts in the Parks Director, Linda Plaut, \$25,000, Part time Turf Coordinator \$25,000.

Commissioner Halloran also reported that in the CIP account, there is \$50,000 for trees, \$50,000 for turf maintenance and \$25,000 for field renovations.

Commissioner Halloran reported that at the last Mayor's press Conference last Tuesday, Mayor Cohen announced the retirement of myself and the appointments of Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner to Acting Commissioner and Robert J. DeRubeis, Chief Supervisor, to Acting Deputy Commissioner.

Commissioner Halloran who is in favor of the appointments of Fran Towle and Robert DeRubeis, commented that Fran has been with the Parks & Recreation Department for 30 years, introduced women's sports, involved with all sports, trees in the City, Tree City USA (11 years), Tree City Growth Award, Grants, such as Forte Park (Allison), Nahanton Park and numerous others. Robert who has been with the Department for 12 years, will graduate from Massachusetts School of Law on June 2nd, and I could not be more proud of anyone. He will make a fine Deputy Commissioner.

The commissioner said that he could not be more happy than to have Fran promoted to Commissioner after 30 years dedicated service to the Department and Robert who has worked for the Department for over 12 years. He recommended to Mayor Cohen that this become effective effect June 1, 2000.

With the approval of the Board of Aldermen, Fran Towle will become the Commissioner of the Newton Parks and Recreation Department starting June 1, 2000.

Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner, thanked Commissioner Halloran for his support during her many years with the Department. She believes that they both made a great team working for the Department. She said that it has been a great ride that has come to an end. She wishes the Commissioner the best with his retirement and also his marriage on Saturday, May 20th. The Commissioner leaves big shoes to fill and she is looking forward to working with the Commission members and asked for their support.

- 5. **Information Manual:** Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member, author of the Information Manual asked the members if the page on shade trees should be included in the manual. Also, should the 2 new positions be added to the organizational chart. Since there are two organizational charts, Mr. Clarke asked which one should he use. It was suggested that he use the one that reflects the budget. Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner to work with Mr. Clarke on this.
- 6. **Mayors Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, May 24th, 7:30AM at McElroy Commons Dining Room at Boston College:** Commissioner Halloran asked if anyone would like tickets to the breakfast, call Faye or the Mayor's Office.
- 7. **Anthony Battista's retiring from Commission after 11 years:** Commissioner Halloran took the opportunity to thank Anthony Battista for serving 11 years as a Commission member. This will be Mr. Battista's last commission meeting. Due to his busy schedule as a Middle School Principal in North Attleboro, he is resigning from the Commission. A plaque was presented by Chairman James Mahoney and Commissioner Halloran, from the Commission members, to Mr. Battista for his assistance, cooperation and dedicated service to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to the City of Newton. Mr. Battista grew up in Nonantum and has been very loyal to the residents of Ward I. He has worked as a representative to the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival and Senior Citizen's Cookout each year. The Commission members wished him the best!
- 8. **New Business:** Commissioner Halloran took the opportunity to thank everyone for their support and cooperation through the years. He said that working with the Park & Recreation Commission was a joy. He grew up in Nonantum and attended City schools. He spent 26 years as Commissioner of the Parks & Recreation Department. As Commissioner, he was responsible for the marathons, fireworks, neighborhood groups, school grounds, snow and grass in school and City areas and employees to name a few. He wished the members and their families well. Everyone clapped and wished the Commissioner success in his marriage and new job.

Anthony Battista in his last official act at the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM.

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 19, 2000

NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 222, 7:30PM

(Revised)

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie Devito, Alternates William Ryan, John Bourgeois and Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also in attendance, Alternate Michael Clarke and Carol Stapleton, Manager

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt and Josephine Pepper

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman announced that this is the first evening that Fran Towle, formerly the Deputy Commissioner, now Commissioner, will be presiding over the meeting. (former Commissioner Russell J. Halloran retired at the end of May)

Also, this is the first evening that Jennie DeVito has returned to the Commission after 11 years. (She replaces Anthony Battista) He welcomed Ms. DeVito on her return to Parks & Recreation Commission.

1. **Minutes of the May Meeting:** Minutes of the May meeting were accepted 8-0.
2. **Reports of Program and Maintenance from Fran Towle, Commissioner:** The Parks & Recreation maintenance crews have been extremely busy with the grass cutting and lining of fields. Our forestry department will have a new tree contractor, Asplundh Tree Expert Company, starting July 1st. We are looking forward to working with them for the next 3 years. Lewis Tree was the former low bid contractor.

This is my first Commission meeting as Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Department. I look forward to working with all of you, and hope to live up to your standards.

3. **Summer Plans for tennis, Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Special Needs Camp, Kids Korner, Acres in the Falls, Outdoor Adventure, Soccer Clinic, Basketball Clinic, leagues, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** The majority of our camps will start on Monday, June 26th, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool opened June 12th, they are operating according to schedule. Tennis is ongoing as well as the summer softball leagues. Camp orientations have been held. Two of our camps, Acres in the Falls and Special Needs camp start on July 3rd. Final touches have been made for the 4th of July festivities.

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- 4. **July 4th Festivities:** The fireworks will be held on July 4th, rain date, July 5th. Gath Pool will be closed on July 4th per order of the Fire Department and July 5th if there is bad weather on the 4th. The fireworks start at 9:00PM at Albemarle.
- 5. **Newton North High School Complex fees for 2000/01:** The Commission members voted 8-0 to accept the Newton North High School Complex fees for 2000/02.

<u>Seasonal Fees</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Adult (18-59)	\$36.00*	\$36.00*
Student (6-17)	\$26.00*	\$26.00*
Family (2 adults plus all Children under 18)	\$95.00 + \$1.00 Per ID card	\$95.00+\$1.00 Per ID card

- Current and proposed fees include cost of yearly ID card

<u>Daily Fees</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Adult (18-59)	\$3.00	\$3.00
Student (6-17)	\$2.00	\$2.00
Non-resident	\$6.00	\$6.00

<u>Swim lesson fees</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Member per session	\$25.00	\$25.00
Non-member per session	\$40.00	\$40.00

- 6. **Proposal to name Albemarle Field area from Watertown Street to Craft Street after former Commissioner of the Parks & Recreation Department, Russell J. Halloran:** William Ryan, Alternate Commission member made a proposal to name the Albemarle Field Complex area, the **Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex**. The former Commissioner worked for the Department for over 26 years. It would be a great tribute to a man who went above and beyond the call of duty when it came to the best interests of the resident of Newton. Aside from being born in Newton, Mr. Halloran has invested most of his life to the Newton Community. Mr. Ryan said that nothing would more satisfying than to see this tribute to Mr. Halloran in dedicating the entire Albemarle Sports Complex on Albemarle road from Watertown Street to Craft Street on the Gath pool side of the street at the "Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex."

Carol Stapleton, Manager, Parks & Recreation, showed the Commission members A map of the area. The Law Department has no problem with the proposal.

Two meeting are required in naming an area after an individual. The second Meeting will be held on Monday, September 18th and the abutters to the property will be notified.

John Bourgeois said that Mr. Halloran, who went to Newton schools, played in many sports programs during his school years. He also played for the Red Sox Farm League for many years.

Suggestions to name area were:

- Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex Playground
- Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex
- Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex

It was suggested that the green recreation signs be placed at both ends of the area, Albemarle and Craft Street and behind the Horace Mann School on Albemarle Road if the proposal is approved.

This item will be taken up at the September 18th Commission Meeting, and abutters to the area will be notified to attend.

- 7. **Information Manual:** Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member distributed copies of recent changes in the draft the Parks & Recreation Commission Manual to all commission members. These included updates in the dedication, acknowledgements, organizational chart, description of the part time position, budget page, naming of park, and an added 2 pages on the shade tree law. Because of formatting problems, Mr. Clarke had to modify the organizational chart provided by staff; however, this includes the same information along with contract positions not shown in the budget organizational chart. The indication on the title page and running headings indicating the document as being developed at Boston College will be eliminated in the final published edition. Commissioner Towle recognized that Mr. Clarke devoted an enormous amount of time and effort to create this manual. Ms. Towle is very appreciative of this and thanked Mr. Clarke for a job well done. Ms. Towle will work together with Mr. Clarke to present a final version to the Commission in September.

Motion was made by Peter Kastner, alternate commission member to accept the Parks and Recreation Commission Information Manual subject to minor changes to be made in the final edition. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion. The Commission members voted 8-0 to accept the motion.

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- 8. **Crystal Lake, Improvements to Levingston Cove:** Carol Stapleton, Manager, spoke regarding the improvements to Crystal Lake's Levingston Cove. In 1997 \$50,000 was approved to improve the pathways, previous erosion to Levingston Cove. Meetings were held with the Engineering Department, Public Works Department, Planning Department, Recreation Department. Also, Carol had several neighborhood meetings to discuss this issue. The Public Works Department would be taking care of the curbing and streets.

Kenn Eisenbraun, of the Engineering Department designed the 1st plans. The Engineering Department made suggestions for the erosion, grade, handicap accessible area and the elevation involved.

Neighbors are concerned, not only about open space, but the wall area. The neighbors would like more meetings to discuss this. There is a meeting this Friday, June 23rd with the neighbors, Mayor's Office for Handicap Accessibility and City Departments, to discuss the issues. The project has been halted due to neighbors concerns as the plans have changed through the years. The neighbors are concerned with the design of the wall, handicap access area and the vista area.

The Public Works Department has money in their budget to raise the curbing and clean the gas traps. New curbing will be needed for handicap accessibility and railings.

It is hoped that the project will be completed before the end of September.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member, believes that the Recreation Department Commission should have total control over this project and give their approval. He said that some of the neighbors were shocked over the final plans.

Walter Bernheimer said that the project should be subject to a final review so that control would not be lost. He said that plans need to be made that the lay person can understand and interpret. Perhaps we should be more cautious about plans in the future.

William Ryan said that some people do not understand what a retaining wall is and what it is used for.

Carol Stapleton, Manager, said that neighbors in the Crystal Lake area have put up with a lot through the years. And this is something added to their frustrations. She thinks that they will need 2 -3 more meetings to finalize the plans. Carol said that the meeting Friday will be an important one.

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Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member thought that the groups should bring the final plans to the Recreation Commission. Fran Towle, Commissioner, will keep the Commission members apprised of the plans.

9. **New Business:** William Ryan commented that the 22nd Annual Youth Service Award winners were not in the May minutes. Faye Hays, Secretary, said that they were inadvertently left out and are as follows:

The 22nd Annual Youth Service Awards were held on May 15, 2000 in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall:

JUDGE FRANKLIN N. FLASCHNER ADULT AWARD

Josephine Pepper (Commission Member)

JUDGE JULIAN YESLEY YOUNG ADULT AWARD

Shauna O'Donnell

OFFICER ROBERT BRACELAND SENIOR YOUTH AWARD

Katie Levine

IRENE BICKELMAN JUNIOR YOUTH AWARD

Michael Pearson

Trang Tieu

NEW AWARD: Special presentation award to honor of **Russell J. Halloran, Commissioner**. Award to be presented each year thereafter, to a most deserving lifetime achievement person.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Jennie Devito, Josephine Pepper, Alternates, Michael Clarke, William Ryan, John Bourgeois, Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Chairman, Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Chairman, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Walter Bernheimer

1. **Minutes of the June meeting were accepted as amended with changes from Michael Clarke**

2. **Report of Program and Maintenance from Fran Towle, Commissioner:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that this is her first summer as Commissioner of the Parks & Recreation Department and that the summer season went very well. Crystal Lake and Gath Pool both closed on August 27th for the summer season. The Forestry Department hired a new tree contractor this past July, Asplundh Tree Expert Company. Lewis Tree was the tree contractor for the past 10 years. The grass contractor is Vanaria and Sons. The fireworks were held on July 4th at Albemarle and they were spectacular this year. The weather was great and the festivities were well attended.

Changes will take place at Levingston Cove, Crystal Lake starting the end of this week. The changes were agreed upon, the pathways will be cut, the wall put up, 6 benches to be installed, handicap material by lake area changed, recessed area reduced, an addition of 2-3 trees near the Sciegienny property, the handicap bench to be moved over and the boulders moved off site. The cost of the changes will be \$6,000. The total cost of the project will now be \$128,000.

Work is being planned for Burr Park including handicap accessibility. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, has been meeting with the neighbors regarding the plans.

3. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool Closings:** Crystal Lake and Gath Pool closed on August 27th, due to staff going back to college and high school sports.

- 4. **Harvest Fair:** Will take place on, Sunday, October 22, 2000 at the Newton Centre Green, 12:00PM – 5:00PM. (raindate October 29th) Included will be crafts, activities, entertainment, food and amusements.
- 5. **Report on St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, reported that the carnival went very well with no complaints. The event was well attended.
- 6. **Millennium Park/Balsamo Park:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, introduced Rusty Thompson who is the Committee Chair for Millennium Park/Balsamo Park. Ms. Thompson explained to the commission members that she has been involved, as a volunteer, with the Millennium Park committee for the past 3 years. Starting with a generous pledge of \$250,000 from Salvatore A. Balsamo, Chairman of TAC Worldwide Companies, the City will construct a beautiful new park on the grounds of City Hall (on the Homer Street side) to celebrate the new millennium. The site was chosen in relationship to the main library. There will be gathering areas with benches where families and friends can gather to relax and enjoy passive recreation. The Millennium Park committee has met with all groups i.e. Mayor Cohen, Department Heads, architects and handicap accessibility group. The architects are Stephen Stimson Associates Landscape Architects and Chang & Sylligardos Architects. Fund raising: "Buy A Brick" for \$100.00 and your name to be engraved in a brick at the Balsamo Park. So far 1000 bricks have been sold and the committee is looking for another 1000 bricks to be sold.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, asked Ms. Thompson if the Millennium Park came under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Commission. He also thought that during the process a commission member should have been on the Millennium Park committee. Ms. Thompson said that it was an oversight on the committee's part as every effort has been made to involve the whole community. In future plans a member of the commission will be included. Also an endowment will be made to maintain the park and there will be an insurance policy on the park in case of damage. Mr. Kastner asked if any of the endowment monies could be used to fix up the Centre Street Cemetery. Ms. Thompson said she would not know anything about that.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, asked when the project would be completed. Ms. Thompson said the park would be scheduled to open in the year 2001. The map for the master plan includes all of the grounds at City Hall. However, the monies will be spent on the highlighted area, which is Balsamo Park. She said that perhaps the schematics would be ready for the next commission meeting.

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Michael Clarke, Alternate, asked if this was on City (recreation) property. The Commissioner said she would ask the Law Department for that information. Also, when did this area become a park? Richard Griffith, Millennium Park committee member said that it is on recreation land as he checked with the Law Department regarding this. Mr. Clarke commented that the plan is a comprehensive one and an endowment is a great idea. Monies will be needed for details and low maintenance for the future of the park.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, thanked Rusty Thompson for the presentation & information about the plans for Balsamo Park.

7. **Proposal to name the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground after Dr.**

Anthony J. Minichiello: A proposal letter was made by Mr. Sid Kaplan, 327 Newtonville Avenue, with attached signatures, to name the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground after Dr. Anthony J. Minichiello of 8 Langley Road. Edward Berthiaume, a 30-year resident, spoke and said that Mr. Minichiello, 87 years old, has been an active player from the day the courts opened to the present. Dr. Minichiello has spent countless hours on maintaining the courts by sweeping the courts with his broom, pruning the growth with hedge clippers. It is truly a sight to see an 87-year-old man pulling up the weeds in the tennis courts. Dr. Minichiello also performs the maintenance at other tennis courts in Newton. A lifelong resident of Newton, Dr. Minichiello has now retired from his dental practice.

Mr. Anthony Pellegrini commented that Dr. Minichiello brought his own broom to sweep the tennis courts and other maintenance projects as well. On occasion, Dr. Minichiello brought donuts to the Recreation office for the staff.

Mr. Pellegrini asked Ms. Towle, Commissioner, about the wall that needs to be fixed at Pellegrini Playground. Ms. Towle said that the project was going out to bid next week.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, informed the members that abutters to Pellegrini Playground will be notified of the proposal to name the tennis courts after Dr. Anthony J. Minichiello, before the next commission meeting on October 16th.

Jennie DeVito, recommended that a vote be taken this evening for the proposal to name the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground after Dr. Minichiello. The issue would be voted on only, as the final vote would be taken at the next commission meeting. The issue was motioned and seconded. Commission members voted 7-0 to pre-approve the proposal of naming the tennis courts at Pellegrini Park after Dr. Minichiello.

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Peter Johnson, Acting Commissioner reminded the commission members that the final vote would be taken at the October Commission meeting.

8. **Proposal to name Albemarle field area from Watertown Street to Craft Street after former Parks & Recreation Commissioner Russell J. Halloran:**
A proposal was made by William Ryan to name the Albemarle field area from Watertown Street to Craft Street after former Parks & Recreation Commission Russell J. Halloran. This is the second meeting in reference to dedications and abutters to the property were notified. If approved the signs would read "**Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex.**"

Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Members motioned to name the Albemarle Park area after Russell J. Halloran. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, welcomed the abutters/neighbors to the meeting. The first person to speak was Rodney Farnsworth III from 161 Edinboro Street.

Mr. Farnsworth III is opposed to naming the park area after anyone. He believed that the park should remain Albemarle Park. Also, he has respect for Russ Halloran and for someone wanting to name the area after him, however, the neighbors, including him were not happy about it. Mr. Farnsworth said there are 50 billboards at Albemarle Park and the area does not need any more.

Eugene Cronin, 343 Highland Avenue, is for the proposal. He said that the Department should honor Russ Halloran for all of his tributes throughout the 26 years that Russ worked for the Parks & Recreation Department. If we honor Russ Halloran, we honor ourselves; this would be the frosting on the cake. The City took over the Albemarle property and leased some of the land to Fessenden. Years ago, there was a nine hole golf course on the property. The third hole of the course was on the corner of Craft Street and Albemarle Road with a snack bar on the corner. Russ Halloran has devoted over a quarter of a century to the City of Newton. Mr. Cronin is for the proposal to name the Albemarle area after Russ Halloran.

Alfred Guzzi, Veterans Services: Russ was very well known in sports in junior high and high school. He held the basketball record for 40 years. In baseball he struck out 24-26 batters. Russ also played for the Red Sox until his arm became sore and he could no longer play. As Commissioner of the Parks & Recreation Department for over 27 years, Russ served under three mayors, Mayor Mann, Mayor Concannon and Mayor Cohen. At the retirement party for Russ, over 500 people attended the function at Post 440 in June. Russ is one of the most well know people in the City. Mr. Guzzi recommends the proposal that the Albemarle Field complex be named after Russell Halloran.

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Margherita Farnsworth, 55 Pine Grove Avenue, believes that the park areas should be named in honor of the people who donate the land. She understands that Russ had done an admirable job as Commissioner, however, she thinks a plaque should be sufficient to remember him by.

Also, at Hamilton Playground, there are soccer goals that are chained to the baseball backstop which have been there for 3 months. Could they be stored elsewhere.

Anthony Pellegrini said that Russ Halloran had devoted most of his time and efforts for the citizens of Newton. If anyone is worthy of having an area named after him, it is Russ Halloran. No task was too big or too small for Russ to handle. He has done a lot for the City during the past 27 years. Mr. Pellegrini is for the proposal to name the Albemarle Complex area after Russ Halloran.

Peter Kastner, alternate commission member, commented that a wonderful retirement party was held for Russ Halloran in June. Russ has many, many friends including Joseph DeNucci, State Auditor. Mr. Kastner agreed with Alfred Guzzi that Russ had led an admirable life, and he was impressed with Russ's career in sports. Russ was a fine athlete, led a fine civic life, and the City parks are well used in Newton. He was an extraordinary person, great athlete and role model for youngsters. Also, Russ was an exemplary person and has done a terrific job for the City as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation.

William Ryan, alternate commission member, proposed the dedication for Russ Halloran. It would be a great tribute to Russ to have the Albemarle field area named after him. There were 164 letters sent out to the abutters of the Albemarle area to let them know of the proposal. There could be no better dedication to Russ for all that he has done for the community.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, reminded everyone that at the June 19th Commission meeting, there were 3 suggestions for the sign:

- Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex Playground
- Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex
- Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex.

The commission members voted 8-0 to name the Albemarle field area from Watertown Street to Craft Street after former Commissioner of the Parks & Recreation Department, Russell J. Halloran. The area will be known as the **"Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex."**

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Michael Clarke, alternate commission member, said that for future generations, a plaque should be in place outside the building or area to let the public know why the area is named after that person. Also, at the November meeting, Mr. Clarke will present suggestions for wording on the plaque.

- 9. **Naming of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse:** Due to the nature of the proposal to name the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse, commission member, Francis Rice did not sit in on this item. Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman recognized Stanley Gaffin regarding the proposal to name the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse after Francis Rice. Mr. Gaffin said that the clubhouse was built 2 years ago. Francis Rice, who has been devoted to the City, was instrumental, and pushed for, the building of the new clubhouse. Mr. Rice has been on the Newton Commonwealth Foundation Golf Course Management Committee for 31 years, with no pay. Mr. Gaffin felt that after 31 years, Mr. Rice deserves to have the clubhouse named after him. He suggested a bronze plaque be installed on the clubhouse.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member, said that the commission members should think about naming a room after Mr. Rice and not the whole clubhouse. Mr. Rice is truly a terrific guy and has done a lot for the City; perhaps a room in the clubhouse could be named after him. In a way the discussion of this proposal is an embarrassment as Mr. Rice is on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, feels that Mr. Rice has done a lot of service for the Newton community and a public building should be named after Mr. Rice.

Jennie DeVito asked the members to go over the criteria to waive the policy.

In the folders is a memo from the Law Department regarding the naming of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse: The Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Foundation approved the naming of the clubhouse after Mr. Rice at a duly held meeting on April 25, 2000. The issues the Law Department addressed are:

- a) Does the Foundation have the authority to name the Clubhouse?
Answer: No
- b) Can the Golf Course Clubhouse be named after a current member of the Parks & Recreation Commission?
Answer: No
- c) Can the Golf Course Clubhouse be named after a current member of the Foundation?
Answer: No

Since Mr. Rice currently serves on the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Clubhouse cannot be named after him so long as he continues in office on the Commission. Similarly the Policy is not limited to officials serving on the Recreation Commission. Rather the use of the work "official" appears to be broad enough to encompass any official serving on any Board or Commission. Since the Foundation is a quasi-commission of the City, it would appear that Mr. Rice's service, as an official of the Foundation would also violate this provision of the Policy. Therefore, it appears that the Clubhouse may not be named after Mr. Rice so long as he continues to serve as a member of the Foundation.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, suggested that we obtain an opinion from the Law Department regarding the waiving of the policy or an override and who has the jurisdiction over the golf course.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member, said that he was reluctant to waive the policy.

John Bourgeois, Alternate Commission Member, said that we need to set up a procedure to waive the policy and will need a 50% commission vote. The commission members will need to enforce it and establish a precedent.

Francis Rice: The jurisdiction is under the Parks & Recreation Commission. The golf course committee reports to Mayor Cohen. The Golf Course committee was set up when the golf course was purchased at no cost to the City. The lease is on a 5 year term basis. Monies from the golf course go back into the course at no cost to the City. This contract would be up in the year 2002.

Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member, felt it was inappropriate to name something after a member of the commission while they are still active. Russ Halloran's dedication was different in that he was retired from the City. Also, he asked who has jurisdiction over the golf course. The Recreation Department has jurisdiction over the golf course; however, the land belongs to Conservation.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman; the commission would need 2/3rds of the deciding vote to override our policy. If the commission puts a procedure in place, we can change it.

Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member commented that the commission could reserve naming the clubhouse until Mr. Rice retires.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, asked if there were any motions to override the policy.

Jennie DeVito motioned in the Naming of the Parkland Instruction thereto, which were approved in 1994, to override the policy in section 2 of #3, no official in office will be considered until such person has left office.

William Ryan seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 4 – 2, 1 abstaining, Josephine Pepper, to override the policy and name the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse after Francis Rice while he is still in office as a member of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Committee and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The vote was not 2/3rds of the commission members. Therefore, proposal did not pass.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, suggested that this item be brought up again at the next commission meeting.

At this time, Josephine Pepper, excused herself from the meeting.

- 10. **Commission Information Manual:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, thanked Michael Clarke and staff member Sheila Butts, for the changes/corrections/updates they made to the Commission Information Manual. Some of the changes included the use of guidelines, page 1, part I, general Philosophy, ice rink, address for Open Space Plan (done every 5 years) also Governor Cellucci signed the Preservation Act which entails as to how monies are raised annually (26.4 million dollars annually) The Preservation Act is a unique situation, need to set goals, priorities for open space plan.

Furthermore, Mr. Clarke distributed Excerpts of Parks & Recreation Issues in Newton's Draft Framework Plan for 2000. In a comprehensive master plan for the City are a Master Plan and the Open Space Plan. Also, included in the information are excerpts of the current draft with relevance to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- 11. **New Business:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, spoke about the Livingstone Cove changes for the project at Crystal Lake. A morning meeting with the neighbors was held and three Commission members attended, Peter Johnson, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke. The plans for Livingstone Cove changed while the project was being worked on. The changes were brought to the attention of the neighbors attending the meeting.

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Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member, suggested that final project have the approval of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Control over these projects should be given to the Commission. A process should be followed.

Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member, agreed with Mr. Kastner that the final plans should be presented to the commission.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting at 10:00PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Walter Bernheimer, William Ryan, John Bourgeois, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Fran Towle, Commissioner, Josephine Pepper, Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Members

James Mahoney, Chairman, welcomed Jennie DeVito as a commission member. Ms. DeVito replaced Anthony Battista, from Ward 1.

1. **Minutes of the September meeting:** Minutes of the September meeting were accepted 8-0.
2. **Reports of Programs & Maintenance:** James Mahoney, Chairman, turned the meeting over to Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, in the absence of Fran Towle, Commissioner. Mr. DeRubeis reported that the leaf hogs are out about the City picking up leaves, the grass cutting is still continuing, sometimes twice in a week. He mentioned that David Mandatori, Division Foreman, and Sheila Butts, Manager, attended a 3-day conference for Safety Playground Inspectors in Portland, Maine. Sheila is now certified to inspect all playground equipment in the City.
3. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commission reported that according to the readouts, the numbers are slightly down due to the weather. Even though the weather did not always cooperate, the season was successful at both sites. The pool and lake closed August 27th for the summer season.

- 4. **Proposal to name the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playgrounds after Dr. Anthony J. Minichiello:** The petition to name the Pellegrini playground tennis courts is in the folders. This is the second meeting in reference to naming something after someone. Ed. Berthiume, who made the proposal, attended the meeting. He is a 30 year resident of Newton, a good friend of Dr. Minichiello's. He said that Dr. Minichiello (dentist) is 87 years old, and gave generously of his time to clean the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground. He was always at the courts, sweeping, pulling the weeds and kept the courts in good shape. (Abutters were notified that this was the second meeting regarding the proposal)

Mr. Berthiume said that Dr. Minichiello's son was due to arrive with a written short phrase about his dad.

Jennie DeVito motioned to name the Pellegrini Playground tennis courts after Dr. Minichiello. Francis Rice seconded motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to name the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground after Dr. Minichiello.

Mr. Berthiume asked Mr. DeRubeis as to what the time frame would be for the dedication and sign. Mr. DeRubeis said the sign would be small, depends on the verbiage and would probably be done in late November.

- 5. **Naming of Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse:**

The proposal to name the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse after Francis Rice was resubmitted. Francis Rice excused himself from voting on this item.

James Mahoney, Chairman recognized Stanley Gaffin, a member of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Committee, to speak. Mr. Gaffin said that Mr. Rice, who has been a volunteer committee member with no pay, has been overseeing the functions of the City owned golf course for over 30 years. Mr. Rice was instrumental in the planning and building of the new clubhouse. He is a vital part of the golf course functions at the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. He felt that Mr. Rice deserves to have the clubhouse named after him.

(3)

James Mahoney, Chairman, reminded the members that in order to name the Golf Course Clubhouse after Mr. Rice, a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission and Chairman of the Newton Commonwealth Foundation, the Commission would have to waive its own policy for naming a facility for an individual who was presently sitting within its jurisdiction and a 2/3rds vote would be needed.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked if there was a motion to waive the policy to name the clubhouse after a member that is still on the Parks & Recreation Commission and also the Newton Commonwealth Foundation. At least two-thirds majority vote of the Commission is required to set aside an existing, written policy or procedure of the Commission.

John Bourgeois, Alternate Commission Member, motioned to waive the policy to name a facility within its jurisdiction after a member who is still on a committee.

Jennie Devito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 7-0, 1 abstaining, Mr. Rice, in favor of the motion to waive the policy to name a facility within its jurisdiction after a member is still on a committee.

Jennie Devito motioned to name the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse in honor of Francis J. Rice.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, seconded the motion.

The committee members voted 7-0 with 1 abstaining (Francis Rice), to name the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse after Francis J. Rice.

Robert Platt commented that the commission members should start thinking about curbing the naming of field, dedications, etc., for maybe a year or so. He suggested that perhaps there should be one sign/board/panel in front of City Hall and when something is asked to be dedicated, a plaque could be installed on the sign/board and just keep adding to it rather than naming all these different areas in the City. It was also suggested that dedications be made to persons that are still living. The commission members agreed with Mr. Platt.

Ms. DeVito suggested that in the future, a plaque on a bench would be appropriate for Commission members.

(4)

- 6. **MWRA Proposal:** Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, said that there will be a meeting on Tuesday evening to meet with Spiniello Company representatives to discuss the Edmands Park Project. This is a staging area for the contractor to work on Commonwealth Avenue. Spiniello Companies agreed that no trees would be removed from Edmands Park at the Blake Street entrance. The footpath will be regraded, stabilizing material will be used for the footpath on either side of the culvert. Spiniello Companies will finish the area with dense graded gravel, loam and seed the area and enhance the entry at Blake Street. This project may need the approval of the Commission and this item will be on the agenda for the next commission meeting.

- 7. **Tom Torchia Dedication, October 21st:** The dedication of the Thomas Torchia Playground, located behind the Newton Community Service Center, 492 Waltham Street, West Newton, will take place on Saturday, October 21st, 10:00AM. (rain date, Sunday, October 22nd at 12:00PM)

Before the commission meeting members adjourned to the Aldermen's Chambers to hear Mayor David B. Cohen give his annual State of the City Address, James Mahoney, Chairman, recognized Claire Golomb, 61 Plainfield Street, from the audience.

Ms. Golomb said that she resided in a home near Crystal Lake. She has been appalled by the condition of the bathhouse at Crystal Lake. She claimed that the facility was filthy all of the time, sand on the floors were not swept up, the shower area was not clean, plumbing was not working most of the time, mosquitoes in the building, all of the rooms are filthy, and there are old couches in the rooms that should be thrown out. Ms. Golomb also complained that there was poor management of the facility, the person who should be in charge is never there. The staff is either playing cards or volleyball. Also, she would like the Crystal Lake facility to open the 1st of June and close on Labor Day or beyond.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner responded that the Health Department checks the Crystal Lake area daily and has never seen the need to shut the facility down for unsanitary conditions.

Ms. Golomb said that a letter was written to Mayor Cohen, and sent to the TAB Newspapers, regarding the poor conditions of the bathhouse at Crystal Lake. She claimed that Mayor Cohen never responded to her letter. She felt that the building should be condemned and a new bathhouse built.

Since Carol Stapleton, Manager, Parks & Recreation Department and Crystal Lake, was in the audience, James Mahoney, Chairman, asked if she would address the issues.

Ms. Stapleton told Ms. Golomb that Mayor Cohen did respond to her husband's letter in May of this year and she would see that it was put into the next Commission Meeting folders. Vast improvements were done to the facility. Ms. Stapleton worked with Nick Parnell, Commissioner, Building Department, to see that many of Ms. Colomb's issues were taken care of before the facility opened in June. The old furniture was thrown out, new bike rack installed, rooms were painted, new lighting and installation of a ventilation system in the changing rooms. Also, a cleaning contractor cleans the building nightly.

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Ms. Colomb for her concerns and coming to the meeting. Mr. Mahoney suggested that Ms. Colomb review the report and return to the commission meeting at another time.

Meeting adjourned to the Board of Aldermen's Chambers for the Mayors Annual State of the City Address at 8:00PM.

At 8:45PM the Commission meeting reconvened in room 209. Walter Bernheimer joined the meeting.

8. **Status Capital Improvement Program:** Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner reported that on September 28th, Fran Towle, Commissioner, met with Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Office about the Parks & Recreation Department's 34 items wish list.

- Wellington Playground – tennis basketball \$ 60,000 (Mayor Cohen said he could not commit monies to Wellington at the moment)
- Gath Pool – repairs \$250,000
- Field Renovations \$ 25,000
- Pruning \$ 50,000
- Play Resurfacing \$ 20,000
- Tennis \$ 60,000

Mr. DeRubeis commented that the above items and figures were off the top of head and Fran Towle, Commissioner, would update the Commission members at the next meeting.

9. **Commission Information Manual:** Item to be taken up at next commission meeting.

- 10. **Millennium Park:** Rusty Thompson, Chairman, Millennium Park Committee brought to the meeting the schematics for Millenium Park. Ms. Thompson said that she met with Rob Caruso, Mayors Committee for People with Disabilities, regarding the Millennium Park area. There will be 17 parking spaces, 3 of which are handicap accessible. The walkway to the main part of the park is wheelchair accessible. There is a seating area to play checkers/chess. There is a master plan for the whole City Hall area for the future. The committee is interested in the Veterans Circle area. Their suggestions are to re-design the circle, open up the area to the monument and park the cars perpendicular and make seating areas.

Jennie DeVito asked where the dedicated bricks would be placed. Ms. Thompson said that they would be placed on a walkway adjacent to the building. Flowers would be planted and there would be color all year round. During the winter/snow season it would be risky even to hand shovel the brick path. She suggested that let nature take its course.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked if anyone had any comments or concerns.

Robert Platt commented that Rusty Thompson had undertaken a huge project as Chairman and volunteer of the Millennium Park Project. She has devoted all of her valuable time to this project and has done a great job from day one.

Rusty Thompson thanked Mr. Platt and said that she would certainly keep the commission members apprised of the project each month. She said that Fran Towle, Commissioner, is on the Millennium Park Committee, and is a terrific person and good motivator.

Ms. Thompson reminded the commission members that the Millennium Park Committee is looking to sell another 1,000 bricks. She said they make good Christmas gifts.

Jennie DeVito said thank you to Ms. Thompson for the presentation. Also, that she is proud of Ms. Thompson and applauds her and her committee on what has been accomplished so far.

- 11. **Status Updates, Wellington Playground, Burr Park and Crystal Lake:** Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, introduced Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, regarding the status of Burr Park.

(7)

Ms. Pelkowsky commented that she is still meeting with the Newton Corner Neighborhood Group for improvements to Burr Park. The circle that is there now is supposed to be used for a drop off area, however, cars park there. There is pre-bid opening this Thursday for the historic wrought iron fence to be replaced. There are 52 pillars involved and 44 sections of wrought iron fencing. The sections that need replacing are in between the pillars. There are concerns over the amount of parking spaces and handicap accessibility inside the park. Ms. Pelkowsky has been meeting with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities for handicap accessibility. The handicap accessibility on Park Street and Waverly Avenue will start next year. Ms. Pelkowsky is also working with Aldermen Lipsitt, Merrill and Baker on this project. As soon as the final plans are made Ms. Pelkowsky will bring them to the commission meeting.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, said that monies have been allocated for the handicap walkway at Nahanton Park. Since the plans have not been drafted up as yet, it was suggested that the monies slated for Nahanton Park be used for Burr Park. He thanked Stephanie for her report on Burr Park.

Carol Stapleton, Manager for Crystal Lake: Construction at Levingston Cove has been going on for the past four week's full tilt. She has met several times with the neighborhood groups on the construction plans. Because the plans changed and neighbors were not notified, the construction plans halted. Fortunately, the contractor did not fine the City for the days they did not work. There is a petition to move the boat launch from Cronins Cove to Levingston Cove.

Also Carol mentioned that in the Crystal Lake Report there is an item for facility improvements. Ms. Stapleton said that she would give the commission members, at the next meeting, a copy of the letter that Russell J. Halloran, former Commissioner, sent to Mayor Cohen. In her opinion, the items for improvement at Crystal Lake were taken care of before the facility opened for the season. This is in regards to the issues in the letter Mr. Golomb sent to the Recreation Department and the newspaper article about the conditions at Crystal Lake.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, thanked Carol for her report on Crystal Lake.

Wellington Playground: Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner reported that \$12,500 of Marathon monies was used to update Wellington Playground. Wellington Playground is a very small playground located at the end of Henshaw Street, off River Street. Two years ago the neighbors of Wellington Playground, under the direction of Mr. Klukinski, met to discuss a new playground. The tot lot was cleaned up, swings were installed, fibar under swings and the area was grass seeded. Playgrounds for the future are not as apt to use wooden structures as they cause splinters and can catch fire. Mr. DeRubeis did apologize for not informing the commission members of the dedication at the Wellington Playground. Newton Community Service Center was involved in this project. NCSC was the keeper of the monies. NCSC paid the bills and the Recreation Department reimbursed NCSC.

- 12. **New Business:** Robert Platt, asked Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commission, about a call he had from a constituent regarding a tree on the corner of Kingman and Manchester. Robert DeRubeis, informed the commission members that a tree hearing was held for a tree at the corner of Kingman and Manchester. Because the neighbors objected to the taking down of the tree, another hearing will be held and the tree is not to come down as we speak. (The tree in question was asked to be removed for a driveway)

Community Preservation Act: The Community Preservation Committee asks that the Parks & Recreation Commission select a commission member to be on their committee. Chairman, James Mahoney, will select a commission member.

Robert Platt suggested that a moratorium be held on the naming of parks.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Michael Clarke, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Kastner, Francis Rice, William Ryan, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Andrea DeRubeis, Recording Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Chairman, Robert Platt, Josephine Pepper

1. **Minutes of October Meeting:** The minutes of the October meeting were accepted 8-0.
2. **Reports of Programs & Maintenance:** Commissioner Towle reports that the irrigation systems have been shut down and blown out for the winter season. The Maintenance Division is concentrating on leaf removal and is working in conjunction with the grass contractor, Vanaria, to remove leaves at schools and most major recreational sites. They are also working in conjunction with the schools to review the snow removal procedures at all the schools in anticipation of the winter season.

Commissioner Towle reports that the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex dedication was a great success in spite of the inclement weather. She informed those present that they could find pictures of the event in their folders. Vice Chairman Johnson paid compliments to the speakers at the event.

It was reported that Bay State Skating School has worked out its issues with the M.D.C. for the time being and there will be skating lessons at the Daley Rink. This is a very popular program with outstanding instructors. Skiing lesson registration is going well and another successful year is predicted at Nashoba Valley.

3. **Millennium Park Update:** Commissioner Towle reports that Rusty Thompson was unable to attend this evening. Ms. Thompson has gone to the Landscape Advisory Committee and is still working on tightening the specifications for the Park. Of issue is the contiguous incorporation of flow between Millennium Park and the Library. Traffic issues at the pedestrian crossing between the Park and

the Library have to be dealt with. The proposed cost for Millennium Park is estimated at \$ 400,000.00. An endowment for maintenance costs is needed in addition to the construction costs. Public Building Commissioner Nick Parnell is hoping for a January, 2001 commencement.

4. **Skating Rules & Regulations 2000-2001:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager is introduced and asked to give an update on Skating Rules and Regulations. There are no changes to the Skating Rules and Regulations. If there is skating, the order of openings will be the Auburndale Cove, Bulloughs Pond, and Crystal Lake. To skate, you need 6" of black ice, 9" of snow ice. Each year the Parks & Recreation Department has to write to the M.D.C. and ask permission to skate at the Auburndale Cove. The 2000-01 Skating Rules & Regulations are accepted by an 8-0 vote.
5. **Naming of Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse:** This is the second meeting. Abutters have been notified through mail and the media. Commissioner Towle recommends that naming of the clubhouse after Francis J. Rice be moved. After brief discussion, Mr. Rice recuses himself from the vote. The motion to name the clubhouse the Francis J. Rice Clubhouse passes 5-0 with two abstentions (Clarke, Kastner). Mr. Kastner congratulates Mr. Rice on the extraordinary job he has done at the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course.
6. **MWRA Blake Street/Edmands Park Project:** Contractor has decided not to use Edmands Park as a staging area. They have worked out a deal with the Newton Cemetery and will be using their site.
7. **Crystal Lake Letters on Improvements/Levingston Cove Update:** Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager is introduced and asked to address the Golumb letter to the Mayor concerning conditions at Crystal Lake. She explains that the issues in the letter have been addressed. The problem may have been that nobody answered Mr. Golumb in writing. Levingston Cove is 92% complete, with the rest expected to be completed in the next two weeks, barring any snow.
8. **CIP Update:** Information will be given to the Parks & Recreation department on the website. CIP items will be placed in priority tiers, number of items that a department receives will be based on funding. Tier 1 being the top priority.

Tree Planting: The Parks & Recreation Department spends just under \$ 400.00 per tree, between planting, pruning and watering. The department has requested that \$ 75,000.00 be allocated for this CIP item.

Tree Pruning: \$ 50,000.00 has been allocated for this item. Under the tree contract, Asplundh is charging \$ 65.00 per hour for pruning. In the past, Parks & Recreation has looked at the storm impact on snow routes and prune in those concentrated areas.

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Turf Control: \$ 50,000.00 has been allocated for this item. Turf control is used in conjunction with IPM standards. Funding is used to pay for private contractor to maintain areas in which the city has a strong investment of time and money.

Playground Safety Surfacing: Improve the surfacing under playground equipment through the use of fibar material. This is a joint venture with the School Department. \$ 20,000.00 has been allocated for this CIP item.

Court Repairs: The \$ 60,000.00 that has been allocated to court repairs is earmarked for the basketball and tennis court at Wellington Playground.

Commissioner Towle explains that CIP monies are not finalized until after the snow season when the amount of surplus can be determined. Past history shows that Tier I projects have been funded.

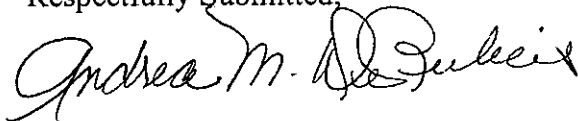
9. **Community Preservation Act Discussion:** Commissioner Towle goes over the handout that has been given to each commission member. She explains that up to a 3% surcharge can be placed on a resident's property tax bill. It can be used for open space, historic preservation or affordable housing. It has been determined that if it were a 1% surcharge, the average homeowner would be taxed an additional \$ 58.00. There is discussion concerning some of the open space that may be available through implementation of the Community Preservation Act. For the Community Preservation Act to be enacted, it has to be done through a referendum. The general consensus among the members present is that it may be appropriate to suggest to the Board of Aldermen that it is something they consider. Mr. Rice disagrees and opposes the measure. He does not feel that it is clear and needs to hear more discussion concerning the issue.

10. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle introduces the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Informational Manual that Michael Clarke has worked so diligently on developing. Mr. Clarke receives plaudits from commission members as well as Commissioner Towle.

Mr. Clarke discusses the merits and drawbacks of various styles of bicycle racks and suggests that prior to purchasing any future racks, the Parks & Recreation Department should contact the Pedestrian Task Force for their input.

Meeting adjourned 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea M. DeRubeis

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2000
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, William Ryan, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Recording Secretary

Absent: Jennie DeVito, Josephine Pepper, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the November Meeting:** The minutes of the November meeting were accepted 7-0.
2. **Commissioner's Reports of Programs and Maintenance:** Commissioner Towle reported that the snow contractors are hired and ready to go. Our in-house crews are taking care of the leaves. David Mandatori, Division Foreman and Fran Towle, Commissioner will be on the Mayor's NewTV show. They discussed ice skating on Bullough's Pond, Crystal Lake and the Auburndale Cove area of the Charles River. At this time there is no safe ice-skating in the City of Newton. The Commissioner said that the TV show the Many Worlds of the Parks & Recreation Department will no longer take place. The Mayor's show will include Department Heads discussing their own Department.

Last week the City was hit with a major windstorm which took down trees and tree branches. There were six streets blocked with large trees that fell during the storm. Mayor Cohen was very happy with the timely clean up of the debris. The Department's tree contractor, Asphlundh Tree Expert, and the Department's work crews were out cleaning after the storm. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, and Louis DeSimone, Assistant Maintenance Foreman, kept the Mayor in tune with the progress of the crews. Great teamwork!

The City has a new Volunteer Coordinator, Beverly Droz, who will be working at the Parks & Recreation Department's office. Beverly is a welcome addition to the City of Newton. Also, the Commissioner mentioned that Andrea Kelley resigned as the Adopt-A-Space Coordinator. In the interim Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, is the temporary Adopt-A-Space Coordinator. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner said that the Adopt-A-Space Coordinator position is going out to bid again with a January 22nd bid opening expected. This time the Adopt-A-Space Coordinator job position was advertised in the Horticultural News. Hopefully, this will bring in more applications for the part time position.

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The Holiday Special Needs Party will be this Wednesday, 6:30PM at the Hibernian Hall. Also, there have been improvements at the Parks & Recreation Office. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner's office has been done over as well as my office. The downstairs, for the Maintenance Personnel, has been renovated, new bathrooms, sinks and a shower has been installed. The room has been cleaned and painted. The Holiday gathering was held downstairs for the maintenance and office personnel during lunchtime. Everyone who attended raved about the food and holiday decorations, and what a good time they had. It was a nice get together for the Department!

3. **CIP Update:** Funding for the CIP budget is contingent on the amount of money that is spent fighting snow. The Commissioner will let the Commission know as soon as she finds out what items will be included in CIP.
4. **Update Levingston Cove:** Carol Stapleton, Manager, is working with the neighborhood group regarding the work being done at Levingston Cove. A green mat has been put down to save the grass while the work in the area is being done. The park benches are being installed tomorrow. The pathway is in, and made of something finer than crushed stone, and blends in with the surface. This should take care of any erosion that occurs. The dedication of the new Levingston Cove will be next spring.
5. **Informational: Community Preservation Act:** Francis Rice feels that the Commission members should know more about the Community Preservation Act and what is going on with it. James Mahoney, Chairman, said that he will be attending a meeting on the Community Preservation Act and will let the commission members know of his findings.
6. **Dedication of Newton Commonwealth Clubhouse to Francis Rice:** The dedication of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Clubhouse to Francis J. Rice was held on Sunday, December 10th, 2:00PM at the Clubhouse. The clubhouse was dedicated to Mr. Rice in grateful recognition of more than 30 years of dedicated volunteer service to the City. Also, he is Chairman of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Foundation and a Commission member of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Fran Towle, Commissioner, and master of ceremonies commented that the dedication was very nice and well attended by relatives, friends and members of the golf and recreation commissions. Mr. Rice has given a lot of time and efforts to the City, has done an excellent job and the dedication of the clubhouse was well deserved. The sign on the building looks fantastic. Andrea

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DeRubeis and Faye Hays were hostesses for the dedication and did a super job.
Congratulations Mr. Rice!

(3)

7. **New Business:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, mentioned that she received a letter from Joel Lerner, Director of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, regarding Forte Park. Forte Park was not selected for funding this year. Only \$2 million was available in bond fund capacity this year. He anticipates another go-around next June. Phase II would have been for lighting, landscaping and an exercise trail. Also, the sink hold at Forte Park has been taken care of.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, said that in reference to the grass at Forte Park, he is on the IPM Committee and they see that chemicals are avoided, not over seeded, fertilized, and weed controlled. As a last resort the grass is over seeded. Next year a grant will be put in for Forte Park.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, wished everyone "Happy Holidays."

Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, William Ryan, Peter Kastner, Michael Clarke, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Josephine Pepper, Peter Johnson, Robert Platt, Walter Bernheimer and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the December Meeting:** The minutes of the December meeting were accepted 7-0.
2. **Commissioner's Reports of Programs and Maintenance:** Outdoor ice-skating is up and running at the Auburndale Cove and the maintenance crews have been busy with the snowstorms.

As most of you are aware, there was a Globe newspaper article regarding a Parks & Recreation Jeep falling into the water at the Auburndale Cove skating area. A Citywide rescue was called into operation however, the Jeep, with Robert Valente as the driver, only went in at the water's edge. There has been no skating at Bullough's Pond because of the salt and the drainage system. Bullough's Pond has high and low areas, however, the Department will keep monitoring the ice depths. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, has done an excellent job overseeing the skating at the Auburndale Cove. She also manages the skiing/snowboarding program at Nashoba Valley. With regards to Crystal Lake for ice skating, the area is wide open in most of the areas and the ice is very porous.

In February, I will be scheduled to appear before the Programs and Services Committee in February to ask for snow monies.

The Department's yearly "CAMP FAIR" will be held on February 6th, 2:00-8:00PM at the War Memorial Auditorium. Parents will be able to speak to the staff directly about the camps and bring their children for the entertainment. Also, new this year at the Camp Fair is a "JOB FAIR", for hiring camp counselor staff for the summer. Basketball/volleyball leagues are going strong this winter season. Something new that the Department is trying during the February school vacation is opening Newton North Indoor Complex during the daytime. Also during February vacation a ski trip is planned as well as a trip to the Fleet Center for Disney's Jungle on Ice.

- 3. **Beverly Droz, Director, Office Volunteer Services Coordinator:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, announced that Beverly Droz has been hired as the Director, Office for Volunteer Services Coordinator for the City of Newton and will work at the Parks & Recreation Department/Arts in the Parks office. Ms. Droz was welcomed to address the Commission Members at this meeting. Ms. Droz said that the mission is to create a culture of community volunteerism by recruiting and matching volunteers within the City of Newton to existing local non-profits and community service agencies. Her office will serve as an informational and referral agency, helping to increase volunteer hours of service.

The office for volunteer services will coordinate periodic special events promoting community service, as well as being known as a community resource for volunteerism and assess volunteer needs. The office for volunteer services will help raise funds to supplement the operating budget. At this time Ms. Droz has a list of 1800 volunteers. A volunteer fair is being planned and information regarding volunteer services will be on a web page. Beverly's mission is to match volunteers with jobs!

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Ms. Droz for attending the Commission Meeting and informing the members about the Office for Volunteer Services. Fran Towle, Commissioner, thanked Ms. Droz as well.

After Ms. Droz excused herself to attend another meeting, Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member said that Ms. Droz has a very impressive resume, she is a dynamic person, well organized, and has many contacts. She will do an excellent job as Director, Office for Volunteer Services.

- 4. **Skating Report:** The Auburndale Cove is the only area now open for outside ice skating in the City. Skating started December 29th and is open weather permitting. To date there have been 20 skating days. On January 13th & 14th there were over 300 skaters at the Cove.

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(3)

5. **Budget:** Fran Towle, Commissioner said that the budget for 2002 will be level funded with contract monies for the Employee Unions added. The Department is not gaining or losing monies and there are no cuts.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Members asked if the Department saved any monies on the wells that were drilled at Newton North, Newton South and Cold Spring Park. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, remarked that at Cold Spring Park they had 45 gallons per minute, they were hoping for 60. Newton South, basically nothing, surface waters only and Newton North only produced a little water. A new contractor will reexamine the three sites.

Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission member, commented that in the Parks & Recreation budget, which he updated, the maintenance figures have never been increased. He also mentioned that the Parks & Recreation Department are not getting their share of the pie. Perhaps a case should be made to Mayor Cohen regarding the Department's budget. Mr. Clarke also asked about grant reimbursement. Fran Towle, Commissioner said that all grants through our Department are matching grants. When the Department receives grant monies, the City matches the funds.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, is looking for the Friends of Nahanton Park to make a proposal to help with monies at the Park. Fund raising needs to be done to maintain the park by the Friends of Nahanton Park Committee, who are the shepherds of the park.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission Member, suggested; Community Preservation Act should be used to improve Ware's Cove, Forte Park, Pellegrini Playground and the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex.

Michael Clarke, Alternate Commission Member, said that Upper Falls Playground needs work. Also, the Angino property will be up for sale soon. Perhaps the City would be interested in purchasing this property.

Francis Rice mentioned that other City Departments is in the same position as the Parks & Recreation Department, in that they also need monies for their budgets.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that there should be a master plan for funding CIP. He also said that the Department should evaluate its park needs for CIP.

Jennie DeVito, said that the Parks & Recreation Department should be working with the School Department regarding new play equipment budget monies.

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(4)

Fran Towle, Commissioner reported that there are 43 play areas in the City, and CIP has a base line of \$30,000 per year. The Department works with the School Department on a 50/50 co-op venture. Also, Sheila Butts, Manager, and David Mandatori, Division Foreman, attended a three-day seminar regarding certification to set safety standards for play equipment.

Sheila Butts, Manager, is now certified to check playground areas. The Department has taken pictures at a majority of play areas with a digital camera, which is transferred, to the computer. Ms. Towle said that she is very pleased with progress that is being made regarding playground areas in the City.

Also, the basic plans for Edmunds Park is now on the Internet. The plans include information to be done on pathways and erosion areas.

6. **New Business: Millennium Park;** Rusty Thompson, Committee Chair, of Millennium Park, spoke to the Commission members about the status of the Park. Ms. Thompson apologized that Ed Chang; the Architect of the project could not make the meeting. In bringing everyone up to date, the Millennium Park group is working on fund raising, for the maintenance of the park when completed.

Ms. Thompson has asked the people of the City as to what they would like in the park. The question was asked if the Parks & Recreation Commission members would see the final plans of the Park and Ms. Thompson said yes.

Fran Towle, Commissioner said that the Landscape Advisory Committee is also looking into the plans for the park. A meeting was held two weeks ago with Andrea Kelley and Architect, Ed Chang for their input and expertise for plantings in the park. One of the items, which we discussed, was the continued maintenance for the park. The next meeting regarding Millennium Park will be February 26th.

Also, enclosed in the commission folders is a draft letter from Michael Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer, MWRA to Eileen McGettigan, Assistant City Solicitor about restoration measures proposed for Edmands Parks and Bulloughs Pond pipeline project.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, commented that in regards to the Edmands Park the MWRA would be working on sleeving pipes, blow off valves, stabilization of the pathways and erosion. A meeting will be held with Mayor Cohen to discuss this project. A Representative from the MWRA will be at the next Commission meeting to discuss this project. Peter Kastner, Alternate Member suggested that the Board of Aldermen be notified of this meeting.

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(5)

Mr. DeRubeis said that Eileen McGettigan, Assistant City Solicitor, would also be at the meeting. Michael Clarke, Alternate member, said that the Parks & Recreation Commission should approve the final master plan for this project, and avoid another Levingston Cove upset.

James Mahoney, Chairman, suggested that the Edmands Park Plan be placed on the website for everyone to see. The neighbors should have ongoing information about this project.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that with the master plan for the Boston College project, the Mayor's office and community were both involved for over one year to discuss the plan.

Jennie DeVito mentioned that if there is a lack of community support, the Commission should be involved in the project until it is finished.

Michael Clarke, Alternate member, asked who has jurisdiction over Edmands Park and is Edmands Park our responsibility?

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that the Commission should sign off on the final plans for the park. In February the MWRA will attend the Commission meeting and the commission can approve or vote against the plans. The Master Plan has been presented on the website. The status of the plan will be updated.

William Ryan, Alternate member, said that in 1941 the only things at Edmands Park were the stone entrance and a log cabin, which has since burned down. Pipes on the pathways were sunken on the property at that time.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner will have an update on the Edmands Park project for the next Commission meeting. Also, the Board of Aldermen will be notified of the February 26th Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2001
MILLENNIUM PARK PLAN CONCERNS
BY COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Purpose of meeting to review and discuss plans for Millennium Park, with Ed Chang, Architect, prior to review by the Design Review Committee:

- **The current plan is a change from the one the commission members approved earlier, this plan covers a larger area**
- **Loss of 5 parking spaces in lot**
- **Flowering shade trees on Homer Street section – Crabapple or Hawthorns**
- **If all of the suggested shade trees are planted would it interfere with the Parks & Recreation/Arts in the Parks activities and fairs during the year**
- **Six of the trees on the plan have not been funded as yet - \$1,500 each – could monies be saved by buying trees that cost \$750**
- **Do the trees make a barrier to City Hall**
- **Plans include very few Olmstead ideas**
- **There is no piece of art or water to draw people into the park**
- **Who is the park for?**
- **Who will be the users of the park? Need to make park user friendly**
- **There are no special dynamics to the park**
- **What are the intentions of the park**
- **Will the concrete tables have games on them**
- **Master Plan: if drawn up would include changes to the War Memorial Circle and plantings around and in the circle. Also, the Master Plan would include linking all memorials together**
- **If this side of the building was dressed up, would the other side be dressed up as well**
- **Are there too many bushes**
- **Bicycle rack: suggestion use a U shaped one instead of the regular long one**
- **Recommendation to change name of park area to “Balsamo Grove”**
- **Time Line hedges – Military view – out of character for park**
- **Benches with backs on them**
- **More attractive area for people to go to**

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SPECIAL MEETING

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 202, 8:00AM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Josephine Pepper, Robert Platt, William Ryan and John Bourgeois

1. Special meeting to review plans for Millennium Park with Ed Chang, Architect.

Fran Towle, Commissioner thanked everyone for re-arranging their busy schedules to attend the morning meeting regarding plans for Millennium Park. Ms. Towle suggested that all members voice their concerns and comments before voting on the plans. If the plans were approved, the plans would then be presented to the Design Review Committee for their approval. Also, at the last PRT Meeting the committee was discussing Millennium Park and the timing with the various committees. There is a time constraint regarding the plans, as well as concerns, and that is why a special meeting was called.

James Mahoney, Chairman, introduced Ed Chang, Architect, Stephen Stimpson Associates and Chang, for the Millennium Park Plans.

Ed Chang, Architect: Mr. Chang apologized for not attending the last Commission meeting on January 22nd. He also brought three diagrams for the commission members to look at.

In reference to the employee parking lot area, there will be 14 parking spaces, (5 spaces less than what is there now) and 3 for handicap accessibility. Some of the space was taken for the planting of trees and a walkway. The dumpster would be relocated and would have a 4'9" wall to screen the area. On the low side there would be a 7' brick wall. A walkway would go from the left side of the entrance on Homer Street, to the front of City Hall continuing on to the brick pathway. This would eliminate people taking short cuts from the parking lot to the sidewalk on Homer Street.

Also, at the two crosswalks on Homer Street, there would be new re-designed lined painted crosswalks, with a rumble (glow strip). The plan is designed to make a greater connection between a park at City Hall and the Main Library, both on Homer Street. The driveway into City Hall would remain the same as well as the transformer. The park area would encompass two terraces, upper and lower, bounded by berms. The existing path would be rebuilt with 4-6 step areas.

The handicapped would access the areas from the War Memorial parking lot area. Also, there would be flowering crabapple shade trees planted.

Time line walls with a series of historic inscriptions and historic events/images would also be incorporated into this plan. Robert Pinsky will be working on the factoids for the park. In reference to the parking lot, the Public Works Department would be doing that plus the curb cuts. The Millennium Park Committee does however, need funding before the project can go to the Design Review Committee. The next step is to go before the Design Review Committee. Mr. Chang asked the Commission members if they had any questions.

Walter Bernheimer mentioned that there are changes in these plans that were not in the previous plans that were approved. Mr. Chang agreed. The size of the area has been enlarged to encompass more area. Also Mr. Bernheimer asked what is the attraction to the park. How much of the plans are not funded. Mr. Chang said 6 of the Crabapple trees.

There are 6 trees on the plan that have not been funded as yet. The costs of the Crabapple trees are \$1,500 each. It was asked if other trees could be purchased for a cost of \$750 to save monies.

Peter Kastner, Alternate member asked if the plans include any of Olmstead's ideas. Mr. Chang said very little of Olmstead's ideas are included in these plans. He asked what the pink puffs were on the diagram. Mr. Chang said they are Crabapple trees. Also, the Parks & Recreation Department and Arts in the Park, hold events on the War Memorial side of City Hall. There should be enough room to hold these events if the Balsamo Park is made larger. Mr. Kastner said that the park should include a piece of art or a small water project to bring people to this park. Is the park user friendly and who will be using the park? Mr. Chang said the City Hall workers would certainly use the park during their break/lunch time. The park was not designed for the City Hall users! What are the social dynamics of the park? Is the intention for active recreation? As a general observation, the time lines/hedges have a military view. It is out of character for the park.

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Michael Clarke, Alternate member, asked if the concrete tables are game tables. Mr. Chang said some will be game tables, some will be picnic benches. Also, Mr. Clarke said that the recreation program people and the people who run the fairs, should be informed of these plans. Mr. Clarke was at a museum last week as saw inscribed bricks on a walkway, the same as being planned for Millennium Park. The walkway and bricks looked great.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked about signage for the park. Mr. Chang said that the only signage would be the time line wall and a sign for the park.

Francis Rice said that he had a question for everyone. When the park was first voted on it was smaller in size. He is not against this plan, however, he notes that this area appears to be larger in size.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked if a master plan has been proposed. Mr. Chang said that he did not bring it with him. The Master Plan has no designs on it, just observations. However, it was discussed that the War Memorial Circle is changed for parking and flower planting in the circle area, and more trees/ plantings be placed around the circle area.

Peter Kastner, Alternate member asked if these changes would be consistent with the rest of the park. The area is used for spring and fall events, and equipment is brought in for these events. Would this interfere with the park plans, it seems to complicate the use of this area. Also, why would anyone go to this particular park? What is the connection that links Balsamo Park to the main library across the street. Also, Mr. Kastner asked that less monies be spent on trees!

Fran Towle, Commissioner said if the Commission does not approve the plans, the Millennium plans could be brought to the next Commission Meeting on Monday, February 26th. James Mahoney, Chairman, said that if another morning meeting is needed it could be scheduled within a couple of weeks.

Michael Clarke, Alternate member, motioned to accept the plans on a conditional basis. The conditional basis is that the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the final plans. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Commission members realize that the plans need to go before the Design Review Committee. However, a list of the Parks & Recreation Commission concerns will be forwarded to Nick Parnell, Commissioner, Public Buildings Department.

(4)

The Commission members voted 8-0 to accept the Millennium Park plans on condition that the Parks & Recreation Commission would approve the final concept plans.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00AM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Alternates William Ryan and Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Josephine Pepper, Francis Rice, Alternates John Bourgeois and Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the January 22nd, 2001 and the special January 31st, 2001 meeting were accepted 8-0 subject to Alternate, Michael Clarke's changes as per the message from Alternate, Peter Kastner.**
2. **Commissioner's Report:** The "Camp Fair", held at the War Memorial on February 8th, from 2:00PM to 8:00PM, was outstanding. The Department has 13 summer camps which are highly successful. The camp fair was good Public Relations for not only the Department, but also for City Hall. The fair was video taped by NewTV. Francis Rice and myself were taped doing a segment on the Parks & Recreation Department. During the February school vacation this year, the Department added new programs i.e., intergenerational, grandma, grampa and grandchildren, bus trip to Disney's Jungle Adventure on Ice at the Fleet Center, chess tournament, Flower pot painting and Bulb Planting, the ski trip was cancelled because of lack of attendance, Newton North Indoor Complex was open during the day for basketball, volleyball and swimming, Special Needs programs, Night Watch and Sleeping Beauty with the Tanglewood Marionettes.

There were 27 ice skating days at the Auburndale Cove this season, a real plus for the skaters. The Newton Fire Department will be planning an ice rescue, weather permitting, on Bullough's Pond. Bullough's Pond did not open for ice skating this season. The event will be filmed by NewTV and shown on cable TV. The Department is still having tree branches picked up from the last snowstorm.

(2)

- 3. **Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 19th Commission Meeting.** Jennie DeVito and William Ryan, who will not be at the next meeting, asked that their vote be counted for James Mahoney, Chairman and Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman.
- 4. **MWRA – Edmands Park:** Tom Gawrys and Fran DePaola represented the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority in regards to work going on at Edmands Park. Also, Eileen McGettigan, Assistant City Solicitor, represented the City's Law Department. Mr. Tom Gawrys, Mr. Frank DePaola and Ms. McGettigan were asked to work on the mitigation offering.

Mr. Gawrys of the MWRA presented its construction and easement plans and answered questions from Commission members.

Mr. Gawrys in explaining the MWRA plans said that there is a 48' water main running through Edmands Park from Blake Street to Colby Street. To get inside the pipe and clean it requires a blow off valve, which needs to be retrofit before the water goes into the brook. No excavation is involved and vehicles can drive along the path. Mr. Gawrys said that he has worked with the former Commissioner, Russ Halloran and other Department's in the City. He has also received feedback on this project from the neighbors. The neighbors only concern was to put everything back the way it was originally. As per the Geller study, the path will be stabilized with material similar to what was used at Levingston Cove, which has a cactus base, and packs down very well. The material used comes from Arizona. When the MWRA installs a new valve, they will reinforce the sloping bankings with stone. They will also clean the storm basins. The MWRA has a temporary easement of 10' wide, which is not wide enough. They will need a license, granted from the City, to work outside the bounds.

Mr. Gawrys said that regarding the time frame, the 1st phase should be done in late March and they will start on the 2nd line in April/May. He said that the neighbors asked about open holes and his answer was that if there is an open hole, it generally means that the crews are down in the hole and you cannot see them. He will make sure that all holes are protected.

Mr. DePaola said that they were committed to the mitigation steps. On Crosby Road they will be using a stabilizing compound, similar to what is already there. It does, however, take 72 hours to cure/firm and that it looks like gravel. Vehicles can ride on it. The Geller Associates recommended stabilized trail was well accepted by the neighbors from Blake Street to Colby Road and will follow the contours of the path. Information about the stabilizer to be used was passed out to all commission members.

(3)

Peter Kastner, Alternate member, asked if there were any restrictions on this project and Mr. DePoalo said no.

Eileen McGettigan, Assistant City Solicitor, said that the easement is underground and the project will need an O.K. from the Board of Aldermen. The project then would be sent to the Massachusetts Legislation for a Home Rule Bill. The bill would need a 2/3rds-majority vote to pass the project as per the state statute.

The lawyer for the MWRA spoke and said that the original line was placed in 1901 on the carriage path. The pipe runs from Walnut Street to Commonwealth Avenue carriage path.

Jennie Devito motioned to approve the MWRA Plans demonstrated to the commission for Edmands Park. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the MWRA's plans for Edmands Park.

Eileen McGettigan, Assistant City Solicitors said that a blow off valve is needed at Bullough's Pond to drain the area. It is a retrofit to permit easement. The MWRA needs approval from the commission members to place a blow off valve at Bullough's Pond.

Gwen Fineberg motioned to approve the installation of a blow off valve at Bullough's Pond. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to permit the MWRA to install a blow off valve at Bullough's Pond.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, mentioned that the Master Plan for Edmands Park is on the Internet. The plans were put on the Internet for the neighbors to respond to. There was only 1 comment from a neighbor who approved of the plans. Information from Geller Associates regarding the Edmands Park Master Plan is in everyone's folder. Ms. Towle said that she is not looking for a vote this evening.

Walter Bernheimer asked about funding for this project. Ms. Towle, Commissioner said that it is in collaboration part from Boston College, the City, fundraising and the CIP program. Forte Park is actually the next one in line for CIP monies then Edmands Park.

(4)

In reference to the Edmands Park plan from Geller, Fran Towle, Commissioner gave the following information:

Item A: Highlights improvements to the park	\$ 20,000
Item B: Entrances to Park	\$ 32,000
Item C: Outlet of the Pond	\$ 50,000
Item D: Pathways, stabilizers, erosion	\$250,000
Item F: Signage	\$125,000
Item G: Fence/Walls in CIP	\$ 20,000
Item H: Withington Road, parking area, loam & seed	\$ 40,000
Item I: Stone artifact	\$ 25,000

Ms. Towle said that the main items are in the Master Plan for the neighborhood and community's input. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Sheila Butts, Manager have attended one meeting on Edmands Park. This is not the final plan and the commission members will vote on the final plan.

Peter Kastner, Alternate commission member, said the Edmands Park master plan is a good model for other park plans and for our other spaces. Also, this a great park for bird watchers, dog walkers, however, it is the most neglected park in Newton. The trails need to be redone and the trees pruned.

Walter Bernheimer said that the park was deteriorated long ago, and now it is even worse. He asked about reclamation of the pond, was it in any of the plans. The reclamation of the pond is not included in the plans.

Fran Towle, Commissioner said that Edmands Park is a jewel for this part of the City.

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Mr. Gawreys, Mr. DePoala and Eileen McGettigan, Assistant City Solicitor for their input, presentation, and attending the commission meeting.

- 5. **Millennium Park – Design Review:** Rusty Thompson, Chair of project and Ed Chang, Architect, attended the meeting. The plans for Millennium Park are on display at the City Hall Rotunda and the main library on Homer Street.

(5)

Ed Chang, Architect, discussed changes in the Millennium Park plans. At the entrance to the park, 2 handicap spaces have been added. There are ramps, curb cuts and new crosswalks for handicap access. At the War Memorial circle there are parking spaces for 40 cars in a radial fashion. Trees will have a canopy effect on the park. Four of the trees will have to be removed. A specific feature for the park will be a linear promenade. In reference to a water fountain, there are no plans for this.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member said that as an observation, the photo in the brochure is different than the plans. Rusty Thompson said that the photo in the brochure is different, as it is informational as to where the park will be located. Mr. Kastner said that this is not a destination park as there are no programs going on there. He also believes that the dumpster should be tucked in a corner where the public cannot see it.

Mr. Chang said that there would be a bicycle rack, newsstands and 3 game tables placed at the park. He also said that he was very appreciative of the commission members concerns and suggestions about the park

James Mahoney, Chairman asked if there were any questions.

Robert Platt motioned to approve the current plan for Millennium Park. Jennie DeVito 2nd the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the current plan for Millennium Park.

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Mr. Chang and Rusty Thompson for attending the meeting.

- 6. **Picnic & Special Use Permits:** Sheila Butts, Manager, reported that alcohol is not allowed at the Auburndale Cove. Last year, picnickers who wanted an alcohol permit went to Hawthorn/Pellegrini Park. Sheila surveyed other communities and they do not allow alcohol at their areas. In 1999, 213 picnic permits were issues and 82 requested alcohol. In 2000, 242 picnic permits were issued, no alcohol complaints.

Fran Towle, Commissioner said that from now on the picnickers that want alcohol will need a Police Detail. There will be a procedure for special functions including, non-profit organizations performing fund-raising activities, School Parent Teacher organization sponsored field days, road races, rides, tournaments, corporate gatherings for outings other than designated picnic areas. Procedure information to be included with all permits.

(6)

Walter Bernheimer asked; how do we know if picnickers use alcohol anyway? Sheila said that there is a leader at the Cove at all times and they know that alcohol is not allowed. If the picnickers are drinking, the leaders call the Police. The use of alcohol at the Auburndale Cove is banned as per last year.

Fran Towle, Commissioner said that a strict policy is needed regarding alcohol of public recreation areas. At the next Commission meeting we will have in place recommendations for alcohol permit use which will be recommended to the Commission.

- 7. **Grant: Artists Bench – Weeks Field:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that the artist for this project could not make this meeting. Weeks Field is the suggested place to install the artists bench project. In the folders is information on the artist's concept.
- 8. **Budget 2002:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, presented the Parks & Recreation recommended budget which is level funded this year:

Recreation Administration	\$692,023
Pool & Lake	\$176,425
Outdoor Activities	\$ 82,799
Indoor Activities	\$124,094
Support of Recreation Activities	\$ 5,000
Special Needs Activities	\$120,395
Maintenance of Vehicles	\$189,916
Emerson Center	\$ 27,990
Hamilton Center	\$ 34,508
Cultural Activities	\$113,867
Senior Adult Activities	\$ 21,405
Care of Buildings & Adj. Grounds	\$201,085
Care of Public Grounds	\$1,620,960
Forestry	\$355,516
Control of Snow & Ice	\$ 35,110
Tree Emergencies	\$ 42,264
<hr/>	
Total	\$3,843,357

There were 3 retirements this year, which amounts to \$95,000. With recommendations from staff, salaries are to be put into overtime, grass contract, building contract and irrigation system accounts.

(7)

In reference to the revolving accounts the monies taken in are estimated high. Accounts are based on the money that will be spent out on that particular program. Any additional need money above the requested amount for the FY year would have to go before the Board of Aldermen.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman motioned to approve Commissioner Towle's recommended FY02 Parks & Recreation Budget. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve Commissioner Towle's Parks and Recreation Budget for FY02.

- 9. **Michael Clarke – Aqueducts:** Mr. Clarke was not present at the meeting, however, he did send an e-mail to everyone regarding a resolution. Walter Bernheimer said a resolution needs to be made to recommend a committee regarding the use of aqueducts. The Parks & Recreation Commissioner should write a letter including the resolution wording. Also, the commissioner should speak to Mayor Cohen to explore the idea that the aqueducts should be studied for open space.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that Michael Clarke sent a resolution to Brooke Lipsitt, President, Board of Aldermen as to what the aqueducts could do for passive recreation. Peter Kastner, alternate member, supports the fact that there should be a study and that the Mayor should appoint a committee to study the aqueducts.

Walter Bernheimer said he approved of the idea that the Parks & Recreation Commission support the concept of studying the aqueducts as potential sites for open space.

Walter Bernheimer motioned that the Parks & Recreation Commission approach the Mayor in taking a pro-active interest in studying and acquiring the aqueducts for a potential open space plan. The motion was seconded.

The Commission members approved 8-0 to approach the Mayor to take a pro-active interest in studying and acquiring the aqueducts for a potential open space plan.

In an E-Mail from Michael Clarke drafted a working for a resolution regarding an Aqueducts Committee:

(8)

“The Board of Aldermen requests the Mayor to appoint a temporary committee to devise a plan for the preservation and recreational use of the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts in Newton for better access and public enjoyment. The committee may discuss with the MWRA and other appropriate land owners ways to accomplish its recreational goals. The committee should and include a representative from each of the following and submit a report six months after its appointment; a) Mayor b) Board of Aldermen c) Parks and Recreation Department d) Parks and Recreation Commission 3) Conservation Commission f) Department of Public works g) Law Department h) Planning Department I) Newton open space organization, such as the Newton Conservators.”

Mr. Clarke also mentioned in his E-mail that it would be wonderful for Newtonians to be able to safely walk the aqueducts in a circuit from Newton Centre to the Charles River and back.

- 10. **Open Space Plan:** Fran Towle, Commissioner said that a copy of the Open Space Inventory is in the folders. Mayor Cohen established a committee an Open Space Plan Advisory Committee, composed of City and private activists. James Mahoney, Chairman, will be on the committee as well as Carol Stapleton, Manager. The Open Space Plan has not been updated since 1995. The City will assess its properties and look at ways to improve and expand open spaces

In reference to the 1995 Open Space Plan, Walter Bernheimer suggested the Parks & Recreation Department have colored copies made of the open space plan and send them to the Commission members.

- 11. **New Business:** No new business. Jennie Devito and William will not be present at the next commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 19, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Jennie DeVito, Josephine Pepper, Alternates, William Ryan, Peter Kastner and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the February 26, 2001 commission meeting were accepted 7-0.**
2. **Reports of Programs, maintenance and snow storms:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, asked Robert Platt, expert weather forecaster, his opinion of the upcoming storm slated for Thursday as he was right on target for his opinion of the weather during the last storm. Mr. Platt said that snow and rain is scheduled for Thursday's storm.

The storm last Monday-Wednesday cost \$217,651. The storm before cost the City \$333,333. The Parks & Recreation Department staff worked along with the maintenance/forestry personnel, days and nights. Cots were used for those who stayed overnight. The office phones were open 48 hours straight. The office/managers staff were outstanding and rose to the occasion with their time and assistance. Truly, I am very proud of all of them.

Upcoming events are the 9th Annual Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race on Monday, April 16, marathon morning from 8:30AM to 11:30AM. The race this year is held on the same day as the marathon. Linda Plaut, Director, Arts in the Parks, Newton Pride, is leading the charge! Judy Dore, Manager, is promoting youth & adult golf lessons at Newton North High School and Tom Cahill, Manager is promoting an end of the year ski trip.

- 3. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** The gavel was turned over to Commissioner Fran Towle for the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Francis Rice nominated Peter Johnson for Vice Chairman, Robert Platt seconded the nomination. With no other nominations the commission members voted 6-0 to elect Peter Johnson as Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Robert Platt nominated James Mahoney for Chairman, Francis Rice seconded the nomination. With no other nominations the commission members voted 6-0 to elect James Mahoney as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Congratulations to both James Mahoney and Peter Johnson on their re-elections to the Parks & Recreation Commission as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said he would like to take the time to thank Fran Towle, Commissioner on her transition from Deputy Commissioner to Commissioner, which is no minor event. Also, Bob DeRubeis, is to be congratulated on his transition to the job position of Deputy Commissioner. He said that Russ Halloran did a tremendous job as Commissioner and the transition to Ms. Towle as Commissioner has gone very smoothly. This is a great tribute to Fran Towle, Commissioner, who is doing a great job.

- 4. **Update on Budget FY2001:** Fran Towle, Commissioner said the Parks & Recreation budget was cut \$62,000 by the Executive Department today. Ms. Towle has asked the program Managers to step up to the plate and come up with ideas, i.e. staffing/fees, and to cut \$5,000 from their programs. Perhaps some of the monies will come from the 3 retirements last year. All Departments have taken a budget cut. Next Tuesday she will be meeting with staff about finalizing their budget cut ideas.

- 5. **Grant: Artists Bench – Weeks Field:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, introduced Jean Mineo, Director, Newton Arts Center, is here in reference to an exciting new project. Jean Mineo said that in 1998, the New Art Center requested submission from artists to create a functional, outdoor seat for Newton as a way to thank the community for 20 years of support. Originally the site was to be at the intersection of Sargent and Centre Streets. Unfortunately, the garden group ultimately decided not to accept the piece for their site. The Art Center received a request from The Weeks Field Neighborhood Association for the chair to be installed at Weeks Field. The site was surveyed in April, which included Benjamin Pusher and Joel Ziff, the WFNA members, the artists and myself. It was decided that the ideal location for the piece of art is placed is on the hill overlooking the field on the western edge of the perimeter of the field.

(3)

Once a year the chair should be lightly sanded with 100 grit paper and thoroughly oiled with an exterior wood preservative as it is made from an old Oak tree. The color of the seat would be gray with the natural rings of wood showing. The seat and base should be kept clear of leaves and debris. The artists on this project have had 20 years of experience on art projects. Ms. Mineo brought a scale model of the project.

James Hickey, former Commissioner of Public Works had committed to pouring a slab/footing 30" x 60" X 18" deep. I have discussed this project with the new Commissioner of Public Works, Robert Rooney.

Mr. Benjamin Pushner, of the Weeks Neighborhood Association, said that the flyers were distributed to the neighbors and that they are in favor of the project. He has also met with the artist twice. Every year the neighborhood association schedules a clean-up day a Weeks field and the response is favorable.

Michael Clarke, Alternate member, asked if the piece of wood was thoroughly dry. Ms. Mineo said that the piece of wood has been inside for several years.

Peter Johnson asked about signage for the piece of art. Ms. Mineo said that a plaque would be installed in the cement base.

Walter Bernheimer said that the project is a wonderful idea and motioned to accept the art project at Weeks Field. Robert Platt seconded the motion. The Commission members voted 7-0 to accept the chair art project for Weeks Field.

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Ms. Mineo and Mr. Pusher for the presentation.

- 6. **Update Edmands Park:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that the Edmands Park MWRA project would go before the Programs and Services Committee, then to the Board of Aldermen. Mayor Cohen has moved on this project.
- 7. **Picnic/Alcohol Permits:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that a letter was sent to James Mahoney, Chairman, and the commission members regarding picnic permits/alcohol. Ms. Towle is recommending the consideration of abolishing the use of alcohol on all Parks and Recreation lands and/or facilities. On November 15, 1999, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to abolish the use of alcohol at the Auburndale Cove. This decision has been very successful and there is no decline in the number of picnic permits issued. Because of the elimination of alcohol at the Auburndale Cove, requests for alcohol use is being asked for other sites, i.e. Pellegrini Park.

(4)

Staff surveyed the surrounding communities and they do not allow alcohol on any public grounds except for Lars Anderson Park in Brookline. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, raised the issue at the last Massachusetts Recreation and Parks Association meeting none of the other MRPA member towns/cities allowed consumption of alcohol on any public grounds. He is waiting for to hear from Fred Guzzi, Veterans Services, regarding alcohol permits.

In 1999 the Parks & Recreation Department issued 213 picnic permits for Auburndale Cove. Of the permits issued, 82 included requests for alcohol. In 2000 the Department issued 242 picnic permits for the Auburndale Cove. In previous years, with alcohol consumption permitted, large groups rented the entire facility. Now more areas are available to the public.

The large groups of people who wanted alcohol at their picnics at Pellegrini Park needed a volunteer police detail.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that a policy should be adopted regarding alcohol on recreation lands.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, asked; if alcohol is abolished on all Parks & Recreation lands, does this include the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival held each year in July. Walter Bernheimer said that this is a very good point.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that at the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival, the Society has to go through a permit process regarding the selling of alcohol and also Police details are required. When liquor is sold there are restrictions, minors, insurance, and guidelines that groups have to abide by.

Michael Clarke, Alternate said at Hawthorn, there must be parking, neighbor, noise, car problems that occur, as the area involved for the Carnival is small.

Sheila Butts, Manager, said that when alcohol is involved there are trash and safety issues.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that no unlicensed person could distribute alcohol in parks. Also, Mr. Mahoney suggested that the commission members table the alcohol/picnic permits for another meeting.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, asked how the commission could allow alcohol at the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival for 5 days, and not anywhere else in the City.

(5)

Walter Bernheimer said that consumption of alcohol in parks should be illegal.

Gwen Fineberg said when applying for a picnic permit it should be asked if alcohol would be involved.

Francis Rice said when the Police & Fire Departments take out permits they ask for alcohol permission.

The issue of picnic/alcohol permits will be taken up at another meeting. Ouida Young of the Law Department will need to write a policy on alcohol/picnic permits.

- 8. **New Business:** Michael Clarke, Alternate, asked to consider as to when the commission should address the issue of little league signs on fields. He said we need a consistent policy at the little league fields. The size of the signs is inconsistent in these areas.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said he attended the first meeting on Open Space. The 1995 Open Space plan is still be used, need to update it further.

Walter Bernheimer thanked Fran Towle, Commissioner for sending color copies of the open space plan to all commission members as he suggested. He said that map plan was very interesting and realizes that there is not much open space left in Newton.

Michael Clarke, Alternate, mentioned that Peter Kastner, Alternate would be happy to guide the commission members on an aqueduct walk from Newton Centre to Quinobequin Road.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FRAN L. TOWLE - COMMISSIONER

70 Crescent Street, Auburndale, MA 02466

Office: 552-7120 Forestry and Maintenance: 552-7123 Fax: 552-7133



David B. Cohen
Mayor



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Kella

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING APRIL 23, 2001 NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, William Ryan, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Jennie DeVito, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Sheila Butts, Acting Commission Secretary, (Michael Clarke, Alternate)

Absent: Josephine Pepper, Walter Bernheimer, and Alternate John Bourgeois

1. Minutes of March 19, 2001 Commission Meeting were accepted 8-0.
2. **Reports of Programs, Maintenance and Forestry:**
 - Commissioner Fran Towle spoke about the success of the 9th Annual Heartbreak Hill Youth Race, which was held on Marathon Monday, April 16.
 - Commissioner Towle continued on to report that the Maintenance and Forestry crews are continuing to pick up brush and limbs from the February and March snow storms, as well as the brush that residents have put out on the berm following their spring clean-ups. The process is ongoing, but the end is in sight.
 - Newton has been named as a Tree City USA for the 13th year. Commissioner Towle announced that signs noting this honor would be seen around the City soon. She also announced that for the 7th year Newton has been honored with the Tree Growth Award.
 - Commissioner Towle invited Commission members to attend the Earth Day Celebration at the Brown and Oak Hill Middle Schools on Wednesday, April 25, 2001. The ceremony will be presided over by Mayor David Cohen. Secretary Durant will also be in attendance, and the celebration will feature the planting of a Chestnut Tree on the Brown Middle School grounds.
 - The Commissioner reported that all five Little Leagues opened their seasons on the weekend of April 21 and 22. Peter Kastner inquired about Lyons Field, which had been closed due to water and sewer problems. Commissioner Towle noted that she had spoken with Newton Health Department Commissioner David Naparstek Monday and that he said the field could be reopened on Tuesday, April 24. The field has been treated and re-seeded. Commissioner Towle told the Commission that the Parks and Recreation Department and Newton West Little League had worked together to move the West Little League opening to the Hamilton School fields.
3. **Youth Awards:** The annual Youth Awards are to be presented on Monday, May 21, 2001 in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7:00 p.m. Stephanie Pelkowsky, recreation Manager, is coordinating the awards for the parks and Recreation Department. This year's ceremony will be the first with the new Russell J. Halloran Lifetime Achievement Award. Francis Rice asked if there had been any nominations submitted yet. Commissioner Towle said that the papers had just gone out recently. Chairman Mahoney asked about the criteria for the Russell J. Halloran Award. Fran Towle noted that the award would honor an individual who had shown Commissioner Halloran's dedication and commitment to youth and the City of Newton.
4. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** Commissioner Towle noted that the letter from the St. Mary of Carmen Society had been received requesting that the annual carnival be held from July 11 through July 15, 2001 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground. She said that abutters had been sent a letter

COMMISSION MEMBERS

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|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WARD 1 - JENNIE DeVITO | WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE | WARD 7 - GWEN FINEBERG |
| WARD 2 - JAMES MAHONEY, CHAIRMAN | WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER | WARD 8 - ROBERT PLATT |
| WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON, VICE CHAIRMAN | WARD 6 - MRS. CHARLES PEPPER | FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY |
| ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, WILLIAM RYAN, JOHN BOURGEOIS | | |

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notifying them that the item would be discussed at the April 23rd Commission Meeting. Commissioner Towle introduced Nunzio Leone, Chairman of the society and invited him to speak about the carnival. Mr. Leone said that he felt that everything went fine in 2000, and that there were no complaints that he was aware of. He continued on to say that the Society would continue to follow all the rules set forth for the Carnival. Fran Towle said that she had not received any complaints about the carnival last year.

Joseph Marini, neighbor, said that the City and the St. Mary of Carmen Society did a wonderful job last year. He wants to make sure, however, that the trailers and rides are kept at least 50 feet from his fence. He also wants the rides to be smaller. Anthony Pellegrini in response to Mr. Marini said that last year the City marked a line 50 feet from Mr. Marini's property and the trailers and rides were located properly. Commissioner Towle said that the Parks and Recreation Department would mark the line once again this summer. Mr. Pellegrini and Mr. Leone said that the carnival would continue to follow the specifications set for in the agreement letter and permits from the City.

Alderman Robert Antonellis said that he thought that last year went well, but neighbors have concerns about the Carnival operators arriving at the site early and departing later than the agreement states. The neighbors want the Carnival operators out once the Carnival is over. Mr. Pellegrini responded that the Society tries to get them out as soon as possible but they are often hampered by legal restrictions (noise concerns) placed on the operators by the Newton Police. Chairman Mahoney noted that the agreement letter last year stated they operators should be out by Tuesday at 12:00 noon. He asked if this were not the case. Jennie DeVito said that they were a little late getting out because they were short of help. She felt it would not be a problem this year. Mr. Leone said that they were only a couple hours late last year. Chairman Mahoney noted again that there were no problems last summer. He also reiterated that the agreement would be the same this year and that the Carnival would have to be off the site by noon on Tuesday, July 17.

Bernice Antonellis, 42 Hawthorn Street, asked who was responsible for cleaning the park after the Carnival was over. Francis Rice said that the St. Mary of Carmen Society, not the Parks and Recreation Department was responsible for assuring that the park was clean. Mr. Leone and Mr. Pellegrini attested to this as well.

Francis Rice made a motion to issue the permit for the St. Mary of Carmen Society Festival at Pellegrini Park, July 11 – July 17, 2001. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

5. **Picnic/Alcohol Permits:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, reviewed the background of the current picnic/alcohol policy. Last year the Recreation Commission banned the use of alcohol at the Auburndale Cove. The policy change has been successful and the neighbors are very happy with the policy. One reaction to this has been requests to hold picnics, with alcohol, at sites other than the Cove. The Department surveyed other communities and found that Newton was the only city in the surrounding area that allowed alcohol on municipal lands during permitted activities.

James Mahoney asked if the Law Department reviewed the proposed policy. Commissioner Towle said that Ouida Young, Assistant City Solicitor, was involved in drafting the policy. The policy is based on the discussion at the March 19, 2001 Commission Meeting. Fran Towle then read the proposed policy into the record. (Attached).

Chairman Mahoney commented that according to the proposed policy no permit would be issued unless all five of the criteria for the event were met. If an organization wants to have an event with alcohol that event would have to be sponsored by someone with an alcohol license. Ouida Young noted that it could also be someone who is authorized by the special event to sell alcohol. Commission members asked Ms. Young what that meant. She responded by giving the example of the St. Mary of Carmen Society. They are authorized to sell alcohol, but the holder of the license is the vendor. She noted that it is important to assure that those who hold a license to sell alcohol have some familiarity with the way in which alcohol sales should be conducted, and who will be careful about when and when not to sell alcohol.

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Chairman Mahoney asked what would be the process for an organization to hold a function with alcohol at, for example, Nahanton Park. Ms. Young stated that as the policy is proposed the only way they could do this is if the alcohol would be sold; if the organization was actually holding a fair or festival. The organization would not be allowed to simply bring it on site and give it away for free.

Peter Kastner asked what would be the definition of "sale", "festival" and "fair". Ouida Young and Fran Towle both noted that for the purposes of the policy the dictionary definition would be acceptable. He then suggested that the firemen, for example, could call their annual event a festival and obtain a permit and license. Jim Mahoney noted that it would have to be open to the public and the event must sell alcohol. Ouida Young added that all other criteria must be met. Requestors would have to obtain a one-day license from the Licensing Board. Robert Platt noted that the proposed policy states that the event must be licensed as special events by the Parks and Recreation Department and open to the public.

Peter Kastner commented that he had reservations about alcohol restrictions when the policy was first discussed in 1999. Although he voted with the majority at that time he had and continues to have problems with the narrowness of the proposed policy. He thinks that the Commission should think of the broader implications of the proposed policy. Chairman Mahoney said that what was not clear to him about the policy was if the Commission is banning alcohol in the parks or not. Previous discussion revolved around constructing a policy, which would not adversely, effect the "carnival". Chairman Mahoney then asked if member of the audience wished to comment.

Alderman Salvucci stated that the proposed policy and the rationale confused him for it. He said that as he understand the proposal a group would have to get a permit from Parks and Recreation for a special event and then get a one day liquor license to have alcohol. Ouida Young said that the law clearly states that under the ordinances there is a ban currently in effect. In order to have alcohol on public grounds one need to get the permission of the Police Department, which must have permission of the governing agency. The proposed policy sets out more clearly the position of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Alderman Salvucci then noted that Newton is unique and the commission should not be swayed by what other communities do. He has never heard of problems with alcohol at any event in Newton. He does not understand the restriction, but he does appreciate the Commissioner wanting proper procedure to be followed.

Alderman Merrill said to clarify that if there is possession and sale of alcohol a one-day license is needed. However if an organization were to sell a ticket in advance of the event that included a beer, hamburger, etc, it is not necessarily a direct sale and therefore the Licensing Commission would not need to be involved, as it would require permission from the Police Chief.

Alderman Antonellis, in response to Alderman Salvucci, said that it is necessary to take into consideration what other communities do. We should consider the fact that no other community in the area issues a permit for alcohol on a field.

Mark Delosher (sp) an immediate abutter to Hawthorn questioned why people have to have alcohol at a picnic. He agreed with Alderman Antonellis and continued to note that although the Carnival has improved in the past 16 years; Hawthorn is used frequently for athletic events, picnics and large community events. He said that this all impacts on the quality of life in the neighborhood, and asked the Commission to think long and hard about alcohol, especially if there is a restriction currently in place at the Cove.

Commission members asked about numbers of permits at the Cove vs. Hawthorn. Commissioner Towle responded that there was an increase in the number of smaller picnics at the Cove, and that in 2000, the Department issued permits for the Carnival, The Elks and The Firefighters Association at Hawthorn.

Peter Kastner said that he believed there were two options. One, which is proposed, restricts potential groups too narrowly. The other option would be to expand the threshold for potential picnics and

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remove the designation of "fair" or "festival" from the proposal, allowing groups who get a liquor license and meet other department criteria to have functions at parks.

Jennie DeVito commented about the tradition of the St. Mary of Carmen Festival and the benefits to the community arising from it. She noted that the Carnival was one issue and alcohol on parks was separate. Yet, she felt strongly that it is not fair to allow one large function with alcohol and not others. She also voiced her concern about Hawthorn being the only other requested and permitted site for large functions.

Chairman Mahoney then clarified the routes that were open to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

1. Ban alcohol use totally
2. Allow alcohol use with groups being required to go to the Licensing Commission for a permit and meet additional Department criteria (i.e. police detail)
3. Ban alcohol use, but grandfather in the Carnival.

Ouida Young told the Commission that the City Solicitor has concerns about "grandfathering in" one function. However, she said that modifying the proposed policy is possible. She felt that the Commission should initiate discussion with the Licensing Board to verify their position. In response to a question from Robert Platt, Ms. Young said that requiring insurance from a group selling or consuming alcohol would have no real benefit to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Anthony Pellegrini addressed the issue with concerns about grandfathering in one activity while restricting neighborhood families and other groups from using the facilities for smaller picnics. He said that this places an unfair burden upon those smaller groups that may want to have beer or wine with a picnic.

William Ryan suggested changing two things in the proposed policy. If fair and festival were removed from the wording it would allow organizations such as Post 440 and the Elks to have functions, if the followed the other criteria.

After further general discussion Chairman Mahoney asked how the Commission should proceed. He commented that he was not satisfied with the proposal. He said that the Commission need a more straight forward policy, which is one of two choices: either the Commission bans alcohol altogether or the Commission requires that the entity in the City that regulates alcohol be in charge of regulating whether alcohol may be allowed at a particular function. The Commission would be getting away from the status quo and "pass the buck" appropriately to the Licensing Board.

Peter Kastner suggested that the Law Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Executive Department and Licensing Board meet to review the policy and make further recommendations. There is a need for tighter, yet more straight forward guidelines.

Chairman Mahoney notes that the Parks and Recreation Department is not in the business of regulating the use and sale of alcohol. He requests that Commissioner Towle and her staff go back and review the policy again with the Law Department, and to recommend to the Commission at the next meeting "how we can require a proper permit by a non-profit group or other private group for using parkland to get a license from that regulating entity about the alcohol component of the picnics and we will regulate and approve the other aspect of how they are going to use the park."

After brief discussion by the Commission and the Law Department Representative about appropriate licensing permits through the Licensing Board and the Police Department, Michael Clarke suggested that whatever the Commission does it should be consistent at all the parks.

Robert Platt made a motion for the Law Department to review the proposed policy again, and to table further discussion until the next meeting. Francis Rice seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

6. Accessibility/Open Space: Commissioner Towle introduced Karen Peirce, Recreation Manager, Karen has been working with the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities in reviewing the accessibility of Newton's Parks. The Department is trying to put together a format for measuring the accessibility of the City parks.

Karen Peirce told the Commission that the goals of the task force are to assess the recreation facilities in the City of Newton to determine accessibility for the handicapped, provide recommendations to improve the access, and to implement the recommendations. The committee is comprised of Karen Peirce, Rob Caruso and Danielle Buchman. They met initially in December and chose to start site visits at the most used locations in the City. To date the group has visited Albemarle, Crystal Lake, Auburndale Cove, Nahanton Park, Burr Park, Cold Spring Park, Lower Falls Community Center and the Newton Centre Hut. At the conclusion of the first 8 site visits the group met with Carol Stapleton and Commissioner Towle to generate a plan to prioritize the facilities visited and add more sites to the study. The list in order of work priority is: Millennium Park, Lower Falls Community Center, Newton Centre Hut, Parks and Recreation Department office, Albemarle, Burr Park, Auburndale Cove, Crystal Lake, Gath Pool, Nahanton Park and Cold Spring Park.

The group is developing a report on the sites and will return with recommendations as to what needs to be done to get all of our facilities up to code so that they are accessible to all residents. The Accessibility Task Force will next need to next seek funding sources, and they will be working with the Mayor's Committee on that. The final phase will be implementation of the recommendations.

Karen Peirce next introduced Carol Stapleton who discussed the Open Space Committee. Carol noted that Recreation Commission Chairman Jim Mahoney chairs the Committee. They are currently in the middle of the enormous task of updating the Open Space Plan. The goal is to have a draft document and action plan detailing active and passive recreation areas by June 2001 to allow for an application for state funding. The committee has had to make readjustments to the current plan and maps and consider the issue of who owns the land: Parks and Recreation, Conservation, School Department, etc. Carol announced that there is a public hearing about the Open Space Plan on May 14. The Commission will be notified of the time and location. Carol continued to say that the Accessibility Task Force report would be included in the plan as well as a playground inventory.

James Mahoney told the Commission that the current document was issued in 1995. It inventories all the open space in Newton. The current Open Space Committee is updating that document - removing items that have been completed and adding new recommendations. The second phase of the Open Space Committee work will be to review the document and priorities in more depth. Peter Kastner asked when the second phase was due to be completed. Chairman Mahoney responded that it was to be fit into the overall framework and would probably be completed by 2002. When asked if the Commission gets to vote on the document, Chairman Mahoney noted that it is really a process through the Planning Department. Commission members are welcome to attend the meetings.

Peter Kastner said that he had read portions of the draft document. He felt that there were two items of concern. One is that there is no statement about a commitment to open space. There is no definition of open space or mention of needs. Secondly he noted that there should be a statement indicating that open space proposals should be balanced with the need to maintain and fund open space. The Parks and Recreation Commission should require that adequate maintenance of open space in the City, and that funding be provided.

Michael Clarke commenting about accessibility noted that the aqueducts are ours to maintain; yet we do not own them. These areas and curb cuts into these sites also need to be considered in prioritizing accessibility. Carol Stapleton noted that curb cuts are in the purview of the Public Works Department.

- 6. **Budget Update:** Commissioner Towle announced to the Commission that on Wednesday, April 25, 2001 she would be presenting the Department Budget to the Programs and Services Committee. The meeting is scheduled for 7:45. William Ryan asked about the loss of three positions. Fran Towle explained that these positions were lost due to retirements. The money was put into contracts and

additional maintenance overtime accounts. Peter Kastner asked what percentage cut from the Program budget was taken. Commissioner Towle said that the total cut was \$62,000. Of that \$45,000 came from Program. This would be a 4.5% Program cut.

- 7. **Swim Season Information:** Carol Stapleton announced that the Permit Fees for summer swimming would remain the same at Crystal Lake and Gath Pool, but the Department would raise the cost of swim lessons. Staff responses are coming in and staff will be tested in May. Carol continued on to tell the Commission that Levingston Cove is being used by many people and she thanked the Commission for their support throughout the process. Michael Clarke asked about the plantings at the "cove". Carol said that now there are plantings to screen the handicapped ramp. Jennie DeVito asked if raises were offered to returning staff. Carol said that lifeguards have to pay close to \$200.00 to be certified and updated and then they make about \$7.75 per hour. Jennie DeVito thinks that the Commission should work on this. Carol said that it is not just swim staff, but also camps and other season staff.
- 8. **Tennis Rules and Regulations:** Commissioner Towle introduced Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager who will now be handling the Tennis Courts at the Newton Centre Playground. Stephanie told the Commission that the rules and regulation for the courts are the same as in past years. She is going to try to advertise the courts more so that the numbers of users increases.

Peter Johnson made a motion to approve the Tennis Rules and Regulations. Robert Platt seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

- 9. **New Business:** Jennie DeVito congratulated James Mahoney and Peter Johnson for staying on as Chairman and Vice Chairman. William Ryan reminded the Commission that Friday, April 27 was that Cystenosis Party of former Commissioner Halloran's grandson Shea. The party is to be held at Post 440. Mr. Ryan also announced that the son of ex Commission member Tony Battista's son was the first pick in the Professional Lacrosse League Draft. Michael Clarke requested that the Aqueducts should be an agenda item for the May meeting.

Seeing no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 21, 2001

NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Walter Bernheimer, Alternate John Bourgeois, Alternate Michael Clarke, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alternate William Ryan

Absent: Robert Platt, Josephine Pepper and Alternate Peter Kastner

1. Minutes of the April Commission meeting were accepted 7-0

- **Commissioner Towle's reports of Programs, Maintenance and Forestry:**
- Commissioner Towle spoke about the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. The course will stay open with 18 temporary greens while the greens are being repaired, along with the retention wall and sewer drains.
- The Open Space Plan is being updated by an Open Space Committee, appointed by the Mayor.
- Grass is being cut on City lands throughout the City of Newton
- Lyons ballfield area has been reopened
- A Relay for Life (Cancer Walk) was held last weekend. The Relay made over \$47,000 this year. The "Recreators" made up of our staff, joined in the cancer walking event this year

2. Picnic/Alcohol Permit: James Mahoney, Chairman, explained that a policy has been drafted on consumption or possession of alcohol on parks & playgrounds. As this was also discussed at the last two commission meetings, alcohol is not permitted by law on public lands. Organizations must seek permission from the Licensing Board. It is not up to the Parks & Recreation Department to prohibit alcohol on City properties. Since the last commission meeting, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner have been working with Ouida Young of the Law Department regarding the alcohol policy. They have also been consulting with the Licensing Board and the Chief of Police.

(2)

The draft policy is as follows:

1. When a permit to consume or possess alcohol is required under the provision of Sec. 17-7 and Sec. 20-17(2)(b) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton, it shall be the policy of the Parks & Recreation Commission not to consent to the issuance of such permit for any grounds in the custody or control of the Commission, except when all of the following are satisfied.
2. The individual or group requesting a permit to consume or possess alcohol must apply for and be granted a license for Wine/Malt Beverages issued by the City of Newton Licensing Board pursuant to G. L. c. 138, S14. The Licensing Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month and the application must be filed with the Licensing Board at least one week prior to the third Tuesday of the month.
3. Upon approval of the Licensing Board the individual or group must then apply for and be issued a permit from the Chief of Police in accordance with Section 15.5 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton.
4. A paid private detail police officer(s) is present at all times during the sale, possession or consumption of alcohol. The Parks and Recreation Commissioner shall determine the number of police officers after consultation with the Chief of Police. A minimum of one officer is required per order of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Subsequent officers will be added in accordance with Licensing Board dictates, which are based on the size of the party.
5. The individual or group requesting a permit to consume or possess alcohol must propose a means of preventing any disturbance or unruly behavior from resulting due to the consumption or possession of alcohol. The Parks and Recreation Commission reserves the right not to approve future requests should a group fail to maintain control and/or orderly conduct during a permitted event.
6. The alcohol is consumed at the site of the event. Based on the site, the Parks and Recreation Department will determine a defined area that is to be designated the consumption area. Consumption of alcohol will not be allowed outside of the designated area. Violation of this directive shall result in immediate revocation of the picnic permit. Only the individual or group holding the license shall remove unconsumed alcohol from the site of the event.

(3)

- 7. The Parks and Recreation Department will determine an area at each site that will be determined the service area. The serving of alcoholic beverages will take place solely within the service area. The serving of alcohol outside of the service area shall result in the immediate revocation of the picnic permit.
- 8. After the applicant has received approval from the Licensing Board and the Chief of Police, they must return to the Parks & Recreation Department for final approval of the completed application.

The fees would include:

- Parks & Recreation permit: \$25.00 - \$90.00
- Licensing Commission: \$50.00
- Police detail: Depending on size of crowd, 1 Policeman 150 people and 2 Policemen for over 150 people - \$120.00 for 4 hours

Fran Towle, Commissioner and Robert DeRubeis, met with Police Lieutenant McDonald regarding details of the assigning of a policeman at the picnics with alcohol. Also, there is a limited number of police for the details.

Police Sargent Edward Aucoin, is representing the Licensing Board this evening. He has spoken with Chief Frank Gorgone and Lt. MacDonald regarding the alcohol permits. They are not opposed to a total ban, however, they are opposed to have police details at the picnics. When asked about police fees, Sgt. Aucoin commented that for 4 hours, the fee would be \$120.00 and the hourly fee would be \$30.00.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked they change the way the draft policy is written; should the word "paid" private detail be eliminated.

Francis Rice said to change the word paid to volunteer in the policy. Sgt. Aucoin said that he would need an approval of the Police Chief.

Barbara O'Brien, resident of Edgewater Park (Auburndale Cove) said that no alcohol on public lands would be best. After listening to comments, she is disturbed by all of the talk regarding alcohol on all public areas.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that this was the 3rd meeting to draft rules and regulations for consumption of alcohol on parks & playgrounds. A uniform policy is needed. This evening the commission is discussing the draft policy.

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(4)

Mr. Pellegrini commented that with picnics, birthdays and parties, which includes liquor at Pellegrini Park, law and order is maintained. He asked about the forthcoming costs to hold these events, and the permits that would be needed. Also, he asked about where a designated drinking area would be at Pellegrini Playground.

Fran Towle, Commissioner said that a policy needs to be set for city-wide parks and playgrounds. Each site would need to be evaluated for the amount of people and the designated drinking areas.

Mark Blogier: representing Hawthorn Park sent an e-mail to the Parks & Recreation office as an abutter to the playground. His comments are that he and a group of neighbors vehemently oppose allowing alcohol to be served at Hawthorn (Pellegrini Park). He said that the park is strewn with beer bottles, cans and trash after the events. Mr. Blogier asked the commission members for consideration of his comments.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that Parks & Recreation Department would issue the picnic permit. The person would need to go the Licensing Board for their approval and permit, and then the Police would have to approve the permit.

Mr. Pellegrini said that he has had no problems with Pellegrini Park. Also, he has never seen litter/alcohol bottles all over the park. Neither has he seen people urinating in the Park. If a petition is needed to have liquor in Pellegrini Park he can get one. Pellegrini Park is one of the busiest parks in the City. Also, the park is well maintained. He hopes that the Community Block Grant comes through soon so the wall at the park can be fixed.

Francis Rice commented that either alcohol should be accepted at all park areas or it should be banned from all park areas.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked Ouida Young, Law Department, about the laws on alcohol in parks. Ouida noted that all criteria must be met to have alcohol on City lands. Three options are:

1. Ban alcohol use totally
2. Allow alcohol use with groups who get all permits and meet criteria
3. Ban alcohol use, grandfather in or modify the use of alcohol at the Carnival

(5)

Motion was made by Walter Bernheimer to ban the use of alcohol on all playgrounds, Michael Clarke seconded.

Discussion ensued: Mr. Clarke said whether we have it or not, need a uniform policy and level of design. The policy is fine for large organizations, however, it does not allow for small parties. This is a two-tier problem, large parties vs. small parties.

James Mahoney Chairman, pointed out that the Parks & Recreation Department should not be responsible for alcohol permits. The Licensing Board should issue the alcohol permit. Also it should be clear about selling and serving alcohol.

Officer Aucoin: The resident/group would need a 1-day temporary license to dispense alcohol from the Licensing Board.

Chairman Mahoney stated that there should be another draft of the policy for the next commission meeting.

Chairman Mahoney asked for a substitute motion.

Mr. Bernheimer's motion to ban alcohol from City parks & playgrounds was defeated 7-1

Francis Rice motioned to go by the existing ordinance draft. Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Towle said there is no structure as to what you can and cannot do in park. A structured policy is needed for alcohol in parks.

Jennie DeVito understands both sides and would like to see another draft policy.

Ouida Young, Law Department said that we need controls and safeguards, the commission needs a policy and it should be uniform across the City.

(6)

John Bourgeois, Alternate, asked if an addendum to the policy could be made for smaller groups. Ms. Young said that the Commission should set a policy tonight and state the conditions.

Michael Clarke, Alternate, asked about Police details. Officer Aucoin said that that the Licensing Board required one police officer per 150 people, anything over that required 2 police officers.

James Mahoney, Chairman, commented that this is the third meeting to discuss the use of alcohol at picnics/events. A policy is needed to accommodate the events. He asked that the alcohol permit policy be tabled until the next commission meeting in June. Will need additional information on Police requirements, controls, and groups. restrictions drinking areas and a new draft policy. The Chairman thanked the visitors/staff for attending the Commission meeting this evening.

Fran Rice withdrew his motion.

- 4. **Gath Pool/Crystal Lake summer schedules:** Commissioner Towle said that the pool and lake would be open on Monday, June 11th. Crystal Lake will close August 26th and Gath Pool will close on Labor Day. The residents are fortunate that the Department is able to keep one of the facilities open until Labor Day.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, motioned to approve the Rules/ Regulations and fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool during the 2001 season. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Rules and Regulations and fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool.

- 5. **Status of Budget:** Commissioner Towle said that the full Board of Aldermen would meet next week on the budget for FY2002.
- 6. **Mayors Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, May 23rd, 7:30AM at McElroy Commons in the dining room at Boston College**

(7)

- 7. **Aqueducts:** Michael Clarke, Alternate, videoed his walk through the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. Mr. Clarke gave an excellent video presentation of his walk to the Commission members. He spoke about Powder House Hill, how parts of the aqueduct are impassible and parts of the aqueducts are privately owned. Also, there are landscaping parts of the aqueducts that need the brush and debris cleaned up for a passageway. Mr. Clarke would like to see that the aqueducts are surplused and incorporated into the Open Space Plan. Mayor Cohen would like to appoint a committee to speak with the MWRA regarding the removal of the no trespassing signs. A representative is needed from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- 8. **New Business:** At the Monday, June 18th meeting a group photo will be taken of the Commission members.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 18, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Kastner, Alternate, John Bourgeois, Alternate, William Ryan, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Sheila Butts, recording secretary

Absent: Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Josephine Pepper and Michael Clarke, Alternate

1. **Minutes of the May meeting were approved**
2. **Commissioner Towle's reports of programs, maintenance and events.**
3. **Summer program plans:**Gath Pool and Crystal Lake opened on Monday, June 11th. Tumble'More, Fast Break Basketball and 4Ever Sports opened the last week in June. Albemarle Acres, Centre Acres, Outdoor Adventure, Acres in the Falls, Kids Korner, Soccer Academy and Pro Tots all open in July. Tennis and softball leagues are ongoing. Sunday Heritage Festivals will be held on Sunday's in July and August on the Newton Centre Green. Tuesday evening Folk Concerts will be held at Jackson Homestead. Also, there will be Free Children's Afternoon Performance Series at various playgrounds in the City. Also, in August there will be Dancing in the Parks, one at West Newton Common and the other at Pellegrini Park. A camp scholarship meeting was held with James Mahoney and Stephanie Pelkowsky to award scholarships for children in need. Everyone who sent in a donation was sent a thank you letter. Commissioner Towle complimented Dave Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, and his crews for the excellent job they have done this spring/summer season, regardless of the rain, drought and high temperatures.
4. **July 4th Festivities:** On July 4th festivities will be held: Kids Morning at Newton Centre Playground in the morning. Open Air Market and Amusements at Albemarle Field. At 5:00PM, picnics, Bank and Swing Dance Party. At 9:00PM the Fireworks.

(2)

- 5. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2001/02:** There are no recommended increase in fees for the Newton North Indoor Complex for 2001/02.

<u>Category:</u>	<u>2000/2001</u>	<u>2001/2002 (proposed)</u>
Adult Season	\$36.00	\$36.00
Student Season	\$26.00	\$26.00
Family Season	\$95 (+\$1/ID)	\$95 (+\$1 per ID)
Non Resident	\$96	\$96
Adult Daily	\$3.00	\$3.00
Student Daily	\$2.00	\$2.00
Non-Resident Daily	\$6.00	\$6.00

Anticipated North Indoor Complex Season will be October 1, 2001 through May 17, 2002.

Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, motioned to accept the Newton North Indoor Complex Fees. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members approved unanimously the Newton North Indoor Complex Fees, 8-0 for the year 2001/02.

- 6. **Terry Morris, Newton North Little League renewal license agreement:** The Newton North Little League renewal license agreement is the same as the previous agreement that is in place now. Peter Johnson motioned to accept the license agreement and Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Commission members approved unanimously, the Newton North Little League Renewal License Agreement 8-0.

- 7. **Picnic/Alcohol Permit:** James Mahoney, Chairman, noted that this was the 4th meeting to discuss the picnic/alcohol permit. With the help of Ouida Young, Law Department, Chairman Mahoney, explained the three options that emerged from the previous meetings.

1. Ban on all alcohol, sales or consumption, similar to other communities.
2. Ban alcohol citywide at all areas except special events/outings for selling only.
 - a) Receive permission from the Chief of Police
 - b) Receive permission from the Licensing Commission
 - c) Requires a Police Detail
 - d) Follow all other parameters

(3)

- 3. Ban alcohol citywide with the following exceptions:
 - a) Allow sale of alcohol at special events/outings
 - Receive permission from the Chief of Police
 - Receive permission from the Licensing Commission
 - Requires a Police Detail
 - Follow all other parameters
 - b) Allow picnic groups over 10 adults to have their functions
 - Permission from the Chief of Police
 - Requires a Police Detail
 - Follow all other parameters (See Option 2)
 - c) Allow any group under 10 adults a picnic permit
 - Permission from the Chief of Police
 - Follow all other parameters (See Option 3)

Chairman James Mahoney asked the visitors attending the meeting for their comments regarding the alcohol/picnic permit:

Anthony Pellegrini questioned the number of communities surveyed for alcohol on City property.

Tony Panaggio, Sons of Italy, asked why is a 1 million-dollar insurance policy required to have a flea market at Hawthorn Playground?

Ouida Young, Law Department, said that this had nothing to do with the alcohol permit. Mr. Panaggio's request is for a special event. Use of facility for public events requires insurance.

Paul Testa – Elks: For 7 years we have had our Elks picnics at the Cove with no problems. We always clean up after ourselves. Now, in order to have liquor, we have to buy a ticket!

Kevin Courtney, Auburndale Community Association:

- 1) Noise problem
- 2) Who is responsible for clean-up
- 3) Sense from the neighbors that with alcohol, the noise level goes up

Ouida Young, Law Department: There is a City Ordinance for noise levels. Police can take noise measurements.

(4)

Gary Scott: Last year was the best because alcohol was not allowed at the Auburndale Cove. He said that the abutters and Islington Road residents are not opposed to small groups who want liquor.

Barbara O'Brien: Abutter to the Cove, said that the quality of life has improved with no liquor allowed at the Cove.

Mr. Pellegrini asked the Chief of Police if he recommended no alcohol. Chief Gorgone said no. Mr. Pellegrini said is this right! If a group wants to use Pellegrini Park, who accepts responsibility for the alcohol.

Barbara O'Brien: Are Police details still a problem?

Walter Bernheimer: The more restrictions are in policy #2. Walter Bernheimer made a motion to adopt alcohol policy#2. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

John Bourgeois asked if this precludes the family picnic, the answer was yes.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that there is a legal mechanism to serve alcohol whereby the Licensing Board would grant a permit. I think it is reasonable position for this commission to take to accommodate the organizations, legions, Elks, firefighters, Sons of Italy, who want to have a picnic with alcohol. We have struggled with this for four months as a commission to accommodate these events. Adopting policy #2, which Walter Bernheimer motioned and Francis Rice seconded, will allow these organizations to hold these events recognizing the law of the land about alcohol. Any effort to accommodate family picnics is important to regulate and enforce. Option 2 can accommodate alcohol. For those who want alcohol they have to go before the Licensing Board to get a license to drink.

Mr. Pellegrini said no way would he go before the Licensing Board; he will get his own lawyer.

John Negrotti is for Option 3. The mechanics would be in place.

Kevin Courtney: supports policy #3.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, Option 2 does not provide legal mechanics for small groups to drink in parks. Option 3 allows smaller groups to drink, however, it is impossible to police this. Option # 2 makes more sense.

Motion was made to approve alcohol policy #2.

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(5)

The commission members voted to adopt the alcohol policy #2.

Adoption #2:

7 – yes

1 – No (Peter Johnson)

John DeFillipis: Why do we have to do all this bureaucratic nonsense stuff, Its ludicrous. We are going around in circles.

Mr. Pellegrini asked when the wall was going up at Pellegrini Park.

Chairman James Mahoney thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

8. New Business: Sheila Butts, recording secretary gave out swim permits to the commission members.

Meeting Adjourned 8:45PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
September 24, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Alternates Peter Kastner and John Bourgeois, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Francis Rice, and Alternate Michael Clarke

Also attending, Alderman Polly Bryson and Alderman Carleton Merrill

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, requested a moment of silence regarding Josephine Pepper, who passed away over the weekend. It was a pleasure and honor to work with Josephine on the Parks & Recreation Commission over the past 27 years. Josephine had a positive impact on the active and passive recreation needs of the City. The Commission members will sadly miss her. Information on the wake and funeral are in the packets.

1. **Minutes of the June Meeting:** The minutes of the June meeting were accepted 6-0.
2. **Reports of summer programs, maintenance, closing of Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** Fran Towle, Commissioner welcomed everyone back, hope everyone had a great summer. She reported that Crystal Lake closed on August 26th and Gath Pool stayed open until Labor Day. It was a great summer, July 4th fireworks were highly successful, as well as the concerts at Newton Centre, children's programs at various playgrounds in the City, there were 14 summer camps, swim lessons, 1,200 children learned to swim this year, Bocce/tournaments for seniors at Cabot playground, 2 courts are expanding to three, Special Needs camps, summer leagues just ended. Commissioner Towle was very pleased with the Department's summer season and the staff did an excellent job programming the activities. There were no complaints about early closing with Gath Pool open until Labor Day. The public had a facility to swim at.

(2)

Also, Commissioner Towle was sad to announce that a gentleman, Charles Larant had a heart attack and passed away on the last day of Crystal Lake. Carol Stapleton, Manager, explained that Mr. Larant rode his bike to Crystal Lake all the time. He had a heart attack in the parking lot, and every effort was made to resuscitate him until the EMT's arrived. Ms. Stapleton said she was very proud of her lifeguards in their attempt to revive him. Mr. Larant, 69 years old was a Holocaust survivor. The family of Mr. Larant wrote a thank you letter to Carol and her staff for their valiant efforts to save Mr. Larant.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, asked if the attendance numbers were up from last year and Fran Towle, Commissioner, said they were. The Crystal Lake and Gath Pool figures will be ready for the October Commission meeting.

- 3. **Warren Fields – dedication – Alderman Polly Bryson:** Alderman Bryson thanked everyone on the Commission for everything you do for the City. Alderman Polly Bryson is requesting the Commission's approval of designating the City of Newton's former Warren Junior High School athletic playfields be named to honor the memory of the late Honorable Richard J. McGrath, Alderman-at-Large, Ward 4. The area to be known in perpetuity as "Dick McGrath Recreation Fields," in recognition of his three decades of exemplary public service to his native beloved City of Newton.

Alderman Bryson said that Alderman Dick McGrath's grandfather's home was taken by eminent domain to build the Warren School. The house was moved across the street where Alderman McGrath resided with his family.

Alderman Bryson presented her petition list of residents and dignitaries who are in favor of renaming the fields at Warren. This list includes the members of the Board of Aldermen and members of the School Committee, Congressman Barney Frank, Secretary of State William Galvin, State Auditor Joseph DeNucci, State Senator Cynthia Creem, State Representative Kay Kahn, State Representative Ruth Balser, State Representative Peter Koutoujian, State Representative Rachael Kaprielian, Mayor Cohen, Ed English, City Clerk and numerous others.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, thanked Alderman Bryson for her presentation. The abutters to the property at Warren will be notified to attend the next meeting, if they wish to voice an opinion. The matter will be voted on at the next Commission Meeting on October 15, 2001.

Alderman Carleton Merrill said that Alderman Bryson has a good list of names in favor of designating the Warren fields to be named after former Alderman Dick McGrath. Alderman McGrath was known for his opinions, friendliness to help all his constituents in a favorable way and knew every aspect of the community so well.

(3)

Marilyn Devaney, Governor's Councillor, knew Alderman McGrath when she worked in Watertown. She said the Alderman McGrath gave his life to the City of Newton, and thanked Alderman Bryson for her thoughtfulness in naming an area in the City after him.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member said that he was thinking of a commemorative tablet in addition to a green sign. He said that there is a nice tablet at Forte Park if anyone wishes to see it.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

- 4. **Open Space Plan:** Commissioner Towle said Carol Stapleton, Manager, and James Mahoney, Commission Chairman, are drafting the final plan for Open Space. They are meeting monthly on this and will meet with Mayor Cohen when the results are done. To Ms. Stapleton's knowledge there is no deadline for this report.
- 5. **Preservation Act – James Broderick:** Commissioner Towle said that Jim was instrumental in the Preservation Act and asked him to join us this evening to explain it. Jim Broderick thanked Commissioner Towle and said that he was happy to be at the meeting this evening.

The Community Preservation Act is legislation that allows towns and cities to create a dedicated stream of funding to acquire and protect open space, to preserve historic buildings and landscapes, to create and maintain affordable housing, and to acquire land for recreation. Funding comes from a locally approved surcharge on property tax bill of 0-3 percent, with additional aid from a permanent State matching fund.

Mr. Broderick asked for the Commission member's help to endorse the Preservation Act. Walter Bernheimer asked what he needed from the members. Mr. Broderick said to help spread the work about the Act, bumper stickers are available as well as yard signs.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, said he endorses the Preservation Act, as well as the Historical Commission and the Conservation Commission's. He wants to be on record to support this. Also, he has asked the Board of Aldermen to support this.

(4)

Commissioner Towle said that everyone has a right to their opinion as whether to approve the Preservation Act, i.e. individual letters to the newspapers. Individuals on the Commission can write to the newspapers regarding the Preservation Act.

Mr. Broderick said that there are 31 Towns/Cities that have already adopted this policy and 5 Cities will have the Preservation Act on their ballots in November, which includes Newton.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman, thanked Mr. Broderick for enlightening the Commission members regarding the Community Preservation Act.

- 6. **Millennium Park/Balsamo Park – Open Public Meeting:** Commissioner Towle informed the Commission members that there will be an open hearing meeting on October 3rd, City Hall, room 209, 7:30PM, with the Public Facilities Committee. In your packets is a letter from Nicholas Parnell, Commissioner, Public Building Department, regarding site plans, sketches and a cost estimate for the proposed Salvatore A. Balsamo Park Project. Those who are interested in the park are invited to attend this meeting.

Two weeks ago, Robert Rooney, Commissioner, Public Buildings, Nicholas Parnell, Commissioner, Public Buildings and myself met with Mayor Cohen to update him on background information regarding Balsamo Park. We discussed in-kind cost, Public Works Department labor, general funds, other donors and monies for the upkeep of park.

Peter Kastner; alternate, asked about the brick wall in the plans near the dumpster. Commissioner Towle said that there would be a brick wall along the driveway into City Hall where the dumpster is now. Peter Kastner also asked what the City has spent on the drawings, are there any hidden costs and how much has been spend on mailings and fundraising.

- 7. **Alcohol Policy summary:** During the summer only 3 groups applied for an alcohol permit. Those who applied for permits were Firefighters group, Elks and Post 440. The Post 440 group cancelled, and the other two groups had highly successful picnics. No problems.
- 8. **Policy for placing memorials on public lands:** Commissioner Towle explained that more and more people are requesting the placing of memorials on public lands.i.e. benches/plaques, trees, in regards to what transpired last year; the passing of 4 children at Oak Hill School, and memorials to people who died at the World Trade Center to name a few.

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Carol Stapleton, Manager, said that 6,333 flower bulbs would be placed at schools for the children that have passed away in the Oak Hill School bus crash. Monies are being raised to commemorate the bus stop area at Commonwealth Avenue and Fuller Street, which includes a bronze plaque for a bench and Japanese tree in memory of Greg Chan, one of the students who died in the bus accident in Canada.

Carol Schein the Adopt-A-Space Coordinator, related that and a large amount of money has been raised for the 4 Oak Hill students that died in the bus crash. Another issue that came up was 2 weeks after the bus crash, a student from the Oak Hill School died of cancer. Question is; would the dedication for the students that died in the bus accident, include the student that died of cancer?

One of the recommendations for a memorial is placing a gazebo on the right side of the Oak Hill School to honor all deceased students. This would not involve the Commission as this would be on School property. Parents would be involved in the installation of the gazebo during a weekend. The School Department is working on a commemorative policy. Ms. Stapleton also mentioned that people have already sent in variations of their plans for memorials, one of which includes an orchestra pit with 4 chairs.

Commissioner Towle said that several communities were called regarding their policy on memorials/dedications on public lands:

Boston: for benches, City hires contractor to install the benches, they use a non-profit fund and also there is a moratorium on some parks.

Brookline: Just started to work on a policy

Burlington: Need approval from Parks & Recreation, Director of Maintenance, tree/bench/trash barrel is ordered and installed, and they ask for a donation.

Sharon: There is no policy for anything under \$10,000, however, if the item is over \$10,000 it would go before the Commission and Board of Selectmen.

Waltham: Policy only on trees donated.

Worcester: If requested they purchase bench & plaque, install, and ask for donation to cover expenses.

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(6)

People are very emotional about dedications and memorials. For example, Carol Schein, the Adopt-A-Space Coordinator said she is receiving requests for memorials to cats and dogs.

Commissioner Towle recommended that a new policy be made to accommodate the new dedication requests. A committee will be formed to address this. Walter Bernheimer and Jennie DeVito volunteered to be on the committee.

A policy needs to be adopted on how to administer the distribution of fields. We would like to have a policy that is fair and equitable to all users, and be in place for the upcoming spring season. Information on a new field permit has been sent to various sports groups in the City. The policy that is in place now, needs 1 Newton resident to apply for the permit and all the rest of the people may be out of towners. Some cities/towns request that 67% need to be residents. At this point in time there is no policy in place for the distribution of fields.

Peter Johnson, Acting Chairman volunteered to be on the committee. Also on the committee will be Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner. Commissioner Towle thanked the commission members who volunteered to be on these two committees.

11. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle informed the commission members that William Ryan sent her a letter resigning as an Alternate Commission Member from the Parks & Recreation Commission, to be with his family. Mr. Ryan devoted 6 years to the Commission and was indeed asset to the Commission on his opinions during those years.

There are 2 Managers positions available at the Parks & Recreation Department. Sheila Butts, Manager, left to become the Assistant Director at Lexington Recreation and Karen Peirce, Special Needs Director, left to become the Assistant Director for the Town of Needham. Carol Stapleton, Manager, is covering for Karen until a new General/Therapeutic Recreation Director is found.

Notices for the 2 Managers positions were sent to all Massachusetts Recreation and Park Personnel, to be put on their WEB sites. Also, the information went out to several colleges in Massachusetts.

The Artist's bench, which was brought before the Commission, had a newspaper article written about it in the Boston Globe. The chair has been placed in the Weeks Field area. The finished chair is 5' feet wide, 4' high and 4' feet deep and made of logs. If you have a chance, drop by and see it.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:40PM.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
October 15, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, John Bourgeois, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Alternates Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner

Also attending: Alderman Polly Bryson, Joan McGrath and Carol Stapleton, Manager

1. **Minutes of the September meeting were approved 7-0**
2. **Commissioner Towle's report on programs and maintenance:** Commissioner Towle reported that Newton North High School Indoor Complex has opened for the season, under the direction of Tom Cahill, Manager. The registrations will be computerized this year for the first time. Tom has done an excellent job as Manager for the complex and the Department looks forward to offering more computerized registrations. Kids Korner, Lower Falls Community Center and senior programs are all doing well. Harvest Fair was held, even though it rained on Sunday, October 14th, with much success. Ice skating registrations and Funtastic Friday's are going well, and Judy Dore is the Manager of both programs

Maintenance; ending the grass cutting season, leaf removal is next, and preservation pruning for trees is ongoing.

3. **Proposal to name the former Warren Junior High playing fields after the late Richard J. McGrath, Alderman-at-Large, Ward 4:** Alderman Polly Bryson attended the second meeting, according to policy, to name the former Warren Junior High playing fields after the late Richard J. McGrath, Alderman-at-Large, Ward 4. Alderman Bryson said that Jeanne Strickland from Community Development supports the dedication as well as Mike Mosell of Greenough Street. The proposal is to re-name the Warren Junior High playfields the Dick McGrath Recreational Fields. Alderman Bryson asked the commission members what their thoughts were for wording on a sign for Dick McGrath at Warren Fields. The consensus of opinion was "Richard J. McGrath Park."

(2)

Francis Rice motioned to name the Warren Fields the "Richard J. McGrath Park." Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion. The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to name the Warren fields area the "Richard J. McGrath Park." Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that she would work with Joan McGrath and family for a dedication to be held next spring.

Alderman Polly Bryson and Joan McGrath thanked the commission members for their time and efforts.

4. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool summer swim figures:** Commissioner Towle reported that the Crystal Lake and Gath Pool general permits figures were increased this summer season from last year. Crystal Lake closed on August 26th and Gath Pool remained open until Labor Day. The Crystal Lake figures were up from last year, from \$31,000 to \$39,807 and Gath Pool figures were up as well, \$38,222 last year and \$43,953 this year. It was a successful and safe summer season this year and both Tom Cahill, Manager of Gath Pool and Carol Stapleton, Manager of Crystal Lake did excellent jobs as managers of the two outdoor swim facilities.

Jennie Devito, asked if the monies from the two facilities went into the General Fund. Commissioner Towle's answer was yes. Ms. Devito said that the monies should be returned to the Recreation Department budget.

Walter Bernheimer asked that a correction be made on the Gath Pool figures for 2001. Swimming lessons are listed at \$25.00 and should be \$35.00 for the figures to balance. Commissioner Towle thanked him for his input and said that the correction would be made.

5. **Update on Field Policy and Memorials/Donations Policy:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, turned the meeting over to Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner, commented that surrounding communities have been called regarding their field permit procedures. Those on the field permit policy committee will be Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Thomas Cahill, Manager, Peter Johnson and Francis Rice, Commission members. The committee will meet and come back to the Commission for their policy approval.

Carol Stapleton, Manager, will be working on the memorials/dedication policy on public lands. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1st, Room 207 at the Ed Center. On the committee will be Carol Stapleton, Manager, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Walter Bernheimer and Jennie DeVito, Commission members. The committee will meet and come back to the Commission for their policy approval. Walter Bernheimer also suggested, that the naming of an area is included in the discussions.

(3)

- 6. **Update on Millennium Park:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, said that in the commission packets there is information about Millennium Park including a letter from Mayor Cohen to the Board of Aldermen. The Board of Aldermen will meet Wednesday, October 17th to discuss the approval of Millennium Park. A change in the parking lot shape would need to be altered at the Homer Street side in order to accommodate the park. The parking lot would need to be condensed, moving the dumpster for 3 handicap spots, however, 5 parking spaces would be eliminated. The Public Facilities Committee's concern is that the parking lot is heavily used for Department Heads, delivery of materials, and supplies that need to be delivered. Also, the concern is the dragging of the two wheeler with the packages, over the newly installed bricks.

The bottom line now is the cost of maintaining the park. The cost year round would be between \$7,500 and 19,000, which would include tree pruning, snow removals and hand shoveling the walkway. Endowment monies would be needed for maintenance on the park, which would also include turf maintenance and irrigation.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, said that it cost \$185.00 each time the entire City Hall grounds are cut including weed whacking. There are no provisions at this time for the yearly maintenance of Millennium Park.

- 7. **New Business:** It was suggested that a letter be sent to William Ryan from the Commission members thanking him for his valuable input and term on the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02PM to attend Mayor Cohen's State of the City Address in the Board of Aldermen Chambers.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
November 19, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Stephanie Pelkowsky and Thomas Cahill, Recreation Managers

James Mahoney, Chairman, introduced Andrew Stern, appointed by Mayor Cohen, as a new Commission member for Ward 6, effective January 1, 2002. Mr. Stern will be replacing the late Josephine Pepper. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Stern and said it was nice to have him aboard.

1. **Minutes of the October meeting;** Francis Rice motioned to accept the minutes of the October meeting, Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion. The minutes of the October meeting were approved 7-0.
2. **Commissioner's Report on programs & Maintenance:** In November interviews will take place for the Recreation Manager/General and Recreation Manager/Therapeutic positions vacated by Sheila Butts and Karen Peirce. The first round will take place this week. For the Manager/General position, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Karen Kelley, Human Resources, Judy Dore, Manager and myself will interview the candidates. For the Manager/Therapeutic position, the candidates will be interviewed by Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Karen Kelley, Human Resources, Carol Stapleton, Manager, Gwen Fineberg, Special Needs parent and myself. When the committee recommends the top three candidates, Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Office and myself will select the top candidates for each position.

Last Friday, there was a thank you celebration for Karen Peirce, former Special Needs Director, at the Holiday Inn on Grove Street in Newton. Over 250 people attended the festivities, and everyone including counselors, staff, special needs participants and families had a wonderful evening. It was a great tribute to Karen for the work she did with the Special Needs participants.

(2)

The grass contract is almost over and the contractor is on leaf removals. The snow contractors are on board ready for the winter season.

- 3. **Skateboard Park:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, met with Mayor Cohen and the members of the Newton Sk8Park Committee regarding the possibility of building a skatepark in Newton. It was suggested to the committee by Mayor Cohen that they also get Parks & Recreation Commission support for the concept since a skateboard park would most likely to on public lands. The skateboard committee is with us this evening and Commissioner Towle turned the meeting over to Susan Erickson a member of the Sk8Park Committee.

Susan Erickson explained to the Commission members that the skateboard park committee has researched and visited other cities/towns about their skateboard parks. Ms. Erickson presentation included a list of sites visited, descriptions of parks and type of events and tricks performed by skateboard users and a need for a safe place for children of Newton to skate. Whether its skateboard or in line skaters the need for this type of park is there.

Ideally, the committee would like to see two skateboard parks, one on the north side of the City and one on the south side of the City. Anticipated costs are \$100,000 each.

Christopher Murphy, Newton North High School teacher, said that there is a growing increasing of skateboarders in Newton and what is needed is an outlet for them to skate on. As of now, the skateboarders are using driveways, streets and sidewalks for skateboarding. Skateboard parks offer excellent exercise for youth and teenagers from ages 6-16.

Walter Bernheimer asked Ms. Erickson if Watertown, Brookline or Weston had skateboard parks and the answer was no.

Peter Kastner said that a skateboard park is an interesting concept. He recommends the first step of this pursuit is information from the youth in the City, the need for criteria, figures, investigate sites for the park, and support from the Newton residents. He suggested they check with the Youth Commission; see what input they would have. Also, a marketing study is definitely needed.

(3)

Mark White, former Alderman, likes the idea of a skateboard park in Newton. He attended several of the skateboard committee's meetings including the one with Mayor Cohen. Mr. White supports the skateboard park and suggested the Cold Spring Park as a location. He is convinced the plan can go through however, the issue is the raising of monies for this project. He suggested the committee work with the Commission on this project, as he would not like to see the project bogged down.

Walter Bernheimer said that the City should construct bases on need. We've build little league and soccer fields based on need and if the new focus is skateboarding then the City should be responsible to address this need. Outside funding is a terrible way to do business. The government should be responsible for the needs of its residents. He would hate to see this go through without government funding. If there are 70 tennis courts in the City, why couldn't we convert one facility to a skateboard park. Mr. Bernheimer suggested to Ms. Erickson that the committee also needs to find out how many kids have skateboards and build a case from there. Is there a need and if so does it truly exist.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, mentioned that Mayor Cohen is concerned about Open Space in the City and the location of a site is a huge hurdle, as well as initial construction costs and ongoing maintenance.

James Mahoney, Chairman, also said that the committee cannot leave it up to the Commission to plan this. Also, the committee would need to have in mind 2-3 sites for a location of the skateboard park.

Francis Rice commented that the skateboard committee should choose 6 sites. Also they should take into consideration the parking needs, neighbors and which areas are being used for soccer groups as well as other sports groups.

Peter Kastner said that the skateboard committee needs criteria, sites, funding, information from youth groups as to their wants, needs. Youngsters need to be involved in the plan.

James Mahoney, Chairman, suggested the committee design a plan, obtain information from the Planning Department, and build up constituency, list of locations that they have checked out. When all this information is gathered, come back to the Commission with their ideas and approximate costs. He also said that the committee cannot leave it up to the Commission to plan this. Also, the committee would need to have in mind 2-3 sites for a location of the skateboard park.

(4)

Andrew Stern, an appointee to the Commission in January, said that the skateboard committee needs to anticipate qualms, insurance, maintenance and liability also.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that the skateboard committee has a lot of work to do before they return to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Susan Erickson thanked the commission members for their support.

- 4. **Marty Sender Memorial Pathway Dedication:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and herself met with Dan Driscoll, Metropolitan District Commission, and walked along the river pathway behind Lyons Park to be named after Marty Sender, environmental activist.

Attending the meeting this evening is Ralph Hubble, Newton Watershed Association. Mr. Haubble, said Marty Sender, who passed away last year, was an environmental activist and the path behind Lyons Field should be renamed in memory of Mr. Sender. Mr. Hubble had a copy of the MDC design work plan, which includes two granite monuments 4' tall with a blue heron on it and information about Marty Sender. A bench would be included at Ware's Cove just before the Recreation Building. The dedicated area would be from Commonwealth Avenue, through the Cove area, on the maintenance road to Forest Grove, and would be handicap accessible. He did not have the final plans and dedication letter with him.

Peter Kastner, Alternate Commission member said that he knew Marty Sender and wanted to know from Mr. Haubble as to when the Commission could look at the final plans. Also, he wanted to make Mr. Haubble aware that the entrance to park from Commonwealth Avenue is not good and there is a sewerage problem at Lyons Park.

Mr. Haubble said he would bring the plans plus a letter regarding the dedication to the next commission meeting which would be December 17th.

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked Mr. Haubble to return next month and bring the dedication letter with the final master plans for the pathway area to be named after Marty Sender.

- 5. **Rumford Avenue – 2 lots – Conservation/Parks & Recreation:** Commissioner Towle explained to the members about the surplus land – flowed meadow. There are two lots on Wabasso Street that the City bought for the Conservation and Parks & Recreation Department. The Flowed Meadow group met on how to use the area for passive recreation. The City is now trying to put this land under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and too declare it surplus.

(5)

If approved the Conservation Commission would take over this land. Commissioner Towle recommended to the Commission that the two parcels of land be given over the Conservation Commission, as we have no use for the land.

First a vote needs to be taken to declare the land surplus. Then a vote needs to be taken to transfer the land to the Conservation Commission.

Francis Rice made a motion to declare the two lots of land on Wabasso Street surplus. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion. The Commission members voted 7-0 to declare the 2 lots of land on Wabasso Street surplus.

Next the motion was made by Francis Rice to transfer the land to the Conservation Commission. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 7-0 to transfer the two lots of land on Wabasso Street to the Conservation Commission as the Commission has no use for the land and does not object to the assignment of those parcels to the Conservation Commission.

6. Skating Rules & Regulations 2001-2002: Fran Towle, Commission introduced Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, in reference to the outdoor skating rules and regulations for 2001-2002.

Ms. Pelkowsky said that the Auburndale Cove is an active area especially during the ice skating season. Weather permitting, ice-skating will take place this season. There are no changes this year in the outdoor skating rules and regulations.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, motioned to accept the outdoor skating rules and regulations for 2001-2002. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 7-0 to accept the outdoor skating rules and regulations for 2001-2002.

Commissioner Towle also mentioned the jeep falling though the ice last year at the Cove!

7. CIP Update: Commissioner Towle said Mayor Cohen submitted to the Board of Aldermen the FY02 Supplemental Capital Budget and the FY03-07 Capital Improvement Plan. The game plan is for tier projects 1, 2 and 3. The Departments projects are Turf Control, Planting of trees and Play apparatus. Also the Department will have funds to replace aging trucks and other heavy equipment.

(6)

Walter Bernheimer asked if the skateboarding project could be added to the CIP. He said that there is a demand for skateboarding and the priorities could be changed. Commissioner Towle said that there is a CIP plan in place and we cannot add to it at this time.

- 8. **Community Preservation Act:** Commissioner Towle reported that the Community Preservation Act passed in Newton. The item will be kept on the agenda for uses of funds, historic, housing, open space and recreation.

Andrew Stern said that 30% of the monies is mandated for open space and recreation. Also, there will be a 9-member board to determine where the money will be appropriated.

- 9. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle said that the budget will be level funded and the Department will absorb the steps and cost of living.

Andrew Stern asked when the City budget would be approved. Commissioner Towle said that the Executive Office makes the decision on the budget cuts and where they will take place, the Mayor dictates the cuts for the Departments.

Commissioner Towle mentioned to the commission members that in the folders is a DRAFT of the Playing Field and Related Facility Permit Policy, which they should look over and discuss at the next commission meeting.

The meetings for the Dedications Policy are ongoing. Jennie DeVito has met with Carol Stapleton and a group of others regarding the dedication policy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
December 17, 2001
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Alternate Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Alternates John Bourgeois and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Doug Dickson, Chairman, Urban Tree Commission and Carol Stapleton, Manager

1. **Minutes of the November meeting:** Francis Rice motioned to accept the minutes of the November meeting, Robert Platt seconded the motion. The minutes of the November meeting were approved 6-0.

2. **Commissioner's Report on programs & maintenance:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, wished everyone and their families a "Happy Holiday Season." A Lighting Ceremony was held at City Hall on December 6th at 5:30PM. Mayor Cohen's "Open House" will be held on Sunday, December 30th from 1:00 – 3:00PM, it's a great day for the little ones who attend, lots of festivities, Camp Fair to be held on Tuesday, February 5th, 2002 from 2:00 – 8:00PM at Newton City Hall's War Memorial. The only snowstorm we have had so far was 5 ½ inches; five contractors were involved; Biotti, Belli, Mastroianni, Newton Roofing & Dave Gardner Contracting. David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, oversaw the snow cleanup. Everything went smoothly, Sunday was perfect for timing as everything was cleaned up in time for school the next morning. An area of concern was Newton South High School, which is under construction. Also, its tricky to reconfigure what needs to be done for fields as well as building construction. Tree planting is in progress citywide, 75 trees are being planted with CIP monies. Take down of trees is approximately 400 per year. Leaf removals has been done twice city-wide. Because of the warm weather, the crews were able to remove leaves that extra time. The weather has been good, no ice skating as yet, too warm. The Department is still interviewing for 2 managers, and I will keep the commission members posted on this.

(2)

Ms. Towle spoke with Marilyn Mead Fox regarding the skateboard park progress. Ms. Fox was meeting with the Planning Department regarding citywide sites and taking a petition for a skateboard park to the schools. Ms. Fox will be calling when the committee has designed a plan, has information from the Planning Department, builds up a constituency, cost estimates and a list of locations that they have checked out.

- 3. **MDC – Dedication – Marty Sender Memorial Pathway:** James Mahoney, Chairman, introduced Ralph Hobble regarding the dedication of the Marty Sender Memorial Pathway. Along with a letter from Robert Zimmerman, Jr., Executive Director, Charles River Watershed Association, Mr. Hobble showed the commission members a map regarding the entrance to Lyons Park. He spoke about reshaping the entrance for handicap accessibility. The pathway/footpath would go from Lyons Park entrance, Islington and Commonwealth Avenue and continue through the area all the way to Forest Grove in Waltham. There is a dirt road there now that continues along the Charles River, passing the Auburndale Cove area, where picnics are held, a recreation building and passes a ballfield through to Forest Grove in Waltham. Mr. Hobble said that a boulder would be placed before the Recreation Building, along the Charles River, with a photo of Marty and an inscription on it. Also, a bench would be placed there in memory of Marty Sender.

Mr. Hobble said that the chain link fence at the entrance would be replaced, 2 MDC granite pillars installed at entrance with Great Blue Heron on it, inscription about Marty Sender, new landscaping, new path surface, stone dust composite, before cove area. Monies were created for this fund from: CRWA, friends and family of Marty Sender, MDC, City of Newton, Friends of Evening Magazine and Charles River Watershed Association.

Doug Dickson is here this evening representing the Conservators, he said this dedication is a fitting memorial as Marty was active in all areas.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, mentioned that the houses across from the cove area should receive an abutters letter, informing them of the next Commission meeting. Also, Mr. Kastner mentioned that at Lyons Playground, the little league screened baseball-batting cage, fence and other cages should all be the same color, green, they should have a consistent policy for items to blend in with the environment.

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(3)

Commissioner Towle said that having the pathway handicap accessible would benefit all of us. Great plus! Also, she asked if the grade of the land would change and Mr. Hubble said yes. He said that \$35,000 has been raised for this project and they are looking to raise \$12,000-13,000 more.

Andrew Stern, who will be a new commission member from Ward 6, in January of 2002, replacing Josephine Pepper, asked Mr. Hubble if the area would be fenced in by the MDC. Commissioner Towle said that there is a fence along the area, however, it is overgrown with bushes/shrubs. Alternate Peter Kastner said that he did not see the need for a fence along this area. Doug Dickson asked if large boulders could be placed for landscaping and the answer was they are not in the plans.

Peter Johnson asked if there would be any impact on the City vehicles that use this road. The road at this time has numerous ruts in it and is difficult for City vehicle use. With the stone dust composite the road should be better. Robert Platt asked about heavy trucks using the road with the stone dust. Mr. Hubble said that is a good question and he would find out the information before the next meeting.

Also, Mr. Platt asked who would be responsible for maintaining the road when it was done. Francis Rice said that the road has never been fixed in his lifetime. Monies would have to be put into the MDC budget for upkeep said Mr. Hubble.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, said that he spoke with Bob Rooney, Commissioner, Public Works Department regarding the pavers for the sidewalk entrance. Mr. Rooney would like to see 6" pavers set in cement.

James Mahoney, Chairman, thanked Mr. Hubble for his presentation. He said that the abutters would be notified about the next Commission meeting. Also, a vote would be taken at the January meeting.

Fran Towle, Commissioner, mentioned that she would be meeting with Dan Driscoll, MDC and Bob Rooney, Commissioner, Public Works Department the last Monday in January.

4. **Field Permit Policy:** Commissioner Towle informed the Commission members that the Field Permit Policy Committee members included Peter Johnson and Francis Rice, Commission Members, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Stephanie Pelkowsky and Tom Cahill both Recreation Managers. Commissioner Towle turned the meeting over to Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, to discuss the policy.

(4)

The information in your packets includes a draft of the Playing Field & Related Facility Permit Policy and a list of groups using the fields. The groups are broken down into 6 groups; Tiers 1,2,3,4,5 and 6. Field permits will begin to be received by February 1st. A policy will need to be in place by February 1st and field permitting and scheduling in place by March 15th. The high schools have preference over the fields. At Weeks, the soccer group has used the same area for the past 6 years, which would come under the tier 3 group. Peter Johnson said that the application fees are not consistent as each tier has a different application fee.

Commissioner Towle suggested that Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis, go over each of the 6 tiers with the members:

- 1) Parks & Recreation sponsored programs, school usage, men's & women's softball.
- 2) Little League & Soccer
- 3) Bay sports, not 60% residents
- 4) Other organizations, outside Newton
- 5) Private camps, clinics
- 6) Non permit user

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that there is no priority within the tiers i.e. 100% Newton residents. Softball is 30% Newton residents. Also, Mr. Mahoney raised the issue of the Commission should think through what the priorities are. Peter Johnson said there are so many different fields, how do you distinguish between adult/youth soccer? Tier I is 100% Newton kids. Deputy Commissioner said that Tom Cahill, Recreation Manager, dealt with all of the groups to the best of his ability and did an excellent job. Also, he has a copy of the fields in use. Robert Platt noticed that in the tier 3 group, the soccer groups paid their coaches. Andrew Stern asked who, if anyone, abuses the privilege. Mr. DeRubeis, said occasionally the fields are abused i.e. kids playing soccer during the rain.

Peter Johnson said that Tom needs to sort out the priorities in writing, as we will need this for future programs. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said that he understands that this is a real headache job and Tom Cahill has done an excellent job in scheduling the fields.

Chairman Mahoney said that a vote should be taken at the January meeting and a copy of the draft should be sent to all commission members before the meeting. The actual field permit process will start in February 2002. Also he said that he finds the 60% number of Newton residents troubling. There should be a priority or 100% Newton residents.

(5)

Doug Dickson asked what happens when a team comes in and does damage to the field. This should be on the policy also. Chairman Mahoney said that anyone who does damage to the fields should have their permit revoked.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commission, also said that when NNHS and NSHS use the fields, the Department receives a schedule in advance so that we do not have a conflict. Also Tom went by the history of the applicant, if the applicant has used the same field for 5 years, chances are he will give them the same field next year.

Alternate Peter Kastner suggested that the system be evaluated at the end of the year.

Commissioner Towle said prior to the next meeting, a draft of the field permit policy will go out to all commission members.

- 5. **Dedication Policy:** Carol Stapleton, Manager, commented about the progress of the dedication policy. She has met with the School Department and other agencies on this. The next meeting will be January 24, 2002, 2:00PM at City Hall. Commission members on the committee include Jennie DeVito and Robert Platt.

- 6. **Community Preservation Act:** Chairman Mahoney said that there would be a 9-member board for the Community Preservation Act. One member from the Commission will be selected to serve on the Community Preservation Act Committee. The purpose of the CPA is to determine the monies raised 1.5 million for the City with a match from the State and recommend how the monies are to be spent. The Board of Aldermen has already passed the ordinance.

The first nomination was from Jennie Devito nominating Peter Kastner. The second nomination was from Francis Rice nominating Robert Platt. Peter Johnson asked about nominating Walter Bernheimer who was not at the meeting this evening.

Peter Kastner said that monies would be set aside in the CPA for open space improvements to recreation lands. Mr. Kastner said the other person who is interested in being a CPA Board member is Walter Bernheimer, who is not here this evening.

Peter Kastner suggested that he and Robert Platt withdraw their nominations and nominate Walter Bernheimer as the Parks and Recreation representative. He stated that Mr. Bernheimer represents the consensus of the commission. Robert Platt took objection stating "Mr. Kastner does not know me and my opinions, I don't think that he should talk for me.

(6)

Peter Kastner should speak for himself. If Peter Kastner wants to cancel his own nomination, that is his opinion." Peter Kastner apologized to Mr. Platt for speaking for him and that he did not mean to impugn anything. He was sorry. At that point Mr. Kastner agreed to have his name withdrawn as a candidate.

Jennie Devito withdrew her nomination for Peter Kastner.

Peter Kastner nominated Walter Bernheimer as a board member for the CPA.

The Chairman passed out pieces of paper so the commission members could vote for either Robert Platt or Walter Bernheimer to be on the Board of the CPA.

Doug Dickson said the Community Preservation Act would have three million dollars in it and a representative from the Commission is needed. There will be a nine-member panel to decide issues/monies, gather a range of information, a big challenge. Making decisions will be a big challenge.

Andrew Stern asked if the two nominees favored the CPA passage. Francis Rice said that the question is totally unfair to ask. You cannot ask who supported it.

Robert Platt said that the CPA is not about open space alone, it is also about affordable housing and other items.

Mr. Platt was also concerned that Mr. Bernheimer was not present to support his nomination. The other members allayed those concerns by pointing out Mr. Bernheimer's merits, specifically his concerns for open space and preservation.

After discussion of Mr. Bernheimer, Chairman Mahoney pointed out the merits of Mr. Platt and the fact that he would be a worthy representative of the Parks & Recreation Commission on the CPA. Chairman Mahoney went on to state that Mr. Platt has worked closely with City officials on a number of projects that have helped to enhance the City of Newton.

Chairman Mahoney said that taking a paper vote is a good process and he feels comfortable with it. Also, Mayor Cohen would like the Commission to recommend a person to be on the CPA Board.

The commission members voted as follows:

Robert Platt	5 votes
Walter Bernheimer	2 votes

Congratulations to Robert Platt for being selected to be on the Community Preservation Act Board.

(7)

Robert thanked everyone and said he is looking forward to serving on the Community Preservation Act Committee.

Chairman Mahoney said that Robert Platt is a very capable person and he thanks him for his willingness to serve on the CPA Board, as he knows that this will be a time consuming position.

Alternate Peter Kastner said that he would like to make the vote for Robert Platt unanimous. Move was made by Peter Kastner to unanimously vote for Robert Platt. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to nominate Robert Platt, from the Parks & Recreation Commission, for board member on the Community Preservation Act Committee.

- 7. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
January 28, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, (new Commission member replacing Josephine Pepper, Ward 6) Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays Secretary

Also attending: Alternates Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner
Absent: Alternate John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the December meeting; Francis Rice motioned to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2001 meeting minutes with a correction on page 3 changing Ward 4 to Ward 6. Jennie Devito seconded the motion. The minutes of the December meeting were accepted 8-0 with the change.**
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Fran Towle informed the commission members that she met with the Executive Department regarding the FY2003 Budget. The FY2003 budget will be presented at the February Commission meeting.

The weather this winter season has been mild. The weather has not been cold enough for ice skating at our outdoor areas. Leaf removal has been done twice on most of our areas due to the good weather. Camp Fair will be February 5, 2002 from 2:00PM to 8:00PM in the War Memorial side of City Hall.

Commissioner Towle, introduced Mark Kelly, new Special Needs Director, to the Commission members. Mark said he is originally from Colorado, and has a Bachelor of Science in Park and Recreation Management and a Masters in Special Education/Concentration; Intensive Special Needs and Therapeutic Recreation Coursework. He has lived in the area for the past four years and worked at Waltham Recreation. Also, he has been doing some student teaching in Colorado. He is extremely pleased in being selected as the Special Needs Manager at the Newton Parks & Recreation Department. He also said that Newton has one of the best Special Needs programs in the country and he is happy to be here.

(3)

James Mahoney, Chairman, asked if the funding has all been lined up. Mr. Driscoll said that they are a little short with the money at this time, however, they will work it out within the next couple of weeks. Chairman Mahoney said that he approves of the dedication to Marty Sender. Marty has been before the Commission on different issues and that he has worked vigorously and effectively on all the committees he has been on. Chairman Mahoney personally thinks that this is a great tribute to Marty.

Francis Rice asked why the pathway is only going to be compact graveled 200' in length. Are there any MDC plans to further the pathway with gravel? Mr. Driscoll said that the MDC's jurisdiction starts at Forest Grove. The MDC cannot put state monies on City owned property to re-do the whole pathway.

Doug Dickson, Newton Conservators, said the path/roadway is not ideal for baby carriages and wheel chairs at this time.

Robert Platt motioned to name the pathway extending from Lyons Park at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Islington Road in Auburndale to Forest Grove in Waltham after Marty Sender, a Newton resident, journalist and environmental activist.

Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to name the pathway extending from Lyons Park at Commonwealth Avenue and Islington Road in Auburndale to Forest Grove Park in Waltham after Marty Sender.

Chairman Mahoney thanked Dan Driscoll, Metropolitan District Commission, for his presentation and request to name the pathway after Marty Sender. He also thanked Jane Sender, Marty's wife, for attending the meeting.

4. **Skateboard Park:** Commissioner Towle said that the skateboard park committee has done their homework, and she turned the meeting over to Susan Erickson, of the Newton Sk8park Committee. Ms. Erickson presented an update of the skateboard park plans. Ms. Erickson presented her committee to the commission members which included; Nick Mead Fox, 5th grader who wrote a letter to Mayor Cohen asking for a skate park, David Mead Fox, Jim Day, Newton North High School student, Mark White, former Alderman, Chris Murphy, teacher at Newton North High School, Merrill Mead Hoff, Ann Hoff and Susan Madden.

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(4)

Ms. Erickson passed out her overview to each commission member. Item I was a welcome and overview. Item II is about rationale, missions and purpose.

The committee's mission is: The mission of the skateboard park is to provide the skaters of Newton with a safe, fun, challenging & appropriate location to practice the sports of skateboarding and in-line skating.

The committee was in touch with different schools regarding the purpose of a skatepark. Chris Murphy a teacher at Newton North High School did a marketing survey of the students with great results. Mr. Murphy received survey replies from 1,400 students and he has put the information on an Excel spreadsheet. He said that the interest in the Skateboard Park has been phenomenal.

The survey revealed that 35% of the students have visited skateboard parks at one time or another. A question was asked about how often the students would go to the skateboard park;

- 34% said weekly
- 19% said monthly
- 8% said yearly
- 5% said never

Of the 1,400 survey returns, 574 said they would use the facility daily! The high schools were not surveyed because the majority of users would be the middle school students.

The committee has the cooperation of the principals in the middle schools. Also, it was predominately boys who responded to the survey.

Douglas Dickson, Conservation Commission, asked if their plans included a proposal for bikes as well. The answer was, they were not planning on it.

Ms. Erickson introduced Jim Day, high school student who said that he has been skateboarding for 7 years. There are three skateboard parks that are excellent, Greenfield, MA, Bourne, MA., and Medway, MA. Over 20,000 square feet of space is needed for the park. Francis Rice asked if there were any buildings for the skateboard sites. He replied only in Greenfield, MA., the park is phenomenal. Waltham Skateboard Park has only 12,000 square feet. He said that Andover has supervision at their skatepark. It was asked if he knew someone who knows how to build skateparks and he did not. However, he did say that a designer and a builder are needed to construct a skateboard park. Costs are approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Susan Erickson said Item II is about the skatepark overview and possible sites on page 9 and 10 per her memorandum to the commission members. The sites include the following;

(5)

- Newton Highlands playground
- New Cold Spring Park
- Albemarle Field
- Cabot Field
- Burr Park playground
- Bobby Braceland Park in Upper Falls
- Old Claflin School
- Forte Park
- Warren School fields
- Old Cold Spring Park
- Newton Centre Playground
- Wellington Park
- Roof of Star/Shaw's Market

Walter Bernheimer mentioned that lighting would reduce the number of sites listed.

Ms. Erickson said that on page 11, is a listing of connecting with City Agencies;

- The Youth Commission
- Planning & Open Space Department
- Newton Community Service Centers
- YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club
- Jewish Community Center
- Brigham House
- Teen Reach
- Principals of Newton North and Newton South High Schools
- Police Department

All of the above agencies are positive and enthusiastic about the proposal.

The committee is discussing the project with them, asking for their support and seeking a letter of endorsement.

George Claflin, the City's Youth Officer spoke in favor of the skatepark.

The Committee has received letter of support from the YMCA and the Boys & Girls Club.

Ms. Erickson said that she hoped these materials prepared for this commission meeting demonstrates the need for a skatepark in Newton. She asked if there were any questions from the commission members.

(6)

Alternate Peter Kastner made a general comment, to look at the sites and make sure they do not adversely effect the neighborhood. Get neighborhood involvement! Amenities make the park nicer. Waltham has a great facility, and notices went out to the neighbors and abutters about that skatepark for their input. The committee is to be commended for the report as they did their homework well.

Ms. Erickson said the committee would tighten up the top three sites on the list and then speak to the neighbors for their input.

Walter Bernheimer said to look at the criteria for the park and then decide on the sites. Old Cold Springs is not an appropriate site, as it is inaccessible and isolated. New Cold Spring would be good if it meets the criteria, especially the lighting. Actually eight or ten of the sites can be eliminated immediately because of no lighting.

Andrew Stern suggested the committee look for a site, check with the residents, do you need supervision, hours, lights, and if seasonal, fees, acoustics, traffic patterns, hours, signage, plans, cost and insurance.

Former Alderman Mark White asked who would be running the skateboard park, if not the City, who and how? Andrew Stern said the first decision is a site. You would need an outline on how the park would be run and worked, and any comments you have on it and go from there.

Chairman Mahoney commented that the committee did their homework and came through with an excellent 1st draft.

Alternate Peter Kastner suggested that the committee go to the Police, Youth Commission, meet with youth groups, get their ideas, comments for a skateboard park.

Robert Platt said he is in favor of the skateboard park, however, the City does not have any monies for it. Also, insurance for the park will be enormous.

Ms. Erickson said she is checking into the insurance cost and if the park needs supervisors, the cost will go up even more.

Walter Bernheimer said that the cost for a skateboard park is \$25,000 and rises to \$200,000. Also, he said that the committee needs a generic design and program plans.

Jennie Devito asked if the plans included toilet facilities. Ms. Erickson said they did not.

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(7)

Chairman Mahoney said the he was moved by the support the skateboard committee has received so far. He suggested that the committee identify 3 sites and go from there. Chairman Mahoney appreciates all of the efforts of the committee and suggested a plan to build, and the raising of monies for the skateboard park. Also, he said that the skateboard park committee has got over most of the initial hurdles.

Walter Bernheimer said the plan should be put in the CIP budget and that the committee should add Pellegrini Park to their list.

Ms. Erickson asked if they came back to the Commission with a design and monies, what happens then.

Chairman Mahoney said they need a site in place before monies are raised. Then get design ideas, and go the neighborhood for their input. Chairman Mahoney asked the committee to come back to the Commission with their proposal and several designs for the park. Also, the Department would notify the neighbors to attend one of the skateboard park meetings. A site, design and financial plans are needed. He thanked the committee for attending the meeting.

5. **Field Policy Proposal:** Chairman Mahoney suggested that the members review the Field Policy Proposal that is in their packets so that the commission members could vote on the policy at the February meeting.

Commissioner Towle noted that applications for field permit policies would start in February and a policy refinement needs to be put in place. She turned the meeting over to Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said that he would go through the policy with the commission members. The major issue is the 100% residency, other than that, there are not many changes.

Chairman Mahoney thought that there were not many changes since the last meeting and that 100% residency in Tier II is important.

Andrew Stern asked if Tiers 4-7 are feasible. Also, we should think about collecting a security deposit. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said that collecting a security deposit is a possibility and an idea to think about.

Steve Fauteux, former Youth Soccer Chairman, said that Newton Youth Soccer has spent over \$700,000 - \$800,000 in monies on city fields. He is urging the members to adopt a field permit policy. He introduced Randy Tucker, President of Newton Youth Soccer and Ted Richie, former President of Girl's Soccer. In reference to using the field in the rain, he directs the coaches not to use the fields when it rained as it damaged the fields.

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Mr. Fauteux said that he has been very supportive of the public private partnership. His concerns about the policy are the impact on the largest user of the fields, Newton Youth Soccer. Mr. Fauteux suggested the following items to be considered/incorporated into the policy; a posting policy is needed, wardens of the parks, and renewal of the soccer fields each year for good behavior. In the fall, the soccer program has over 3,500 children and in the spring over 1,000 children. If the application policy does state 100% Newton children for tier 2, then the soccer group has a problem as a few of the children are not from Newton i.e., families have moved to another town/city and the children continue to play soccer and also the Metco students who play. The 100% residency would affect the youth soccer group out in the spring and the fall.

Mr. Fauteux urges 95% residency. If there were a conflict over little league and soccer, who would get the permit? The way the policy is written, we are not traditional users. The policy should incorporate some sort of recognition of past histories in using the fields. The soccer group has been the largest user of the fields for the past 10-15 years.

Francis Rice said that the Department's Commission could not give carte blanc to a group. If you use 20 fields now, next year you may want 40 fields.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, said that he understands what Mr. Fauteux has said, soccer is a primary user of the Newton fields. Up to now there has been no conflict over the fields. Also, Mr. DeRubeis was asked who abused the fields, and the only one he knew about was an adult soccer group.

Mr. Fauteux asked how the Department intended to enforce the policy when a field is under renovations. Also, how do you know who has a permit for the fields. Mr. DeRubeis said that if a group is on the field and they do not have a permit, then the group who has the permit in hand, would stay on the field. This would be organized use by permit only. Mr. Fauteux said that we need to explore, with the Police Department, the rise in use of groups using the fields without a permit. Mr. Fauteux suggested a person be paid as field warden, 15 hours a week, check the fields, clocks, etc. If people on the field do not have a permit, then the Police should be called. Also, he is worried about the field permit process this season. If you make soccer a user in the spring, you would have to make little league the primary user in the fall. Mr. Fauteux said what about groups who give time and monies into the fields. Walter Bernheimer asked, how could you write that one up?

Alternate Peter Kastner said that Lyons Playground residents were not happy with locked gates on the ballfield. At the end of the year the groups should have a report card on how they abide by the rules, i.e. report card, and any damage that was done to the fields during the season.

Francis Rice said it is impossible to police all groups. There are other sports besides soccer and little league that use the fields.

Chairman Mahoney said that some of the issues here are, back off the 100% residency, in season issue, enforcement and posting issue, 1 field per season and a record of the violations during the season.

Andrew Stern asked if there was a preference in who takes care of the fields. Chairman Mahoney said the Parks & Recreation's Maintenance Department takes care of the fields.

Jennie DeVito asked Mr. Fauteux if he had any problems in asking for fields in the past and he said no.

Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said that organized use of fields requires a permit. Drop-ins can use the fields, as it is public land. A legally issued permit does take preference over drop in use on any site or playsurface.

Chairman Mahoney said the commission would take all comments into account and the field permit policy will be reviewed again at the February meeting.

- 6. **Update Memorial/Dedication Policy:** Commissioner Towle introduced Carol Stapleton, Manager. Ms. Stapleton reported to the Commission on the newly formed committee which is reviewing recommendations to be made to the commission on memorials on Parks & Recreation lands.

The committee members, Walter Bernheimer, Jenny DeVito and Robert Platt met with Carol Schein, Adopt A Space Coordinator and Michael Rourke, Chief Administrative Office from the Mayor's office.

Discussion centered around a recommendation to produce a "menu" type of approach for residents who wish to put in a bench and or a plaque or flowers and trees. The Department would issue a listing of accepted items i.e., certain types of benches, size measurements for plaques and recommended types of trees for areas throughout the City.

(10)

The committee would have ongoing meetings and hopefully come back to the commission with a sample of a brochure that would show these types of items for residents to choose from when inquiring about purchasing of these types of items.

Carol was polling other cities and town across the State to see if any other communities had memorial policies in effect for these purposes.

Meeting adjourned 9:18PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
February 25, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Michael Clarke and John Bourgeois

1. **Minutes of the January meeting;** Francis Rice motioned to accept the minutes with one minor change on page 6, 4th paragraph, change to read: Andrew Stern thanked the skateboard park committee for clarifying the measurements on the site footage. Andrew Stern seconded the motion. The minutes of the January meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0 with the minor change.
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Towle commented on the relatively mild weather that we have had this winter season. There were only 4 small snowstorms this season and the weather was not cold long enough for outdoor ice-skating.
 - **Winter-Spring 2002 Brochure:** The Department is very proud of our new Winter-Spring 2002 brochure, which includes all of the Departments winter-spring activities. We are trying to communicate our activities for consumers through schools and various centers. Our goal is to mail the brochures out to each household. The brochure has a new design and a volunteer from the Mayor's office programmed it into the computer. The brochure includes; programs/activities, parks & playgrounds, recreation areas/facilities, fields, buildings, phone numbers and a check off list for residents to mail in for brochures.
 - **Skateboard Park:** Commissioner Towle spoke with Susan Erickson, co-chair of the Newton Sk8Park Committee, and the members of the committee will be at the March 18th Commission meeting with information on design, cost, type of program, support and fund-raising. The committee meets every two weeks to discuss the skateboard park and are very enthusiastic about progress they are making.

(2)

- **February School Vacation:** During February school vacation, Newton North Indoor Complex was open during the afternoon, there was a Cinderella puppet show at Newton North High School Auditorium and 3 movies at the West Newton Cinema, which included Monster, Inc. Harry Potter and Jimmy Neutron for the children and parents.
- **Director of Forestry Resume Applications:** The Department has been without a Director of Forestry since last March. Butch DeSimone, Assistant Director of Maintenance been filling in the void and has done a wonderful job. Also, staff and myself have been filling in the gap. Over 600 letters and job brochures went out to forestry personnel throughout the state. Applications were sent directly to Human Resources. The deadline for returning resumes was February 22nd. Resumes received were thirteen. Interviews for the Director of Forestry position will start in March.
- **Dedication Richard McGrath:** Joan McGrath has been meeting with me regarding the dedication of the Warren Jr. High playing fields after the late Richard J. McGrath, Alderman-at-Large, Ward 4. Commissioner Towle handed out "draft" copies of the proposed, Mahogany, handcarved sign that the family would like to have installed at Warren. Tentative date for the dedication is Sunday, May 5th. The sign would be placed after the tennis courts, in the grove area, and will blend in with the surroundings. The family is raising monies for the sign. Carol Stapleton, Manager and Carol Schein, Adopt A Space Coordinator, are working with Joan McGrath on this project.

Peter Kastner asked if the sign could be more descriptive, years of service with the Board of Aldermen, and as to who Dick was. Francis Rice and Jennie DeVito both suggested a plaque on the side of the building with more descriptive information on it. Robert Platt said that it was a good idea because in 20 years, how would anybody know who Dick was. Peter Johnson suggested dates be put on the plaque as to when Dick was an alderman. Also, he asked why not a green sign like the others.

Commissioner Towle said that the sign the family picked out would blend in with the area. Joan McGrath and members of her family looked at the signs throughout the City and chose the one that is a cranberry/beige color. Commissioner Towle said that she was very pleased with the sign design. Chairman Mahoney said that there was no need to vote on the sign.

- **Millennium Park:** Last Tuesday, the Board of Aldermen discussed Millennium Park. After a long discussion the Board of Aldermen voted 13 in favor, 6 opposed to the Millennium Park Plans. Alderman Paul Colletti voted in favor of the plan and then asked for a re-consideration vote. The item will be voted on again at the March 4th, 2002 Board of Aldermen meeting.

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- **Horace Mann Playground:** There have been several newspaper articles about the play equipment at the Horace Mann Playground. On Saturday, February 9th, David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance instructed his work crews to take out a few pieces of equipment at Memorial Spaulding playground and the Horace Mann playground. The unsafe play equipment was taken out at Memorial Spaulding. The crew then went to the Horace Mann Playground where they took out the geodesic dome, which the principal knew about, however, he did not know about the sandbox, horizontal bar, slide and spring animals which were deemed unsafe, would be taken out.

Commissioner Towle said that a city playground audit was just completed. During the city audit, which was done by a consultant that was hired by the Department, it was found that the horizontal bar and the slide were deemed unsafe. As the crew was taking down the equipment, a Mr. Betts of the playground committee came into the area where the men were working.

Mr. Betts was extremely upset and wanted the work to stop. One of the workers called David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance to the site and explained the situation. Mr. Mandatori called the Police to let them know what was going on. The Police and Mr. Mandatori talked with Mr. Betts and explained the situation. Mr. Betts left and returned with a camera and took pictures of everything. Mr. Mandatori asked the workers to take out the rest of the equipment that they were working on, as the area could not be left in an unsafe condition.

The City will provide \$12,500 from its Marathon Recreation Reserve fund to help in this effort to replace the play equipment. The school playground committee is also raising monies for new play equipment.

Commissioner Towle will be meeting with the playground safety committee to discuss the cost of repairs to play equipment at the city playgrounds. The audit of the City play equipment by a consultant was \$25,000.

Also, Commissioner Towle reported that David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, had the authority to take out the unsafe play equipment, as he attended a 3-day seminar on unsafe play equipment. However, we need to have a better line of communication in notifying the principal of the school about the other pieces of equipment that were taken out that day. We have corrected this situation for the future in the taking out of unsafe play equipment.

(4)

Peter Kastner asked if Mr. Mandatori should have notified Commissioner Towle prior to the taking out of equipment. Commissioner Towle said that Mr. Mandatori was qualified and trained on unsafe play equipment and that he had the authority to take it out. Robert Platt said that the workers were only doing what they were supposed to do. Francis Rice said that the situation was solved and handled correctly.

Commissioner Towle said that Mr. Betts was coming to the office to take a look at the Department's paperwork on play equipment. In the packets is an apology letter from Mayor Cohen and Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis to Joseph Russo, Principal of the Horace Mann School about the removal of the equipment in the tot lot adjacent to the school.

Chairman Mahoney said that it looks like the situation has been rectified, and a plan is in place so this does not happen again.

- **New Recreation Manager:** The Department has hired a new Recreation Manager, Channon Ames, who will be introduced at the March meeting.

3. **Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 18th, Commission Meeting.**

4. **Budget 2003:** Commissioner Towle informed the commission members that \$104,000 has been cut from the Parks & Recreation Department budget. In the budget books, note that on page 5 is the fiscal summary of 2002/03 budget and on page 6 & 7 is a listing of the items that were cut from the budget.

Fiscal Budget 2003

Recreation Administration	\$ 673,145
Pool and Lake	\$ 164,032
Outdoor Activities	\$ 57,339
Indoor Activities	\$ 100,894
Support of Recreation Activities	\$ 2,500
Special Needs Activities	\$ 106,699
Maintenance of Vehicles	\$ 140,882
Emerson Center	\$ 31,684
Hamilton Center	\$ 34,835
Cultural Activities	\$ 79,147
Senior Adult Activities	\$ 19,405
Care of Buildings & Adjacent Grounds	\$ 233,321
Care of Public Grounds	\$1,553,723
Forestry	\$ 342,321
Control of Snow & Ice	\$ 35,110
Tree Emergencies	\$ 42,264
Fringe Benefits	\$ 256,881

Total **\$3,874,182**

(5)

Budget Cuts included the following:

Administrative Salaries	\$ 10,518
General Service Salaries	\$ 40,675
Permanent part-time Assistant	\$ 2,259
Seasonal/Temporary Wages	\$ 12,453
Longevity	\$ 1,975
Work by Other Departments	\$ 2,000
R&M Public Property	\$ 13,633
Cleaning/Custodial Services	\$ 2,500
Instructors	\$ 4,400
Umpires/Referees	\$ 6,200
Ground Care Supplies/Trees	\$ 5,000
Rec. Program Supplies	\$ 2,500
Total	\$ 104,103

Commission Towle said that some of the cuts included administrative salaries, 2 managers left in September, mechanic retired, part time special needs assistant left, Hyde-Out- run program by fees, eliminate 1 bathhouse attendant at Crystal Lake, cut leadership at Newton Centre tennis, raised tennis fees at Newton Centre, charge more for senior trips, Arts in the Parks to increase tot program fee, charge for field markings after season is over, off berm Tree planting, decrease # of trees planted.

Also, the Department is allotted so much for snow monies. If the snow monies run out, the Department will need to go before the Board of Aldermen for the extra snow monies.

Motion was made by Francis Rice to approve the Parks & Recreation FY03 Budget. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Parks & Recreation FY03 Budget.

5. **Millennium Park:** Chairman Mahoney explained that the Board of Aldermen approved Millennium Park and Alderman Coletti asked for a reconsideration vote. This means that the Alderman would vote on it again at the next Board of Aldermen meeting on March 4, 2002.

Peter Kastner asked, that in the fall, the commission review the Millennium Park process and how it worked, and what we need to do to improve it.

6. **Field Permit Policy:** Committee includes; Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis, Managers Tom Cahill and Stephanie Pelkowsky, Commission members Francis Rice and Peter Johnson. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis distributed the latest version of the field permit policy, which was completed late today. The Deputy Commissioner reported that most of the changes to the Field Permit Policy are grammatical in nature. Tier II is now 95% instead of 100%, which was discussed at the last commission meeting.

Guests Steve Fauteux and Ted Ritchie, Newton Youth Soccer, attended the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis mentioned that in Tier II, soccer would be kept in season. If soccer were put in for the spring season, it would overlap and cause problems for the spring season schedule.

Steve Fauteux thanked the Department for their support of Youth Soccer. He said that Youth Soccer has used the same fields for the past 6 years during the season. What will happen this year?

Francis Rice said that a lot of work has gone into the field permit policy and the commission members should consider passing the policy. Also, Tom Cahill, Manager, has done a great job of drafting a new field policy.

Peter Kastner mentioned that final say in the policy should read that if there is a "conflict in field space" it should be up to the discretion of the commission or commissioner. Chairman Mahoney said that Mr. Kastner has a good point. If an adult softball league permit should come up against Youth Soccer League, who would get preference. Need guidelines on this. If a policy is in place we need to stand by it.

Motion was made by Francis Rice to approve the Field Permit Policy.

Steve Fauteux said that Youth Soccer is the second largest user of fields in the spring. Why not consider soccer a traditional user.

Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis explained that in the second bullet on the first page of the field permit policy, that soccer is listed as a fall season sport. If baseball (95%) and soccer both applied for a permit in the spring, baseball would get the permit.

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Steve Fauteux asked how the field permit policy would be enforced. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis explained that if a league does not have a permit to use the field, then the league with the permit gets the field. Mr. Fauteux suggested a telephone hotline to call and find out if the field can be used, i.e. rain, so that the fields would not be damaged. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said, if there are problems with procedural issues, it will be posted at the sites.

Andrew Stern asked about cost of damages to the fields by abusers. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said that he did not have with him an exact figure and that the repairs to the fields would be done in-house.

Chairman Mahoney said that an enormous amount of work was done on the field permit policy in the past few months. He appreciates the amount of work involved, the time spent on the permit and the input of everyone involved. It is important to finalize the field permit this evening.

Peter Johnson said that with the field policy in place, the person assigning the fields has a back up in writing. Peter Johnson seconded the motion to accept the field permit policy.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to accept the Field Permit Policy.

7. **Dedication Policy:** Manager Carol Stapleton reported to the commission that the committee is still working on the dedication policy. A draft of the proposal is available for the Commission to review and hopefully, by the next meeting. A more detailed recommendation will be completed.
8. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
March 18, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, Alternate Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Michael Clarke and John Bourgeois

Also attending: Carol Stapleton and Channon Ames, Managers

1. **Minutes of the February meeting:** Francis Rice motioned to accept the minutes of the February meeting. Andrew Stern seconded the motion. The minutes of the February meeting were accepted unanimously 8-0.
2. **Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Towle reported on the status of the Director of Forestry position. The first round of interviews will be held during the week of March 20th. The staff has been busy planning programs for the April school vacation week which will include "Fantastic April Vacation." Also, the Youth Race will be Sunday, April 14th at 12:00PM.

Commissioner Towle introduced a new member of our staff, Channon Ames, Manager, who replaced Sheila Butts.

Ms. Ames explained to the Commission members that she graduated from Springfield College in 2001 and also attended Greenfield Community College, Sacred Heart University and University of Massachusetts. Chanson believes that everyone should recreate, from tots to seniors. She is looking forward to being an integral part of the Newton Parks & Recreation Department

Commissioner Towle discussed the weather, not much snow this season, the fields should be ready for play soon as per the Superintendent of Maintenance, and David Mandatori and Tom Cahill will coordinate the openings for field play.

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Alternate Peter Kastner asked about the playground audit, he was interested in the metal submarine at the Auburndale playground. He would like to see this particular piece of equipment saved as a preservation piece. The submarine has been around for a long, long time. Commissioner Towle said that if this piece of equipment is slated for removal, that she would let Peter know and involve him in the saving of this piece.

Also, Commissioner Towle mentioned that the Playground Safety Committee included Health Department, School Department, David Mandatori, and Superintendent of Maintenance, Stephanie Pelkowsky, and Manager. Both Mr. Mandatori and Ms. Pelkowsky are have taken the Certified Playground Safety Institute course. Ms. Pelkowsky and Mr. Mandatori will work with the school principals and the PTO's regarding the taking out of play equipment and the replacement costs. Some of the PTO's have monies set aside for new playground equipment and repairs.

- 3. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** The gavel was turned over to Commissioner Fran Towle for election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Robert Platt nominated James Mahoney for Chairman. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

Francis Rice mentioned that years ago the Chairman was elected for two terms only. Walter Bernheimer said that James Mahoney has done a fabulous job as Chairman through the years.

Walter Bernheimer nominated Peter Johnson for Chairman. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

Commissioner Towle said that there were two candidates for Chairman, James Mahoney and Peter Johnson.

With no other nominations for Chairman the commission members voted 6-2 to elect James Mahoney as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. The two opposing votes were Jennie DeVito and Walter Bernheimer.

Francis Rice nominated Peter Johnson for Vice Chairman. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

With no other nominations, the commission members voted 8-0 to elect Peter Johnson Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Congratulations to both James Mahoney and Peter Johnson on their re-elections to the Parks & Recreation Commission as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

4. **Dedication Policy:** Dedication policy to be discussed at the next meeting.
5. **Skateboard Park:** Commissioner Towle said that Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner has met with the Sk8Park Committee. Commissioner Towle introduced Susan Erickson from the Sk8Park Committee. Ms. Erickson introduced the people she brought with her this evening; Charlie Wilkins, nationally known skateboarder and our advisor for the skate park, Jim Day, Chris Murphy, Ann Hochberg, Susan Madden, Phil Mead-Fox, Bill Madden, Dan Chebot, George Claflin, Joan & Russ Wiggins and Andrew Phillips. Also, she said this was their third meeting with commission members.

Ms. Erickson gave the commission members colored photo's of a million-dollar skatepark in Arizona. Commission members have a copy of the Sk8Park Committee's agenda and information in their packets. Ms. Erickson talked with other town & cities that have skateboard parks including Waltham, Peabody, Fitchburg, Brockton, Braintree, Boston and others about building a skateboard park.

The Sk8Park agenda includes; items 1-5 on handout, design, budget, management, fundraising, letter to Aldermen, fundraising strategies, rally at Newton North High School. At the next meeting she would like to discuss safety, liability questions and benefits.

Jim Day, discussed what the park would look like per a diagram. Ms. Erickson introduced Charles Wilkins, professional skateboarder. Mr. Wilkinson described the skateboard park in Arizona, see photos, which is a million-dollar skateboard park. He mentioned that concrete is the best to use and people who specialize in skateboard parks would need to be contacted/hired for this park. The concrete is blown in, and is expensive, there would be a small drain in the center to take care of the rain, etc. With cement there is less maintenance. This drain has a very fine grating and would not effect the skaters. He said that the one in Newburyport is a fine example of a skateboard park.

Chairman Mahoney asked if the park would be for skateboarders only. Ms. Erickson said it would be designed for in-line skaters and skateboarders.

It was asked if the park would need repairs and Susan Erickson suggested skateboard volunteers who would notify the Skateboard Park Association of any repairs. However, in the long run, the City would be responsible for repairing the skateboard park.

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(4)

Two skateboard park enthusiasts, school age children, made displays of two skateboard parks and showed them to the commission members. Walter Bernheimer said that they did a great job and hoped that they would get extra points for doing this project. He also mention that flaws never get corrected, so if the park is to take place, make sure it is done right. Ted Wiggin a Brown Middle School student read his own letter as to why there should be a skateboard park in Newton.

Susan Erickson spoke with an Alderman from Nashua, New Hampshire who said their skateboard park was one of the best recreation projects that the city has. Also, he would be happy to come to Newton to discuss this project.

Andrew Stern asked if the skateboard park would be fenced in. Ms. Erickson said that some are and some are not. In their proposed budget, \$2,000 is set aside for 4 lampposts with minimal safety lighting. It will be \$20.00 a square foot for the park. Funds needed for the park would be approximately \$600,000.

Francis Rice said that special engineering firms should be contacted for the skateboard park and the committee will also need an architect.

Andrew Stern asked about the size of the pavilion shed and was told that it was 4' by 12'. This would hold vending machines.

Ms. Erickson said that annual income from the Skatepark Association would be from an annual reception/cookout, exhibition and competition, annual contribution from Pepsi Cola and general contributions amounting to \$23,000. Annual expenses would be \$23,000. On pages 5,6,7 is information about the management of the skatepark.

Francis Rice asked what three skateboard park locations the committee has chosen. She was hoping that the commission members would help her out on this and suggest a site. Ms. Erickson said Newton Highlands Playground, Albemarle and Old Cold Spring Park at the end of Dunklee were their options. Walter Bernheimer said that Old Cold Spring Park would not be a good site as it is built on peat, and the street would be too narrow of emergency vehicles to get there. Also, there is no parking at that location. Ms. Erickson read a list of sites they have chosen, however, the number one site is Newton Highlands Playground.

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Chairman Mahoney asked about monies for this project. Ms. Erickson explained possible contributions from the City which included monies from the Community Preservation Act Funds, contribution of labor and heavy equipment from Public Works Department to prep site, contribution of labor from Public Work Department to landscape finished site and Marathon/Playground funds to help build park. Ms. Erickson said that on page 10 is a list of fundraising ideas, events and possible donors to skateboard park.

Walter Bernheimer mentioned that the timing was not ideal on how to get the city to incorporate skateboard park monies into their budget.

Ms. Erickson commented that the hardest part of this project is choosing a site for the skateboard park. There is a lot of interest in the park and people will turn out when a project involves children. Ms. Erickson feels that one more meeting with the commission is needed and the committee will then discuss safety and liability. Also, the committee is thinking about holding a skateboard park rally. The skateboard park would be owned and operated by the Parks & Recreation Department, supported by the skateboard park association. The park would be open 9:00AM to sundown and free of charge. The park would be fenced in with a gate to be locked at night. Safety equipment is highly recommended for everyone.

Francis Rice said that the location of the skateboard park is most important. Walter Bernheimer said that if one site did not work out, choose another site. Former Alderman Mark White mentioned that a site in the center of the City would be ideal with lots of visibility.

George Claflin, police officer for the past 14 years, is proud to be on the skateboard park committee and will do his part for the project, including many hurdles and obstacles. He is proud to be on this committee. We appreciate your input and suggestions. Also, he thinks the aldermen should be informed of the plans for the skateboard park. He thanks the commission members for their suggestions.

Susan Madden, skateboard park committee, gave the commission members a "draft" letter from the skateboard park committee to the Board of Aldermen. The letter is to inform the Board of Aldermen of the committee's plans for the possibility of building a skatepark in Newton.

Walter Bernheimer said that the committee should enlist the support of the Board of Aldermen and have a site in mind. Also, he suggested that they hold off on a rally until after the override vote and think about the process and funding.

(6)

Chairman Mahoney said that he was concerned that the committee is looking for a larger skateboard park than the original one. Ms. Madden said that the one they are now considering would be the size of 4 tennis courts. Also, he said that that the committee will require approval from other city agencies; Design Review, Law Department, Planning, Engineering, Land Use, Conservation Commission, Programs & Services and Board of Aldermen.

Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said that according to the commission's policy on Alteration of Lands, two meeting would be required before approval The first meeting would be to discuss the proposal presentation, discussion and public comment. The second meeting will be for commission discussion and vote. Abutters to the site would have to be notified of the meeting.

Ms. Erickson asked the commission to request the Law Department to respond to their skateboard packet request regarding the status of park design, management and safety rules. Also, she suggested a rally be held to let people know about the proposed skateboard park. Jennie DeVito suggests they wait until the April override vote is taken. At the Newton Highlands site there are old tennis and basketball courts, could the skateboard park be put on top of this. Robert Platt, suggested they contact the aldermen on this proposal.

Chairman Mahoney said the proposal would need to be sent to the Law Department. Jennie DeVito suggest a cover letter needs to be sent to the Law Department with the proposal and a specific site for the skateboard park. Also Ms. Erickson said that they would like to be on the April Commission agenda.

Chairman Mahoney mentioned that the committee has come a long way in a short period of time. I commend the committee for their progress and enthusiasm.

- 6. **New Business:** Robert Platt said that unfortunately, he does not have the time to be a member of the CPA Community Preservation Act. He suggested that perhaps Andrew Stern, Walter Bernheimer or Peter Kastner might be interested in being on the CPA committee. He proposed that this item be included on the April commission meeting agenda. Mr. Platt said that there was a meeting this Thursday evening and could a member of the commission volunteer to attend. Andrew Stern volunteered to attend the Thursday evening CPA meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 22, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, John Bourgeois, Alternate. Absent Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

- 1. Minutes of the March meeting:** Francis Rice motioned to accept the minutes of the March meeting. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted unanimously 8-0.
- 2. Commissioner's Reports of Programs and Maintenance:** Commissioner Towle reported on the little league openings April 27th, senior baseball and girls softball has started, between 40-50 fields have been prepared by our maintenance division for all of the games in Newton. In reference to the playground apparatus, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager and David Mandatori, Director of Maintenance, have been working with the principals and PTO's of the schools. Commissioner Towle introduced Stephanie for her report. In part, Stephanie's report was as follows: "David Mandatori and myself are working on information from the playground audits and playground safety committee. There are 40 playgrounds that will need to be fixed, 20 of them are school playgrounds, new equipment is being ordered, and we need to make sure they are up to code on the play equipment. Guidelines need to be set up with the schools, as their playgrounds will need to be done in a timely manner. Angier and Mason Rice have ordered their materials. Burr and Cabot have plans, Lincoln Eliot needs cost estimates.(see page 2 or Stephanie's report) Carr School has no report as yet because other schools are using that playground. Meetings are planned for Peirce, Zervas, Countryside and Bowen Schools.

(2)

David Mandatori and I visit the site, get a cost estimate and wait for the materials to come in. Very time consuming. I have met with the school nurses regarding injuries and their reports to our department. Also, I anticipate moving forward on this project starting with the schools first. My goal for the schools is the end of this school year. Commissioner Towle said that Stephanie has done an excellent job on the playground safety update, she is very pleased with the progress. Chairman Mahoney thanked Stephanie for her report."

Deputy Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, commented on the IPM (Integrated Pest Management): Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis meets each month with the IPM committee. He reported that at two sites, Weeks Field and Nahanton Park, a herbicide was applied to control the grubs. This took place April 15th. The herbicide is in granular form and will be used in the affected areas and will be fenced off and posted for a period of 72 hours after the application. The material will be watered into the soil. Commissioner Towle showed colored photos of the grubs at work at the Auburndale Cove. The photo shows where the grubs, crows and skunks ate the infield. If there are 10-12 grubs per square foot, then an herbicide application needs to be put down. The name of the herbicide is Merit. Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis said that the neighbors were notified in both areas of the herbicide application.

Commission Towle reported on the school week vacation programs during the week of April 16th which included; Outdoor Adventure with fishing, birdwatching, etc., bowling, games, prizes, lunch, Laser Tag, games, eat out, woodworking, soccer clinic at Burr Park, golf, make your own sundaes and 3 movies.

The Marathon was held on Monday, April 15th and clean up was done on Tuesday morning in record time by the Parks & Recreation's Maintenance Department.

On Sunday, May 5th at 2:00PM the dedication to Richard J. McGrath will be held at Warren Fields. Everyone is invited to attend. Commissioner Towle will be acting as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Andrew Stern attended the last Community Preservation meeting, which included examining proposals for recommendation for housing, space and recreation. A process needs to be developed and presented to the Board of Aldermen. Also, proposals will need to go to the Planning Department for a presentation about concerns and acquisitions to handle the new proposals. The committee is going full speed ahead, with public hearings being held in September.

(3)

3. **Youth Awards Presentations:** To be held in the Board of Aldermen Chambers at 7:00PM prior to the May 20th Commission Meeting. Manager's Mary Brown and Carol Stapleton are working on the awards.

4. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Request for Wednesday, July 17th through Sunday, July 21st at Pellegrini Park:** Committee members attending, Nunzio Leone and Tony Gentile. Aldermen in attendance, Scott Lennon, Carleton Merrill and Anthony Salvucci.

Commissioner Towle introduced Nunzio Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Society: Mr. Leone said that he was here to apply for the permit to use Pellegrini Park for their Annual Fiesta on July 17th to July 21st. Set up would be Monday, July 15th and take down is Monday, July 22nd and half a day on Tuesday, July 23rd. The society will be requesting sale of beer and wine through the city's licensing process during carnival operations. (Society's letter request in folders)

Mr. Leone said that he met with Commissioner Towle regarding the carnival process and went over all the instructions, insurance, ferris wheel ride and the need to check with Law Department.

Alderman Scott Lennon was there to show his support for the Carnival and to work with the Commission members, if necessary, on this project.

Robert Platt recommended the proposal from the St. Mary of Carmen Society. Also, he suggested that an ambulance may need to be present at all times on the field, based on new state regulations.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the St. Mary of Carmen Society request. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the request from the St. Mary of Carmen Society to hold their carnival on Pellegrini Playground From July 17th to July 21st, subject to all the applicable rules and regulations.

Mr. Leone thanked the commission for approving the St. Mary of Carmen request for a carnival.

Mr. Marini, resident, asked that the Parks & Recreation Department maintenance keep Pellegrini Park clean of bottles, cups, and debris that is dropped there daily.

(4)

Alderman Anthony Salvucci, on behalf of American Legion Post 440, asked about having their picnic at Pellegrini Park with liquor: Commissioner Towle said that liquor is banned from all parks in Newton unless they have obtained all permits allowing the possession or consumption of alcohol in accordance with the Alcohol Policy. Also, the Auburndale Cove is a better-suited area for alcohol at picnics.

Alderman Salvucci mentioned that the Parks & Recreation Department seniors use the Post 440 in the summer time, free, for the Thursday senior dances. He would like a sound, logical reason, as to why the Commission will not allow the Post 440 to have their annual picnic at Pellegrini Park (Hawthorn Playground.)

Commissioner Towle said that we had discussions and a policy in place last year for consuming alcohol on public lands with an alcohol permit.

Francis Rice said that we have already had several meetings on alcohol, a policy was put in place and that the logical place to have the Post 440 picnic is Auburndale Cove. The cove area and numerous picnic tables, parking, next to the water, and has tennis courts and a ballfield.

Robert Platt said that the commission has had many long meetings on the alcohol policy issue and a precedent has been set per the alcohol policy. If we allow one group to use Pellegrini Playground, what happens when other groups want the same thing.

Alderman Salvucci said that a lot of people that would be attending the picnic at Pellegrini Park are from the Nonantum area, it is a family picnic and would be held on a Sunday. He wants a sound logical reason as to why Post 440 cannot hold their picnic at Pellegrini Playground. It is a local park with local people attending. Also, he asked how many incidents have already occurred while drinking beer at park locations.

Alderman Carlton Merrill said that the Veterans/Post 440 has done a lot for the City and the Department, and Post 440 is congressionally chartered. He would like to see the Post 440 picnic at Pellegrini Park.

James Mahoney, Chairman, said that an exception could be made and he was inclined to grant this exception, because of what the Post 440 group does for the community given traditions in other years.

Walter Bernheimer said that the Post 440 annual picnics if they were formerly held at Pellegrini Park for a number of years, could be grandfathered in.

(5)

Robert Platt said that if the commission permits the Post 440 picnic that we would have a problem with the Fire/Police picnics also.

Jennie Devito said that she would like to make an exception in this case. She realizes that the neighbors put up with the carnival, however, she feels like she is sitting on a fence knowing both sides of the issue.

Commissioner Towle asked Alderman Salvucci how many picnics Post 440 has had at Pellegrini Park. Alderman Salvucci said he did not know. Commissioner Towle said last year Post 440 applied for a permit but did not use it. Post 440 had one picnic at Pellegrini Park and all the others at the Auburndale Cove. Alderman Salvucci did not have the Post 440 permit with him.

Gwen Fineberg said that she had mixed feelings about this issue and can understand a local group wanting to use a local park.

Commissioner Towle said that two groups applied for picnic/alcohol permits last year, however they did not go through with them.

Chairman Mahoney said that a lot of work went into the alcohol policy, however, an exception could be made.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, said that other towns and cities were surveyed and they do not allow liquor on public playgrounds.

Alderman Merrill said that Post 440 consuming a few beers at Pellegrini Playgrounds should not be a problem.

Francis Rice said that if the Post 440 picnic was held at Pellegrini Park, there is always the problem of parking, beer cans, people staying late, etc.

Jennie DeVito motioned that the Commission make an exception to the alcohol policy and allow Post 440 to use Pellegrini Playground for their annual picnic with alcohol.

Tentative date for picnic would be August 11th with a rain date of August 24th.

Andrew Stern asked if it was possible to have a family picnic with out alcohol.

Walter Bernheimer said members of the Post 440 would come from all over the City, not just the Nonantum area.

(6)

Peter Johnson asked what about other groups that would want to use Pellegrini Park. Chairman Mahoney said that we would have to decide on that. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 5 for, 2 opposed (Andrew Stern and Peter Johnson) and 1 abstaining (Robert Platt) to allow the Post 440 to hold their annual picnic with liquor at Pellegrini Playground.

- 5. **Skateboard Park:** Commissioner Towle introduced Susan Erickson of the Newton Skateboard Park Committee. Committee members attending were: Eric Bean, Nick Mead-Fox, Mr. Madden, Charles Wilkins, David Mead-Fox and Merrill Mead-Fox. Ms. Erickson mentioned that the committee called the aldermen in the area regarding the plans for the Skateboard Park. In the report is information on Safety and Liability for the park.

Commissioner Towle said the liability for the skateboard park needs to be checked with Dan Funk, Law Department. Robert Platt said if passed, the Parks & Recreation Department would need to maintain it, have a maintenance schedule, fencing, lock/gate, would need proper signage at the park and check on the noise levels.

Commissioner Towle said that she checked with the Law Department and charging a fee would increase liability. We are however, responsible for the regular maintenance of the skateboard park. Also, if we supervise the park, we are open to liability.

Ms. Erickson said that the noise from the skateboard parks is usually under the noise level of other activities on the parks.

John Bourgeois, Alternate Commission member, asked assuming the criteria is met, if someone gets injured, whom do they sue. Former Alderman Mark White said that the City would be liable only if the City was negligent.

Ms. Erickson said that in the addendum on page 4 is information from Officer John Panica, Youth Officer, Newton Police Department regarding his support. If the override is not passed Cops/Kids will be cut for 150 children. The Police Department received 2-3 call a week on skateboarders and most are annoyance calls. The Police Force is in favor of a skateboard park in Newton. Also, the police would keep an eye on the skateboard park.

(7)

Eric Beam, who has been a skater for 13 years, spoke about how skateboarding is good for children, they can do tricks, teach others, good sport, encourages self-esteem benefits from the other skateboarders. Some kids do not play soccer, baseball, etc, so that this would a good sport for them and raise their self-esteem.

Scott Dupree from the Boston Parks & Recreation Department spoke about the two Boston skateboard parks that they have. One in Hyde Park and one on the waterfront (30,000 square feet). Also, Boston takes care of 300 parks. The first skateboard park was built on the waterfront is not as successful as the one in Hyde Park. Mr. Dupree checks the parks once a week for cleanliness, and maintenance. He said the parks are very clean, the skateboarders pick up after themselves and also empty the barrels themselves. The patrons are self-policing and are all ages. The skatepark in Hyde Park borders several businesses. The businesses were worried about the skateboards and vandalism; however, the businesses now have no problem with them causing destruction/vandalism. Good for business, they said!

Chairman James Mahoney asked if there were any projections before the park was built. Mr. Dupree said no and learned everything from experience. Most people did not want the parks in their areas. The park in Hyde Park encompasses 6 acres. It was made of poured concrete and cost \$300,000. He said they might re-do the one in East Boston, as it is not as popular as the one in Hyde Park. Chairman Mahoney asked where the skaters come from and Mr. Dupree stated; besides Boston, they come from all over. The facilities are open from dawn to dusk. Andrew Stern asked about maintenance costs to the parks. Mr. Dupree said there are some worn marks in the concrete, but they are from the bicycles. Little maintenance is involved. The bicycles are banned from the parks in general. Chairman Mahoney thanked Mr. Dupree for coming to the meeting.

Ms. Erickson said that the skateboard park in Nashua, New Hampshire is comparable to the one that they want to build in Newton. The Alderman from Nashua, would be happy to attend one of our commission meetings regarding the skateboard park.

Ms. Erickson asked where the committee should go from here. Chairman Mahoney suggested the committee focus on "site", proposal, design, agenda, notify neighbors about a special meeting, inform the alderman and give a brief presentation at a special commission meeting for the skatepark. They should allow people to speak out at the meeting, get their input, plan a fall meeting and the Commission will consider their proposal. If supported it would be contingent on design, financial plan and then go to the Design Selection Committee, Law Department, Planning Department, and then to the Board of Aldermen for their consideration, findings, donations and fund-raising aspects.

Chairman Mahoney said that the committee has done an excellent job so far in putting together the skateboard park proposal.

Ms. Erickson said that the committee is not set with an actual plan as yet, just a proposal design which is in their March 12th Memorandum. Also, safety rules will need to be added. The committee has attained 501CL3 for fundraising.

Walter Bernheimer suggested the committee check their plans and site and make sure the skatepark will fit in the area they choose.

Francis Rice said that no city monies are involved.

Alderman Salvucci mentioned that Millennium Park raised their monies and it went before the Board of Alderman where it was slapped down but finally approved. He suggested that the skateboard park committee let the Board of Aldermen know what their plans are. He said that Parks & Recreation Department budget does not have enough monies now to even cut the grass. Also, he said, make sure their site for the skateboard park is approved. Awareness is a good thing.

Chairman Mahoney said the skateboard committee should decide now as to when they will next meet with the commission. Also, he said that there would not be a vote at the meeting tonight.

Susan Erickson suggested that a special meeting, separate from the May Commission meeting be held. The skateboard park committee will call Fran Towle, Commissioner with a date in mind.

Chairman Mahoney said that the skateboard committee should get back to the commission with a date so that the Parks & Recreation Department can notify the abutters in the Newton Highlands Playground area and also the TAB Newspaper that such a meeting will take place.

- 6. **Open Space, Carol Stapleton, Manager:** Commission Towle said that in reference to open space/dedications, a special meeting will be on May 7th, 2:00PM at the Recreation office with Carol Stapleton, Jennie DeVito, Carol Schein, Adopt A Space, Walter Bernheimer and Robert Platt to discuss dedications.
- 6. **Status of Budget:** Commissioner Towle said that the Department would know more about the budget after the override vote on April 30th. This vote will directly impact the budgets for the Department Heads. She suggested everyone go out and vote!

- 7. **Swimming Season Information:** The swimming rules and regulations for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake are the same as last year. Gath and Crystal both open on Monday, June 10th at 1:00PM. Gath Pool closes on Monday, September 2nd and Crystal Lake closes on August 26th. Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the Gath Pool and Crystal Lake Rules and Regulations. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the Rules and Regulations for Gath Pool & Crystal Lake.

- 8. **Tennis Rules & Regulations:** Commissioner Towle introduced Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager. Ms. Pelkowsky mentioned that the clay courts at Newton Centre would be affected by the budget cuts this year. This year she hoped that the courts would be self-sustaining. She met with one of the avid users of the clay courts, Gerry Adams, and worked out some ideas for permit users, maintenance ideas and the locking of the gates. The rules have not changed. However, it was decided that the courts be swept by the participants after each use, the gates would be locked, unless the attendant was there, and the hours of operation would be 9:00AM – 12:00PM, maintenance would be done after 12:00PM, when it too hot to play anyway, and re-open from 3:00PM to dusk. The biggest amount of play is nights and weekends.

The season permit rates have changed this year:

Resident Adult	\$130.00
Resident Student(under 18)	\$ 80.00
Non-Resident Adult	\$170.00
Non-Resident Student	\$120.00

Hourly Rates:

Resident Adult	\$ 10.00
Resident Student(under 18)	\$ 8.00
Non-Resident	\$ 12.00

Tentative length of season: May 4th to September 30th.

All players are required to sweep/drag, his/her entire court at the end of each play.

Last year 65 permits were sold. The goal for this year is to sell 80 permits and to bring in teams of players, selling permits to each player.

Andrew Stern asked how many non-resident adult permits were sold last year and Stephanie said none.

Francis Rice motioned to accept the Tennis Rules and Regulations. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the tennis rules and regulations.

Chairman Mahoney thanked Stephanie for her presentation on the tennis rules and regulations.

9. **Community Preservation Act:** At the last Commission meeting, Robert Platt said that he did not have enough time to devote to the CPA Committee. He suggested that another commission member be selected to the CPA Committee this evening. Suggestions were Walter Bernheimer and Andrew Stern. Walter Bernheimer motioned that Andrew Stern be selected as a CPA Committee member from the Commission. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to elect Andrew Stern as a member of the Community Preservation Act Committee from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Andrew Stern said the CPA is an opportunity to vote to establish a reliable, adequate and steady source of funds for protecting open space, preserving historic resources, and providing affordable housing.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that Phase II of Nahanton Park & Forte Park might get CPA funding.

10. **Mayors Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 15th, 7:30AM at Boston College.** If the commission members need tickets, please call Faye at the office.
11. **New Business:** Walter Bernheimer said that the path to Old Spring Park is deteriorating rapidly. Commissioner Towle said that she would look into the situation and that the water level at Cold Spring Park had been rising at one point, however, the water level is now going down.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 20, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 8:00PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Frances Rice, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, Alternate Peter Kaster, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Alternate Jack Bourgeois, and new Alternate Commission Member Jack Neville

Absent: Walter Bernheimer and Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the April meeting:** Francis Rice motioned to accept the minutes of the April meeting. Andrew Stern seconded the motion with one correction on page 10, sentence was changed to: Commissioner Towle mentioned that Phase II of Nahanton Park and Forte Park might get CPA funding. The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the minutes of the April meeting with the one correction on page 10.

2. **Commissioner's Reports of Programs and Maintenance:** Commissioner Towle reported on the following: Richard J. McGrath Park Dedication was held on May 5, 2002, 2:00PM at Weeks Field. The dedication was a complete success and a great tribute to Dick and his family. The Relay for Life will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 18th & 19th, Newton received the Tree City USA Award for the 13th year in a row, softball leagues started this week, Gath Pool & Crystal Lake will open on June 10th, Newton North High School's graduation will be on June 5th and Newton South High School graduation will be June 13th. Newton Serves had clean ups at Cold Springs, Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex, Ed Center and Edmands Park. On May 3rd and 4th there was a big windstorm that took down 15 trees, 3 of which landed on homes and tree limbs that landed on cars on homeowner's properties. It involved a major clean up throughout the city. On June 14, 15 & 16 the Summer Athletes Special Olympics will be held at B.U. and Harvard. The Maintenance Department is preparing for Memorial Day Festivities. In the packets is information about the clean up at Ware's Cove and the treatment of the Fanwort plants in the Charles River. Also in the packets is the update on playground safety from Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager.

(2)

Commissioner Towle introduced Jack Neville, the newly appointed alternate commission member. Jack, who has been a longtime Newton resident, is the Director of Golf at the Brookline Golf Club. He has also worked at the Ponkapog Golf Club in Canton as the Head Golf Professional. Jack has more than 35 years of progressive experience in golf and was elected by NEPGA as Golf Professional of the Year. Both Commissioner Towle, and Chairman, James Mahoney, welcomed Jack to the Parks & Recreation Commission

- 3. **Dedication Policy – Carol Stapleton:** On May 7th, Carol met with Carol Schein, Adopt-A-Space Coordinator, Robert Platt and Jennie DeVito, Commission members to discuss the dedication policy. The committee recommends a 3 tier approach which is as follows:

Tier 1: Simple recognition – bench/tree/small plaque

Tier 2: Requires site plan/construction/pathways/donation like Bocci Court-Dig Safe...Materials donated by family/group – we install in cooperation with Public Works

Tier 3: Naming process – Naming not donating – group or family responsible for this-everything-McGrath Park and purchase of sign etc.

The committee also set sizes on plaques, specific trees/benches, site furniture and chess tables. Recommended staying with recycled benches. Requirements of each tier would be maintenance long-range plan/watering plan, city and legal rights. Also, should a contractor be hired to install the items. A small uniform sign, certain size and shape is recommended

Chairman Mahoney recommended taking down the large old green signs and installing smaller new ones. Robert Platt asked where the monies to change the signs would come from. Andrew Stern said that the policy on signs should be formulated for special ones for families seeking to honor someone in their family and ones paid for by the department i.e. Russ Halloran. Peter Kastner said that some families might want a different type sign. Chairman Mahoney thanked Carol Stapleton, Manager, for her report on dedications.

(3)

- 4. **Picnic/Alcohol Policy:** Commissioner Towle mentioned that the picnic season is upon us and the Commission members need to discuss the Picnic/Alcohol Policy. The Option #2 that was chosen by the Commission members was in order to consume alcohol, a person must apply for a special permit from the Licensing Board and the Chief of Police to sell alcohol to be consumed at the picnic/special event. At least one private detail police officer shall be present at all times when alcohol is sold or consumed. Additional officers may be required based upon the number of people present. An area will be designated to consume the alcohol. Commissioner Towle introduced Ed Aucoin, Internal Affairs, Police Department, who has a letter from Jose Cordero, new Chief of Police regarding his concerns about the requirement of a private detail police officer, be present at all times when alcohol is consumed.

Ed Aucoin, Internal Affairs, and Sergeant in the Police Department, was present to discuss the concerns of the new Chief of Police, Jose Cordero, about liquor on public parks. Chief Cordero's concerns are the requirements of a private detail police officer at every event would place an undue burden on the Police Department and is a requirement that he cannot guarantee. Presently there are private details that go unfilled. The concern is that if a permit is signed by the Chief of Police and an hour before the picnic/event is to take place, there is no police officer available to take that detail, what happens. Who notifies the picnic group, does the event get cancelled, and the permit has already been paid for?

Sergeant Aucoin said that this is a realistic problem and what happens if they have paid their fees and the Police Department cannot guarantee a police detail would be available that day.

Chairman Mahoney said that if there is no detail then there is no permit. Sergeant Aucoin asked who will tell the group that a police detail is not available, therefore, no alcohol can be consumed? Chairman Mahoney said that the police should tell the group there is no detail available.

Sergeant Aucoin said that i.e. police sign up for a detail a month/or week ahead and on the day of the permit, there are no police officers available. The Police cannot guarantee a police detail. Sergeant Aucoin read the letter from Chief Cordero regarding his concerns about the alcohol police and police details. Sergeant Aucoin said this commission needs to address the problem.

Andrew Stern asked if we were the only town/city that allows consumption of alcohol on public lands, as this is not a common occurrence. Sergeant Aucoin said that no other cities or towns allow liquor on city lands.

(4)

Chairman Mahoney said that there is a large constituency that likes to consume alcohol during the picnics, if you cant guarantee a police detail, than we cannot give out alcohol permits. It is simple, if the police detail cannot be there, then there is no alcohol at the picnic.

Sergeant Aucoin said that the Police Department couldn't guarantee a police detail for every function. The police sign up for details a month in advance for 3 shifts. If there are no police available for details that day, then who notifies the group that they cannot have alcohol at their picnic.

Chairman Mahoney said if the police cannot fulfill the picnic details, how do we respond to our constituents. We have an alcohol policy in place and now you are saying that you cannot guarantee or fulfill police details. Sergeant Aucoin said that sometimes they do not know if an officer is available until 1/2 hour to an hour before the detail. He reiterated that Chief Cordero cannot guarantee a police detail in advance. Also, there is a police detailed for the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival because of the large size of the crowds.

Andrew Stern said it is not fair to the applicant if a police detail cannot be fulfilled. Peter Kastner said if a police detail couldn't be guaranteed who tells the person that they cannot have liquor that day, the Parks & Recreation Department or the Police Department.

Commissioner Towle said that the department already has 8 applications for alcohol/picnic permits including the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival, Elks, Direct Tec, National Development, Feldman Inc., Fire, Northwestern Mutual and Sandra Spinelli.

Chairman Mahoney said that according to our policy, the Parks & Recreation Department, Licensing Board and the Police Department all have to sign off on the picnic permit. If the police cannot guarantee a police detail, then an alcohol permit has to be denied. Vice Chairman Johnson said, no police detail, no permit.

Sergeant Aucoin introduced Martina Jackson, Licensing Commission said a standard should be set for 150 people at a picnic with alcohol. The Parks & Recreation permit must state whether the individual or group wants to sell, directly or indirectly, the alcohol to be consumed. A copy of the permit issued by the Chief of Police and a copy of the license issued by the Newton Licensing Board must be filed 5 days prior to the date of the picnic.

(5)

Robert Platt motioned that alcohol is not permitted in our parks. Chairman Mahoney said that we already have an alcohol policy in place. Robert Platt said 2-3 people could draft a new alcohol policy for the next meeting.

Commissioner Towle reminded everyone that there is no grandfathering in policy per the Law Department. If a new policy were drafted up, we would have to notify everyone all over again and bring them in to the next commission meeting. Also, a survey was done, and we are the only town/city that allows alcohol on public property. A Newton resident only is required to take out the permit.

Sergeant Aucoin asked what does this commission want regarding the alcohol policy.

Chairman Mahoney said that we are trying to accommodate certain groups, however, you cannot do for one and not the others.

Martina Jackson, Licensing Commission said that the commission members would not want to be sued each one personally, it is not a pleasant thing. We are agents of the city.

Robert Platt said make a decision and live with it. We established an alcohol policy last year; we can't give to some and not others. Alderman Salvucci attended the last meeting regarding an alcohol permit on behalf of the American Legion Post 440. The commission members voted last month to allow the Post 440 to hold their annual picnic with liquor at Pellegrini Playground. How can we allow one group and not another one. Jennie DeVito asked if the alcohol permit for the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival would be rescinded. Robert Platt said no; we have already established a policy.

Jack Bourgeois said we do not have enough time to make a workable policy and issue permits. Leave it the way it is for this year. Francis Rice said how could you do that if there is no guarantee of a police detail.

Chairman Mahoney said we would need a letter from the Chief of Police saying that cannot give a police detail for an alcohol permit on a certain day. Sergeant Aucoin said we couldn't guarantee a police detail.

Jennie DeVito said that what bothers her the most is an alcohol permit is required for a religious event, the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival.

Francis Rice said that the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival, Elks, Police and Fire cannot be grandfathered in, it is a citywide policy

Chairman Mahoney said we should leave the alcohol policy in place for now.

(6)

Sergeant Aucoin said that the Police Department couldn't give a letter guaranteeing a police detail.

Commissioner Towle said that that we have 8 alcohol/picnic permits in place and we cannot guarantee a police detail!

Sergeant Aucoin said that where the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival is concerned, this would constitute public safety and the carnival detail is already put in place.

Channon Ames, Manager, in charge of picnic permits, said that the permits already issued were for less than 50 people.

Peter Kastner said in public safety is an issue, then every effort should be made for staffing. Everything is dependent on the police detail.

Sergeant Aucoin said if you look at the whole picture the police officer detail needs to be looked at in our policy.

Francis Rice said that some of the groups would have police details, i.e. police picnic. Sergeant Aucoin said that some officers donate their own time for such details. Also, the police Department cannot guarantee a detail and the commission needs to re-think the alcohol policy.

Andrew Stern said that we would have to notify the 8 alcohol/picnic permit holders regarding the alcohol policy. Sergeant Aucoin said there might be a legal aspect in that case.

Chairman Mahoney said we should leave the policy in place. If a police detail is required and there is no policeman available, the permit holder may not have the liquor but have the picnic. What do we do with the 8 groups that already have a permit.

Commissioner Towle said with the 8 permit holders, there may not be a police detail available that day and we would not learn of this until an hour or half an hour before the picnic starts. We need to follow up on this. Do the police have to be called the day of the permit. Newton is the only city that allows alcohol on city property. There would be no refund on the Parks & Recreation permit if cancelled. People would be taking a big chance on the alcohol permit if there were no police details available. What about the police permit is there a refund. Also, Commissioner Towle said that other cities and towns have learned that Newton allows alcohol at picnics, they get a person from Newton to sign off on the permit even though the people are from i.e. Boston, surrounding town/cities. It's not just for Newton residents anymore.

(7)

Andrew Stern said that we should make clear in our letter that there may not be a police detail available that day. How can we deny anyone. Should we get a security deposit to secure a performance of agreement.

Chairman Mahoney said if there is no police detail, there is no alcohol, but the group can still have the picnic. Robert Platt said if the group backs out they should get a refund. What if the persons check is saved until the day of the picnic, is this possible. Commission Towle said no, all checks have to be processed immediately. If there is no police detail, then there is no alcohol permitted at the picnic.

Robert Platt said there is no gray area, it is either yes or no for alcohol permits. When the season is over, we should evaluate the former picnics.

Chairman Mahoney said that on the day of the event, there is a chance that there will not be a police detail available. If there is no detail, then there is no alcohol.

- 5. **Status of Budget:** Commissioner Towle said that since the override was passed in this last election, there are no budget cuts for the Parks & Recreation Department.

Also, she mentioned that construction for Millennium Park would start in August.

- 6. **Open Space/Impact on Recreation Activities:** Andrew Stern cordially invited the commission members to a public meeting on June 13th, 7:30PM at the Mason Rice School regarding the Preservation Act for input and ideas from the community. A plan will be devised for a public hearing in September and a first round money plan in October.

In reference to the upcoming skatepark meeting it our duty to future generations that we not build any more structures on open space land unless there is a market and demand for it. If permanent structures are going to be built they should be built where structures now exist. If a ballfield starts to add structures, then that consumes open space.

- 7. **Skateboard Park meeting, Thursday, May 30th, 7:00PM at the new library auditorium.**
Andrew Stern mentioned that there are people who will be attending the skatepark meeting that may oppose the skateboard park or the building of any more structures in the parks in the city. The skateboard park may be a temporary fad and open space is very valuable in Newton.

Chairman Mahoney said that the commission would not be taking a vote at the May 30th meeting, but may at the June meeting. We would need to know the size of the skate park, location, final design, finance plans, then it would go on to the proper departments at City Hall.

Peter Kastner said the skate park in Waltham on Moody Street is in use all the time. However, the City of Waltham has underestimated the parking for the skate park. The injuries are vastly un-reported.

Robert Platt said he does not feel comfortable in having the skateboard people spend all their monies on the park and not have it built. Also he asked if the commission was qualified to vote on such a proposal, as we are not engineers.

Chairman Mahoney said that the commission is not advocating the park, however, we need to work with the committee, give them the preliminary go-ahead and support. The skatepark committee needs to get the design and finance approval and return to the commission. The commission may have concerns with the skatepark and ask the committee to come back in the fall if they do not have enough information.

Commission Towle said that if the commission is going to take a vote in June, then another mailing has to go out to the abutters, Board of Aldermen, etc.

Robert Platt said that Tedeschi's Market is concerned with loitering and drinking at the Newton Highlands Playground.

Chairman Mahoney said the commission could vote for the skatepark or vote it down at the June meeting. We as a commission have a responsibility to the skatepark group.

Andrew Stern said we have to hear the people opinions on the skateboard park meeting on May 30th, and go from there. Also, do we want to see a concrete bowl in a playground.

Commissioner Towle said that we need to let the public know if a vote will be taken at the June 17th commission meeting, as everyone will have to be notified again.

Andrew Stern said he heard that there are problems with a drainage pipe under the basketball court at the Newton Highlands Playground. Commissioner Towle said yes there is; however, it would be a problem if the skatepark were built on top of it.

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Chairman Mahoney said that if the commission wants to vote on the skatepark in September that is fine with him. However, if we decide to vote on it after the May 31st meeting, it will be on the June agenda.

8. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle reminded the commission members of the dedication of the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground on Friday, May 31st, 11:15AM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, May 30, 2002
7:00PM**

Auditorium of the Newton Free Library on Homer Street

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Andrew Stern, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alternates Peter Kastner and Jack Bourgeois and Thomas Cahill, Aquatics Director

Absent: Michael Clarke and Jack Neville

Commissioner Towle welcomed everyone to the Special Parks & Recreation Commission meeting regarding the Skateboard Park Committee's request to install a skateboard park at the Newton Highlands Playground located on Dedham Street on/or near the basketball courts. Commissioner Towle introduced the commission Chairman, James Mahoney.

Chairman Mahoney thanked everyone for coming and introduced the members of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Chairman Mahoney said that the skateboard park committee has been attending the commission meetings since last September. The commission has no position, and no recommendations, no action other than to hear from the Newton community regarding the skatepark proposal. This is a public hearing and no vote will be taken this evening.

The Sk8park Committee will start with a 30-minute presentation by the skatepark committee. Then there will be an open meeting with testimonies from the public. Because of the large crowd we are asking each person to speak no longer than one minute so everyone can be heard. Also, please do not repeat what previous people have said. At the end of the presentation we will hear the pros and cons from the audience. Thank you!

Chairman Mahoney also acknowledged the Alderman attending: Alderman John Stewart, Alderman Carleton Merrill, and Alderman Mitchell Fischman, Alderman Brian Yates and thanked them for their interest in the meeting.

(2)

A question was asked on how the people were notified of the meeting. Commissioner Towle said that notices were sent to abutters, the newspaper, Landscape Advisory Committee and the Board of Aldermen.

A young student spoke up and asked if the students could speak first, as they had to go home and do their homework!

Susan Erickson, Chairman of the Sk8park Committee, introduced her husband Bruce Phillips and her two boys. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She realizes that the proposal site for the skatepark is a concern for the Newton Highlands neighbors and if she lived in the neighborhood she would be concerned also. The skatepark committee consists of 15 people and they have been meeting with the Commission since last September on the skatepark proposal. Also, please note that there are skatepark displays around the room. Susan and the Sk8park committee have met with Mayor Cohen regarding the skatepark, he said it was interesting and told them to contact the Parks & Recreation Department. Also, meetings have been held at the Newton Parks & Recreation Department and the Parks & Recreation Commission meetings. The question is, do we need a skatepark in Newton. The mission of the Newton Skatepark Committee is to provide the skaters of Newton with a safe, fun, challenging and appropriate location to practice the sports of skateboarding and in-line skating.

Also, there is a packet of information that we would like to pass out after the presentation so that you can focus on the slides information. Afterwards we will discuss any questions you might have. We have with us Charlie Wilkins, professional skateboarder, George Claflin, Newton Police Department, and Chris Murphy presenting the slide show.

Susan said a skatepark is made of concrete bowl, steel and mesh, with pyramids for tricks and turns. Boys mostly use it.

Chris Murphy is a teacher at Newton North. He surveyed the skateboarders in the city and received 1,400 returns from fourth to 8th graders. This is a popular and exciting time for a park in Newton.

Officer Claflin and the Police Department support the skatepark. There have been calls to the Police Department about skaters; however, they are nuisance calls of children skating in areas where they should not be. He has surveyed other Police Departments and the reception was good. Some areas are problem free, noise level is not high and only one area had a supervisor on duty. The Police support the skatepark as well as youth groups and principals of schools. A skatepark is needed in Newton.

Susan mentioned that 10 sites were looked at closely and they selected the Newton Highlands site. We were looking for a 20-24,000 square foot area that was accessible by car, foot, bus and not an isolated area with small parking area.

(3)

Charlie Wilkins, professional skater, endorsed by skating manufacturers and he endorses the skatepark's preliminary ideas. He mentioned that he designed the skatepark in Greenfield. Most skateparks are dug into the ground and you cannot see them from the street. All you see is a 4' hill with plantings around it. He has designed skate parks around the world.

Susan Sangiolo, Landscape Architect, presented and discussed 4 preliminary plans as to how to where the skatepark should be placed at Newton Highlands Playground. She did mention a drainage problem that runs through to Countryside School. The Skatepark would be screened with ornamental plantings around the area. The basketball and tennis courts need resurfacing.

Susan Erickson said the noise decibel level is 57-90, normal being 60. Lawn mowers have a decibel level of 65-95. In checking other areas for parking, she saw 15 cars parked in Waltham, Hyde Park had 20-40 on a Saturday. Skateboarding is safer than other sports and they pick up their own trash. Most of tonight's information is in the packets. Also, there would be approximately 15-25 skaters per day. The skateboarding looks dangerous, however, it is safer than ice skating, soccer, baseball, basketball and football.

Scott Dupois, Boston Parks & Recreation, Senior Project Manager, said at Hyde Park in Boston they had concerns when a skatepark was proposed, however, since the skatepark was built we have had positive feedback, no bad elements and vandalism has gone down in this area. The skateboarders pick up after themselves and bag the trash.

James Mahoney, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission, spoke and thanked everyone for attending the skatepark meeting. He said that the commission would like to hear the pros and cons from the audience and that each person keep their comments to one minute so that everyone can have a turn. Also, Chairman Mahoney said anyone who has to go home and do homework tonight can speak first.

Jonah David: A skatepark in Newton is a good thing. People are energetic; there are no bowling alleys or golf for kids. The skaters are skating on dead end streets with potholes. There should be a skate park where the kids can go so they don't have to skate on side street and other areas. His mother does not allow him to skate on sidewalks and streets, so they need a place to skate.

(4)

Speakers:

Alderman Mitchell Fischman said there is a need for a skatepark and to choose a location on the park that best suits everyone. More meetings will be needed, there is a severe drainage problem in that park, and the tennis and basketballs courts need to be updated, fencing. The Board of Aldermen voted on the CIP last night and \$30,000 is slated from fiscal 03. The tennis courts are slated for 2005. He was impressed with the slide presentation. Also, there was a resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen to do both the tennis and basketball courts at the same time for \$60,000 in fiscal 03.

Alderman Carleton Merrill: Has learned a lot about skaters this evening. This is what the youngsters want and need to keep them out of trouble. He supports the skatepark committee's request. Times have changed through the years and a skatepark is what the youth in the City would like.

Alderman John Stewart and Alderman Brian Yates said they are listening and learning about skateparks at this meeting.

Paul Weisberg: abutter to playground and teacher at Cabot School, has a birdseye view from all of the windows in his home. In his home he will hear all of the noise, boom boxes, traffic, and kids from other cities & towns along with Newton children. He is opposed to the park. He visited the Waltham skatepark and said it was a mess, and full of litter.

Mikhail Gershteyn said if a skatepark goes in, he will have to sell his home, skateparks are dangerous, they bring in bad kids from other areas. Bad for Newton!

Paul: has 2 children that skate. The skatepark would give the kids four things, self esteem to increase, independence, resiliency and hardiness increases and we will have healthy kids.

Teddy Wiggins: Has been to other skate parks and he is for a skatepark in Newton. He has met other skaters and has become friends with them. A skatepark will be a little piece of heaven.

Mr. Richards: Would not to like to see the areas that are their now in the park be eliminated. He supports the motion; however, there is a multitude of things to do in the park already.

Karla Hailer Fidelman, TAB Newspaper: Other areas that have skateparks are Andover, Natick, Sherborn and Peabody. She has a 10 year old son. Safety is first at a skatepark. She spoke with the Department of Public Works in Waltham and they said the Waltham skatepark is a safe place to go.

Dan Monahan: for the skatepark a good sport that kids enjoy and have a good time.

(5)

One person asked why Newton Highlands Playground was chosen for the site. Chairman Mahoney said that 10 sites were looked at by the skatepark committee and they decided on the Newton Highlands Playground site.

Jim: Why not other location i.e. Albemarle, Newton Centre, Whitman Playground area has a big puddle when it rains, it looks like a lake. Also, Dedham Street is already a busy street.

Rawley Divoertz: Need a skatepark in Newton, also I don't do drugs. I get kicked out of places that I skate now.

Paul Crowley: Middle School teacher. A skatepark is a regional attraction. On Tuesdays he takes 30 kids on a bus to a skatepark location.

Danny: Newton needs a place for skateboarders.

Lisa Dorfman: She lives on Dedham Street and cannot support the skatepark. There is a lot of pedestrian and traffic in this area.

Vera: Would not like to see the tennis and basketball courts destroyed for a skatepark. More research is needed.

Eli, 14: Wants a skatepark, it is fun, invite your friends and they do not have to go to another City.

Susan Weisberg: Asked why Newton Highlands playground was chosen as a skateboard site. More meetings are needed; the neighbors need to give their input. Also, parking is a big concern in this neighborhood and it is a commercial area. The first notice that the neighbors received was from the Parks & Recreation Department as an abutters notice. They learned about the skatepark 3 weeks before the meeting. She called the committee for copies of information and they sent out 1 sheet of paper. They were not told of any plans. Why was Newton Highlands site chosen out of 10 sites. More meetings are needed. An information packet was supposed to be given out at the end of the meeting. The neighbors do not have enough information. The Waltham site was dirty, cigarettes butts, litter from the food shop was strewn on the ground.

Susan Erickson said she realizes it is a concern for the neighbors in the Newton Highlands Playground area. If she lived in the area she would be concerned too.

Don said don't take away our neighborhood park it is loved and appreciated.

Randy, 7th grader: My parents drive me all over to go to a skate park. It is a great sport; we need it in Newton.

(6)

Andre Mater: Said an adequate study has not been made, we need to consider other park areas.

Bill Knolberg: Drives his kids all over to go to skateparks. There are a great group of kids that like to skateboard, it is a positive experience for them.

One person said that Newton Highlands is not a good location, select another area.

Zachary: A skatepark is needed as we get kicked out of other areas to skate.

Bruce Medoff: Newton Highlands is not a good location, traffic is heavy in this area, and need more hearings on this.

Judy McDowell: Need to meet another time on this, what about funding, safety, liability, nothing tonight talks about these issues. Most skateparks that have started are fads and are now closed. Need the skate park in another area. Is this a public/private partnership, who supports this?

Don Smith: Runs the Valvoline Business in this area. He consulted with 6 other businesses and 4 out of 6 signed a petition for supporting the skatepark.

Jim Day: 90 decibels are an extremely high noise level.

Chairman James Mahoney, said that the next commission meeting will be Monday, June 17, 7:30PM in room 209 at City Hall and the public is invited to attend. The skatepark group has a lot of work to do yet, for plans and design before any approval is given. Also, if a vote were to be taken, the abutters would be notified by mail of the meeting, date, and time.

Chairman Mahoney thanked the people for attending the meeting, however, the Druker Auditorium Library closes at 9:00PM.

Meeting adjourned 9:00PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 17, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 8:00PM
REVISED**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Alternates Jack Bourgeois and Peter Kastner

Absent: Michael Clarke and John Neville

1. **Minutes of the May 20th meeting and also the special skatepark meeting on May 30th.** Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the minutes of the May 20th and May 30th commission meetings. Jennie Devito seconded the motion. Commission members voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 20th & May 30th meetings.

2. **Commissioner's reports of programs, maintenance and events:** Commissioner Towle welcomed everyone to the meeting. She mentioned the Memorial Day festivities and also a letter in the packets from NNLL regarding little league tournaments to be held at the James E. Murphy Field. NNLL will host the State Sectionals from July 19th to July 22nd. Swim season has started; Gath Pool and Crystal Lake are now open for the season. If the members of the Commission need swim permits, please see Faye. Camps will be starting July 1st. The Scholarship Committee met and 95 applicants will receive 2 ½ weeks of camp, and the Commissioner is very pleased about the number of scholarships awarded. In May, the tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground were dedicated to Dr. Minichiello, a long time resident and tennis player at the tennis courts. Mayor Cohen was at the dedication as well as several Commission members. Also, in the folders is the new summer 2002 Parks & Recreation Department's brochure. Commissioner Towle and Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, are very proud of this brochure which was distributed to all school children in the City and distributed to various city locations. Also, the department is continuing to work on the Parks & Recreation web site, it is updated as needed.

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- 3. **Skateboard Park:** Chairman Mahoney welcomed Aldermen, Lipof, Fischman and Lappen to the meeting. Also, Susan Erickson and her skatepark committee, and over 75 residents to the Commission meeting to discuss the skatepark. Chairman Mahoney said they were here this evening to re-focus on where the skatepark was proposed and where the monies would come from. Need to discuss design, fundraising, location is important.

Alderman Richard Lipof said a sub-committee should be formed to look at all locations and consider more than one site. The committee should come back to the Commission in September with their recommendations for locations..

Alderman Mitchell Fischman agrees with his colleague Alderman Lipof and he recommends a skateboard site committee to check the city areas. He said the skatepark is a worthy idea, and the committee should be checking the size of the parklands, schools, public/property and also the liability issue. The skatepark committee is doing an excellent job with their efforts to pursue a skatepark. There is an answer out there.

Alderman Cheryl Lappen agrees with her colleagues about a committee that would look at other areas in the city for a recommendation for a skatepark. She also thanked the commission for giving the skatepark a fair chance and looking into the demand for a skatepark.

Chairman Mahoney thanked Alderman Lappen and said a sub-committee should be formed this summer to look at numerous city/private locations in the city.

Walter Bernheimer said we need to find out where we are we going from here and define how this committee would be implemented, and is there a demand for a skatepark. He concurs with the aldermen about a committee to look into other areas. Is there a demand for the skatepark, however, funds are needed as well as a location. There has to be someplace in the city for a skatepark location. If a facility is built, it has to be done the right way or not at all. If it is decided that there is a demand for a skatepark, does it justify our providing one. We also have to consider open space and its use. It is now the city's responsibility to take over and do its work.

Robert Platt suggested that Alderman Lipof be on the committee.

(3)

Alderman Lipof said the committee should consist of Commissioner Towle, Police, Planning, Commission member/s, youth commission, and facilities of the, School Department on the committee. Also, 2 people from the skatepark committee, one of which should be Susan Erickson.

Francis Rice said there are other lands besides recreation lands in the city to look at and maybe land can be purchased. Also, it may have to go on the outskirts of the city. We should visit sites and come back to the commission with the recommendation for sites.

Alderman Fischman said one or two people from the mayor's office should be on the committee also.

Chairman Mahoney asked for a motion to create a sub-committee to look at other skatepark locations in the city. Also, Chairman Mahoney recommended that Walter Bernheimer chair the sub-committee.

Francis Rice motioned to create a sub-committee group to look at various locations in the city for a skatepark.

Recommendations for the sub-committee are; 2 from Board of Aldermen, Planning, Police, 2 from Parks & Recreation Commission, youth group, school department, 2 from skatepark committee, (one of which is an alternate) mayor's office and Fran Towle, Commissioner.

Alderman Samuelson said she supports the skatepark and likes the direction we are going. Need to set the priorities and how we will look at the open space.

Fran Rice said the committee would look at the available land, which may or may not be recreation lands.

Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission voted unanimously 8-0 to form a committee to select sites for a skatepark, which includes city and private properties and return to the commission with their recommendations. There will be 12 members of the committee, the Chairman of the committee will be Walter Bernheimer, and they will be notified regarding the committee.

Chairman Mahoney thanked the aldermen present for their input and comments regarding the skatepark this evening. We have taken a step back from the Newton Highlands location. He asked that the residents speak briefly so that everyone can give their comments.

(4)

Chairman Mahoney asked the members of the audience for their input regarding the skatepark.

Resident: Asked to protect our green areas so that we can leave a legacy to our children.

Jack Rubin: asked that the size of the skatepark 20-24,000 square feet be considered in the land site.

Barbara Trackenher: How will you determine if a skatepark is desired is the first step, second is how will you determine if the city wants it?

Walter Bernheimer said he is sure there will be pros/cons for a skatepark. The sub-committee will have to determine whether there is a demand for a skatepark. However, he is not sure of how the information will be set up as yet. If there is a demand the city should provide an area.

Mikhail Gershteyn: He is against the skatepark and said there is no demand for it.

Chairman Mahoney reiterated that no decision has been made to have a skatepark as yet.

Commissioner Towle said that sites around the city will be looked at for available lands.

Richard Waterman, 25 Dedham Street: said the tennis courts at the Newton Highlands Playground area are used from dawn to dusk. With more adolescents at the park, the tennis players will decrease. How do you define a need for a skatepark?

How long do you think the skatepark will be in use?

Resident: How do you decide if there is a need?

Chairman Mahoney said when the committee returns to the commission meeting in October/November we will let the public know when and where the meeting is.

(5)

Susan Weisberg: said thank you to the commission members for holding tonight's meeting for the public comments and lowering the temperature of the debate. I want what is good for the kids. I do not want you to rush in judgement on a site, as criteria will be needed to select a site for a skatepark. Also, the Newton Highlands neighbors are wearing green ribbons this evening. Ms. Weisberg asked that in order to find a suitable place for a skatepark, we have to look at criteria, feasibility, demand, future concrete facility, charts, environmental impact, wetlands, neighborhood impact and infringing on existing usage. Is there a demand for a skatepark now and in the future, when choosing a site.

Myra Hovey: What is the next step? We have already had a meeting on May 30th for public input and comments are still being taken this evening. Chairman Mahoney said we are in no position to vote this evening. No one has taken a position on this, a proposal was made for a skatepark and now we need to take a broader look at it.

Gentleman: You cannot skate on the rink in the winter, could it be portable and removed in the winter! Please consider it.

Paul Crowley: The skatepark will serve over 3,000 children. You can't compare a skatepark to tennis courts. We will have a lot of children there.

Dorothy Sullivan: Her concern is safety! Who is responsible for the children who come and go, there would be no one there to supervise the children. They need safety equipment, helmets, knee and elbow pads, etc. There are no rules! She objects to the location.

Ralph on Green St: There are parking and safety issues involved, how much is the maintenance cost, where are the funds coming from, who manages the funds.

Jim Day: He is concerned with the ecological issues, liability issues, this is a cement structure we are talking about. Should compare skateboarding to other sports such as football. This is a cement structure; it is not just like other sports such as football and baseball.

Resident: Who will be supervising the kids, all other sports are supervised.

Resident: Who will be on the committee! Should Susan Erickson be on the committee, as she is on the skatepark committee? A skatepark person should not be on the committee, Susan is for the park!

Walter Bernheimer said that anyone on the sub-committee will be confident and objective and will deal with the situation.

(6)

Greg from Centre St: is Newton Highlands Playground becoming a sports facility; we have baseball, basketball, and tennis, it saddens me to hear that a skatepark would be added to the playground.

George Claflin: (Policeman) He has heard some hatred towards this project. He asked that the committee look into the skatepark as it is well needed by the children in Newton. We are not going to terrorize the neighborhood! Please keep an open mind about a skatepark project, lets work together to get this project done.

Resident 124 Winchester St: Alderman Lipof had very good suggestions, the park is for our kids and they are good kids, and we need a space for them.

Alternate Peter Kastner: The Recreation Commission has made a wise decision in holding meetings to let the general public give their input into the skatepark. We need to look at the whole picture, which is very complicated. The project has good ideas, needs parking, and comments from the public.

Ted Kukinski: Member of the Skatepark Committee: The Newton Community Service Center has a small skate ramp. There is a champion skateboarder by the name of Andy McDonald who went to NNHS. He even has a postage stamp with his picture on it. There are misconceptions about skateparks/skateboarders. There is an 85-year-old woman in Waltham who lives next to the skatepark and she doesn't hear the noise from the skaters. He said that basketball areas are noisier than skateboarders. Please keep an open mind about skateboard parks and if you have time, please visit other skate parks.

Judy Rothberg: Where is the funding for a skatepark coming from, is it privately financed? Chairman Mahoney said there is no funding for the skatepark and the city is not financing it.

Susan Weisberg: said no financing is available yet? Some of the skatepark minutes say they have financing. Susan Erickson said that there are no funds for the park as yet, it is a misconception.

Chairman Mahoney said that the commission is not taking a position on the skatepark site, no action is being done and there are no city monies for the project.

J. Dyer: Believes that if the Newton Highlands site is chosen there will be a residential impact on the neighbors and the environment. He called the manufacturer and homes should be 300-500 yards away from a skatepark. In the physics of the land, it is peaty land, water in the ground, the skatepark would be 4" thick with 20,000 square feet of concrete. The skatepark would weigh a million pounds! Need engineers and environmentalists to look at the project and study the site.

(7)

Resident: He said that there is no hatred with the Newton Highlands neighbors, some of them are skateboarders. We just have to find the right spot for the skatepark. The neighbors are not against skateboarders.

Dan Connors: is in favor of the skatepark, they are good kids and should be taken seriously.

Russ Lightman: He is an employer in the neighborhood, there are tremendous traffic problems, neighborhood impacts, the basketball courts at Newton Highlands Playground needs improvement. The skatepark would displace other parts of the playground including basketball, tennis, softball and soccer.

Student/Skateboarder: There is no place in Newton to skateboard. There are places for soccer, etc. There is no where to go except in Waltham. Need a place in Newton.

Mary Lou/Skateboarder: My mother has to drive me out of the city to a skateboard park. Waltham is the closest. Need a skatepark in Newton.

Teresa Walsh: How do you go about selecting a skatepark site? Who selects the people to be on the sub-committee? Walter Bernheimer said the committee project was just decided this evening, there is no process as yet.

Chairman James Mahoney: The public would be notified by the TAB Newspaper, information would be posted on the city's web-site, and we will keep the public informed as to what is happening regarding the skatepark.

Walter Bernheimer said that the committee has to be formed, they have to look over many, many sites in Newton and the committee may not bring the information back to the commission until the October or November commission meeting.

Commissioner Towle said in the fall, the public will be notified in the TAB Newspaper and the City's web-site.

Walter Bernheimer said the first of the meetings should take place in mid-July. We also need to look into the demographics and data available.

Chairman Mahoney thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Andrew Stern asked about the alcohol policy and how it was left. Commissioner Towle said the alcohol policy was left in place and would be re-evaluated in October.

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- 4. On July 4th, the fireworks will take place depending on the weather. Rain date is the next day. The Fessenden School has been building on their property and this will eliminate the seating for the 4th of July fireworks watchers. The usual Newton Centre parade will be held on July 4th as well as kids events, music, etc. The pool will be closed on July 4th.
- 5. **Newton North High School Indoor Complex Fees:** The fees for the 2002-2003 season have not changed since last year:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2001/2002</u>	<u>2002/2003 proposed</u>
Adult season	\$36.00	\$36.00
Student season	\$26.00	\$26.00
Family season	\$95.00+(\$1.00/ID)	\$95.00+(\$1.00/ID)
Adult daily	\$3.00	\$3.00
Student daily	\$2.00	\$2.00
Non-Resident daily	\$6.00	\$6.00

Anticipated North Indoor Complex Season will be October 7, 2002 through May 15, 2003.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the proposed Newton North Indoor Complex fees for 2002-2003. Francis Rice seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously to accept the Newton North Indoor Complex figures for the 2002/2003 season.

Commissioner Towle turned the meeting over to Andrew Stern regarding the Community Preservation Act meeting. Andrew Stern is a member of the CPA committee. He attended a meeting in which 75 people attended and said that everyone attending applauded the CPA Act. One of the recommendations was Phase II at Forte Park for the lighting needs. In September the committee will recommend to the Board of Aldermen their recommendations. Also, the CPA committee will be meeting throughout the summer on their recommendations.

- 6. **New Business:** Walter Bernheimer asked about the condition of the running path at Cold Spring Park. Commissioner Towle said that the Public Works Department is working there, they are dredging the area and there is now less water in the path area. Also, Mr. Bernheimer mentioned that former Alderman from Ward I, Bob Gainer called him about Cabot Playground and the terrible shape it was in near the building. Commissioner Towle asked Mr. Bernheimer to have Mr. Gainer call her and she would discuss the situation with him. Also, during the summer months, the Boys/Girls Club uses the Cabot Building facility.

(9)

Alternate Peter Kastner suggested that signs be posted on all of the tennis courts regarding the honor system. The honor system is to play tennis on the courts for one hour if someone else is waiting to use the courts.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner explained to the commission members that the Department will apply the pesticides PowerZone and Tupersan for control of broadleaf weeds in conjunction with reseeded and restoration work on the football fields at Newton North and South and Burr Park. The areas will be cordoned off. The pesticides have been approved by Newton Integrated Pest Management and the City's IPM policy. Pesticides are used only as a last resort when weeds or insects threaten the growth of healthy turf. Warning flags will be posted for 72 hours.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32PM

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REVISED
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Andrew Stern, Alternates Peter Kastner and Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, and Faye Hays Secretary

Absent: Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer and Michael Clarke

Also attending the meeting were Susan Erickson, Sk8Park Committee and Carol Stapleton, Manager, Parks & Recreation

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** The June meeting minutes were approved unanimously 8-0 with the correct spelling of Francis Rice's name, tennis sign on page 9 and change meeting ending from 9:30PM to 9:32PM.

2. **Commissioner's Towle's reports on programs and maintenance:**
Commissioner Towle reported that the Parks & Recreation Department had a very successful summer season. Also, the Recreation Managers had a successful summer. Commissioner Towle thanked them for their dedication and hard work. David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, was pleased with his maintenance staff for all of their summer projects, duties and requests that were accomplished. Also, my thanks to Bob DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Bob DeRico, Turf Maintenance, for the improvements to the quality of turf throughout the City. Bob DiRico has had great experience with turf management on fields, and the demands of IPM on fields. I am very happy with the direction the department has taken with turf management. The Department is working with the soccer groups again this year. Cold Spring Park is slated for irrigation this season. A French Drain is installed at Brown Middle School, which runs from the parking lot adjacent to Brown to the back of Oak Hill, approximately 500 feet. Commissioner Towle hoped that everyone had a happy and safe summer season.

David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance and Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, are working on improvements to the play apparatus for the playgrounds. The Department is working and cooperating with the schools, groups, and PTO's for new fibar, equipment and removing most of the unsafe equipment. Commissioner Towle is pleased with the inroads that the department has taken for safe playground apparatus throughout the City.

2)

Also, this is the first summer for Marc Welch, our new Director of Forestry, he has been doing a great job. Mark Kelly, our new Special Needs Director, has also been doing a great job, his new Special Needs Program Brochure is in the folders. Channon Ames, Manager, has done a great job with the Albemarle Acres Summer Camp, co-ed softball and co-ed volleyball. The new team members are an exciting and pleasant addition to the Department.

- 3. **Skatepark Update:**The Commissioner reported that the skatepark committee has created a criteria chart for Phase I and Phase II. Phase I criteria includes; location, should not be isolated, safety/visibility, access by foot, access by car, public transportation, size 8,000-20,000 square feet, near bus/food and basic amenities/bathroom/water. Phase II includes, ease of development, existing parking, impact on open space, impact on residents and impact on noise. Each committee member has rated and ranked each of the criteria's. The criteria were ranked by most important to least important.

The next step is to visit each of the skatepark sites. It is estimated that 3 tours will be needed to visit the sites. These site tours will start at 7:30AM on Thursday mornings. A Parks & Recreation van will be used for the site tours. When the committee has finished its site recommendations for a skatepark, they will return to the Parks & Recreation Commission with their findings.

The members discussed noise factor as being important as well as safety/visibility factors. Alternate Peter Kastner suggested that Newton North and South High Schools be added to the skatepark sites.

Robert Platt suggested that the commission wait for the Skatepark Committee to finish their recommendations and return to the commission with their suggestions. When the sites are chosen and the commission member's vote on them, does this information go directly to the Board of Aldermen? Also, has a skatepark been accepted as yet?

Francis Rice, who is on the skatepark committee, suggested that the committee look at each site, rate them, choose the best sites, most are on recreation playgrounds except for some on school sites. If the Skatepark Committee chooses a school site/sites for a skatepark, then the committee would have to go before the School Department. Chairman Mahoney said the committee for a skatepark has been set up, they are studying all sites and recommended areas. Andrew Stern said the Skatepark Committee would need the guidance of the Parks & Recreation Commission in their recommendations.

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Walter Bernheimer, Commission Member and Chairman of the Skatepark Committee, mentioned that as a group, we have not been convinced that there is a need for a skatepark. Also, it may be January before the committee returns to the Commission with their findings. Francis Rice mentioned that there are no monies for a skatepark. Susan Erickson, Sk8Park Committee agreed that there are no monies for a skatepark, however, the Sk8Park Committee concurred that there is a need for a skatepark.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, is concerned with budgets and where would the skatepark be in the CIP Budget and when/what year. Also, he is concerned with liability and injuries on a skatepark. Andy Stern said if it is not a supervised facility, then there is no liability to the City.

- 4. **Open Space Plan:** The Open Space Plan has been accepted, however, the final draft has not been completed as yet said Commissioner Towle.
- 5. **Millennium Park/Balsamo Park Update:** Commissioner Towle, Jennie DeVito and Andrew Stern attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Salvatore A. Balsamo Millennium Park on Saturday, September 28th, at 12:30PM. Work on the parking lot will start on Tuesday, October 1st; this should be done my mid-November. The park will be on the Homer Street side of City Hall, all the way from the parking lot out to the Veterans Circle. The bids should go out in mid-October and \$350,000 has been set aside for the park. Salvatore Balsamo donated \$250,000 for the park. The City has the monies in their accounts, the Public Works Department is re-doing the parking lot and the Project Manager is myself. On October 9th, Commissioner Towle will appear before the Public Facilities Committee to let them know what the park will look like. Residents, friends and families have bought over 1,000 engraved bricks. Also, there is still time to buy a brick. Robert Pinsky, Poet Laureate, was also at the groundbreaking ceremony. Mr. Pinsky's sayings will be displayed throughout the park.
- 6. **Policy for placing memorials on public land, Carol Stapleton:** The Memorial/Dedication Policy Recommendations have not been finalized as yet. The policy has been agreed on in principal, however, it then has to go to the Law Department for their input. At Memorial Spaulding a garden will be erected for Kayla Rosenberg, student who was killed in the bus crash in Nova Scotia. This will be a school/neighborhood venture with benches donated by the Rosenberg family with a small plaque for the garden. Ms. Stapleton recommends the 3 tier approach.

Tier 1: Simple recognition-bench or tree and small plaque on City Land. Plaque size is limited to 3" X 6" installed flush to the ground or plaque is installed on the bench.

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Tier 2: Site selection requires a site plan with construction elements such as pathways and site furniture. These materials would be donated to the City and installation of materials and all work associated with the project are paid for by the donating group. A maintenance agreement and watering plan is also submitted and agreed upon

Tier 3: Naming Process – separate committee process

- 7. **Community Preservation Act – Andy Stern:** Andy Stern, who is on the CPA Committee, was pleased to report that the CPA has developed a draft on the web site. The committee plans to address the needs and resources for each of the four categories, which include, Open Space, Historical Preservation, Recreation and Community Housing. He also mentioned that Doug Dickson did a nice piece on Recreation areas. November will be the first round for project proposals. Applications are still being accepted for Community Preservation Funding.

Jennie DeVito asked if there was a minimum or maximum on a project amount. Andy Stern said project funding, small or large, is unlimited. The goal is to take a project with the largest impact. Applications are being taken in two rounds. A sub-committee will screen the applications, which will be paid for by the Planning Department. The CPA Committee will make their recommendations to Alderman Coletti and the Finance Committee and to the Board of Aldermen. This will be an open process, web site, newspaper information, etc. Chairman Mahoney asked when the money would be awarded. Andy Stern said if the application is received by November, the monies would be awarded in the spring. The next application time will be in April and awarded in July. Chairman Mahoney thanked Andy Stern for the CPA information.

- 8. **New Business:**
Forte Park: Commissioner Towle added that the Grant for Forte Park, Phase II, was accepted. She will meet with Joan Robes, Project Manager, for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts next week at Forte Park. Elaine Gentile, Director of Special Projects, was instrumental in the writing of the Urban Self-Help Grant. With her help the grant was finished in just 3 weeks. Faye Hays also helped by going through the archives for past information in Phase I of Forte Park. The Department should hear in late November or December if we get the grant and the monies in place for Phase II. Phase II includes the lighting, bocce courts, lighting for a little league field, fencing, etc.

Alcohol Permits: Regarding the Alcohol Permit Application this season, 10 groups applied and only 2 groups followed through on the process, one being a family and the other being Post 440.

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(5)

Beautification Awards: Another successful season for Newton's Beautification Awards. There were over 40 Beautification Awards including one for the Newton Parks & Recreation Department. The window boxes and tubs of colorful and bountiful annuals welcome the public. The area is lovingly watered, pruned and cared for by the staff.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FRAN L. TOWLE - COMMISSIONER

70 Crescent Street, Auburndale, MA 02466

Office: 796-1500 Forestry and Maintenance: 796-1530 Fax: 796-1512



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David B. Cohen
Mayor

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2002

NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Gwen Fineberg, Robert Platt, Jack Neville and Michael Clarke

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** Alternate, Peter Kastner motioned, to suspend the voting on the September meeting minutes until the November meeting, in the interest of time. The motion was seconded and approved 7-0.
2. **Commissioner Towle's report on programs and maintenance:** Commissioner Towle met with the Public Facilities Committee regarding Millennium Park along with Richard Johnson, Landscape Architect and Ed Chang, Architects. The Millennium Park project is moving forward. Harvest Fair was held at Newton Center last Sunday, great day and everything went well. Also, on the same day was the Special Needs, Paddy O's Race, they had over 450 runner's and made over \$10,000 for the special needs program. Mark Kelly, our new Special Needs Director, did an excellent job in the preparation of the race and the day of the race. Great weather, great day. The Department's 2nd new seasonal brochure is being put on the web site for everyone to see. Newton North Indoor Complex has opened for the season. Special events this month include, window painting on storefront windows for children, and a REMAX Balloon will be at City Hall on October 27th. The completion of Florrie's Path should take place this week at Nahanton Park, it is a natural approach to the river and building. The deadline for the Community Preservation Act Projects is November 1st.
3. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool Summer Figures:** Commissioner Towle reported that the summer swim season at Crystal Lake and Gath Pool was very successful. Gath Pool took in \$67,814.00 and Crystal Lake took in \$53,244.00 in revenues.
4. **Update Dedication Policy:** Commissioner Towle said Carol Stapleton, Manager, was waiting for verbiage from the Law Department on the Dedication Policy. (When the policy is ready, it will be sent to the Commission members before the next meeting so they can read it over)

COMMISSION MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DeVITO

WARD 2 - JAMES MAHONEY, CHAIRMAN

WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON, VICE CHAIRMAN

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE

WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER

WARD 6 - ANDREW STERN

WARD 7 - GWEN FINEBERG

WARD 8 - ROBERT PLATT

FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE, JOHN BOURGEOIS

(2)

- 5. **Update on Skatepark Committee:** Commissioner Towle has been attending the Skatepark Meetings along with the Chairman, Walter Bernheimer. There were 26 skatepark sites chosen to visit. The committee went out on two tours and visited 23 of the sites. Three of the sites, the committee visited on their own, Auburndale Playground, Newton South High School and Albemarle. The site tours were incredibly valuable; the sites were viewed and checked. Sites were eliminated, and whittled down so that we should end up with 4-5 viable sites. Walter Bernheimer, Chairman, of the Skatepark sub-committee will give the Commission members the site rankings when finished. Also, he mentioned that the meetings have been going very well

Chairman Mahoney asked that the Skatepark sub-committee return with their findings to the Commission. Also, he asked that the skatepark sub-committee answer the question of, "should we have a skatepark," when the committee appears before the Parks & Recreation Commission with their skatepark results.

Francis Rice said it makes sense to decide what areas are available for a skatepark first before going to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Chairman Mahoney reiterated that the skatepark committee would appear before the Parks & Recreation Commission with their findings on a skatepark site. Also, the skatepark sub-committee will answer the question of whether there is a demand for a skatepark in Newton.

Andrew Stern asked about the supervision at a skatepark. Commissioner Towle mentioned that if the skatepark is unsupervised, there is no liability, as per the Law Department. Mr. Stern also mentioned that Board of Aldermen involvement is needed for the skateparks, especially if a site is chosen in their Ward. There are two members of the Board of Aldermen on the sub-committee, Alderman Marcia Johnson and Alderman Mitchell Fischman.

Walter Bernheimer mentioned that there are two phases to the criteria for the skatepark, site selection and feasibility. Andrew Stern asked about a timetable, and Mr. Bernheimer said the Skatepark Sub-Committee is still meeting and would have more information in January of 2003 for the Parks & Recreation Commission members.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, mentioned that some skateparks are supervised such as Andover and Newburyport. The Skatepark Association criteria states that all skateparks should be supervised. Also, some skatepark sites provide skating instruction. Walter Bernheimer said that skatepark sites around here are not supervised. It is Mr. Kastner's recommendation that skateparks be supervised and provide instruction for skateboarders

Walter Bernheimer said that by the next meeting we would have eliminated sites and chosen 4-5 sites.

6. **Forte Park:** Commissioner Towle said that she had an on-site meeting with Joan Robes from the State regarding Forte Park. The Forte Park Grant has already been sent to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for approval. Deputy Commissioner Robert DeRubeis said that a letter has been sent to the State with our list of priorities for Forte Park.
7. **Update on Millennium Park:** Commissioner Towle mentioned that we are still meeting weekly on Millennium Park and that work on the parking lot is ahead of schedule.
8. **Community Preservation Act:** Commissioner Towle said that the CPA Committee has been meeting regarding the CPA monies and criteria for the projects submitted. The deadline for sending in the projects is November 1st. The Department has submitted two projects, Forte Park and Crystal Lake.
9. **New Business:** No new business. Motion was made by Francis Rice to adjourn the meeting. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. The commission members voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM in order to attend Mayor David B. Cohen's State of the City Address in the Aldermanic Chambers at 8:00PM.

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Andrew Stern, Alternates Peter Kastner and Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Robert Platt and Michael Clarke

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** Peter Kastner, Alternate, asked that the September meeting minutes be amended to read before a recreation project is submitted to the Community Preservation Act (CPA), it be approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Francis Rice motioned the Parks & Recreation Commission vote on recreation projects before they go to the CPA. Walter Bernheimer 2nd the vote. The commission member voted unanimously 7-0 to approve of the Parks & Recreation projects before they are sent to the CPA. With the amendment the September meeting minutes were approved unanimously 7-0 with an amended change. The October meeting minutes were approved unanimously 7-0.

2. **Commissioner's Reports on programs and maintenance:** Commissioner Towle reported that the maintenance personnel are doing an excellent job in leaf removal work at various locations in the City, another successful season for Farmer's Market at Cold Spring Park, Channon Ames, Manager and Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director, have started a new program, Therapeutic Horseback riding. As an update, there is a Dog Park Committee who are looking into a place for dog parks in Newton. The Committee is looking into park areas, for use at certain times of the day; leash laws, and pooper scoopers. Right now there are more unleashed dogs in parks than the Dog Officers can handle. Peter Johnson asked about schedules at Newton North Indoor Complex. If anyone has any questions about NNHS Indoor Complex, please call the Recreation Office. The parks web site also has the information on it.

- 3. **Introduction, Marc Welch, new Director of Urban Forestry:** Commissioner Towle introduced Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, to the commission members. Mr. Welch is very happy and pleased to be the new Director of Urban Forestry for the City of Newton. His background is in Urban Forestry and his former job was the City Arborist /Tree Warden for the City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department. Working for the City of Newton will be a challenge. He has a high regard for the City of Newton, and will take his job to the next level. He was educated at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA., Bachelor of Science, May 1999, majoring in Forestry and Concentration, Urban Forestry.

He was asked about the tree loss per year, Marc's response was that we remove 500 trees per year and plant only 100. Therefore, we need to maintain the trees that we have. Chairman Mahoney and the commission members welcomed Marc to the Parks & Recreation Department.

- 4. **Update – Flowed Meadow, Marty Sender Pathway:** Construction was started on the Marty Sender Pathway, without informing our Department of such, said Commissioner Towle. The problem now is the specs for the pathway, which include two upright granite pillars at the entryway, should be 11' instead of 8' wide so city vehicles can get through i.e. fire engines. Also, the sidewalks, as per the Newton specifications, are not wide enough. More monies will be needed to correct this problem.

CPA Grant Proposals:The Crystal Lake and Forte Park projects are on the CPA list for projects said Commissioner Towle.

Andrew Stern mentioned that one of the CPA grant proposals received was for Flowed Meadow. Also, on December 11th & 13th the committee will meet on the project requests. The committee has received 22 proposals this session.

Walter Bernheimer made mentioned that Forte Park is one of the sites on the skatepark list and how does this fit in the CPA request. Commissioner Towle said the Department applied for an Urban Self-Help Grant from the State. Applying for CPA monies would be above and beyond the State monies for improvements. Mr. Bernheimer also mentioned the committee has narrowed the skatepark sites from 28 to 8 which include; Albemarle, Warren, Forte Park, Cabot, Newton Centre Playground, Newton Highlands Playground, DPW Land on Eliot Street and Newton South Complex. The committee will start ranking the skatepark sites. The Department is looking to do a survey concept/needs assessment plan for Parks & Recreation. Channon Ames, Manager, drafted a needs assessment that was given to the skatepark committee. Also, at the last skatepark committee meeting, the group concluded that any survey regarding demand and usage of a potential skatepark facility is the responsibility of the Parks & Recreation Commission, not the skatepark committee. Mr. Bernheimer also asked, is there a need for a skatepark in Newton?

(3)

The survey that was done by the Sk8park Committee is unscientific and biased. We need to do a survey of the 7,000 children in Newton and extrapolate the data. Newton Highlands is still on the site list. Peter Johnson mentioned, we still need to determine if there is a need for a skatepark. The skateboarders use stairs and streets for their skateboarding now.

If a demand exists for a skatepark, then we should go ahead with it. Andrew Stern mentioned there is a shortage of open space in Newton. Francis Rice commented, we need to find out if there is a demand for a skatepark and go from there. Also he suggested two other sites; Washington Street near the Aquinas School and the Davis School area.

Susan Madden, Sk8park Committee, spoke about the time and energy that was put into the Sk8park survey that they did. There was a limited amount of time to do the survey in the schools. The teachers at NNHS gave out the survey as well. The survey was given to the 4th & 5th graders at 4 elementary schools. The committee missed one middle school the survey. There are 7,000 kids in Newton, if you build a skatepark they will come. Monies are a burden the committee does not have any skatepark funds as yet.

Francis Rice mentioned that if a skatepark site is found, how is it to be funded? Also, how will the site be maintained? Did both boys and girls complete the survey?

Walter Bernheimer asked Ms. Madden to provide him with the spreadsheet that their committee used for their survey, and she said she would send it to him.

Susan Erickson, Sk8park Committee mentioned that a skatepark would only take up an area of 3 tennis courts. On Fundraising, the committee has some indications as to where funds for the skatepark will come from including the CPA, if their requirements are met. Susan said she has worked on many campaigns on how to raise monies and is confident that the skatepark would be a sellable item with attractive aspects.

Walter Bernheimer commented that if there is public/private financing for this project, maybe the City could help. The next skatepark meeting is December 10th, 2002.

Input from the community is needed said Andrew Stern. Land use is a big issue, which should be weighed against other programs, i.e. soccer, basketball.

(4)

Commissioner Towle suggested a needs assessment, is there a demand, and to apply for CPA monies as a funding resource. Also, she agrees with Walter Bernheimer that there is a need for a citywide recreational survey.

Chairman Mahoney mentioned it is the consensus of the group that Walter Bernheimer, come back to the Commission with his skatepark report and include; is there a demand for a skatepark, should there be a skatepark, if so, at what location. Mr. Bernheimer said he would have the verbiage report.

Commissioner Towle commented if we build a skatepark, they will come, however, who will maintain it, as this is not an inexpensive project, and we do not have the resources to do so.

- 5. **Skating Rules & Regulations for 2002-2003:** The Commissioner reported, there are no changes in the Outdoor Skating Rules & Regulations. No fees are charged for outdoor ice-skating. The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Outdoor Skating Rules & Regulations for the 2003-2003 season.
- 6. **Update on Millennium Park:** Commissioner Towle said she is working with the Public Works Department regarding the new Department Heads Parking Lot on the Homer Street side of City Hall. She is very pleased with the progress made by the Public Works Department crews. The bid for Millennium Park should be going out in December, the work should start in April and be completed by next fall.
- 7. **New Business:** No new business.

The meeting adorned at 8:48PM



David B. Cohen
Mayor

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

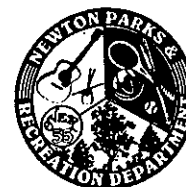
FRAN L. TOWLE - COMMISSIONER

70 Crescent Street, Auburndale, MA 02466

Office: 796-1500 Forestry: 796-1530 Maintenance: 796-1526

Fax: 796-1512

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2002
NEWTON CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM



In Attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Fran Rice, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Andrew Stern, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates Peter Kastner and Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Susan Erickson, Sk8Park

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the minutes of the November meeting.
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance and Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported that for the first time in a number of years, both high school football teams were home for Thanksgiving. To make it more difficult, both fields had to be cleared of 6" of snow prior to the game. Dave Mandatori and his crews did a wonderful job of getting both sites ready for Thanksgiving. She also mentioned that earlier in the year there was a night game held at Newton North. Lighting for the game was supplied by Phil Mastroianni, working in conjunction with a local lighting contractor. There was an open meeting held at the Horace Mann School to discuss the Horace Mann Community Playground Project. The meeting was well attended and the Playground Committee did a wonderful job of presenting the project. The City has committed \$ 25,000 to the project and at this point the committee has raised approximately \$ 20,000.
3. **Update on Millennium Park:** Continue to meet and discuss the progress of Millennium Park. D.P.W. completed all the work on the parking lot that was scheduled for the fall. Still discussing the best way to bid out the remainder of the project. At this time it looks like a base bid, which includes everything except the wall, the wall will be bid out as an alternate. Will keep the Commission informed as to the progress of this project.
4. **Update on Skatepark Committee:** There is a plan to bring recommendations to the January Commission Meeting. The committee initially reduced the number of sites from 25 to 8, further reducing the number to 3 sites. The three top sites at this time are Warren House, Cabot Park and Newton Highlands. The committee is still

COMMISSION MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DeVITO

WARD 2 - JAMES MAHONEY, CHAIRMAN

WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON, VICE CHAIRMAN

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE

WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER

WARD 6 - ANDREW STERN

WARD 7 - GWEN FINEBERG

WARD 8 - ROBERT PLATT

FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

looking at Newton South as a possible site. The D.P.W. site at Elliot St. has been effectively ruled out.

Before the commission meeting, make sure that the Board of Alderman have the agenda. There are presently two alderman on the SkatePark Committee, and they have been very active. Jennie DeVito thanks Wally Bernheimer for his participation and strong commitment to finding a site for the skatepark. Mr. Bernheimer recommends that public hearings be held after the final three sites are determined. He felt that a report should be submitted to the Commission with the three sites and then a public hearing should be scheduled. Potential timeframe would be as follows: Report the final three recommended sites at the January 27, 2003, Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting. Have the hearing in February as a public hearing. After the public hearing, the Parks & Recreation Commission gives conditional approval to one site. Public hearings should be held at War Memorial to accommodate the expected turnout. Susan Erickson states that the hearing will raise a lot of issues and the committee should be prepared to listen to a number of varied issues.

- 5. **Update on Forte Park:** The Parks & Recreation Department has received a letter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that Forte Park has been selected to receive \$250,000 in grant aid. The funding source will be on the federal level through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). There will be a LWCF workshop in January to discuss contract documents and reimbursement procedures. The good thing about federal funding is that it extends the funding deadline.

On Monday, December 9, 2002, the Community Preservation Committee voted to recommend that the Board of Aldermen appropriate and transfer \$500,000 for the Forte Park Phase II Renovation Project. The stipulation on the funding was that if federal funding did not come through, then CPC would reserve the right to revisit the Forte proposal.

- 6. **Update on Community Preservation Act:** The Parks & Recreation Department has put in a proposal for the replacement of the current docks at Crystal Lake. November was the deadline for the first round of proposals. Nineteen initial proposals were pared down to fifteen proposals. Public hearings were held on December 9th and December 11th to discuss the proposals. Action on the proposals will take place in January. The deadline for the second round of applications is April.

It was recommended that the Parks & Recreation Commission should hear all the proposals that are related to parks and recreation land.

- 7. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 27, 2003

Newton City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Andrew Stern, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alternates Peter Kastner, Jack Neville & Michael Clarke, Alderman Mitchell Fischman, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters and Joan McGrath

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the minutes of the December meeting.

2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance and Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported that ice skating at the Auburndale Cove started last Wednesday. On Saturday the count was 200, and Sunday, which was a delightful day, 400 people were ice-skating. Dave Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, and his crew did an excellent job in planing the ice. At one time there were 6 hockey games going on and a large area set-aside for just skaters. Measurements are taken daily at Crystal Lake, Bullough's Pond and the Auburndale Cove. Bullough's Pond has several ice pockets, therefore, a plow cannot be put on the ice. It was noted that Chairman Mahoney was one of skaters at the Cove on Sunday. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, is at the Finance Meeting at the present time, for Parks & Recreation snow/ice monies.

This is the 14th year the Department is applying for its annual Tree City USA recertification. There were two sledding accidents at Newton Centre Playground. Two children were hurt sledding, one went to the hospital for stitches. The children, ages 6 and 8, slid into the brook that runs through the playground. The solution was to block the brook area with tires and hay bales, and to monitor the sledding area very closely. It was also noted that with the new plastic discs and toboggans, the people go faster and slide further. The Department debated closing the area down, however, parents asked to keep the area open with close monitoring by the Department. Francis Rice mentioned that there are sledding accidents at the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course also, even though sledding is not allowed.

The Department is very involved with Judge Dyanne Klein's Community Court Program. Under the direction of David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, and Judy Dore, Manager, the Community Service people, usually 8-10 in number work four to eight hours on Tuesday's and Saturday mornings. Most people are teens or young people in there 20's, who work on outside projects, rake leaves, and some manual labor. A court worker and a recreation worker supervise the group. Jack Neville, Alternate, mentioned that the Town of Brookline also utilizes the Community Service people and the group is a real plus for his department.

Commissioner Towle also talked about the upcoming 2003 Camp Fair. The Camp Fair will be held on Tuesday, February 4th, 2:00-8:00PM in the War Memorial at City Hall. There is a Camp Fair display inside the front entrance at City Hall, created by Judy Dore, Recreation Manager.

- 3. **Walter Bernheimer, Skatepark Committee Report:** The committee met last week, February 24th and decided that they should have one more meeting before reporting the results to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Francis Rice said the purpose of the sub-committee was to find out if there was a demand for a skatepark and select some skatepark sites. Chairman Mahoney complimented Walter Bernheimer on the excellent job he has done as Chairman of the sub-committee. Originally, the skatepark sub-committee were to bring their findings to the January Commission Meeting. The skatepark sub-committee members raised some further issues and it was decided to hold another skatepark meeting in February. Chairman Bernheimer commented that the Recreation Commission is responsible for recommending potential sites and to see if there is a demand for a skatepark. The Parks & Recreation Commission is responsible for deciding whether to recommend to other committees that we should try to build a facility in Newton and where it should be located. Everyone agrees that funding a skatepark is a big factor. Once everyone is on board and there are funds, then it would become the responsibility of the Commission and the Department to implement, plan the specifics, build, administer rules, etc.

Andrew Stern suggested the Skatepark Committee send a proposal to the CPA for funding.

Chairman James Mahoney mentioned that the role of the sub-committee was to see if there was a demand for a skatepark, and recommend several sites. Funding is important and public hearings will be held in the three skatepark suggested site areas.

(3)

After a brief discussion Chairman Mahoney suggested that anyone could make a motion to vote on the Skatepark report, however, it is premature, as the commission needs to see what the skatepark committee has come up with.

Walter Bernheimer is Chairman of a 13 member skatepark committee, who have been meeting since last July. The Commission should discuss the skatepark report after they have a chance to review it. which will be ready for the February Commission Meeting. It would be appalling to vote on a report that the Recreation Commission has not seen as yet. Also, he suggested that instead of using the word need for a skatepark, he prefers to use the word demand.

Alderman Mitchell Fischman is still concerned with liability, noise, sites, and neighborhoods for a skatepark. At the next skatepark meeting we need to consider what the skatepark area would look like at a site, how would it operate and be supervised, visibility, talk with neighbors and study each site again. There are many unanswered questions that still remain and should be asked at the next skatepark meeting.

Jennie DeVito asked if the demand numbers warrant a skatepark? When the Sk8park Committee presented their proposal last year, the cost of the skatepark was \$20,000. The size of the skatepark has now increased as well as the cost of a skatepark.

Andrew Stern discussed the CPA monies and that there are a lot of CPA proposals in limbo at the moment. Kessler Woods, an open space area that is owned by NSTAR is coming up for bid. This is the last big parcel of open space and the City would like to put a bid in for it. At the moment the other projects are on hold i.e. Docks at Crystal Lake. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase open space in Newton.

Peter Kastner mentioned that private groups who are asking for CPA monies for recreation lands should appear before the Parks & Recreation Commission to get the commission's approval before going to the CPA.

Peter Johnson mentioned financing for the skatepark is a major issue. Also, he asked that the Commission listen to the skatepark information presented at the February Commission Meeting, but not vote on it at that time. The Commission members need to discuss the skatepark report before a vote is taken.

(4)

Robert Platt suggested that motions can be made at the February meeting. However, we need a public hearing on the recommendations on the sites. Financing is important and choosing one or more sites is important. How the project is funded makes a big difference in a commission member's vote.

Francis Rice motioned that after Walter Bernheimer's report is reviewed at the February meeting, and there is a sufficient demand and potential site for a skatepark, the commission members could take a vote without a public hearing. Robert Platt 2nd the motion.

Alderman Mitchell Fischman commented that in selecting sites, we need to know where the skatepark would fit on the site, size of skatepark, and is one location any more expensive or inexpensive than another? Also, public hearings will be needed at the three selected community areas.

Robert Platt asked if a straw vote could be taken this evening without seeing the information from the sub-committee?

Chairman Mahoney said it would be premature to vote at this time. The commission members need to see the results of the skatepark committee at the February meeting.

The commission members voted 2 in favor and 6 against voting on the skatepark committee information at the February meeting. Robert Platt and Francis Rice were the two members who voted in favor of voting on the skatepark information at the February meeting.

- 4. **Forte Park:** Commissioner Towle received notice from the State on guidelines for applying for grants. There is a workshop tomorrow in Worcester regarding information on Grant Round Project Sponsors. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Channon Ames, Manager, will be attending the workshop.
- 5. **Millennium Park:** Commissioner Towle is working with Ed Chang, Architect, Millennium Park and will be meeting with him this week regarding the project going out to bid.
- 6. **Budget:** Commissioner Towle, Deputy Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, and Kathy Brearley, Bookeeper, have been meeting to discuss the Parks & Recreation budget cuts. The Department's budget cut is \$56,000 with more anticipated cuts. Commissioner Towle will keep the Commission Members informed about further budget cuts.

- 7. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle received an inquiry as to what the procedure would be to put low income housing on Parks & Recreation Land?

Peter Kastner, Alternate, commented that there is not much land left in Newton for recreation purposes. If land were to be donated for other use, it would be a loss to the Parks & Recreation Department. Open Space is at a premium.

Walter Bernheimer asked if there was a specific low income housing proposal planned and where is the land in question? Commissioner Towle said, it is a small parcel of land on Lowell Avenue, Claflin School area that is owned by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Chairman Mahoney asked Commissioner Towle to bring any further information she receives on the low-income housing proposal to the commission. The Commission would have to vote on it as well as the Board of Aldermen, Housing Authority and the State Legislature. Commissioner Towle will keep the commission informed on any information she receives regarding this issue.

Andrew Stern mentioned the 42 acres of Kessler Woods, owned by Nstar, is coming up for bid. The land itself is worth 10 million dollars. City Officials are scrambling to extend the deadline so they can get a bid together.

Francis Rice motioned that Andrew Stern write a letter to Mayor Cohen from the Commission members, supporting his efforts to seek a postponement of NStar's February bidding deadline of February 21st for Kessler Woods. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

Andrew Stern suggested the Commission send a letter to Mayor Cohen to support the Mayor's efforts to seek a postponement of NStar's February 21st bidding deadline so that the City can bid on the land. Andrew will write the letter to the Mayor for the Commission members.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to permit Andrew Stern write a letter to Mayor Cohen from the Commission members, supporting his efforts to seek a postponement of NStar's February bidding deadline of February 21st for Kessler Woods.

Robert Platt mentioned the Sk8park Committee is holding a meeting on Sunday, February 2nd, 3:30-5:30PM at the Eliot Church in Newton.

Meeting adjourned 8:55PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 27, 2003

Newton City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

REVISED

In attendance: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Francis Rice, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Andrew Stern, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alternates Peter Kastner, Jack Neville & Michael Clarke, Alderman Mitchell Fischman, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters and Joan McGrath

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the minutes of the December meeting.
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance and Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported that ice skating at the Auburndale Cove started last Wednesday. On Saturday the count was 200, and Sunday, which was a delightful day, 400 people were ice-skating. Dave Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, and his crew did an excellent job in planing the ice. At one time there were 6 hockey games going on and a large area set-aside for just skaters. Measurements are taken daily at Crystal Lake, Bullough's Pond and the Auburndale Cove. Bullough's Pond has several ice pockets, therefore, a plow cannot be put on the ice. It was noted that Chairman Mahoney was one of skaters at the Cove on Sunday. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, is at the Finance Meeting at the present time, for Parks & Recreation snow/ice monies.

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The Department is very involved with Judge Dyanne Klein's Community Court Program. Under the direction of David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, and Judy Dore, Manager, the Community Service people, usually 8-10 in number work four to eight hours on Tuesday's and Saturday mornings. Most people are teens or young people in there 20's, who work on outside projects, rake leaves, and some manual labor. A court worker and a recreation worker supervise the group. Jack Neville, Alternate, mentioned that the Town of Brookline also utilizes the Community Service people and the group is a real plus for his department.

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The Commission members voted 8-0 to permit Andrew Stern write a letter to Mayor Cohen from the Commission members, supporting his efforts to seek a postponement of NStar's February bidding deadline of February 21st for Kessler Woods.

Robert Platt mentioned the Sk8park Committee is holding a meeting on Sunday, February 2nd, 3:30-5:30PM at the Eliot Church in Newton.

Meeting adjourned 8:55PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 24, 2003

7:30PM, Newton City Hall, Room 209

Attending: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Andrew Stern, Alternate Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alternate Peter Kastner: Absent Robert Platt

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the minutes of the December meeting.
2. **Commissioner's Report of Program, Maintenance and Forestry:** The Commissioner discussed one of the largest snowstorms we had this season with 20" of snow. The Department did a fantastic job in the clearing of snow from our designated areas. There were 16 ice skating days at the Auburndale Cove. One of the skaters was Chairman Mahoney, who enjoyed many days ice-skating. In the packets are two letters regarding the temporary snow storage sites/locations. The Camp Fair 2003 was a huge success, Judy Dore, Manager was very instrumental in the planning and preparations for the fair. Also in the packet is a job opportunity for Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance brochure that was sent out two weeks ago to colleges, etc. This was Peter Quaranto's position that he retired from last November. The Department is also in the process of hiring an Irrigation Specialist.
3. **Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 17th Commission Meeting.**
4. **Budget 2004:** Commissioner Towle presented the FY2004 Parks & Recreation Budget to the Commission members. A memo from Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, is in the budget book on the budget cut for our Department. Bob DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner did an excellent job in the synopsis of the budget cuts on page five:

(2)

- Newton Centre Tennis: Increase fees from \$80.00 to \$110.00 and reduce leadership hours
- Recreation & Program Supplies: Eliminate purchase of baseballs for National & International league
- Indoor Recreation Activity: North Indoor Complex-increase membership by charging groups that use facility for programming, i.e. Box Lacrosse, Jr. Olympic Volleyball
- Umpires/Referees: Adult winter league basketball to pay for referees
- Public Grounds Maintenance: Cold Spring-irrigation through well water-Off city water supply
Albemarle Soccer field-irrigation through well water – Off city water supply
- General Services Salaries: Decrease grass cutting contract through a reduction in cuts, eliminate three days from the grass cutting contract
- Grounds Care Supplies/Trees: Charge a fee for off-season marking of fields

Total Deductions from Parks & Recreation Budget: \$56,737.00

In regards to the tennis at Newton Centre, the tennis instructor will keep an eye on the courts, they will be open 9:00AM – 12:00PM, closed from noon to three for maintenance, open three to dusk. Notices will be sent our regular members and monies will be collected on site. Fees will increase from \$80.00 to \$110.00 this season.

Also, there is a bid process for the tennis program. The Department received 11% of the tennis fees collected through the Parks & Recreation Tennis Program.

Francis Rice motioned to approve the Parks & Recreation Budget for FY2004. Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously, 8-0 to approve the Parks & Recreation Department's Budget for FY 2004.

Commissioner Towle said that the camps are on the Revolving Funds. The fees pay the costs including the leadership costs and break even. We do not make any monies on the Revolving Accounts.

Walter Bernheimer asked what fields are being watered on meters and at what cost. The Commissioner will bring this information to the next meeting. Also, included in the packed is a copy of the States FY03 Spending Reduction Plan for Local Aid Cuts.

Commissioner Towle and Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis, will appear before the Programs and Services Committee, Finance Committee and the Board of Aldermen for approval of the Parks & Recreation FY04 Budget.

- 5. **Millennium Park:** Commissioner Towle reported that the bids for Millennium Park should go out in March. James DeVoy, Engineering Department will oversee the Engineering of the project, and the Parks & Recreation Department is the Project Manager.
- 6. **Skatepark Committee:** Walter Bernheimer, Chairman of the Skatepark Committee gave the members the Report of the Citywide Skatepark Committee. He introduced some of the skatepark committee members who were attending the Commission Meeting, they include; George Claflin, Ted Kuklinsky, Francis Rice and Angie Clark. The objective of the skatepark committee was to see if there was a demand for a skatepark and also possible site locations for a skatepark, if one were built. There is no perfect location! The committee also had to look at impact on open space, area not isolated, safety/visibility, size, impact on current use, access by foot and car, public transportation, near bus/food, near bathrooms, ease of development, impact on residents, impact on noise and existing parking.

In reference to demand, there is clearly a demand for a skatepark. The committee relied on the Sk8Park Survey and the 3,000 – 4,000 children in grades four to eight who would be potential users of the skatepark.

In reference to feasible sites; the committee chose twenty six sites. The committee toured the sites in Recreation vans. For example Claflin School site was eliminated because it was 75 feet across from homes on Lowell Avenue. The Grove Street areas were not feasible according to the site ratings. Sites were then eliminated by due process and the three skatepark site locations determined are: Cabot Playground, Newton Highlands Playground and Warren (Richard J. McGrath Park). Warren has seven tennis courts, and the site would be on the west side replacing two of the tennis courts. The fourth site chosen was Newton South High School if all else fails.

There was a discussion about Albemarle, Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex) as there is no open space to install a skatepark without taking something out. There is no place to put a skatepark at Albemarle and it is heavily used sports complex. The committee also looked at private sites, cemetery, Avalon Bay and MDC land.

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(4)

Chairman Bernheimer commented that the important thing is that a study be executed by a professional consultant, under the aegis of the Parks & Recreation Department, regardless of the source of funding. Chairman Bernheimer would like the Parks & Recreation Commission to recommend to Mayor Cohen that fund be appropriated to do a feasibility study and authorize the Board of Aldermen to accept funds to do the feasibility study. Monies need to be found to do the feasibility and this is the next step towards the skatepark.

There is a demand for a skatepark, twenty seven potential sites were chosen and eliminated down to three/four sites, Cabot Playground, Newton Highlands Playground, Warren and if all else fails, Newton South High School.

Funding is needed to do a feasibility study and the monies are not in the Parks & Recreation Budget. The committee needs to request monies from the Mayor's Office.

Walter Bernheimer motion to request that a letter be send to Mayor Cohen, allocating funds for a feasibility study to be conducted at the four chosen skatepark sites and approval from the Board of Aldermen to approve private funds for a feasibility study at the four locations in order for the project to move forward. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The skatepark process would again come before the Parks & Recreation Commission and at that time public hearings will be held at each designated site.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to ask Mayor Cohen to request funds from the Board of Aldermen to pay for a professionally done feasibility study of a potential park. Also, we ask the Mayor for authorization to accept money from private donors in order to finance the study.

Skatepark Chairman Bernheimer also thanked Robert DeRubeis, Thomas Cahill and Faye Hays for their assistance on the Skatepark Committee.

Chairman Mahoney thanked Walter Bernheimer for the excellent Skatepark Committee Report. He also thanked the skatepark committee for their time, efforts and assistance to providing information for the skatepark report.

- 7. **Forte Park:** The Department is moving forward with Forte Park, we are working with Jennifer Soper from the State on Grant Monies which were approved by the State. Lighting for the entryway, courts, exercise trail at the perimeter and bocce courts, landscaping and irrigation of the site is in the grant. The next process is the design selection for an architect.

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8. **Dedication Policy:** A year ago a volunteer committee was selected to determine a uniform dedication policy. The committee will be meeting again to discuss guidelines, process for naming a dedication site, bench, etc. On the committee are Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Robert Platt, Carol Stapleton, Carol Schein and Marc Welch. A meeting has been set up for Tuesday, March 4th, 3:30PM at the Recreation Department.
9. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle thanked Deputy Commissioner Robert DeRubeis for his help with the FY04 Budget process.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
March 17, 2003
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: James Mahoney, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Andrew Stern, Alternate Michael Clarke, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Jack Neville, Alternate, and Priscilla Leith, League Women's Voters
Absent: Robert Platt and Alternate, Peter Kastner

1. **Chairman Mahoney called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** The minutes of the February meeting were approved 8-0. There were changes in the January meeting minutes. Andrew Stern suggested the Sk8park Committee may send a proposal to the CPA for funding (page 2) and combine two of Andrew Stern's paragraphs on page (3). The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the changes.

2. **Commissioner's Reports of Maintenance/Forestry and Programs:** The Department requested \$50,752 in additional snow monies for equipment and overtime. The February School vacation activities planned by our Department, was highly successful. The Recreation Managers involved were Judy Dore, Channon Ames and Marc Kelly. Since the February programs were such a big success, activities are being planned for the April school vacation week. The department is in the process of interviewing for Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance. At this time 34 resumes have been received. The bids have come in for the 3-year tree contract and Lewis Tree Company has won the bid. Lewis Tree Company did work for our Department three years ago. Asplundh is the present contractor until the end of June. The staff has been working on budget cuts, and we are investigating every possible avenue to make this possible. I will keep the Commission updated on the budget cuts.

3. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** The gavel was turned over to Commissioner Towle for election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

(2)

Jennie DeVito nominated Peter Johnson for Chairman. Francis Rice seconded the motion. With no other nominations for Chairman, the Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to elect Peter Johnson as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Walter Bernheimer nominated Andrew Stern for Vice Chairman. Michael Clarke seconded the motion. With no other nominations for Vice Chairman, the Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to elect Andrew Stern as Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Congratulations to both Peter Johnson and Andrew Stern on the election to the Parks & Recreation Commission as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Francis Rice suggested that in order give everyone the opportunity to be elected Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Chairman and Vice Chairman be changed every two years and also the Vice-Chairman would succeed as Chairman.

Walter Bernheimer thanked James Mahoney for the outstanding job that he has done through the years as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- 4. **Horace Mann Outdoor Classroom Proposal:** Attending: Margaret Doris, Joe Russo, Jack Leder and Joanne Raymond. Margaret Doris presented the Commission members a proposal for a Community Playground Project at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex, behind the Horace Mann School, from the Albemarle Playground Project Committee.

The project includes an outdoor gazebo classroom, flower bed, table/chairs, benches, shade trees, flowering tree, shrubs and a sundial/weather station. Also, the project would be handicap accessible. Enclosed in the proposal is a picture of the gazebo supplied by the Amish County Gazebo Company. In Phase I of the project is fundraising. Phase II of the project would include plastic slides with no static charges, relocation of the tot lot, community classroom outdoors, a ramp to the gazebo, and water fountain. The project committee will be asking the CPA for funding for just the outdoor classroom component. Those who would use the gazebo would be the public, senior citizens, Boys & Girls Club and nature groups.

The project committee is also requesting monies from the City for the tot lot, and is looking for donations from the public. Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, suggested that the department get rid of the tot lot fencing that is their now.

The Albemarle proposal is one of 15 that is now before the CPA committee for approval. The next proposals to be submitted to the CPA will be in October.

(3)

A suggestion was to have a master plan for the whole city. A master plan would help Commissioner Towle in dealing with i.e. Skatepark Proposal and the Albemarle Proposal. The City of Boston has a master plan and the Commissioner has requested a copy of it. A master plan would include pathways, bike paths, landscaping, footbridges, fitness courses, possibilities for future development, etc. A master plan needs of the whole city needs to be done to see the big picture

One suggestion was to develop a list of five other playgrounds, i.e. Edmands Park, Auburndale, and Old Cold Spring for CPA monies.

The gazebo is a structure and would need to be voted on by the Commission, under the Commission's policy on Procedures for Alteration of Lands and would include two meetings.

Margaret Doris said the gazebo would be an outside community classroom, semi shelter, which would also be used for passive recreation as well as bird watching, place for friends to sit and to be used as a multi purpose space.

Commissioner Towle said that the proposal committee is looking for a vote so that they can move on with the project, however, since this proposal includes a structure, two meetings are needed before a vote is taken. It was suggested that a special meeting be held in mid April. Also, the abutters to the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex need to be notified of the special meeting for this proposal only. The Albemarle Committee would like to start their project in June.

The public needs to hear the merits of the proposal before the Commission votes on it. The CPA Committee would need to hear that the Commission voted on the Albemarle Project before it comes before the CPA Committee in order to receive funding. Projects regarding recreation lands need to be approved by the Commission before a proposal goes before the CPA Committee.

Alternate Michael Clarke mentioned that open space is at a premium and there are many other projects that will be proposed in the City, i.e. boathouse on the Charles for seniors.

It was asked if this project is within the confines of the park area, not expanding on more land than expected. Joanne Raymond answered that this project is not infringing on open space, they are using the existing space.

(4)

Commissioner Towle met previously with Margaret Doris to discuss the committee working with the department on this proposal regarding water, electric repairs, and monies to be set aside for maintenance. The committee is using the best manufacturer for the wooden gazebo, which is a manufacturer from New York. The gazebo would be of high quality, durable wood. For lighting it would be low level solar.

Chairman Mahoney mentioned that for a structure on public lands, the policy is two meetings need to be held. For the next meeting the abutters to Albemarle would need to be notified of the meeting. A vote cannot be taken until a public hearing is held. The next scheduled Commission meeting will be April 28th. A special meeting could be held prior to the next Commission meeting.

It was decided a Special Commission Meeting would be held on Monday, April 14th, 7:30:PM, Room 209 at City Hall. The abutters to the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex (Albemarle) will be notified of the meeting. A vote can be taken at the April 28th Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Towle would like to tie this proposal in with the little league irrigation project. Also, a list of the top ten playgrounds that are in need or repair needs to be compiled.

Chairman Mahoney thanked the Playground Project at Albemarle Committee for their presentation

Commissioner Towle will contact Marion Pressley for a copy of Boston's Master Plan for the whole City.

- 5. **Forte Park Update:** The Department is working with the Engineering and Law Departments on a bid for the design of the Forte Park Project.
- 6. **Millennium Park Update:** The committee/departments are working on the bid packet. March 26th is the next Millennium Park meeting. It is hopeful the bid packet will be ready by April/May and the project to start in August.
- 7. **Budget Status:** More budget cuts will be forthcoming. The Department is looking into their fee packages for increases in rates.

(5)

- 8. **New Business:** In the recreation packets is a DRAFT of the application form for Donation/Memorial Commemoration. On the committee are Jennie DeVito, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Carol Schein and Carol Stapleton.

In looking over the information, Andrew Stern asked about the recycled benches also about the wooden benches. If a family is willing to pay extra for a wooden bench, which is reflective of the area, it should be included in the policy.

Chairman Mahoney wrote a letter to Mayor Cohen from the commission, regarding the Newton Sk8Park Committee. The committee voted unanimously 8-0 to ask the Mayor to request fund to pay for a professional feasibility study of four potential skatepark sites and/ask for authorization to accept money/grants from private donors in order to finance such a study. (copy of letter enclosed) Mayor Cohen gave Chairman Mahoney a letter response to the original letter. (copy enclosed) Mayor Cohen responded to the suggestions to seek private donations to fund a feasibility study is the best way to proceed at this point, and when such funds were forthcoming, he would be pleased to petition the Board of Aldermen to accept them.

It was suggested that Commissioner Towle notify Susan Erickson, Sk8park Committee, regarding a feasibility study for the skatepark.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM

2576

**SPECIAL MEETING
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 14, 2003, Room 209, City Hall**

Proposal for an Outdoor Playground Project at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex adjacent to Horace Mann School. Submitted by the Albemarle Playground Project Committee at Albemarle

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Robert Platt, Francis Rice, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Jack Neville, Alternate, Michael Clarke, Alternate

Also attending: Alderman Marcia Johnson, Channon Ames, Recreation Manager and Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Peter Johnson.

Chairman Johnson introduced Margaret Doris and Joe Leader for a proposal for an Outdoor Playground Project at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex adjacent to Horace Mann School.

Margaret Doris, President, The Playground Project at Albemarle (Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex) is a 5013C non/profit organization that their committee has been working on for the past ten years. Margaret displayed a map of the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex and showed the Parks & Recreation committee members as to where the project would be situated inside the two orange squares. The areas are adjacent to the Newton North Little League field near the sidewalk, near the Boy's & Girl's Club. A passive recreation area is needed just so that people can come and sit and also use the gazebo area for an outdoor classroom. The area will also include benches, tables/chairs, water fountain, plantings, raised bed for perennials and a sundial.

(2)

There are letters of support from the Boy's and Girl's Club, Understanding Our Differences, Horace Mann PTO and the principals of Horace Mann Elementary and Day Middle Schools.

Ms. Doris walked the area with David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department, and it was decided not to do any prep work until June/July. The Department and the playground committee are working together on this project.

Andrew Stern asked if the committee received an estimate from the Carol Johnson Firm about designing a master plan for the park. The amount would be \$15,000 for a Master Plan for the project at the playground area. There are still some things that need to be answered before the Master Plan i.e. one issue is the virus that is attaching trees, need to brainstorm some more on this said Ms. Doris. The gazebo will be great for senior citizens to just come and sit, school children and their projects and certain activities. Also, the vendor will construct the gazebo and they will send their own crew to build it.

Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, asked about the concrete platform, would they be built according to specifications? Has the type of sundial been decided on yet? Who does the site plan drawing for the Engineering Department? Is there a construction drawing? Mr. Leader said they have one but did not bring it. Ms. Doris said that the committee is still working with all the City Departments on leveling, grading and water. During the last project the City did the sidewalk and the committee was hoping the Public Works Department would do a new sidewalk. Doris said Joe Russo is working with her on this and could not be here this evening. Ms. Doris said that she appreciated all of the help that Fran Towle, Commissioner and the Parks & Recreation Department have given to her to further the project. Commissioner Towle commented that the list of projects that the Public Departments has this year is huge. Also, there is a drainage problem in the proposed area. Someone needs to be hired to do the site plans. Mr. Leader said that the vendor has done a site drawing.

A person in the audience, Sara Schectner, asked about the sundial and what type would they use, as she was from a company that makes sundials. She said there are different kinds of sundials and some are not exactly accurate.

(3)

A resident asked about the increase in foot traffic in this area. There are no sidewalks on the other side of the brook and cars use both side of Albemarle Road for drag racing. Mr. Betts has two small children and is aware of the cars going fast in this neighborhood. Also, she talked about kids using a pathway, in-between two houses, to get to Wildwood Street and other areas, which is not a right of way. Chairman Johnson recommended that the residents call the Police if they see cars speeding on Albemarle Road.

Alderman Marcie Johnson said she supports the Playground Project at Albemarle. The area does need some passive recreation in this area. Traffic is an issue and she will work with the neighbors and Robert Rooney, Commissioner, Public Works Department, on installing speed bumps on Albemarle Road. This would slow down the traffic. Also, she will speak to Chief Jose Cordero, Police Department, regarding speed bumps in this area.

Amelia Koch, President, League of Women's Voters gave a letter of support to Chairman Johnson, regarding the proposed Community Classroom at Albemarle Playground.

Chairman Johnson said that Peter Kastner, Alternate, could not attend tonight's meeting and he had asked that his comments be read.

- 1) He would ask for a master plan for the total park-prior to approving any specific project it might be a good time to look at how the total field is used and what plans due to have for the future.
- 2) As part of any improvement to this park -- attention should be paid to make improvements could be made to the park, planting etc, small space improvements, that may be of benefit to the neighborhood. This field carries a tremendous load beyond the improvements to planting along the brook are there any additional changes that could be made to improve the area for the general community-similar to improvements that were made to Weeks Field.
- 3) As a general question we are getting requests for community groups for improvement to Parks and Recreation land. We should think about how these projects stack up against the merit of projects that are in Departments capital budget program. I have no specific issues with this plan-but it seems to me that the capital budget is a solid planning tool and we should think about the value of having projects go ahead of the capital plan. For example the city has spent a great deal of effort on planning for Edmund's Park but no funds are in the pipe line to make the improvements requested in that plan. I am sure that this is true of other projects.

(4)

Ms. Doris said that the committee is willing to raise funds for improvements to the enhancing the Albemarle area.

Andrew Sterns recommends future maintenance plans in their proposal to the CPA.

Ms. Doris mentioned that the wood for the gazebo is pressure treated yellow pine. Also, the gazebo is one of the most expensive gazebo's that should last a long time. The committee will raise monies to cover these costs. Also, the committee will be raising monies on July 4th and will raffle off a quilt. There were 25 volunteers for the Newton Serves Project that put fibar down in the Albemarle playground area.

Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, asked about the gazebo; is it attached to the cement/concrete pad, and where is the ramp going to be positioned. Also, is there steel in the concrete platform and can the area be washed down with a hose.

Robert Platt asked about liability if someone sues? Does everybody get sued?

Chairman Johnson asked about the Community Preservation Committee time frame, a maintenance budget and a master plan, these need to be addressed before going to the Community Preservation Committee.

Commissioner Towle mentioned the Engineering Department needed to weight in on this project.

Chairman Johnson said that the commission would not vote on this project this evening.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

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REVISED
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 28, 2003
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Jack Neville and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Carlton Merrill, Alderman, Anthony Salvucci, Alderman, Marcia Johnson, Alderman, Scott Lennon, Alderman, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, Carol Stapleton, Manager, and Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator

1. **Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.** The minutes of the March 17, 2003 and April 14, 2003 Commission Minutes were unanimously approved 7-0.

2. **Commissioner's Reports of Maintenance/Forestry and Programs:**
Commissioner Towle reported on the highlights of the Department. The status of Millennium Park is that the bid packets should be ready by next week and the bids would go out by the end of May. The estimated cost is \$318,000 for the base bid. There are two Alternates: Alternate I would be the wall facing City Hall drive including the gateway and Alternate II would be the brick screening on either side of the dumpster. Three of the Department's Managers, Judy Dore, Channon Ames & Mark Kelly, planned the Fun-tastic April Vacation Program, which was highly successful. The vacation program included roller skating, movies, bowling, etc. A candidate has been selected for the Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance position and he will start on May 19th. There were thirty-four excellent candidates to choose from. Robert DeRubeis reported on the Stearns Park dedication. The playground has new lighting, seating, benches, and play tables provided by Community Development monies. Newton Serves volunteers cleaned up the Auburndale Cove pathways, Cold Spring Park, Horace Mann Playground and Edmands Park. The Department's maintenance crews picked up the trash/debris that was collected. The Newton Serves volunteers are a real plus for the Department.

The Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race was held on Marathon Monday, April 21st. There were 700 runners this year. The runners received t-shirts, keychains, a ticket to the Pasta Party and a race packet. The staff is working on a new web site for the Department, which will be on line by June. Parks & Recreation Manager, Tom Cahill, is working with Ann Cornaro, Director of Information Technology, on a new web site look. Eventually you will be able to sign up for programs online.

- 3. **Youth Awards Presentation to be held prior to the June 17th, Commission meeting at 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers:** The date on the April agenda was in error as it said prior to the May 19th meeting.

- 4. **Proposal for an Outdoor Playground Project at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex adjacent to Horace Mann School, submitted by the Albemarle Playground Project Committee at Albemarle:** Chairman Johnson introduced Margaret Doris, President, Community Classroom Project at Albemarle. Ms. Doris presented the Community Classroom Proposal at the April 14th Commission Meeting. Ms. Doris is working with the Principal of Horace Mann School, Joseph Russo and Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, on the Community Classroom Project. Commission members asked questions about the gazebo, plantings and size of area and layout of plan. It was suggested that a comprehensive plan was needed. Also, it was asked if monies were available for this project, and Ms. Doris replied that monies do need to be raised for this project. A comprehensive plan for the area by an architect would cost approximately \$15,000. The estimate for the Community Classroom Project Proposal from Margaret Doris is \$87,135. The Community Classroom Proposal has received letters of support from the community. It was mentioned that this proposal would need to be approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission before it can be approved by the Community Preservation Committee.

Alderman Marcia Johnson asked if the Community Classroom Project was a top priority and do the items on the list meet CPA standards. While Alderman Johnson supports the plan, she also thought a Master Plan is a good idea.

Andrew Stern asked if, the Community Classroom Proposal needed monies from the CPC to start the project? It is a catch 22. The CPC couldn't recommend funding when not given an irreparable and unconditional approval by the landowner

Walter Bernheimer mentioned he met with two of the Sk8Park Committee who also did not have the monies for a feasibility study, however, they are going to raise the monies.

(3)

There is a budget with the Community Classroom Proposal, however, we do not know if it is accurate. Need an engineering study and Walter Bernheimer suggested blueprints of the proposal.

It was suggested that a vote be taken on the proposal, so that the Community Classroom Project can move on to the next level. If the proposal passes through all other committees, the Community Classroom Project Proposal would need to come back to the Parks & Recreation Commission for final approval before the project is started. These requirements have to be met so that the project is in compliance with the Commission's Policy on Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands.

The Open Space Coordinator, Carol Schein, asked that the plan be reviewed properly for design, concept, maintenance, placement of play equipment, plantings, etc. A professional survey needs to be done with professional drawings and dimensions. Also, the proposal needs to be reviewed by the Engineering Department.

Walter Bernheimer made a motion to approve the concept subject to more details for the whole playground, someone to do a site plan and the planning component needs to be attached to the concept plan. In order for the proposal to be approved by the CPA, it has to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Doris commented that the area would be handicap accessible and would have the only vandal resistant drinking fountain in the park. When asked about monies, Ms. Doris said that all donations are going directly for the Community Classroom Proposal. There are no monies available for a Master Plan. Funding is needed from the CPA to move the project forward, and Ms. Doris is asking for approval from the Parks & Recreation Commission at this time. The next step is to go back to the CPA on May 14th for their approval of the plan. Andrew Stern commented the CPA Committee would look at the plan assuming the Community Classroom Proposal has details with it.

The commission raised the issue that private funding may be required to pay for the design and site plan proposal.

Commissioner Towle noted that when monies were being raised for the Nahanton Park Project, the site plan was done by Pressley Associates.

(4)

Alderman Johnson commented that assuming the committee could come up with the monies, what is the likelihood of this committee approving this proposal? Ms. Doris said the monies that have been donated are for the Community Classroom Proposal only. Is the Commission going to vote on just the concept or the plan? The commission members were still discussing this question.

Peter Kastner mentioned the gazebo is a private structure on public property and the Community Classroom Proposal Committee needs to provide proper drawings so the commission can see what they are voting on. The gazebo is the primary factor in the proposal as it is a private structure on public property.

Jennie DeVito said we have met the policy conditions and had the two proper required meetings regarding the Community Classroom.

Ms. Doris said that the committee needs the funding from the CPA to get started on the project and to keep it going.

Walter Bernheimer asked if the committee had a specific budget. The fountain, walkway, etc, are a good idea subject to draft blueprints and costs.

Motion was made by Walter Bernheimer to approve the concept of the Albemarle Project subject to completion of a professional blueprint for the "Community Classroom" itself with defined specifications according to the 1993 Commission Policy, Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations

Andrew Stern mentioned the concept could be potentially approved without the possibility of doing a Master Plan Component.

Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the concept of the Albemarle Project subject to completion of a professional blueprint for the "Community Classroom" itself with defined specifications according to the 1993 Commission Policy, Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands.

The commission supports the idea of the project; however, it is withholding final approval until such time that a completed proposal is submitted.

- 5. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 16th to July 20th, 2003.**

(5)

Chairman Johnson introduced Nunzie Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Society. Mr. Leone is requesting permission to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival on July 16, 2003 through July 20, 2003 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground. Mr. Leone mentioned that nothing has changed since last year, same operator, police details, etc.

- Carnival personnel will be allowed to set-up no sooner than Monday, July 14 at 8:00AM. All rides and booths are to be cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 22 at noon. The Society will be responsible for the damages to the grounds. Carnival to be operated Wednesday, July 16 through Sunday, July 20, 2003.
- All rides to be inspected by Building Department prior to openings
- Carnival personnel to meet with Recreation Commissioner and Police Department
- Type and amount of rides same as 2002
- Closing time will be 11:00PM for the entire week
- The operator will furnish certificates of insurance with the limits specified in the permit naming the city as an additionally insured party
- All food vendors will be in compliance with the Board of Health requirements and licenses

Motion was made by Peter Kastner to approve the St. Mary of Carmen request to hold the carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from Wednesday, July 16 though Sunday, July 20, 2003, set up no sooner than Monday, July 14th at 8:00AM and cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 22nd at noon. Walter Bermheimer seconded the motion.

Mark Bloiser, resident Jennison Street commented on the following; Merry-Go-Round lights shine in his bedroom, generators hum, trailer count not accurate, carnival noise is loud, illegal fireworks on Sunday at the end, beer cans, (the carnival only serves beer in cups), litter, condoms and wrappers. It was suggested that if there is a problem the Police should be notified. If there are problems with the rules and regulations governing the Carnival, call the Recreation Department or Alderman Scott Lennon, the Alderman from the Nonantum area. Mr. Bloiser was invited to attend the walk through with the Society and the Parks & Recreation Department. Also, it was suggested that perhaps he would like to attend a joint meeting with the Police Department, so that all parties could voice their concerns directly to the Police Department.

Alderman Carlton Merrill from the Licensing Commission, said that the Licensing Commission checks the amount of rides, how many can be on the ride at one time and the 20 games of skill.

(6)

Alderman Scott Lennon supports the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival application and the only complaint that he heard from last year's carnival was about parking. This event brings the community together. If anyone has any complaints about the Carnival they should call the Parks & Recreation Department. Alderman Scott Lennon generously offered to help neighbors resolve any problems that they may have with the Carnival.

Jennie DeVito said that the Department has adhered to all the rules involved since the start of the carnival and each year the rules become better and stronger.

Walter Bernheimer suggested that when Commissioner Towle checks the Carnival, bring one of the neighbors on the run through.

The Commission members voted 7-0 to approve the St. Mary of Carmen Request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival from Wednesday, July 16th through Sunday, July 20, 2003. Set up no sooner than Monday, July 14th at 8:00AM and to be cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 22nd at noon.

Nunzie Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Carnival thanked the members of the Commission for permission to hold the Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground.

- 6. **Update Skatepark:** Commission Towle said that two proposals have been received from Camp, Dresser, McKee and Marion Pressley Associates for the proposed skatepark sites.
- 7. **Donation/Commemoration Draft, Carol Stapleton, Manager.** Ms. Stapleton asked the commission members for their suggestions/corrections to the Donation/Commemoration Draft. The commission members gave their input and Ms. Stapleton will revise the Donation/Commeration Draft. Ms. Stapleton thanked the commission members for their comments and input.
- 8. **Status of Budget:** Commission Towle to present the FY04 Parks & Recreation Budget to the Programs and Services Committee on Wednesday, May 14th, 8:45PM in room 222 at City Hall.
- 9. **Swimming season information and fees, Gath Pool, Tom Cahill, Manager and Crystal Lake, Carol Stapleton, Manager:**

2/16

(7)

The proposed fees for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake:

- Adult \$35.00
- Student \$15.00
- Adult Daily \$ 6.00
- Student Daily \$ 4.00
- Non-Resident Daily \$10.00

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the proposed fees for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake.

10. Tennis Rules & Regulation Fees, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager:

The proposed tennis fees for the Newton Centre Clay courts are as follows:

- Resident Adult \$110.00
- Resident Student (under 18) \$ 70.00
- Non-Resident Adult \$200.00
- Non-Resident Student \$150.00

Hourly Rates:

- Resident Adult \$ 10.00 per person
- Resident Student (under 18) \$ 8.00 per person
- Non-Resident \$ 12.00 per person

Tentative length of regular season May 12 – Labor Day, 2003
Post season: Labor Day – September 30, 2003

Motion was made by Walter Bernheimer to approve the Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees. Motion was seconded by Francis Rice.

The commission members voted 7-0 to approve the 2003 Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees.

11. Proposed Safety Program for Playgrounds, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager:

Ms. Pelkowsky presented a draft of the Proposed Safety Program for Playground Safety. The first three pages of the draft are the nuts and bolts of the proposed manual. Ms. Pelkowsky worked with Dan Funk, Law Department on the verbiage on page 12, 13 & 14. She asked the members to look over the information and bring the changes to the next commission meeting.

12. Mayors Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 14th, 7:30AM at Boston College's McElroy Commons.

13. **New Business:** Marty Sender Pathway. Mr. Hobble from the Charles River Watershed Association is requesting the name of the Marty Sender Memorial Walkway be changed to the Marty Sender Memorial Riverway.

Francis Rice motioned to change the name of the Marty Sender Memorial Walkway be changed to the Marty Sender Memorial Riverway. Andrew Stern seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to change to the name of the Marty Sender Memorial Walkway to the Marty Sender Memorial Riverway.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 19, 2003
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

Attending: Andrew Stern, Acting Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito, Peter Johnson, Walter Bernheimer, Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner

Also attending: Priscilla Leith, League Women's Voters, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager

1. Minutes of the April 28, 2003 commission meeting.
2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:** Commissioner Towle reported on the highlights of the department. At the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on May 14th, Mayor Cohen presented a "Mayor's Medallion Award" to the Parks & Recreation Commission on behalf of sports leagues. Peter Johnson, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission accepted the award for the Commission. The Award recognizes the department's volunteers. The volunteers are a real plus for our department, as we could not get all the projects done without them. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake open on June 9th (see Faye for swim passes). Regarding the skatepark, the department has received two proposals for all three skatepark sites from Pressley and Associates and Camp, Dresser & McKee. The bid from Pressley Associates was \$13,000 - \$14,000 and CDM \$21,000 for the three conceptual designs. When monies for the plans are raised, public meetings with the neighborhood would be held at the three proposed locations, Newton Highlands Playground, Cabot Park and McGrath Park.

Andrew Stern asked how extensive the designs are in connection with; what sports are played on the fields, at what time of the year do they play, and how extensive is the usage during the seasons. Commissioner Towle said she was very impressed with the two-skatepark proposals received.

(2)

The bids open for the Crystal Lake docks open on May 29th. Carol Stapleton, Manager, is working with the Planning Department on the Crystal Lake docks. The Crystal Lake dock proposal was defeated by the CPA, however, there was emergency funding in the CIP account for the project. Last Wednesday, evening at Post 440, the 25th anniversary of the Parks & Recreation Special Olympics was celebrated. Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director, planned the special event. Over two hundred people attended the function. It was a great turnout with participants, families, friends and staff. The Department just received the bid packets for Millennium Park. A meeting will be held with the Engineering Department, Law Department and other personnel to review the bids. The bid package will go out after review by the aforementioned departments.

Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, is working on the handicap accessibility project at Burr Park. The project is to start in a couple of weeks. The handicap accessible area would be from the Park Street side to the building, by the field and from major areas of the park. Bigelow Middle School uses the fields, for tennis, soccer and softball. Also, a new backstop has been installed at Burr Park.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, spoke about the irrigation at the Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex. The Department is waiting to hear from NStar to hook up the electricity. A Blecavator will be used to excavate the soil. The Blecavator will till the soil, bury the rocks, level and seed the six-acre area. Tupersand, a herbicide, was suggested to be used at the field area, however, the option was taken off the table, as people were concerned the Tupersand would run into the brook if it rained. The irrigation will be run off of the well system that was recently installed. Summer baseball was cancelled at this site and other games were moved to Newton South, Lincoln, Auburndale Cove, West Newton Common and Upper Falls Playground. This type of project was tried at Newton North and Newton South High Schools, and worked out very well.

- 3. **Youth Awards Presentation to be held in the Board of Aldermen Chambers, on Monday, June 16th, 7:00PM, prior to the Commission Meeting.**

- 4. **Proposed Safety Program for Playground Apparatus:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, spoke about the Proposed Safety Program for Playground Apparatus. The proposed guidelines are for the future i.e. Horace Mann renovations. We need to be consistent in the guidelines with all parks/playgrounds. Stephanie met with Dan Funk, Law Department, and Michael Cronin, School Department, regarding this proposal. When the Albemarle Playground group raises monies for the new playground, either a contractor can install the equipment or volunteers. If volunteers install the equipment, the play equipment contractor will send a person from the company to supervise the proceedings.

Commissioner Towle complimented Stephanie on the great job she was doing on the Proposed Safety Program for Playground Apparatus.

- 5. **Donation/Commemoration Policies:** The policy is being revised and also a copy was sent to the Engineering Department for their input.
- 6. **Proposed Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2003-2004:** The proposed Newton North Indoor Complex Fees will be voted on at the next meeting.
- 7. **Status of the Albemarle Playground Proposal (Horace Mann):** Commissioner Towle is meeting with the Engineering Department regarding the design for the site work plans for the Albemarle Playground Project. The plan also needs to be approved by the Conservation Commission in June/July due to the plans to excavate. The area would then be filled with fibar. The Engineering Department is helping out with the site plans. Conditional approval was given to the proposal from the Commission at the last meeting. A special commission meeting may be needed in July to approve the final plans for the Albemarle Project.
- 8. **Status of Budget:** The first budget cut for the Department was \$50,000 and the second budget cut of \$50,000 will be offset by a raise in various fees.

Commissioner Towle reported the Department has hired a new employee, Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance. Mr. Mannion has a background in turf management, was a Superintendent at several golf courses and also has a horticultural background. He attended the University of Massachusetts. His expertise in grass and turf maintenance will be a plus for David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance.

The Superintendent of Urban Forestry, Marc Welch, has been with the Department for a year now. He is doing an excellent job and the Department is very proud of his accomplishments.

(4)

The Parks & Recreation Department took over the rubbish responsibilities in the City Squares from the Public Works Department. The rubbish truck will pick up the rubbish in certain areas and eliminate some of the trash barrels in the City. The trash barrels will be emptied on the weekends also.

No votes could be taken at this meeting, as there was not a quorum.

Meeting ended at 8:30PM

City of Newton



David B. Cohen
Mayor

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FRAN L. TOWLE - COMMISSIONER

70 Crescent Street, Auburndale, MA 02466

Office: 796-1500 Forestry: 796-1530 Maintenance: 796-1526

Fax: 796-1512



NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 16, 2003

7:50PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Francis Rice and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Priscilla Leith, League of Women's Voters, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager

1. **Amended minutes of the April 28, 2003 meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0 subject to comments from the attached information as per Alternate Peter Kastner.**
Minutes of the May 19, 2003 meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0.

2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events, the renovations at Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex and updates on Millennium Park, Skatemark and Albemarle Proposal.** Summer programs will be starting soon. The field renovations are taking place at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex. The Blecavator machine will be used to excavate and till the soil, and bury rocks while leveling and seeding the six acre area. This is a new and modern technique, which we are really excited about. When the area is finished; it will be a showcase for the future. Millennium Park, the bid will be going out and the construction will start in the fall, ending in the spring. In reference to the Sk8park, Walter Bernheimer spoke about the recent meeting in which two proposals were received for conceptual plans of the three proposed skatepark sites. Both of the designs were comparable, however there was a substantial difference in price. The Sk8park Committee will need to raise \$15,000 for the skatepark conceptual plan. In terms of a Master Plan for the City, the Department is looking into the initial first step towards this project and what it would entail. Should the Department's facilities be looked at first? The Department will look at the City extensively, and investigate what will need to be done to pursue information for the Master Plan.

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DeVITO

WARD 2 - JAMES MAHONEY

WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE

WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER

WARD 6 - ANDREW STERN, VICE CHAIRMAN

WARD 7 - GWEN FINEBERG

WARD 8 - ROBERT PLATT

FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

(2)

It was suggested that we look at Master Plans for other cities and towns. Also, Jennie Devito suggested a committee be formed to look into a Master Plan for the City. The committee would include Commissioner Towle, Carol Schein, Adopt-A-Space Coordinator, Carol Stapleton, Manager, person from Parks & Recreation's Maintenance, person from Planning Department, and others. Andrew Stern suggested the Department check other towns and cities the size of Newton, Brookline, Winchester, Lexington, Wellesley or Needham. However, we need to see what the City already has in terms of the Open Space Plan as well as knowing what we want from the plan. A Master Plan would indeed be very useful for the next generation. The plan should involve the community groups, what facilities are available and a list of what parks are in the greatest need of improvements.

Commissioner Towle asked what the definitive is the definition of a Master Plan; strategic planning, list of areas in need and meetings with neighbors to help prioritize the list. For example, the Forte Park Project required four designers in the 1st go around, Phase I, which included sports lighting and the driveway. In working with Jennifer Soper, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Environmental Affairs, the Forte Park Project is moving forward. Recreation Manager, Channon Ames is doing an excellent job implementing this project. In regards to the Crystal Lake Docks, the two dock extensions are out of the water. There is some protest with the bidding of new docks and the two bidders at this time. A full set of docks will be needed at Crystal Lake for next year. The Albemarle Playground Project includes play equipment, swings, tot equipment and a Gazebo Classroom. The play equipment project should start at Albemarle after Labor Day. Also, the Albemarle Playground Project Committee will appear before the Conservation Committee with their plans. The playground committee is working with the Engineering Department and the Conservation Committee to move ahead with the plans. Alternate, Peter Kastner suggested that any structural alterations at recreation areas should come before the Recreation Commission for approval. Also, this type of report should include types of structure replacements.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that the Albemarle Playground Committee for the Community Classroom has met with the other City departments in reference to the Alteration of Land Policy. The playground committee is now waiting for approval from the Conservation Commission. If everything is tucked in, the Albemarle Committee will need to go before the CPC for monies which will include \$8,900 for plans, soil test, conditions and the rest of the funds will be drawn down when the Recreation Commission gives their approval. If the Board of Aldermen vote on the CPC monies by the end of June, monies would be available for the Community Classroom project in July.

(3)

Commissioner Towle informed the Commission members that the Department hired a new Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, Derek Mannion. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts in Forestry, and has worked on several golf courses including ones in Florida and Ayer, MA. Derek has good horticultural skills and is knowledgeable in Turf Management. Chairman, Peter Johnson worked with the camp scholarship committee in allocating scholarships for children to attend camp for a two-week camp period. The sum of twenty four thousand dollars was raised for the scholarships; which included fund raising, senior trips, golf and CDBG monies. Seventy-two people applied for scholarships this season.

The Department is proud to be recognized as the "2003 Outstanding Local Program" by Special Olympics Massachusetts. Mark Kelly, the Special Needs Director, received the award at the Summer Games at Harvard University on Sunday, June 15th. Also, the Department just celebrated their 25th Anniversary year of providing quality recreation programs for people with disabilities.

3. **July 4th Activities:** The Department is preparing for the 4th of July fireworks, with Kids Morning at Newton Centre Playground, pet parade, races, doll carriages, free candy & ice cream for the kids, Open Air Market, 6:00PM Zaitchik Band and 9:00PM the Fireworks at the Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex. There will be security changes this 4th of July with the fireworks because the field is being renovated.

4. **Proposed Safety Program for Playground Apparatus:** Commissioner Towle introduced Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, to discuss the proposed Safety Program for Playground Apparatus. The Safety Program has certified Stephanie for Playground Apparatus, which is a bonus to the Department. Stephanie asked the commission members for their input/changes for the proposed "Safety Program for Playground Apparatus." There will be an inspection playground plan in place and the areas will be checked on a regular basis by staff. The staff will check the playground areas for safety (i.e. to see if any bolts are missing or parts are broken in the equipment). It was asked why the City does not install the play equipment? Stephanie said the committee's/groups raise the monies for new play equipment and have the parents install the equipment with a private contractor and have a person from the company they bought the equipment from oversee the project.

Chairman Peter Johnson asked the members to make their revisions in the draft report and return them to Stephanie. The Commission will then vote on the Safety Program for Playground Apparatus at the September meeting. Also, Chairman Johnson thanked Stephanie for her presentation.

(4)

5. **Commemoration Policy Draft:** The Commemoration Policy Draft includes a Tier 1 and Tier 2 project. After a brief discussion Walter Bernheimer motioned to adopt the proposed policy with Jennie DeVito seconding the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Commemoration Policy.

6. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2003/2004:** The price increases will keep our programs consistent with our other permit increases and meet the mandate for fee generation from the Mayor's Office.

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Resident Adult Permit	\$36.00	\$ 60.00
Resident Student Permit	\$26.00	\$ 40.00
Resident Family	\$96.00	Not offered
Non-Resident Permit	\$95.00	\$125.00
Adult Daily	\$ 3.00	\$ 6.00
Student Daily	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00
Non-Resident	\$ 6.00	\$ 10.00

Gwen Fineberg motioned to approve the NNHS Indoor Complex Fees for 2003/2004 with Andrew Stern seconding the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Newton North High School Indoor Complex Fees for 2003/2004.

7. **Revision of the current Policies on Procedures for Alterations of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands. Andrew Stern:** What steps need to be taken i.e. Conservation Commissioner, Engineering Department and the raising of monies to make the conceptual plans for a project. Andrew Stern said the CPA Policy for private groups needs more detail. Levingston Cove was a project in which the process was not followed and became a problem; however, the problem has since been resolved. A more detailed procedure is needed for the groups to follow, subject to our policy and the type of plans the groups may have. A Master Plan of the City is needed in reference to the recreation areas involved.

Walter Bernheimer suggested the Commission proceed slowly in changing the policy/procedures at this time. The policy should have a priority list; type of project, need to check with Law Department and the finally the Recreation Commission who should have the power of eminent domain.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that if the Commission meets in July/August on the Albemarle Project, we would still use the existing Policies on Procedures for Alterations of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands. Also, a copy of the existing policy will be sent to the Law Department for their comments.

8. **New Business:** No new business.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 16, 2003

7:50PM, Room 209, City Hall

(Revised)

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Robert Platt, Francis Rice and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Priscilla Leith, League of Women's Voters, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager

1. **Amended minutes of the April 28, 2003 meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0 subject to comments from the attached information as per Alternate Peter Kastner.
Minutes of the May 19, 2003 meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0.**

2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events, the renovations at Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex and updates on Millennium Park, Skatepark and Albemarle Proposal.** Summer programs will be starting soon. The field renovations are taking place at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex. The Blecavator machine will be used to excavate and till the soil, and bury rocks while leveling and seeding the six acre area. This is a new and modern technique, which we are really excited about. When the area is finished; it will be a showcase for the future. Millennium Park, the bid will be going out and the construction will start in the fall, ending in the spring. In reference to the Sk8park, Walter Bernheimer spoke about the recent meeting in which two proposals were received for conceptual plans of the three proposed skatepark sites. Both of the designs were comparable, however there was a substantial difference in price. The Sk8park Committee will need to raise \$15,000 for the skatepark conceptual plan. In terms of a Master Plan for the City, the Department is looking into the initial first step towards this project and what it would entail. Should the Department's facilities be looked at first? The Department will look at the City extensively, and investigate what will need to be done to pursue information for the Master Plan.

277

(2)

It was suggested that we look at Master Plans for other cities and towns. Also, Jennie Devito suggested a committee be formed to look into a Master Plan for the City. The committee would include Commissioner Towle, Carol Schein, Adopt-A-Space Coordinator, Carol Stapleton, Manager, person from Parks & Recreation's Maintenance, person from Planning Department, and others. Andrew Stern suggested the Department check other towns and cities the size of Newton, Brookline, Winchester, Lexington, Wellesley or Needham. However, we need to see what the City already has in terms of the Open Space Plan as well as knowing what we want from the plan. A Master Plan would indeed be very useful for the next generation. The plan should involve the community groups, what facilities are available and a list of what parks are in the greatest need of improvements.

Commissioner Towle asked what the definitive is the definition of a Master Plan; strategic planning, list of areas in need and meetings with neighbors to help prioritize the list. For example, the Forte Park Project required four designers in the 1st go around, Phase I, which included sports lighting and the driveway. In working with Jennifer Soper, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Environmental Affairs, the Forte Park Project is moving forward. Recreation Manager, Channon Ames is doing an excellent job implementing this project. In regards to the Crystal Lake Docks, the two dock extensions are out of the water. There is some protest with the bidding of new docks and the two bidders at this time. A full set of docks will be needed at Crystal Lake for next year. The Albemarle Playground Project includes play equipment, swings, tot equipment and a Gazebo Classroom. The play equipment project should start at Albemarle after Labor Day. Also, the Albemarle Playground Project Committee will appear before the Conservation Committee with their plans. The playground committee is working with the Engineering Department and the Conservation Committee to move ahead with the plans. Alternate, Peter Kastner suggested that any structural alterations at recreation areas should come before the Recreation Commission for approval. Also, this type of report should include types of structure replacements.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that the Albemarle Playground Committee for the Community Classroom has met with the other City departments in reference to the Alteration of Land Policy. The playground committee is now waiting for approval from the Conservation Commission. If everything is tucked in, the Albemarle Committee will need to go before the CPC for monies which will include \$8,900 for plans, soil test, conditions and the rest of the funds will be drawn down when the Recreation Commission gives their approval. If the Board of Aldermen vote on the CPC monies by the end of June, monies would be available for the Community Classroom project in July.

(3)

Commissioner Towle informed the Commission members that the Department hired a new Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, Derek Mannion. He has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Massachusetts in Forestry, and has worked on several golf courses including ones in Florida and Ayer, MA. Derek has good horticultural skills and is knowledgeable in Turf Management. Chairman, Peter Johnson worked with the camp scholarship committee in allocating scholarships for children to attend camp for a two-week camp period. The sum of twenty four thousand dollars was raised for the scholarships; which included fund raising, senior trips, golf and CDBG monies. Seventy-two people applied for scholarships this season.

The Department is proud to be recognized as the "2003 Outstanding Local Program" by Special Olympics Massachusetts. Mark Kelly, the Special Needs Director, received the award at the Summer Games at Harvard University on Sunday, June 15th. Also, the Department just celebrated their 25th Anniversary year of providing quality recreation programs for people with disabilities.

- 3. **July 4th Activities:** The Department is preparing for the 4th of July fireworks, with Kids Morning at Newton Centre Playground, pet parade, races, doll carriages, free candy & ice cream for the kids, Open Air Market, 6:00PM Zaitchik Band and 9:00PM the Fireworks at the Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex. There will be security changes this 4th of July with the fireworks because the field is being renovated.
- 4. **Proposed Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus:** Commissioner Towle introduced Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, to discuss the proposed Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus, subject to the existing policy on Commission's Policy on Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands. The Safety Program has certified Stephanie for Playground Apparatus, which is a bonus to the Department. Stephanie asked the commission members for their input/changes for the proposed "Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus." There will be an inspection playground plan in place and the areas will be checked on a regular basis by staff. The staff will check the playground areas for safety (i.e. to see if any bolts are missing or parts are broken in the equipment). It was asked why the City does not install the play equipment? Stephanie said the committee's/groups raise the monies for new play equipment and have the parents install the equipment with a private contractor and have a person from the company they bought the equipment from oversee the project.

2A

(4)

Chairman Peter Johnson asked the members to make their revisions in the draft report and return them to Stephanie. The Commission will then vote on the Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus at the September meeting. Also, Chairman Johnson thanked Stephanie for her presentation.

- 5. **Commemoration Policy Draft:** The Commemoration Policy Draft includes a Tier 1 and Tier 2 project. After a brief discussion Walter Bernheimer motioned to adopt the proposed policy with Jennie DeVito seconding the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Commemoration Policy.
- 6. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2003/2004:** The price increases will keep our programs consistent with our other permit increases and meet the mandate for fee generation from the Mayor's Office.

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Gwen Fineberg motioned to approve the NNHS Indoor Complex Fees for 2003/2004 with Andrew Stern seconding the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the Newton North High School Indoor Complex Fees for 2003/2004.

- 7. **Revision of the current Policies on Procedures for Alterations of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands. Andrew Stern:** The Alteration of Lands Policy requires City Agencies to comply with the same policy and procedures that private policies have to comply with. What steps need to be taken i.e. Conservation Commissioner, Engineering Department and the raising of monies to make the conceptual plans for a project. Andrew Stern said the CPA Policy for private groups needs more detail. Levingston Cove was a project in which the process was not followed and became a problem; however, the problem has since been resolved. A more detailed procedure is needed for the groups to follow, subject to our policy and the type of plans the groups may have. A Master Plan of the City is needed in reference to the recreation areas involved.

Perhaps we should check with the Law Department to see about roadblocks and levels of scrutiny in the Alteration of Lands Policy.

(5)

Commission Towle said the Alteration of Lands Policy was sent to the Law Department for their input and any changes they might have. The Commissioner will check with the Dan Funk, Law Department to see what changes/revisions have been made.

Walter Bernheimer suggested the Commission proceed slowly in changing the policy/procedures at this time. The policy should have a priority list; type of project, need to check with Law Department and the finally the Recreation Commission who should have the power of eminent domain.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that if the Commission meets in July/August on the Albemarle Project, we would still use the existing Policies on Procedures for Alterations of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands. Also, a copy of the existing policy will be sent to the Law Department for their comments.

8. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 22, 2003

7:40PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Robert Platt, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: James Mahoney, Gwen Fineberg and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Channon Ames, Parks & Recreation Manager, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Parks & Recreation Manager and Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters

- 1. **The minutes of the June 16th meeting were accepted 8-0 with two corrections; #4 to read: (Safety Policy, subject to existing policy on Alteration of Lands) and #7 to read: (City Agencies to comply with same policy and procedures that private policies have to comply with)**

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the June minutes and Francis Rice seconded the motion with the corrections from Andrew Stern.

- 2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events;** Commissioner Towle reported that it was another great summer season at Parks & Recreation. The Farmer's Market held each Tuesday, from the second week in July to the end of October, is the "Best in the State" per the Farmer's Market Federation. Mayor Cohen attends and opens the Farmer's Market on opening day.

The camps were highly successful this summer. Most camps were full with waiting lists for late registrants.

Stephanie Pelkowsky will have a scholarship report for next month's meeting.

Seniors had many trips/activities this summer, including eight teams playing Bocce at Cabot Playground.

(2)

Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, has done an excellent job with the field play areas, grass and irrigation this summer. He attends meetings, works with all of the maintenance crews and sees to the pruning around City Hall. Derek is a real plus for the Department.

Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, has been with the Department for over a year now. Marc has had many accomplishments including customer response and the complete revision of the Newton Urban Tree Manual. Fortunately, we have been lucky with the weather, as we were not hit with any hurricanes this summer.

The Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex football field irrigation site has just re-opened after being worked on during the summer months. The field was rototilled, aerated, slice seeded and weed treated with a second slice seeding. A return to recreational activities under the lights is now possible.

Excellent summer swim season at Gath Pool & Crystal Lake with swim lessons a plus as always. There was a protest bid for the docks at Crystal Lake, however, everything is settled and the docks will be delivered and installed next spring.

The Department is pursuing the new athletic fieldhouse at Newton South High School for programs to begin in January 2004. Channon Ames will be the Manager of the facility. The Newton North High School Indoor Complex will open on October 7th. Fortunately, we have been lucky with the weather, as we were not hit with any hurricanes this summer.

- 3. **Safety Policy Play Apparatus:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, attended the meeting seeking approval of the proposed Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus. A couple of questions the members asked were; is their a list of playground priorities and how much seed monies do the playgrounds receive. Stephanie said, every year two playgrounds each receive \$12,500 from the Marathon monies. The playground list is on a rotation basis, which started in 1989. When a playground receives its share of monies, then that playground name goes to the bottom of the list. Also, it was asked about continuing the colors of the play equipment i.e. tan & green, which blend in with the environment. At the Albemarle playground, it was noted that the playground equipment colors were bright. Page one of the policy has the guidelines and pages two & three are the requirements for the development, design, purchase and installation of new and or upgraded play apparatus.

Andrew Stern recommends keeping the appropriate playground natural colors tan/green for existing playground apparatus.

283

(3)

In regards to playgrounds, the Newton Centre Playground made of cement years ago is in the process of being evaluated for safety.

Robert Platt motioned to accept the Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 7-0 to accept the Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus.

4. **Update Forte Park:** The City received an allocation of \$250,000 from the Community Preservation Committee. The City applied for and received \$125,000 grant from the Department of Land and Water Resources. A designer for the lighting has been hired, Crowe Associates. There is a meeting Thursday evening with the Conservation Committee regarding the lighting for Forte Park. The deadline for finishing Forte Park is the end of June. It is a two-phase project that includes the design and installation of lighting system for the playing fields. During the second phase of the project the department hopes to add a jogging and exercise path, bocce courts and additional landscaping.
5. **Update Millennium Park:** The contract has been signed for the start of Millennium Park and the contract has been awarded to F.C. Construction. They will begin by removing existing walkways and stairs in early October. By mid to late October the construction of the new pathways will be started. The naming wall will be constructed by late October early November. The remaining work to be completed next spring.
6. **Update Albemarle Project:** The Albemarle tot lot project has been started. The Playground Project Committee organized the installation of equipment, carried out by an independent contractor engaged by the Playground Project and community volunteers. In two weeks the children will be able to enjoy playing on the new playground equipment. Commissioner Towle complimented Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, for coordinating the Albemarle Project and working with all departments to see the project through to completion.
7. **Update Skatepark:** Commissioner Towle spoke with Susan Erickson, Sk8Park Committee, on the progress of the Skatepark. The Sk8Park Committee met on September 21st to finalize a fundraising plan. The plan includes a Newton Skate-a-Thon at Skater Paradise in Framingham in November. Family-to-family solicitations for gifts and collection jars will be put at appropriate sites in Newton.

A Skateboard Awareness Day will be held on October 18, 2003 at the Teen Reach Youth Center at NSHS at 12:00PM.

(4)

- 8. **Master Planning:** The Department will be working on a Master Plan for parks in the City. An inventory of recreation areas needs to be done and public meetings should be held to find out the assessment needs and wants of the community. Strategic planning determines the direction that the Parks & Recreation Department will take in years to come. A Master Plan can be developed after a needs assessment has been conducted. The Master Plan will determine where the Department is going, how it gets there and its measurement of success.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, is also a member of the Mayor's Advocate Committee regarding a Comprehensive Master Plan. He suggested contacting the Planning Department for their input and assistance for a master plan as they have databases available. All playgrounds can enhance the neighborhoods with landscaping. We need to envision what the park system should do, identify potential site needs, goals, assessment plan, inventory, passive/active recreation and costs.

The commission members are trustees for active/passive recreation and our visions will be passed on to the next generation said Andrew Stern.

Jennie DeVito suggested the commission start the Master Plan by looking at the Ward by Ward list of the Department's fields and playgrounds.

In reference to the demand for a skatepark, the Sk8Park Committee needs to raise monies for site plans for the three proposed areas, Newton Highlands Playground, Warren and Cabot areas. The cost to build a skatepark is \$400,000. Just because there is a need for a skatepark, does not mean there are not other higher priorities i.e. hockey rink in the City. We need to look at the bigger picture and reflect where we are going.

It was suggested that the commission look into CPA funding for a Master Plan. Andrew Stern mentioned that to apply for CPA funding projects, the projects would need to involve either open space, affordable housing, historic preservation or recreation. A CPA Project needs to be a community project.

Commissioner Towle mentioned we should look at park needs on a larger scale. Marion Pressley, Pressley Associates, Inc., did most of the work in the Master Plan for Boston visiting each site, inventory, community meetings, plans and worked with park planners on the City's staff.

Peter Kastner, Alternate, noted the parks in Boston are in better shape as they have the funds to maintain their parks, plus many of their projects were done in-house.

Chairman Johnson talked about the CPA projects still being a gray area and asking for monies for a Master Plan may be a tough sell.

9. **Community Preservation Act:** The Community Preservation Committee will hold a workshop on September 29th at Druker Auditorium to inform applicants on how to fill out the CPA proposals. Also, a final workshop will be held on Wednesday evening, October 9th on what types of projects are eligible for Community Preservation Act funds and how to put together an application. The meeting will be held at 6:00PM. The next round of CPA funding is November 3rd per Andrew Stern.

Kessler Woods was a 42 acre CPA Project that was approved by the Board of Aldermen for five million dollars. Kessler Woods could be developed into an active recreation area with trails, park and a soccer field. Part of the land is ledge and has wet areas, 20 acres are buildable with 12 single family homes and 62 multi family units to be built, of which 20% is affordable housing. The Department should actively proceed to get control of part of the site for recreational activities.

10. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle informed the commission members that Alderman George Mansfield docketed an item with the Board of Aldermen regarding no swimming signs at Crystal Lake with no force of law behind the signs. Crystal Lake is a Great Pond, people are swimming there illegally and there is no force of law to control the illegal swimming. (A Great Pond is a lake or pond over 10 acres)

Andrew Stern said that he is working with Alderman Mansfield regarding the issue of; can the City regulate a Great Pond (Crystal Lake)

Jennie DeVito complimented Peter Kastner on the Tab Newspaper article, "Putting himself on the Map." (Peter remakes old maps of Newton and surrounding areas)

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 20, 2003

7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Robert Platt and Michael Clarke, Alternate

Also attending: Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters, Danielle Bailey, Planning Department, Marion Pressley, Pressley Associates and Cathy Offenberg

1. **Minutes of the September Meeting.** The Commission members voted 6-0 to accept the minutes of the September meeting.
2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:** Commissioner Towle reported on the annual opening of the Newton North Indoor Complex on October 7th with swim lesson registration on October 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

Sunday, October 19th was an extremely busy day for the Department. All of the Department's events were very successful.

Harvest Fair was held on Sunday, October 19, 2003 at Newton Centre. The fair was a great success even though there was some rain during the day.

Paddy's Pub Shillelagh Shuffle Race/Walk was also held on Sunday, October 19th. There were over 700 participants this year and Mark Kelly, Director Special Needs, did an excellent job in preparation for the outstanding annual race/walk.

Autumn Invasion, an event co-sponsored by schools, recreation and Youth Commission, was held on Sunday, October 19th, at City Hall for Newton North & Newton South High School students. The Annual Autumn Invasion is held to unify the students to pursue their talents and friendships together.

The dedication of the Riverwalk entrance at Lyons Field, named after Marty Sender was also held on Sunday, October 19th. Over 200 people attended the dedication in Auburndale at the corner of Islington Road and Commonwealth Avenue.

(2)

Last Wednesday, October 15th, the City endured a major windstorm, which effected a large portion of the City's trees. Over 50 trees came down, six of them on cars and 5 on houses. Also, over 250 tree limbs fell, which will take some time to clean up.

The Department is also seeing that the snow contracts are put in place for the upcoming winter season.

- 3. **Master Planning: Marion Pressley, Pressley Associates:** (Michael Kruse, Director, Planning Department, was not able to attend meeting)
Commission Towle introduced Marion Pressley regarding Master Planning. The Commissioner has worked with Ms. Pressley in the past. Ms. Pressley was an invaluable architect in working on the Emerald Necklace in the Boston Master Plan.

Ms. Pressley commented to the commission members that she lives in Newton and is familiar with the neighborhoods in relation to a Master Plan. In planning for a Master Plan, an understanding is needed with the neighborhoods, locations, are they in the private/public sectors, how would a Master Plan fit in, do the neighborhoods need a pool, health club, any interesting ideas and what would be available to the community.

Also, each neighborhood needs an assessment of recreation areas, inventory, squares, open space, triangles, etc:

- Drawings
- Inventory of sites
- Evaluation and condition of pieces of equipment
- Where the different villages are in the City
- Assess the condition of each area
- Allow us to plan
- What do we have here
- Know what we have, to see what is needed
- When all information is in, then this allows us to understand the Master Plan

Walter Bernheimer mentioned a needs-assessment should be done as well to see if there is a demand for an item. Meetings need to be held with the public on a neighborhood basis.

(3)

What do we have, what do we need, or what would the residents of the thirteen villages like. Everything needs to be defined village by village as not all villages have the same wants/needs Ms. Pressley explained. Also the use of our best judgement would allow us to decide, plan and assess the villages.

This is a large architectural project said Andrew Stern and the client is the Commission. We are the trustees of all Newton's open assets, we set the tone and we need to know what the goals are for the City. To start the project we should be looking at the Ward by Ward listing of playground areas in the City, of which the Department has copies. We need to see what the community goals are, what is our responsibility, long term goals, active/passive recreation, vision and directions.

Ms. Pressley also mentioned the maintenance levels are very important. If something is built/project on city land, does the appropriate department have monies to maintain the project? What's needed is an inventory of all parkland areas in the city and the cost for the maintenance of these sites.

Ms. Pressley had spoken previously to Commissioner Towle about a skatepark in Newton. The idea was planned, the three locations were established and monies are being raised for a skatepark plan for each site selected. Once the final site is selected the skatepark fundraising can begin. Also, we would need to work with other departments regarding the process, see what other work is involved, CIP monies, raising of monies and planning. Francis Rice commented that cost is also a very important factor in a Master Plan.

When Ms. Pressley worked with the Town of Weymouth on a plan, they used town maps to designate areas, did a quick evaluation, started to understand the needs, costs, and budget amounts for each piece. A needs assessment needs to be done, it should be ongoing, used continually and made renewable. Basically, all towns have the same issues and use maintenance and playgrounds as big areas of concern in their planning.

Walter Bernheimer mentioned that a Master Plan is a citywide project, and priorities need to be set. The cost needs to be analyzed i.e. skatepark sites at Cabot, Warren and Newton Highlands, as well as cost for maintenance schedules and man-hours spent. Also, Jennie DeVito said that taking inventory is a precursor to the plan. There is a lot to think about!

Chairman Johnson said each village needs to be assessed i.e. Newton Centre tot lot and the cement around the tot lot.

(4)

The expense to maintain these sites is very important to the Department's budget. What percentage of monies would go to the ballfields and where would the priorities be. Also, we should tap into the computer mapping of the City.

A GIS map of the City would be a great start with maintenance areas, gravesites, etc. on it said Ms. Pressley. Maps are invaluable so that they can be looked at to see what needs to be added to the Master Plan. A system needs to be formed with 2-3 people who are on the same wavelength to put things in perspective.

A site analysis needs to be done, see what inventory we have, see what works for us and the challenges facing the commission said Andrew Stern. Will the properties be well maintained as well? We need to check each and every area to know what the needs are for the different villages as different villages have different priority needs. The Master Plan item needs to be on the agenda from now on as well as sub-committee needs to be formed to develop the plan.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that Robert DeRubeis would be attending a City Stat. Program. The program will help develop a program to maintain costs on a site by site basis.

Francis Rice asked what kind of money is needed for the plan, what could the Department do if they had the monies in the budget and what would be needed from the community.

It was suggested by Andrew Stern to have a daily list of maintenance crews going out and what they did, guidelines, gather information for weeds growing in certain areas, time involved, etc.

Commissioner Towle will assign a staff member to work on the Master Plan starting with using the Ward by Ward information list, contacting the GIS people about parameters, prioritize the sites and then go from there.

- 4. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool Summer Figures:** Since the price increase in fees at Gath Pool & Crystal, the permit figures were on the increase. The total at Gath Pool was \$60,711.00 as opposed to \$44,294 last year and Crystal Lake was \$69,585.00 as opposed to \$33,769 last year for swim permits. Scholarships are given out to those in need by writing a letter to Commissioner Towle requesting a scholarship.

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- 5. **Update on Sk8Park Committee:** Teen Reach Youth Center, Saturday, October 18th, 12:00-3:00PM, had a Skateboarding Awareness Day to raise monies for a Sk8Park Master Plan. On Sunday, October 28th, 2:00PM Pro Skater Extravaganza at the Fleet Center. Susan Erickson, Chairman Sk8Park Committee to meet with Commissioner Towle on Wednesday, 8:30AM to discuss the progress of the skatepark fundraising.
- 6. **Update Forte Park:** Commissioner Towle to meet with Conservation Commission to discuss the lighting at Forte Park near wetlands. A reflector behind each light was an excellent idea so that no flow of light would be outside of the park area. The park project includes lighting, field and basketball courts, raised theatre area at basketball court and installation of signs at park entrance.
- 7. **Update Millennium Park:** FC Construction has been awarded the construction project for Millennium Park at City Hall. The hardscape is in, and the project is ahead of schedule.
- 8. **Community Preservation Projects:** West Newton Common Irrigation, Stearns Park Master Plan, Danielle Bailey, Purchasing Department.

CPA Proposal West Newton Common: The Parks & Recreation Department is applying for CPA funding for the drilling of a well, installation of irrigation and the reconditioning of the West Newton Common. As per Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, irrigation is needed at West Newton Common. Funds would help dig a well, contingent on the gallons per minute; it is flat area, bordering three streets in a residential area. Many groups use this field i.e. NNHS, Babe Ruth League, soccer, neighborhood gatherings and concerts.

Alderman Leonard Gentile spoke about West Newton Common: Improvements have been on the table for West Newton Common for the past 3-4 years. Originally monies were applied for from CDBG monies, which is a 3-4 year process. Somehow the funding was pulled and tree planting was moved ahead. The project could not be then grandfathered in. Therefore, we are asking for CPA funds to proceed in the irrigation and reconditioning of the West Newton Common.

Peter Kastner mentioned the West Newton Common site needs landscaping, black fencing and grass, as the area looks like a dust bowl

Andrew Stern is concerned with the irrigation project at West Newton Common. (Bowen was a test project) Does the project fall within the right definitions of a project, and should the project be more creative and ask for amenities.

(6)

The next CPA proposals are due November 3rd. Walter Bernheimer asked if it were possible to submit a proposal and that there could be an amendment to the filings? Andrew Stern said yes. Perhaps the project could be re-packaged i.e. Forte Park, Phase I & II, multi phased. Parts of this project should be in the CIP projects. He re-iterated that November 3rd is the deadline for the proposals and November 24th is the CPA public hearings on the projects submitted.

Robert DeRubeis, proposed the West Newton Common Project be started in the spring, contingent on the well.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the CPA proposal for West Newton Common to proceed to the CPA Projects Committee. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the West Newton Common Proposal to proceed to the CPA projects committee.

Stearns Park – Danielle Bailey, Community Development Planner, Planning Department: The Nonantum Advisory Committee (NAC) desires to collaborate with the Parks & Recreation Department to submit a request to the Community Preservation Committee for funding for master planning at Stearns Park.

Stearns Park is a neighborhood park located on Jasset Street, off Watertown Street in Nonantum. Commissioner Towle and Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis have met with Jennifer Goldson, Danielle Bailey and the Nonantum Advisory Committee regarding funding for a master plan for Stearns Park. CDBG receives \$200,000 every 3 years and meets on how to spend the monies. There are no visions for Stearns Park and CDBG monies should have an impact on the park. Monies for a master plan would initiate a vision for the park. Then CDBG could commit funds toward improvements based on a Master Plan instead of random requests.

Peter Kastner asked, “who controls the vision.” Would the visions for the park be administrated by the Parks & Recreation Department with monies initiated by CDBG funds, which relate to a park?

Andrew Stern asked if CDBG was implementing monies for the master plan, and where is Stearns on a priority list. If Stearns Park benefits by CDBG monies does this violate the citywide analysis for a master plan? Commissioner Towle to ask Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer, for the answer to Andrew’s question..

It was asked how many other parks are eligible for funding. Park plans are needed and who has the monies to restore these parks?

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Peter Kastner asked why the Stearns Park proposal did not appear before the commission at an earlier date so the commission could discuss it. Other proposals have been discussed before the commission in advance, now the NAC is seeking approval of the proposal just before the next CPA Committee application deadline on November 3rd. It appears that this request has not been given enough time for commission approval.

Danielle Bailey mentioned the NAC suggests seeking grant fund for master planning during a Phase I and 2 plan. The NAC is hopeful the commission will consider this request to partner and grant the Parks & Recreation Department permission to proceed with the CPA application. There are two parks that need help in Nonantum, Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park.

Andrew Stern asked if there were other available sources for monies for Stearns Park. For CPA funds, plans are needed and working with department heads is also very important to your projects.

Jennie DeVito mentioned a senior development adjacent to the park, which would benefit the seniors if the plans were approved.

There is a vacant parcel of land, about 1/2 an acre, that the NAC would like to be part of Stearns Park. A Mr. DeDuga owns the property, however, he has not been approached about the land becoming part of Stearns Park said Danielle Bailey.

Peter Kastner asked about available plans for funding with other agencies of the City. A Master Plan for a park may not be in line with CPA Committee funding. Are there any other alternatives to raising monies for Stearns renovations?

Walter Bernheimer thought Peter Kastner asked some very valid questions in relation to funding for Stearns Park. Is it the Parks & Recreation responsibility to pay for upgrades to Stearns Park – i.e. Forte Park with grants and CPA funding? Is the department responsible for the planning and not another department?

Andrew Stern asked how much money is NAC asking from the CPA Committee for a Master Plan for Stearns Park. Danielle Bailey said the NAC is requesting \$25,000. If the parcel of land were included in the proposal, then the proposal would stand more of a chance of being approved by the CPA. If Stearns Park is Parks & Recreation land, do we have any other source of funding?

Peter Kastner motioned to deny the request to the Community Preservation Committee, for a proposal from the Nonantum Advisory Committee, And the Parks & Recreation Department to the CPA for their next meeting November 4, 2003.

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Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 2 in favor, 5 opposed and 1 abstaining, to deny the request for the Nonantum Advisory Committee to submit a request to the CPA for funding for master planning at Stearns Park. (Andrew Stern – abstain, Peter Kastner and Walter Bernheimer – against)

Francis Rice motioned to approve the Stearns Park Project; Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 5 in favor, 2 opposed, (Walter Bernheimer, Peter Kastner) 1 abstaining, (Andrew Stern), to approve the Stearns Park Project.

In reference to all projects on Parks & Recreation lands that come before the commission for approval, there is a process and the process needs to be followed said Walter Bernheimer.

A Master Plan for a park should be brought to the attention of the commission in its early stages. Andy Stern mentioned an analysis of a project as a whole. If the NAC project was brought to the CPA for approval, there would have been a problem. Is this a high priority for the department? Is there a potential possibility for an acquisition of land adjacent to Stearns Park, if so the project would be more saleable to the CPA for funding?

9. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle mentioned the news article in the TAB about “Moving Dickinson to Albemarle Eyed”. The article is about the city considering development of a stadium at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex and granting school and other community use. The plan is not to move Dickinson Stadium on the site, but to develop a community resource to be used by all groups. The stadium project is just an idea, it not official. The Commissioner will keep the commission members informed to any changes at Albemarle.

Weeks Tot Lot: A community meeting will be held in the auditorium at the Bowen School, 7:00PM, Thursday, November 6, 2003, to discuss final plans for installation of a tot lot at the Weeks Field. The tot lot has been on the agenda for five years and monies approved 4 years ago.

James Mahoney, Commission member has resigned from the commission as of October 7, 2003 as per a letter to Mayor Cohen. Commissioner Towle called Mr. Mahoney’s office, however, he was out of town.

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Andrew Stern asked that at the next commission meeting, Newton East Little League signage be put on the agenda. The signs are still up, and the little league has ignored requests to take the signs down at the Newton Center field by September 30th of each year. The NELL seems to be ignoring the Commission's requirements to take the advertising signs down.

The commission meeting started at 7:30PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM to attend Mayor Cohen's State of the City Address in the Aldermanic Chambers. The meeting reconvened at 8:40PM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 17, 2003

7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Alternates Peter Kastner & Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Robert Platt, Jennie DeVito & Michael Clarke

Also attending: Patricia Acton, League of Women Voters, Michael Kruse, Director, Planning Department, Amy Yuhasz, Planning Department, Susan Erickson and Susan Madden, Sk8Park Committee, Michael Penta, Newton East Little League

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting:** The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to accept the minutes of the October meeting.

2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:** Commissioner Towle reported the Department has three buildings; Lower Falls Community Center, Hawthorn and Emerson which are voting places for the City. The Department makes sure that the buildings are open and custodians are assigned to these buildings during voting days. The Department is continuing with its turf work, slice seeding, irrigation and just completed the sodding at Albemarle and Warren-Lincoln Fields. Having this work done now will give us a real jump start on spring. The Commissioner said she couldn't be happier the way things are going for the Department. Bob DeRubeis and I decided to hold a seminar for the recreation managerial staff. We are all attending a Management Seminar for 6 Tuesday mornings, 9:00AM-11:00AM for "Team Building." Commissioner Towle spoke at the yearly Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association regarding budgets - "How to do More With Less." Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer also spoke about cities/towns budget crunches and challenges. Newton is not the only community in a financial budget crunch. In reference to the department's budget we may hear something in December. Farmer's Market ended the last Tuesday in October. The market was featured on NBC on Friday evening, some of you may have recognized the market stands. The tot lot plans are moving along nicely for Weeks Field, construction should start in the spring.

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3. **Little League Signs:** Andrew Stern spoke about the advertising signage at the Newton East Little League Field in Newton Centre Playground. In November of 1998 the NELL sign request was on the Commission agenda. The commission members voted 5-3 to change the original signage time from April 24th to the end of September with the stipulation a NELL representative would return to the commission each year. The advertising signs did not come down at the end of September; they came down a couple of days ago. There is a lack of understanding regarding this process by the little league officials in the taking down of the advertising signs at Newton Centre. Bob DeRubeis had spoken to Mike Penta about the signs and Mike promised to take them down, unfortunately the signs stayed up until November 10th.

Because of a technicality with the Board of Aldermen the installation of the 36 freestanding signs was passed. The Commission set guidelines and the little league has chosen to ignore them. Also, the signs should have a uniform background green with white lettering and be uniform in color and size. (Some of the signs are multi-colored) The season for the signs should be April 15th to September 30th and the balance of passive recreation restored. The original agreement should not be ignored.

Andrew Stern made a motion to allow the little league to erect the signs on April 15th and take down on August 15th. Also, the signs should be green with white letters and uniform in size.

Peter Kastner suggested charging the little \$25.00 each day the signs are left up after the prescribed time. The little league license should be reviewed and renewed on an annual basis and the dates of the license to put up and take down the signs are enforced. Commissioner Towle will check with the Law Department to see if the commission can allow fines to be instituted in such a case as the little league signs being left up after the required period of time.

Francis Rice suggested what is done for one little league should apply to all little leagues. All little league licenses need to be checked and reviewed each year.

Mike Pinta, Newton East Little League: The leagues have 3 seasons now, spring (starts 3rd week in April), summer (starts after July 4th), and fall (which starts 2nd week in September to the 3rd weekend in October). Other little leagues also use our field i.e. Newton Central, Newton South, Waltham and Needham. Mr. Pinta apologized for the miscommunication about taking the signs down. He instructed someone to take the signs down; however, he did not follow through to see if the signs were actually taken down. Also, Mr. Pinta said that there have been changes in the NELL Board Members and he has been trying to keep up with several requests from neighbors including removing piles of dirt behind the backstop.

(3)

The monies generated for the little league go back into maintaining the fields, uniforms, safe equipment, commitment to pay for some of the yearly maintenance expenses at the Bowen School field, and yearly private landscaper fees. The league could not do some of these things without the monies made from the advertising signs. Mike apologized for the signs not being taken down at the specified time.

John Allen, 64 Bowen Street said the signs never come down on time, some of them fall down, the banners on the backstop are hanging from a thread, the colors of the signs are supposed to be green with white lettering and they are not. The little league officials need to live up to their agreement with the Parks & Recreation Department. Mr. Allen said Bob DeRubeis has spoken with Jim Marks about the signs and he had also called Faye at the office about the signs not being taken down at the allotted time.

Andrew Stern discussed the 4' high pile of dirt with overgrown weeds in it near the backstop, the sod, weeds, signs on the ground, 2 advertising signs propped up against the fence, 2 signs on the ground, the cloth signs hanging from the backstop at the Newton East Little League field. He also e-mailed the Parks & Recreation Department about the signs being left up.

Francis Rice said a time limit should be given regarding the signs, if they are still up after September 30th the commission should revoke the license agreement.

Chairman Johnson's idea was if the 4' X 8' signs are not put up and taken down at the appropriate times, then the NELL should not be allowed to put up the signs the following year. This should also apply to all little league's.

The spokesperson for the League of Women Voters, Patricia Acton, presented a letter from Amelia Koch, President regarding NELL advertising signs at Newton Centre Playground. The league supports the Parks & Recreation policy adopted in 1993 to adhere to the rules, procedures and policies we have already adopted, and not permit advertising signs unless all of the above criteria have been met to the commission's full satisfaction. We encourage you to apply penalties when the little league does not comply with the guidelines set forth by the commission. Also, they suggest the commission not allow the signs to be put up next year.

Peter Kastner suggested at the next commission meeting, the commission review the policy, dates, renewals, statement of the leagues financial conditions that is sent to the Attorney Generals Office.

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Andrew Stern also suggested the commission members discuss and review the files on Newton East Little League's license as well as other little league's licenses. Chairman Johnson asked that this item be put on the December commission agenda for more discussion.

- 4. **Ice Skating Rules & Regulations for 2003-2004:** The three yearly recommended ice skating areas are Auburndale Cove, Crystal Lake and Bullough's Pond. The only area that has lights is the Auburndale Cove.

Francis Rice motioned to accept the Outdoor Ice-Skating Rules & Regulations for the 2003-2004 season. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to accept the Outdoor Ice-Skating Rules & Regulations for the 2003-2004 season.

- 5. **Update Millennium Park:** Commissioner Towle reported that the hardscape has been done on the park side, the brick pathway has been put in, and the bricks are in the process of having the names engraved on them. In the spring the landscaping will be done, and the project should be finished in June. FC Construction is doing the work and is ahead of schedule.

- 6. **Update Forte Park:** Commissioner Towle will be attending the Conservation meeting on Thursday regarding the proposed lighting for Forte Park. Crowe Associates, Architects, have suggested reflectors be put on the 50' poles so that the lighting stays in the park. The lighting will be done in Phase I of two phases. Monies for the project will be forthcoming from CPA, Urban Self-Help, Federal Land and Conservation. The deadline for the project to be completed is June 2004.

The little leagues as well as softball teams will utilize the fields. The lights will be turned off at 10:00PM. The park project includes lighting, field and basketball courts, bocce courts, raised theatre area at basketball court and installation of signs at park entrance.

- 7. **Update Sk8Park Committee, Susan Erickson:** Susan voiced her concerns in a letter to the commission members, which everyone has a copy of. Walter Bernheimer chaired the 2002-2003 Skatepark committee to confirm the need and desirability of a skatepark in Newton. Three sites were chosen, Newton Highlands, McGrath Park and Cabot Park. While Mayor Cohen supports the Sk8Park, there are no monies for feasibility studies. However, Susan mentioned that two Skate-a-thon's will be held to raise monies for the skatepark. She has concerns about the Sk8Park's Committee raising funds.

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In a letter to Commissioner Towle and the Commission Members, the Sk8Park Committee has concerns about the Parks & Recreation Department receiving funds from the Sk8Park Committee for a feasibility study. If funds are raised, there is a chance that the skatepark may not come to fruition. Also, if the Sk8Park Committee solely funds the studies of these three parks, this may leave the impression that the Recreation Commission and Parks & Recreation Department have been bought by the Skate Committee, or have some indebtedness to the Skate Committee.

The Sk8Park Committee recommends that the Parks & Recreation Department contact other Newton groups such as the Youth Commission, soccer, baseball, playground committees, Pop Warner Football, softball, etc., and ask them for contributions to the studies of these three parks. Also, they are asking the Department to contribute \$1000-\$2000 to the study.

Francis Rice asked why other groups should support the Sk8Park Project. Also, is there a need for a skatepark? To rely on others for donations is wrong and it up to the Sk8Park Committee to get the funds for the skatepark.

Andrew Stern talked about the construction of a skatepark needing 12-20,000 square feet. If a skatepark is to be constructed, then we need a plan to see where it would fit in the overall scheme/design. Also, we need to come up with a Master Plan for these sites. There is a shortage of open space in Newton and we need to analyze how the skatepark would fit into the scheme/design.

Commissioner Towle mentioned the need to look at the whole picture, where the skatepark may be placed, community input, public hearings, what people want and the impact on other users. We may even find a whole different site for the skatepark after the community input.

Susan mentioned the impact on other field users; those groups who use the fields should be invited to the neighborhood meetings.

Peter Kastner discussed the need of a general plan/footprint, impact on other activities. We need technical specifications for the skatepark plans.

Ms. Erickson said at one of the skatepark meetings, it was suggested that plans for the three site would be \$12,000-\$15,000. Are there any other funds to pay for this project? The three sites are used by a variety of other groups, we recommend that the Parks & Recreation Department contact other sports groups for contributions. This suggestion for contributions would best come from the Commission, not from the Skatepark Committee. It is in your best interest as a commission to have more funds appropriated for these types of projects.

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Also, if the Sk8Park Committee waits until the Parks & Recreation Master Plan is completed, the skatepark plans could take years. If I were the Commissioner, I would ask other parties who use the fields to contribute monies for this plan.

A meeting was held this fall at the Department with Peter, Walter, Fran, Susan Erickson and Susan Madden to discuss the cost to do conceptual plans for the 3-skatepark sites.

Commissioner Towle said she was very clear in the office meeting with the Sk8Park Committee in her office, that the Parks & Recreation Department did not have monies for a skatepark and the Sk8Park Committee was to raise the funds for a skatepark and the conceptual plans.

Andrew Stern suggested an independent consultant be retained to do a feasibility site analysis for a master plan for the sites. The consultant should determine the proper locations of the skateparks at the 3 sites.

Gwen Fineberg suggested neighborhood meetings be held at the three sites, Newton Highlands, Cabot and McGrath Parks. We should look to see if Engineering Department could study the Newton Highlands space, where there are water problems.

Peter Kastner asked to modify his motion that the Parks & Recreation Commission conduct a study on such parks where the skateparks are to be funded by funds raised by the Sk8Park Committee.

Ms. Erickson will go forward with the January 11th and 29th Skate-a-thons as the children are very excited about these activities.

Also, Susan does not want to go the neighborhood meeting without discussing the skatepark project with other sports groups. The Sk8Park Committee does not have monies for a Master Plan for all three parks.

Andrew Stern talked about raising funds for a Master Plan for open spaces, we lack the vision for a plan for the future. The Commission is grateful for the monies being raised for the conceptual plans for a skatepark.

Paul Green, resident, attended the meeting to learn the process of how a proposal i.e. skatepark, is processed. He also mentioned that he lives near the Newton Highlands playground, one of the 3 sites for a skatepark. After a brief discussion, Mr. Green was thanked for attending the meeting; however, the Newton Highlands Skatepark site proposal discussion will be taken up at a later meeting.

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- 8. **Master Plan: (Presentation by Planning Department) Mike Kruse, Director of Planning and Amy Yuhasz, Planning Department:** Mike Kruse was invited to talk to the commission members about Master Planning and input on Stearns Park. The CDBG has \$200,000 to target neighborhoods, i.e. Newton Corner, Pellegrini Park and Stearns Park. The Nonantum Advisory Committee was concerned about Stearns Park and the land adjacent to it bordering Watertown Street. Mr. DeDuca owns a parcel of land on Watertown Street bordering Stearns Park. Mike had a conversation with Mr. DeDuca to see if he is considering either building a house, selling the land or put housing there. The land consists of over 1/2 acre and Mike asked if Mr. DeDuca would consider selling the land to the City for market value. The market value for the land 2 years ago was \$250,000.

The City is required to do an open space plan every five years. The Open Space Plan is a "wish list", i.e. lights at Stearns Park. Mike offered to send copies of the latest Open Space to the Department. Also, the Open Space Plan is on the website. A Master Plan is needed for all our park areas. If one staff person from the Parks & Recreation Department and one person from the Planning Department could get together, a Master Plan could be started. He inquired about how much a landscape architect would charge for plans at each park and the cost would be \$50,000-\$70,000 for each site. The next step would be i.e. how many basketball courts are needed in the City and make sure that the courts are placed throughout the City and not all on one side of town.

Mike believes that the Department is not ready to start a Master Plan until we look at all of the parks to see what we have, what we don't have and what is needed at each park.

In reference to Stearns Park, the Planning Department and the Recreation Department have applied for CPA monies to make improvements to Stearns Park.

Peter Kastner's concern was the commission finding out about these projects at the last minute i.e. Stearns Park. He is not objecting to the merit of the project, he is concerned about the commission learning of the project at the last minute and a vote from the commission was needed that evening. He saw the Stearns Park item on the agenda for CPA funds and realized the commission members did not know about it. The commission did not receive a formal letter, prior to the meeting, regarding the Stearns Park project. More planning is needed and the commission should be consulted as it has jurisdiction over the parks.

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In fairness to the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Department, guidelines are needed and there should be a communication process prior to asking for CPA monies in a City park said Andrew Stern.

Mike Kruse mentioned that monies are allotted for neighborhood parks every two years. Parks can be upgraded within City Parks. The Planning Department is now planning for 2005. At this time we have monies for Stearns Park only. Pellegrini Park is another project to consider for CPA monies.

Andrew Stern said the proposal for funds for Stearns Park would have a better chance of passing if the DeDuca land were included. We need to find out which wards have what, what is needed and a vision for the future components, i.e. the tot lot at Newton Centre, is there a need, if so where would the monies come from. A general concept of a plan is needed with a valid expenditure of money.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mike Kruse for coming to the commission meeting and explaining what is needed for a Master Plan.

- 9. **CPA Update – Andrew Stern:** The CPA has four million dollars available in grant monies. The CPA recently approved five million dollars for Kessler Woods. There are nine applications in this round of applications for CPA monies. They include Stearns Park, Grace Church, YMCA, Irrigation at West Newton Common, etc. There are still interesting issues to be resolved, historic preservation, churches, historic signage, Houghton Gardens and municipal employees. The Recreation Department in cooperation with the Planning Department is applying for CPA monies for a Master Plan for Stearns Park. November 24th will be the next recommendation from the CPA to the Board of Aldermen for project approvals.

Peter Kastner asked if it would be helpful to send a letter to the CPA saying Stearns was a high priority item?

The Stearns Park proposal to the CPA was from the Planning Department and the Recreation Department.

Years ago there was a conceptual plan only on the website for Edmands Park. Nothing ever became it on a Master Plan for the City. The Stearns Park Proposal has however, risen to the top of the list.

- 10. **New Business:** The idea to put Dickinson Stadium's field site at Albemarle is not official.

Peter Kastner suggested sending a letter to the School Department to find out what is happening with the Albemarle Field idea.

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Commissioner Towle will let the commission know if there is any strong movement in relation to the idea of moving the Dickinson Stadium Field to Albemarle.

Andrew Stern thought a letter to the School Department to see what was going on with the Albemarle field idea was a good one.

Chairman Johnson said the idea to move the football field from Newton North High School to Albemarle was a suggestion from a Newton Resident. It was not the School Department's idea; therefore moving the football field to Albemarle is not official.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 22, 2003

7:30PM, Room 222, City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Alternate Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent, Jack Neville and Michael Clarke

Also attending David Gosman, Tom McGary, Jim Marks and Michael Pinta from Newton East Little League, residents Paul Green and John Allen

1. **Minutes of the November Meeting:** The Commission members voted 7-0 to accept the commission minutes with a change on page 3, sent to the Attorney Generals Office to read sent to the Secretary of State's Office and on page 2, 2nd paragraph, is the opinion of Andrew Stern.
2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:** Commissioner Towle reported on the Thanksgiving Day football games, Newton North played out of town and Newton South played in Newton. The holiday lighting ceremony was held at City Hall on December 4th at 4:45PM. The Special Needs holiday party was held on December 10th at the Hibernian Hall. The Special Needs Newsletter, which is in the packets, was outstanding with its brightly colored pages and new format. New Year's Open House at City Hall will be December 28th from 1:00PM-3: 00PM. The Nor-Easter snowstorm was a blockbuster; the City accumulated over 20 inches of snow. The cost for the storm was well over \$110,000 for our Department which included the clearing of snow from recreation buildings and parking lots at City Hall, libraries and schools with the hired snow contractors and Parks & Recreation employees.

The Commissioner attended an open meeting on December 3rd at the Programs & Services Committee regarding dog parks on public grounds in Newton. There were numerous handouts and speakers from other cities and towns, including Brookline, Cambridge and Wellesley regarding dog parks. There were also members of the Police, Recreation, Law and Public Works Departments at the Programs & Services meeting.

(2)

A dog park concept would be a fenced in area open 24 hours a day exclusively for dogs or have designated times that dogs would be allowed in a dog park. Some residents were concerned over health issues with the dog feces and others were concerned with the dogs off leash. If the dog parks item was considered on recreation land, then the item should go to the Parks & Recreation Commission for their discussion and consideration.

The commission members were concerned that if there were a dog park on recreation land, children/adults would be walking/running through the dog feces in the area and dogs off leash, which would pose another problem. Commission members felt the dog park item should have been discussed with the Commission members before it went to the Programs & Services Committee. Chairman Johnson suggested that a letter be drafted to Marcie Johnson, Chairman, Programs & Services Committee, stating that if they are thinking of using a dog park on Parks & Recreation land, the item should be discussed with the Parks & Recreation Commission members. Parks & Recreation land is under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- 3. **Little League Signs:** Andrew Stern: In 1998 the Recreation Commission extended the length of time for the signs to be placed at the Newton Centre Little League Field from April 15-August 15th, to April 15th to the end of September. A person from the Newton East Little League (NELL) was to return on a yearly basis to make an annual request. The advertising signs were supposed to be removed at the end of September and they were not removed until November 10th of this year. When Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, learned that the signs were still up after the allotted time, he called the NELL to have them taken down. The 1991 Draft Order of the Board of Aldermen called for the signs to be green with white lettering only and should be uniform in color with other little leagues throughout the City. Some of the NELL signs have other colors in them.

The NELL is asking for the signs to stay on the field from late April until its fall league ends. It was suggested that the commission set a date for all little leagues to put their signs up and take them down and the recourse would be a penalty or a fine. The Law Department was asked if fines could be imposed; the answer was by creation of an ordinance authorizing such fines, the other is as a condition of a license. The license could include a provision that failure to comply with certain provisions of the license will result in monetary penalties.

Permission to install the signs needs to be reviewed on an annual basis. The NELL should send a letter yearly to the Parks & Recreation Department requesting permission to install the signs. If the signs are not taken down at the appropriate time, then the league should lose the right to put up the signs the following year.

(3)

John Allen, resident, 64 Bowen Street talked about the little league failing every year with their regulations. The canvas piece on the backstop has not been taken down; it is hanging by a one thread and blowing all over the place. The little league has not complied with the rules for many years.

Michael Pinta, Supervisor of Fields, NELL, commented that the signs have been taken down each year, except this year the signs were taken down late. The monies received from the signs are to generate revenue for NELL. The funds are used to help pay for a private landscaper to maintain the field. Also the funds are used to help pay for equipment and uniforms as well as paying for some of the yearly maintenance expenses at the Bowen School field. The majority of the signs are green and white; however, some of the signs have a smattering of color.

The fall little league has double in participants. Also, Waltham and Needham use our fields for tournaments. The NELL would like to use the fields up until the 3rd week in October.

Francis Rice motion the 4' X 8' green signs with white lettering be installed the 3rd week in April and taken down the 21st of October of each year. If these rules are not followed then the little league cannot install the signs the next year. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

Andrew Stern proposed a compromise, as the signage is a blight. The signs should be as unobtrusive as possible. The July 8, 1991 Board of Aldermen Order contains the following items 2 through 11:

- 1) Plans/location of signs
- 2) Signs be standardized
- 3) Signs contain no promotions
- 4) No more than 36 signs be erected from April 15th to August 15th on a yearly basis and signs removed after season is over.
- 5) The signs all have a uniform background color for both front and back panels and all lettering shall be of a single color.
- 6) That the signs shall be located only on the curved outfield portion of the fence surrounding the field and that the signs will be installed as sold from the right field line to the left field line.
- 7) That with the approval of the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation the Newton East Little League maintains such field.
- 8) That the final design for all proposed signs be submitted to the Director of Planning and Development and the Urban Design and Beautification Commission for review and approval.

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(4)

- 9) That there shall be no additional structures installed at the field or modification of grades of the field by the Newton East Little League without an amendment of this Special Permit.
- 10) That there be no permanently installed sound system at the field by the Newton East Little League.
- 11) That there shall be no lights on the field by the Newton East Little League.

The NELL Board Order was not acted on; therefore it passed by default. Andrew Stern's concern is that NELL is not following the policy that was set up for them to follow.

Robert Platt reminded everyone that in this discussion, we need to think of the children playing in the little league, we are talking about ballgames for kids.

Walter Bernheimer mentioned, as everyone knows I am opposed to signs, however, I believe that Andrew Stern is right in that there should be a specific time period for the sign to go up and taken down. If the rules are implemented, then the NELL must live with the conditions.

Peter Kastner said the policy is made for a purpose, and the policy should be enforced. He would like to change the motion dates from April 21st to October 21st and NELL made to comply with the original order.

Mike Pinta said the little league pays over \$14,000 a year to maintain the Jay Gordon Field. If the signs that have some color in them and need to be changed, can it be within 3 years?

Francis Rice suggested the sign date should be from April 21st to October 21st of each year, providing the little league complies with the rules, or they cannot put the signs up the following year. This should also apply to other little leagues that have advertising signs.

Chairman Johnson suggested the 4' X 8' signs be done in the original colors, green background with white lettering and give the NELL 3 years to make the changes.

John Allen asked if the commission members would like to look out their windows and see the advertising signs! He said the whole sign thing should stop!

Jennie DeVito mentioned that the little league is there to teach the children how to play baseball, have a good time and learn good sportsmanship.

(5)

Francis Rice motioned the dates of putting up and taking down the signs be from April 21st to October 21st and that the signs be green with white lettering. A penalty be invoked if the signs are not taken down on the designated time, and the little league not be allowed to put the signs up the following year.

Francis Rice amended the motion that the dates be changed from April 21st to October 21st. The signs must be uniform in size 4' X 8', the colors of each sign be green and white starting in April of 2004. The rules must be enforced, including the Board Order conditions from the Board of Aldermen, July 1991, items 2 through 11, if not a one-year suspension be invoked. An annual application permit be sent to the Parks & Recreation Department each year with the rules on it. Peter Kastner seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 6 for and 2 abstaining to change the dates from April 21st to October 21st. The signs must be uniform in size 4' X 8' and the colors of each sign be green and white starting in April of 2004. The rules must be enforced, including the Board Order conditions from the Board of Aldermen, July 1991, on items 2 through 11, if not a one-year suspension be invoked. An application permit be sent to the Parks & Recreation Department each year with the rules on it. Peter Kastner seconded the motion. The two abstaining members were Jennie DeVito and Robert Platt.

- 4. **Master Plan:** Commissioner Towle discussed the master plan update. Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, is in the process of putting the GIS on the computer and checking and inventorying all of the department's recreation areas and inputting the information on the computer. The playgrounds are in a listing by City Wards and each area is being updated. Also, photos are being taken of each playground area.

Andrew Stern said to think about CPA funding for master plans i.e. Stearns Park – the Planning & Recreation Departments applying for \$50,000 for a master plan.

Commissioner Towle said Marion Pressley would be glad to come back to the Commission when we have an inventory in place.

- 5. **Skatepark Committee:** Susan Erickson, Chairman, Sk8Park Committee could not attending the meeting this evening, however, she called Walter Bernheimer and spoke with him about the Sk8Park. Her concern was contributions for funding for the skatepark site plans and could the other users of the 3 selected skatepark sites be asked for contributions for a plan for the park. Mr. Bernheimer thought it was a good idea if they could get funding from other park users for the plans for skatepark sites.

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(6)

The Sk8Park Committee will be holding two Skate-A-Thons on January 11th and 29th for fundraising.

6. **Update Millennium Park:** The contractor is finished for the season at Millennium Park, he has done an excellent job in the grading and the brick-naming wall. In the spring, the contractor will be pouring the rest of the foundation, and putting in the landscaping. The project should be finished by June.
7. **Update on Forte Park:** The bid for the lighting for Forte Park will go out in January. The project needs to be finished by June 1, 2004.
8. **Update Community Preservation Act:** Andrew Stern explained there were 9 proposals for CPA funds, one of which was the irrigation at West Newton Common submitted by Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner.
9. **New Business:** Andrew Stern suggested that Carol Stapleton, Manager, who took the photo of the gentleman for the cover of the Open Space Plan, get his permission for a release of the photo. The Commissioner will check with Carol regarding the photo.

Also, he thanked Commissioner Towle and Faye Hays, secretary, for their time and efforts on behalf of the commission.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
January 26, 2004
CITY HALL, ROOM 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the December Meeting**
- 2. Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry**
- 3. NELL**
- 4. Update Skatepark**
- 5. Update Forte Park**
- 6. Budget**
- 7. Appoint representative to CPC**
- 8. New Business**

Next scheduled meeting Monday, February 23, 2004

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 26, 2004

7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Robert Platt, Gwen Fineberg, Alternate Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Jennie DeVito, Alternates Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

Also attending, Newton East Little League's Michael Pinta, Jim Marks and David Gosman, and Channon Ames, Parks & Recreation Manager

1. **Minutes of the December Meeting.** The Commission members voted 6-0 to accept the commission minutes with changes from Andrew Stern; change the date on page 2 from 1988 to 1998. A sentence in paragraph 3 from: Also, the signs are supposed - to - The 1991 Draft Order of the Board of Aldermen called for the signs to be green with white lettering only, etc. On page 3 paragraph 5, change The signs should look aesthetically pleasing -- to - The signs should be as unobtrusive as possible.

2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:** Commissioner Towle reported on ice skating at the Auburndale Cove. The ice-skating started January 13th with a total so far of 1,288 happy ice skaters. The outdoor ice-skating is a real plus for Newton and the only costs to the Department is the leadership and maintenance. At the Emerson Community Center, the roof is being replaced after several major leaks. There was damage to the interior of the building, the basketball courts, Day Care Center, ceilings and floors said Jack Neville. The floors to the gym and lighting were re-done 10 years ago. Emerson actually has one of the better gyms in Newton. The seniors are very happy the roof is being fixed as they appreciate the use of the Emerson gym for dancing each Thursday. There are many local groups that use the building for meetings, which including an Upper Falls Committee and the Hemlock Gorge Committee. The Recreation Department pays for the heat and lights at Emerson as well as the Emerson Condo Fee. Repairs are done by the Building Department and transfer billed to the Recreation Department, which are then taken out of the Emerson Maintenance Trust Fund.

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(2)

The Department's Director of Forestry, Marc Welch, has done an excellent job in the one and half years that he has been with Parks & Recreation. Even though the forestry budget is only \$200,000 he has managed to bring in the contractor 2-3 days a week instead of five days a week. If anyone has any forestry problems, please do not hesitate to call Marc.

Deputy Commissioner Robert DeRubeis is the point person for the CitiStat Program. He described CitiStat as an accountability tool based on the CompStat program, which the Police Department is already using. Bob is very excited about the program which will be a plus when the data entry items are entered into the computer. An example is the emptying of the department's rubbish barrels throughout the City. The rubbish truck driver is keeping a log of how many barrels are emptied each day and the measurement of the rubbish. At the emptying of 110 barrels per day, it means that 17 barrels are emptied per hour. Robert DeRubeis will meet with Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer and Linda Walden, Source Reduction, every two weeks to discuss the CitiStat progress.

Commissioner Towle will be meeting with the Principal of Newton South High School to see the new State of the Art Facility that was added to the school. It will be a plus for the Department to use the new gym area at NSHS, plus the programs would be fee generated.

The 9th Annual Camp Fair will be held On February 3rd, rain date of February 5, at the City Hall's War Memorial from 2:00PM - 7:00PM.

There is a copy of a letter in the folders to James Mahoney, former Commission Chairman, thanking him for his 12 years of dedication and commitment to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Also, there is a copy of a letter to Alderman Marcia Johnson regarding the issue of dog parks on Parks & Recreation lands. It was suggested that a member of the Parks & Recreation Department's staff attend the dog park meeting on Thursday, January 29th, 7:30PM in room 222 at City Hall. Commissioner Towle will send Carol Stapleton, Manager, to the dog park meeting.

Andrew Stern asked Commissioner Towle when Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, would complete the playground survey. The Commissioner is looking towards the end of April for the survey to be completed.

3. **NELL (Newton East Little League):** Michael Pinta, Supervisor of Fields, Newton East Little League, submitted a letter to the Parks & Recreation Department requesting three improvements to the Jay Gordon Field at Newton Centre Playground; 1) a batting cage; 2) a concession stand; 3) electronic scoreboard.

(3)

Mr. Pinta is requesting the installation of a temporary/seasonal-batting cage outside the existing right field, just past the dugout area. The dimensions would be 15' wide by 60' long by 12' high with enclosed netting. The batting cage would be a huge asset to the little league and would help to train the players and make practice more efficient. Newton North and Newton West Little Leagues already have batting cages in their areas. A proposed electrical hook up would be run underground for the batting cage. It was suggested the batting cage be dark in color and the pitching machine be put away after each use.

The second item would be the concession stand, which would be temporary/seasonal and put behind the backstop area. NELL proposes utilizing either a retrofitted ice cream truck or a trailer/wagon type vehicle. The stand would be approximately 6' wide by 10' 4" long by 8' high and secured to the field during the little league season. Furthermore, the stand would be removed at the end of each season. The concession stand would be a great asset for the league, as it would raise monies to help maintain the fields. Family, friends & spectators could then enjoy refreshments during the games.

The third item is an electronic scoreboard: The scoreboard would be 7'8" wide, 4'8" high and 1.5" deep. The scoreboard would have no advertising on it. Also, NELL proposed to install an underground electrical cable for the scoreboard and operator control box.

Mr. Pinta spoke about the April 27, 1998 Commission meeting in which the commission voted 6 to 2 to approve Newton East Little League's proposal for a permanent electronic scoreboard without advertising. It was asked if another vote needed to be taken regarding the scoreboard. It was also noted that there are two approved little league scoreboards in the City.

Chairman Johnson proposed a sub-committee be chosen to discuss the three proposals by Newton East Little League, and return to the commission with their findings.

The commission members were shown a brochure with selected electronic scoreboards on it. Also, the commission members want to know beforehand the color/s of the proposed scoreboard.

Walter Bernheimer motioned, as per prior approval at the April 27, 1998 Commission Meeting, to approve the installation of an electronic scoreboard, with no advertising on it, at the Jay Gordon Little League Field, as per a proposal from Newton East Little League. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

(4)

Francis Rice amended the motion by adding, Newton East Little League bring their own power supply for the scoreboard.

The commission members voted 7-0 to approve the Newton East Little's request for installation of an electronic scoreboard, with no advertising on it, and bring their own power supply, at the Jay Gordon Little League Field in Newton Centre. The scoreboard would be approximately 7'8" wide, 3'8" high and 1.5" deep. Also, the little league will let the commission members know the colors of the scoreboard beforehand.

Mike Pinta also discussed the concession stand being a moneymaker for the little league. He hopes that for the first year, the concession stand will break even. Also, the concession stand would open a half an hour before the games start and close one half hour after the game ends.

The commission members wanted to know if the concession stand would be removed after each game? Mr. Pinta said the concession stand would be secured for the little league season. The concession stand would be placed at the site in April and removed in October. Also, the little league's landscaper would move the concession stand. If the concession stand were to be moved each evening, it would cause damage to the portable stand.

Jack Neville asked about the trash from the concession stand. Mr. Pinta said that more barrels would be needed from the Parks & Recreation Department at the concession stand site.

Chairman Johnson suggested the abutters to the Jay Gordon Field be notified about the February 23rd Commission meeting, and the NELL proposal for a concession stand and batting cage. The meeting will be advertised in the TAB Newspaper and notices be posted at the field site.

- 4. **Update Skatepark:** The Sk8Park Committee did not hold their two skatepark functions in January. Susan Erickson called the office and asked about holding a meeting in February with Chairman Peter Johnson, Walter Bernheimer and Commissioner Towle at the Parks & Recreation Office to discuss the Sk8Park. The Commissioner will keep the Skatepark on the Commission agenda's. It was noted that a state of the art skatepark is planned to be built near the Lenny Zakim/Bunker Hill Bridge by the Metropolitan District Commission.
- 5. **Update Forte Park:** Commissioner Towle reported the bid for Forte Park lighting will go out next week. The construction will be started in April, as the deadline to finish the project is June 1, 2004

(5)

- 6. **Budget:** Commissioner Towle discussed the Department budget cut of \$200,000 for FY05. All Departments in the City will receive budget cuts. The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner will be meeting with the managers to decide on where to make the budget cuts. Also, the Department is looking at raising fees to supplement the budget cuts.
- 7. **Appoint Representative to CPC:** Walter Bernheimer motioned that Andrew Stern be re-elected as the Parks & Recreation representative to the Community Project Committee (CPC). Robert Platt seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to re-appoint Andrew Stern as the Parks & Recreation Department's representative to the Community Project Committee (CPC) with the stipulation that commission members serve a two year term only, so other commission members can also serve on the committee.

- 8. **New Business:** Parks & Recreation Manager, Channon Ames, will discuss a proposal for raising picnic fees at the Auburndale Cove. The proposal would raise fees by charging a rate on an hourly basis. This would allow the Department to offer more picnics in each site each day and receive more monies from a group that would normally use a site all day. Also, a new site #5 would be instituted for small groups of 20 or less @ \$10.00 per hour. Any increase in fees would help to subsidize future budget cuts. In order to enforce the rules, there would be 1/2 an hour interval in between each group to permit them to vacate the area. Staff are on duty while picnics take place.

Robert Platt suggested that picnics at the Auburndale Cove be advertised on the Newton Cable TV Channel.

The picnics at the Cove raised \$13,000 last year, which does not include staff, maintenance and the cleaning of the building, said Channon. Also, there were fewer alcohol permits in place last year. Most of the permits were from businesses, with the person signing the permit being a Newton resident.

It was suggested that the picnic permits be instituted the same as the ballfield permits, in Tiers. Also, should a non-resident fee be imposed?

Francis Rice motioned to accept the proposed picnic fees at the Auburndale Cove. Robert Platt seconded the motion.

The Commission Members voted unanimously 7-0 to accept the proposed picnic fees at the Auburndale Cove.

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(6)

	<u>Current Fees</u>	<u>Proposed Fees</u>
Site 1	\$90.00 per day	\$30.00 per hour
Site 2	\$90.00 per day	\$30.00 per hour
Site 3	\$65.00 per day	\$20.00 per hour
Site 4	\$65.00 per day	\$20.00 per hour
Site 5	N/A	\$10.00 per hour

Chairman Johnson thanked Channon for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Towle informed the commission members that in their packets is a DRAFT of the Newton East Little League Application for Advertising Signs on Jay Gordon Little League Field. If you have any suggestions/corrections, please bring them to the next commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 23, 2004

City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the January Meeting**
- 2. Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry**
- 3. Friends of Albemarle**
- 4. Newton East Little League – Proposal for a Concession Stand and Batting Cage at the Jay Gordon Field in Newton Centre**
- 5. DRAFT- Newton East Little League Application for Advertising Signs on Jay Gordon Field**
- 6. Update Forte Park**
- 7. Update Millennium Park**
- 8. Update Skatepark**
- 9. Budget FY 2005**
- 10. Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 15th Commission Meeting**
- 11. New Business**

Next meeting to be held on Monday, March 15, 2004

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 23, 2004

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni (New Member), Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Newton East Little League's Michael Pinta, Jim Marks and David Gosman, Friends of Albemarle, Mary Fitzgerald and Curtis Betts

Absent: Robert Platt, Jack Neville and Michael Clarke

Chairman Peter Johnson introduced a new commission member, Arthur Magni, Ward 2, replacing James Mahoney. The commission members welcomed Mr. Magni to the Commission.

- 1. Minutes of the January Meeting were unanimously accepted 8-0.**
- 2. Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:**
 Commissioner Towle reported on one of the biggest ice skating seasons we have had for a long time. There were 27 days of ice skating at the Auburndale Cove, close to 3,000 skaters, for a cost of \$4,124.87 for leadership and \$2,192.46 for maintenance staff. Great skating season! The 9th Annual Camp Fair was held on February 3rd and was well attended. The children had a great time with the clown; games and video's while the parents registered them for summer camps.

The Commissioner and staff will be meeting with Doug Greenfield from the Information Technology Department this week to discuss Master Planning. Also, the Commissioner will meet with Marion Pressley, Thursday, to discuss Master Planning; we are moving forward! The Forestry Contractor works two days a week for the Department and 2 days a week paid for by the Preservation Ordinance.

(2)

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, discussed the CitiStat Program. He is very impressed with the program, which is similar to the one the Police Department uses. At this time the program is being fine-tuned, to better serve customer service and work management. We will be able to check on attendance, analyze fields, maintain users of the fields, and better utilize work/maintenance staff, user's demographics, and ages of people using the programs and location of the different age groups in each village. There will be a CitiStat presentation next month at the March meeting.

One of the Departments Laborers retired after 41 years on the job. Ted Cinkowsky left with over 485 days in his sick bank. The Department held a retirement celebration at the office for Ted. The Department has a new hire; Robert Dagastino, SHMEO, transferred from the Public Works Department. Four of our staff members will be attending a 3-day National Playground Safety Institute, this week for playground safety. The staff will become certified to evaluate playground safety. Commissioner Towle and members of the staff visited the new Newton South High School State of the Art Complex. There is an exercise room, gym equipment, etc. The Department looks forward to utilizing the new NSHS facilities starting in July.

Andrew Stern mentioned the Master Plan for Stearns Park will be on the agenda for the CPA meeting on February 25th

- 3. **Friends of Albemarle:** Mary Fitzgerald and Curtis Betts, Friends of Albemarle, presented a "Wish List" to the commission members. The list is a 1-4 year plan for improvements to Albemarle Recreation areas, (Russell J. Halloran, Sports & Recreation Complex). The committee evolved after hearing about the proposal of building a NNHS Stadium at the Albemarle Road/Craft Street area of the complex. Mr. Betts commented that Albemarle is more than just a park area, it includes the brook, Avery Woods, Cheesecake Brook, footbridge, Gath Pool, etc. Ms. Fitzgerald asked that the new commission member from Ward 2, Arthur Magni, work with the Friends of Albemarle to make improvements to the Albemarle area. Arthur Magni agreed to work with the Friends of Albemarle Committee on improvements to the area.
- 4. **Newton East Little League: Proposal for concession stand and batting cage at the Jay Gordon Field in Newton Centre.** Mike Pinta spoke about the NELL proposal for a batting cage. The league is proposing the installation of a temporary, removable batting cage so teach the little league participants can practice their hitting skills in safety. The batting cage would be an invaluable addition of equipment for the league. There are two other batting cages in the City, one at Lyons Playground and the other at the Newton North Little League field on Albemarle Road.

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(3)

The netting would be taken down as well as the poles as the end of the season. The actual pitching machine would be set up only during the times that the little league is at the field.

The batting cage would be approximately 15' wide by 60' long by 12' high. It was suggested that the mesh is black in color and the posts black or green to blend in with the scenery. The batting cage would be put up the first week in April and taken down the third week in October. NELL would have an underground electrical connection installed for the batting cage.

The league is looking at placing the batting cage at the right field corner of ballfield across from the stream. There is a utility pole on the other side of the stream that NStar has already looked at. It was suggested that another pole be placed on the field side of the street and that NStar would donate the pole. Neighbors commented about constant flooding in the little league field area. Mr. Pinta also said that if the batting cage were placed behind home plate, it would be too far away from the electricity. It was suggested that NELL procure another pole, however, the cost to the league would be prohibitive.

Andrew Stern and Walter Bernheimer suggested that it would be somewhat strange to have a temporary batting cage machine to be powered by a new, permanent 30' pole with overhead wires. Therefore, it was recommended that there be no aboveground utility service and that the NELL explore burying the service underground.

One of the neighbors abutting the field said every year there have been huge flooding areas near home plate and a dugout when it rains. If the electricity is put in cables underground, the league may want to consider the wetness of the area.

Bob Gill, 5 Stafford Road: His choice for a batting cage would be behind the bushes at the Jay Gordon Field.

Andrew Stern asked if the batting cage was a permanent fixture? The cage is not a permanent fixture; the netting and poles would be taken down after the season each year and put back up at the start of the little league season.

Jim Marks, NELL, gave the commission members copies of an aerial view of the park and suggestions as to where to place the batting cage.

John Allen, 64 Bowen Street: The little league field area fills up each year with rainwater. There is so much water the area looks like a holding pond. If underground electricity is used, he suggests that the cables be watertight. Walter Bernheimer agreed that underground electricity is a good idea as opposed to overhead wires.

(4)

Peter Kastner suggested the league check with the Engineering Department before any work is started on the field. Also, he suggested the league give the commission cost estimates, estimated cash flow from the concession stand, architectural plans, confer with dig safe and have a "disaster plan" in place for the next meeting.

Andrew Stern recommended the electricity plans be cleared with NStar, a diagram/plan be in place before a final vote of the commission takes place.

At this time Mr. Pinta does not have an architectural plan of the improvements to the Jay Gordon field area.

Carolyn Slack, 75 Homer Street: Asked about generators, and would the generators be noisy? The generators are noise pollution controlled.

Alderman Marcia Johnson and Alderman Leonard Gentile also attended the meeting at this time.

John Allen asked what the league intends to do about the flooding; if the netting to the batting cage breaks will the league fix it; behind home plate is a good place for the batting cage; and lastly, the league should receive a penalty if the equipment and area is not kept in good condition.

Marilyn Pescsolido, 1 Willow Terrace; Aside from the fact that the little league area floods, the neighbors are concerned with teens drinking at night in the summer, broken bottles, broken lights, noise, etc. Ms. Pescsolido said there are rodents in the brook area and is concerned with rodents being in the barrels.

Warner Slack, 75 Homer Street; The idea of a batting cage for the little league is a good one, and he would like to see the cage installed behind the back stop.

It was noted by Jim Marks that a \$5,000 back stop was installed at the field last year and paid for by the league. Also, safety is the main concern for all children playing in the little league.

Concession Stand: Mike Pinta discussed the proposed temporary concession stand. There are temporary concession stands at Lyons Field in Auburndale and also the James Murphy Field at Albemarle. The league is looking at trailers on wheels, which would be removed at the end of the little league season and brought back at the start of the little league season. The trailer would be secured to a pole for the length of the season. On Sunday's there are 3 games at the little league field and 3 at the senior league field from 12:00PM - 6:00PM. The league season is April 21st to October 21st.

(5)

The league wishes to sell non-perishables, i.e. soda, Gatorade, water, popcorn and hot dogs. There is no specific design of a concession stand as yet; the league is looking at used trailers with a side that opens up. The NELL wants the improvements to the field area to look aesthetically pleasing. He will ask the Department for more barrels to be placed at the field during the little league season.

There was a suggestion to hire a vendor to sell the food during games or have people bring their own food. Also, neighbors are concerned with the additional traffic on Homer Street during games. Also it was suggested that a crosswalk be installed on Homer Street. Mr. Slack, neighbor, said he would be happy to work with the league to see that a crosswalk was placed on Homer Street.

John Allen thought there was a request for a concession about 10 years ago, which the Board of Health denied. The trash barrel placed behind the backstop is always full and overflowing with debris. He suggests 2 barrels be placed there.

Southard Lippincott, 74 Tyler Terrace: Who lives across from the Newton Centre Hut, is concerned with debris and trash blowing into his yard daily. During the summer months the Centre Acres Day Camp uses the Hut and Mason Rice area for the summer camp. The camp leaders do pick up debris daily before the camp day ends; however, there is still trash that blows into his yard.

A Park Street resident is concerned with the extra traffic and trash at the playground. Peter Kastner commented on vending machines as a private enterprise on public lands, which is a whole different issue.

Mr. Gill suggested the use of vending machines as an alternative to the concession stand.

Walter Bernheimer's opinion was that the batting cage is a necessity for the little league, however, the concession stand is a choice decision.

A vote will not be taken this evening on the league's two items according to the Procedures and Alteration Rules and Regulations. A vote may be taken at the March meeting. The league needs to be more specific on the location of the batting cage and concession stand, distances from the fences, where the electrical underground cables are to be installed and the costs involved. Is there a plan A or plan B? When the decisions have been made, the information needs to be sent to Commissioner Towle prior to the next meeting

Chairman Peter Johnson thanked the Newton East Little League Committee and the neighbors for attending the meeting.

(6)

- 5. **DRAFT-Newton East Little League Application for Advertising Signs on Jay Gordon Field.** In reference to the DRAFT for Newton East Little League Application for Advertising signs on the Jay Gordon Little League Field, from Tom Cahill, Manager and Andrew Stern, the following was suggested: Use the DRAFT from Mr. Cahill, however, change the word Advertising to Sponsorship and take out Requested Dates of Sign. Also, use the 12 Rules & Regulations suggested by Andrew Stern for sponsorship signs.

Francis Rice motioned to approve the changes to the Newton East Little League Application for Sponsorship signs to be placed on the Jay Gordon Little League Field. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Newton East Little League Application for Sponsorship Signs on the Jay Gordon Little League Field.

- 6. **Update Forte Park:** Commission Towle said the bid for the lighting for Forte Park will go out next week
- 7. **Update on Millennium Park:** Millennium Park is on hold until April 1st. The completion date for the park will be in June.
- 8. **Update on Skatepark:** Commissioner Towle is meeting with Susan Erickson, Peter Johnson and Walter Bernheimer on Thursday, February 26, 2004, 12:30PM in the Recreation Office to discuss the skatepark.
- 9. **Budget FY 2005:** Commissioner Towle and Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis will be meeting with the Executive Department regarding a budget cut of \$191,000. This is roughest budget the Department has seen and many hard decisions need to be made. Fees for programs will be raised to supplement the budget
- 10. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, March 15, 2004
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the February Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of Maintenance, Forestry and Programs
3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
4. Newton East Little League – Batting Cage/Concession Stand
5. Dog Park Constituents – Ann Dorfman
6. Skatepark Update
7. Forte Park Update
8. Millennium Park Update
9. Budget Presentation
10. New Business

Next meeting: April 26, 2004

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 15, 2004

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Newton East Little League's Michael Pinta, Jim Marks, David Gosman, NewtonDogs spokesperson Ann Dorfman and Carol Stapleton, Manager

Absent: Arthur Magni, Robert Platt, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the February Meeting were unanimously accepted 6-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:**
 Commissioner Towle reported Newton's Tree City USA application has been approved for the 15th year in a row. The 26th Annual Youth Service Awards will take place on Monday, May 3, 2004, 7:00PM in room 222 at City Hall. Francis Rice suggested all Commission members submit a nomination for the Youth Service Awards, as it is a most worthy cause. The department has scheduled programs from Tuesday to Friday during School Vacation Week, which includes bowling, games, movies at Jordan's Furniture and a sleep over at the Museum of Science on Friday evening. The Special Needs Annual Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament was held at Newton North High School on Saturday, March 13th, 9:00AM – 1:30PM. There were 15 competing teams with over 200 participants and the event was very successful.
3. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Peter Johnson, Chairman, handed over the gavel to Fran Towle, Commissioner for the election of Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Commissioner Towle asked for nominations for Chairman. Francis Rice nominated Peter Johnson. Gwen Fineberg seconded the nomination. The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to elect Peter Johnson, Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission.

(2)

The gavel was returned to Peter Johnson, Chairman, who asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Francis Rice nominated Andrew Stern for Vice Chairman. Jennie DeVito seconded the nomination. The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to elect Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

- 4. **Newton East Little League – Batting Cage/Concession Stand:** Mike Pinta spoke to the Commission about the NELL proposal for a batting cage. The league is proposing the installation of a temporary, removable batting cage to allow the little league participant's to practice their hitting skills in safety. There were 3 options: Option 1 – by first base line, Option 2 – by 3rd base and Option 3 behind the fence at home plate. NStar would donate a pole for the electricity, which would cost the league less money. If the electricity were to be run underground, it would cost the league more money.

Walter Bernheimer had an issue, in that he does not like the idea of utility poles in open space areas, and suggests the electricity be run underground. He approves the location on page B-1C that requires the utilities to be run underground. Francis Rice also approves of that location Andrew Stern concurred with Walter Bernheimer regarding not using a utility pole for the electricity. Also the batting cage will be 50' in length

The location behind the backstop would be the more expensive and the electricity would need to be run from the senior league field area said Mr. Pinta. Also, he informed the neighbors attending the meeting, that the concession stand would not be voted on this evening, as the little league decided against it at this time.

John Allen, 64 Bowen Street is opposed to the trash trucks driving through the playground/field area to pick up the trash barrels.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the B-1C location for the proposed NELL batting cage, behind the backstop, with the electricity running underground. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to approve the B-1C location, for the proposed NELL batting cage, behind the backstop, with the electricity running underground.

Chairman Johnson thanked the Newton East Little League Committee for attending the meeting. Walter Bernheimer commended the NELL Committee for their detailed field improvement proposal.

(3)

Dog Park Constituents – Ann Dorfman: The Commission welcomed Ann Dorfman, Ted Kuklinski and Trudy Lanman as representatives of NewtonDogs.

Ann Dorfman presented the groups purpose to Commission Members. NewtonDogs is a citizen group for Newton Dog Owners.

"NewtonDogs is committed to working with the city to create reasonable times in designated parks and open spaces for Newton Residents to allow their dogs off-leash. Their goal is to develop new regulations that do a better job protecting the health and safety of Newton residents while meeting the needs of a greater number of people that live within the Newton community."

The group had submitted a position paper to the Board of Aldermen's Programs and Services Committee in February of 2004, proposing a modification to current ordinance Sec.3-26a(1) to permit dogs off-leash in certain public areas and open spaces (other than tot lots as prohibited under ordinance Sec.3-26a(2) as designated from time to time by clear signage.

A copy of the Modification Proposal is attached. Ann Dorfman presentation also reviewed the history of the "dog" issue which dates back to 1996.

Carol Stapleton, Parks & Recreation Manager has been working on this subject since 1996 and Commissioner Towle has assigned Carol to continue her work with all groups concerning dog issues within the city.

It is clear that there is a process that will begin when Alderman Marcia Johnson drafts a proposed change in the present ordinance and then a public hearing will be held by the Board to hear presentations from all sides of the issues by Newton Residents.

It was and has been made clear to any and all groups that any discussion on any type of dog park or dog run on Parks and Recreation land would also require a public hearing before the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commission member Andrew Stern from Ward 6 indicated that he would be interested in working with Carol Stapleton and the NewtonDogs group.

Chairman Johnson thanked Ann Dorfman and the NewtonDogs Committee for attending the meeting.

- 5. **Skatepark Update:** Commissioner Towle and Walter Bernheimer met with Susan Erickson about raising monies for a skatepark.

(4)

- 6. **Forte Park Update:** Commissioner Towle reported the bids opened for the Forte Park lighting. The bid was awarded to Cullen Electric.
- 7. **Millennium Park Update:** As soon as the weather is better, the contractors will start the work on Millennium Park, perhaps around mid-April. The project will be completed in June.
- 8. **Budget Presentation:** Commissioner Towle presented the FY2005 Budget to the Commission members. The budget cut for our Department at this time is \$191,000. The Commissioner's recommended budget is as follows:

2004/05

Recreation Administration	\$697,802.00
Pool & Lake	\$146,827.00
Outdoor Activities	\$ 42,094.00
Indoor Activities	\$ 91,686.00
Support of Recreation Activities	\$ 2,500.00
Special Needs Activities	\$108,375.00
Cultural Activities	\$ 86,005.00
Senior Adult Activities	\$ 11,405.00
Emerson Center	\$ 33,625.00
Hamilton Center	\$ 31,211.00
Maintenance of Vehicles	\$163,532.00
Care of Bldgs. & Adj. Grounds	\$252,369.00
Care of Public Grounds	\$1,511,800.00
Forestry	\$347,020.00
Control of Snow & Ice	\$123,620.00
Tree Emergencies	\$ 42,264.00
Sub-Total	\$3,692,135.00
Fringe Benefits	\$332,180.00
Grand Total	\$4,024,315.00

Walter Bernheimer asked for previous comparison fee figures for the pool and lake for the April meeting. Also, he suggested the commission look at the actual budget figures, to see if they could actually help with the budget cuts.

Commissioner Towle, was very grateful the staff came to the rescue with their suggested budget cuts. The next budget go around will be a tough one as we are not at a full 5% cut. This is one of the toughest budget cuts yet!

Gwen Fineberg motioned to approve the FY2004/2005 Parks & Recreation Department Budget. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

(5)

The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to approve the FY2004/2005 Parks & Recreation Budget.

The Mayor's budget presentation to the Board of Aldermen will be Tuesday, April 20, 2004, 7:45PM in the Aldermanic Chambers.

9. **New Business:** Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance and Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director, will have the updated Ward's Report for the April Commission Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 26, 2004

City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the March Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance, forestry and budget
3. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 14th to July 18th, 2004
4. NNLL – Terry Morris
5. Memorial Plaque - Eric Allon – Honoring 2 students who were on the bus trip to Nova Scotia in 2001
6. Community Classroom Plans – Margaret Doris
7. Skatepark, Susan Erickson
8. Swimming season information and fees, Gath Pool & Crystal Lake, Tom Cahill, Manager and Carol Stapleton, Manager
9. Tennis Rules & Regulations and Fees, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager
10. Field Permit Fees
11. Update - Dog Park
12. Youth Awards Presentation to be held in the Board of Aldermen's Aldermanic Chambers on Monday, May 3, 2004, 7:00PM
13. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 26th, 7:30AM at Boston College, Jack Williams, Channel 4 Newscaster to be the speaker
14. New Business

Next Commission meeting May 17, 2004

(Amended Minutes)

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 26, 2004
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Peter Kastner, Alternate

Absent: Robert Platt and Alternate, Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the March Meeting were unanimously accepted 6-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:**
Commissioner Towle reported the Department's maintenance crews did an excellent job in cleaning up after the Marathon. Additionally, the Department's maintenance crews assisted NewtonServes on Sunday, April 25th with 40 clean-up projects throughout the City. The Department supplied the rakes, shovels, plastic bags and rubbish pick-up for the 40 coordinated Newton Serves events. The coordinated effort with NewtonServes was a real plus for the Department. April school vacation week programs included 2 movie nights at West Newton Cinema with 500 people attending each night. Also included was a Museum of Science Camp-in sleep over on Thursday evening. Last weekend was opening day for many of the little leagues around the City. There is a change in Youth Awards Schedule this year. The awards will be held on Monday, May 3rd, 7:00PM at City Hall. The Commissioner was pleased to announce that Francis Rice, Commission Member, is the recipient of the Russell J. Halloran Lifetime Achievement Award. Millennium Park is on schedule, and should be completed in June and dedicated in the fall. Forte Park is also on schedule and the lighting should be completed by the end June. Master Planning: Derek Mannion and Mark Kelly are working on the basic inventory assessment of the playgrounds in Newton.

Andrew Stern was pleased to announce the Master Plan Funding for Stearns/Pellegrini Parks from the CPA has been approved!

(2)

- 3. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 14th to July 18th, 2004:** Commissioner Towle spoke for the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request. There were no issues with the carnival last year; however, the abutters will be invited to attend the next meeting on May 17th to voice any issues they may have with the carnival.
- 4. **Newton North Little League – Terry Morris/Ellen Lipoma:** Ms. Lipoma spoke regarding the renewal of the three-year NNLL Concession Stand License Extension.

Chairman Peter Johnson asked the NNLL to return to the next Commission meeting on Monday, May 17th, in which the abutters to the field would be notified to attend the meeting with any concerns they may have regarding the league. Also, it was suggested that the league send in an annual form regarding the concession stand agreement, after the end of their 3-year policy, which ends in June. The league would then send in a yearly form, which would also include a license agreement. The Commission needs to follow its rules on Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands.

NNLL request for Bleachers for Roche Field: Currently there are no bleachers at the Roche Field. The league is proposing to purchase and install a (9' X 26') set of bleachers behind the backstop and Roche Field prior to Opening Day on April 24th, 2004. Bleachers were at Roche Field at one time and have since been removed. The league is willing to pay for the bleachers and the installation. They are proposing to use Forte Landscaping and Construction for the installation.

Mr. Morris said the Department usually pays for and installs the bleacher stands for the leagues. Years ago the Department placed bleachers at that site and they disappeared. This request seems a bit disingenuous in that the NNLL is now willing to pay for and install a set of bleachers now instead of the City paying for and installing the bleachers themselves.

NNLL requesting two flagpoles outside the James E. Murphy Little League Field: The smaller (approximately 22' shorter) poles would be located on either side of the existing flagpole just outside the center field fence. The commission members would like to see a diagram of where the poles, speakers and bleachers are to be placed. The commission needs to follow the procedure that was instituted 10 years ago on Recreation Lands, which requires 2 meetings for any alternation of lands.

(3)

NNLL requesting to install two small speakers at the James E. Murphy Field to be used during the customary special events; Opening Day, City Series and the annual Little League Tournament: The system is not intended for everyday use. It would be used during special events only.

It was suggested that an abutter's letter go out to the neighbors of the fields areas and all of NNLL requests be on the agenda for the next commission meeting on May 17, 2004.

Mr. Morris asked about the approval of their 3-year annual Concession Stand License Agreement? It was also suggested that the Concession Stand License Agreement be discussed at the May 17th Commission Meeting along with three requested items; request to purchase and install a new set of bleachers for the Roche Field, request to install two flagpoles outside the James E. Murphy Field, request to install two small speakers at the James E. Murphy Field to be used only during special events.

It was asked if the NNLL Little League knew about the plans for the Outdoor Community Classroom project, next to the Murphy Field. The league was aware of the project.

Mr. Morris commented that the Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex is one of the cleanest parks in the City. The trash is picked up after each game by volunteers and it is a testament to the cooperation of the little league volunteers.

No action will be taken on the above requests until the May 17th commission meeting. Chairman Johnson thanked the members of the NNLL for attending the commission meeting.

- 5. **Memorial Plaque – Eric Allon – Honoring 2 students who were on the bus trip to Nova Scotia in 2001:** Mr. Allon is requesting placement of a memorial plaque on a rock facing the New Cold Spring Park playing field with the inscription "IN MEMORY OF GREG CHAN AND STEVE GLIDDEN, WHO LOVED PLAYING SOCCER WITH THEIR FRIENDS." Greg and Steve passed away on a school bus trip to Nova Scotia on April 27, 2001.

The passing away of the children on the school bus still has a devastating effect on everyone involved. Susan Weinstein-Winter read a cherished memory letter about both Greg and Steve.

Jack Neville said if the boys met on the soccer field and became friends, then a plaque would be a low key but meaningful remembrance.

(4)

Peter Kastner suggested that perhaps a bench with a plaque on it might be more successful as it tells more of a story.

Walter Bernheimer commented if soccer at Cold Spring was an activity that the kids did together, then a plaque on a stone facing the soccer field would be more meaningful.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the request of placing a plaque on a rock facing the New Cold Spring Park playing fields with the inscription "IN MEMORY OF GREG CHAN AND STEVE GLIDDEN, WHO LOVED PLAYING SOCCER WITH THEIR FRIENDS." Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the request of placing a plaque on a rock facing the New Cold Spring Park playing fields with the inscription "IN MEMORY OF GREG CHAN AND STEVE GLIDDEN, WHO LOVED PLAYING SOCCER WITH THEIR FRIENDS."

- 6. **Community Classroom Plans – Margaret Doris:** Margaret Doris gave an update on the Community Classroom Gazebo Project. The plans are on target, with construction starting in the fall, not much has changed. The community is behind the classroom project. There will be one entrance to the community classroom, 2 planters installed and a sundial is proposed.

Robert DeRubeis showed members of the Commission the site plan for the Gazebo. The gazebo has been reduced from 24' to 20.' He met with Nick Parnell regarding the site plan in March. The plan was approved by Design Review and Mayor Cohen signed off on it. The plan then goes before Public Facilities for approval and finally before the full Board of Aldermen.

The area will be handicap accessible and the gazebo will have wiring underground. The swing set, tot lot and play structure has been installed. Margaret will keep the commission members updated on the project.

Commissioner Towle congratulated Margaret and her volunteers for the excellent job they did with Newton Serves volunteers last weekend. Margaret mentioned 10 carpenters were available to help replace the decking on the first tot lot installed at Horace Mann.

- 7. **SkateparkUpdate – Susan Erickson:** As Susan mentioned last fall, the Sk8Park is committed to raising monies for a skatepark study at Cabot, Newton Highlands and Warren. There are some concerns as to whether or not a skatepark be built. The monies raised would be used for a feasibility study of the three-skatepark areas.

(5)

Last fall Susan met with Fran Towle, Walter Bernheimer and Peter Johnson to discuss asking other groups who use the fields to participate with their contributions towards the study.

The Sk8park Committee is now incorporated. The committee has received \$2,000 towards the \$10,000-\$15,000 needed for the study. The Carpenters Union has offered to supply the labor to build the skatepark.

Also, Susan asked if the Sk8park Committee could apply for CPA monies for planning purposes.

Andrew Stern, who is on the CPA Committee, said that the Parks & Recreation Department and the Planning Department co- applied for a master plan study to

be done for Stearns and Pellegrini Parks. The Law Department's rule is that asking for CPA monies for studies are not prohibitive.

Walter Bernheimer suggested that the Sk8park Committee keep in touch with Fran Towle, Commissioner.

Chairman Johnson thanked Susan Erickson for attending the Commission meeting.

8. Swimming season information and fees, Gath Pool and Crystal Lake:

The proposed fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:

- Adult \$45.00
- Student \$20.00
- Adult Resident Daily \$ 6.00
- Student Resident Daily \$ 4.00
- Non-Resident Daily \$10.00

Francis Rice motioned to approve the swim fees at Gath Pool & Crystal Lake. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the proposed swim fees for Gath Pool & Crystal Lake.

9. Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees: Proposed Newton Centre Clay Tennis Courts Fee Structure – 2004:

SEASON PERMIT RATES

- Resident Adult \$110.00
- Resident Student (under 18) \$ 60.00
- Non-Resident Adult \$130.00
- Non-Resident Student \$ 95.00

23/0

(6)

HOURLY RATES*

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

- Non-Resident Adult \$ 10.00

*Non-permit holders, if courts are available – reservations not permitted.

Francis Rice motioned to approve the Newton Centre Clay Tennis Courts season rates for 2004. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Newton Centre Clay Tennis Courts season rates for 2004.

10. Field Permit Fees: Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, spoke about the Field Permitting System Fees:

<u>TIER</u>	<u>YOUTH</u>	<u>ADULT</u>
Tier 1 – Schools/Recreation	\$ -	\$ 2.00/hour
Tier 2 - > 95% Residents	\$ 1.00/hour	\$ 2.00/hour
Tier 3 – 60% < Residents	\$ 3.00/hour	\$ 5.00/hour
Tier 4 – 25% - 60% Residents	\$ 5.00/hour	\$10.00/hour
Tier 5 - <25% Residents	\$10.00/hour	\$15.00/hour
Tier 6 – Tournaments Clinics	\$ 5.00/hour	\$15.00/hour

<u>League Contributions</u>	<u>Discount off Reservation Fee</u>
Min. \$5,000 contribution to field renovations or development or on-going maintenance will get the league the following:	10% discount
Additional 1% discount will be added to Total discount for each additional \$1,000 in field renovations/maintenance with a maximum of 40%	1% discount additional

Commissioner Towle said the goal is to generate \$45,000 in revenue to go to the General Fund. The Commissioner has met with all of the groups i.e. Youth Soccer, little leagues, Community Services, etc. The charge would be \$1.00 per hour to use the fields. Each group takes pride in their fields and we respect what they do with the fields. Surrounding communities have also been surveyed and some charge \$10.00 per player to use the fields. Youth Soccer would have the most hours, approximately 22,000 and they may fall in the category to receive a

discount. The Sportsman Program would be tracking the reservation fees on the computer. We are trying to work with and be fair to all groups.

Francis Rice commented if fees are charged for hourly field use this year, what will the fee be next year. This fee is difficult for the little leagues. Also, should there be a per person fee charged instead. One member disagreed with the per person fee and another thought the \$1.00 per hour fee was a reasonable way to go as opposed to other budget cuts.

Jack Neville asked about the custodial fees at Newton North Indoor Complex. The Department does pay the custodial fees at Newton North Indoor Complex. Commissioner Towle will provide Mr. Neville with the NNIC custodial fee information.

The Commission requested the Department to provide the Commission at its next meeting, information about the School Department's usage of the fields with a view towards considering defraying some of those expenses through the School Department budget.

Andrew Stern motioned to approve the proposed Field Permitting System Fees for FY05. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 7-0 with one abstaining, Francis Rice, to approve the proposed Field Permitting System Fees for FY05.

11. **Update – Dog Park:** Commissioner Towle mentioned a “Dog Commission” was proposed at a Program & Services Meeting regarding owners taking their dogs off-leash on certain parcels of land, during certain times in the City. Item was put on hold.
12. **Youth Awards Presentation to be held in the Board of Aldermen's Aldermanic Chambers on Monday, May 3, 2004, 7:00PM.**
13. **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 26th, 7:30AM at Boston College, Jack Williams, Channel 4 Newscaster to be the speaker.**
14. **New Business:** Andrew Stern asked about a meeting with Commissioner Towle, and commission members who wished to attend, to get a better understand the Parks & Recreation budget process and the line items. A meeting will be set up to discuss the budget.

Meeting adjourned: 9:15PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, May 17, 2004
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the April Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance, forestry and budget**
3. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 14th to July 18, 2004**
4. **NNLL requests to install and purchase a new set of bleachers for Roche Field; Request to install two flagpoles outside the James E. Murphy Field; Request to install two small speakers to be used during special events and; Request for Concession Stand License Extension.**
5. **Request to hold Elvis Presley Day at Pellegrini Park on September 18, 2004 with a rain date of September 25, 2004.**
6. **Washington Park – CPA Application and request to make Washington Park Historic**
7. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2004-2005**
8. **Status of Budget**
9. **Update Millennium Park/Artists Presentation Millennium Park "Time Capsule"**
10. **Amend Andrew Stern's appointment to CPC from 2 years to 3 years**
11. **Update: Forte Park**
12. **Update: Skatepark**
13. **New Business**

Next Meeting: June 21, 2004

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

May 17, 2004

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

In attendance: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Alternates Jack Neville, Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Robert Platt, Walter Bernheimer and Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the April meeting were accepted 7-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance, forestry and events:** Commissioner Towle reported the Gath Pool and Crystal Lake outdoor swimming facilities will open June 14th. The 26th Annual Special Needs Banquet which was held on Wednesday, May 12th, Post 440 at 7:00PM, was a very successful and well-attended event. Millennium Park is on schedule. The Annual Relay for Life was held Saturday evening, May 15th at Newton North High School. The cancer event was very moving and a real plus for the Department. A special event was held at the East Parish Burying Ground with David Olsen, Director, Newton History Museum. Two of the burying grounds were made historic, East Parish Burying Grounds and the Cotton Street Cemetery. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 26th, 7:30AM at Boston College.
3. **St. Mary of Carmen Request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 14th to July 18, 2004.** Chairman Johnson introduced Nunzie Leone, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Society. Chairman Leone is requesting permission to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival on July 14th to July 18th, 2004 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground. Mr. Leone mentioned nothing has changed since last year, same police details, same vendor.

Alderman Scott Lennon from Ward I attended to give his support for the carnival. The carnival is a great event for the City and everyone attending has a good time.

- Carnival personnel will be allowed to set-up no sooner than Monday, July 12th at 8:00AM. All rides and booths are to be cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 20, 2004 at noon. The society will be responsible for the damages to the grounds. The Carnival operates Wednesday, July 14th through Sunday, July 18th, 2004.
- All rides to be inspected by Building Department prior to openings.
- Carnival personnel to meet with the Recreation Commissioner and Police Department.
- Type and amount of rides same as 2003.
- Closing time will be 11:00PM for the entire week.

- The operator will furnish certificates of insurance with the limits specified in the permit naming the city as an additionally insured party.
- All food vendors will be in compliance with the Board of Health requirements and licenses.

Motion was made by Jennie DeVito to approve the St. Mary of Carmen request to hold the carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from Wednesday, July 14th through Sunday, July 18th, 2004, set up no sooner than Monday, July 12th at 8:00AM and cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 20th at noon. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 7-0 to approve the St. Mary of Carmen request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from Wednesday, July 14th through Sunday, July 18th, set up no sooner than Monday, July 12th at 8:00AM and cleared off the field by Tuesday, July 20th at noon.

4. NNLL requests to install and purchase a new set of bleachers for Roche Field; request to install two flagpoles outside the James E. Murphy Field; request to install two small speakers to be used during special events and; request for Concession Stand License Extension:

Ellen Lipoma's request for Newton North Little League:

- 1) Request to allow Newton North Little League to purchase and install a new set of bleachers for Roche Field on Albemarle Road: Request tabled until further discussion with the Friends of Albemarle.
- 2) Request to allow the Newton North Little League to install two flagpoles outside the James E. Murphy Field: Request tabled until further discussion with the Friends of Albemarle.
- 3) Request to install two small speakers at the James E. Murphy Field to be used during the customary special events: Opening Day, City Series and the annual Little League Tournament:

Chairman Johnson asked for comments from the neighbors:

Mr. Farnsworth said the little league has installed a large permanent public address system without proper permits or permission from the department. He can hear the game broadcasts two blocks away with his windows closed. The Albemarle Park used to be an asset, now it is not and he is thinking about moving from the area.

Sean Fitzgerald is in favor of the little league speakers as they are only used 3 times a year. The daily noise from the Horace Mann School is nosier.

Terry Morris said the league has been in existence for 16 years and the loud speakers would only be used 3 times in a year. Actually this is the 1st time in 5 years that loud speakers would be used. The league does not do a play by play each inning.

Mr. Garabedian said Albemarle used to be a tranquil place, it is commercialized now. The cars speed on Albemarle Road and no one cares. The wire for the permanent P. A. system is 110 volts

and is held together with tape. Also there are wires near home plate with a receptacle attached and this is a safety issue!

Peter Kastner asked how the sound system was wired into the ground. Is the electricity safe and done with permission from the Parks & Recreation Department? Are we aware of any permits taken out for the wiring, perhaps the electricity should be checked by the City inspectors?

Francis Rice said portable speakers should be used until the commission makes a decision and the decibel level should be checked. Was the sound system set up illegally? A bullhorn could be used for the announcement at the games.

Andrew Stern requested the Building Department check the electrical equipment Tuesday at Murphy Field.

Chairman Johnson suggested using the bullhorn for announcing the City Series tour only. Also the electricity should be inspected on Tuesday, May 18th.

In reference to the signs, Andrew Stern said the commercial signs should be regulated with all leagues as to size and color, white/green.

Commissioner Towle met with Terry Morris to discuss the advertising signs. At the meeting Terry said he had \$3,000 invested in the signs and it would be impossible to go back to the green/white signs at this time.

Motion was made by Francis Rice to cease and desist using the sound system and to use a portable one to announce the names of the little leaguers only. Peter Kastner seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to cease and desist using the sound system and to use a portable one to announce the names of the little leaguers only.

Concession Stand License Agreement Extension: Ellen Lipoma said the concession stand is the biggest breadwinner for the league. Also, the little league spends a lot of league monies on the Murphy Field maintenance.

Peter Kastner asked about the league's financial statement. He would like to see the league numbers and financial statement. Chairman Johnson asked if the Treasurer of the league is trying to keep the fees down? Francis Rice would like to see the figures for the concession stand.

Mr. Farnsworth, neighbor, said 12 years ago the concession stand was approved as a temporary structure, it still is a temporary structure. Also, where are the shrubs that were supposed to be planted around the temporary concession stand structure? He said the dug outs are an eyesore! Is the concession stand a legal public asset for a private organization? With respect to this issue, Peter Kastner stated that it has been researched and the concession stand is legal based on a prior ruling.

Andrew Stern asked about other leagues and what they do; should the commission consider a one-year license agreement for all little leagues? Commissioner Towle said the license could be approved for 3 years, however, a form would need to be sent to the little league each year for approval by the commission. For example St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request is approved each year, all of the kinks have been worked out, and the carnival seems to run more smoothly.

The league's Treasurer, David Blum, said the concession stand raises between \$7,000 and \$9,000 each year. The landscaping costs run \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year. There are plans to improve the T-Ball field. Also, the league charges \$70 per child and \$100 per family, and there are over 300 kids.

Scholarships are available, and no child is turned away. Newton North Little League charges the lowest fees of all of the little leagues. Busy families often eat their meals at the concession stand and are happy about the convenience. Volunteers clean up the Murphy field area after each game.

Peter Kastner would like to see the concession stand approved for one year and work with the neighbors and little league to form a plan.

Curtis Betts, neighbor and member of Friends of Albemarle supports the renewal of the concession stand.

Mr. Garabedian who is not enthusiastic about the lights, sound system and press box, showed photo's of the electrical outlets the little league uses. The outlets were in dangerous condition and should be checked out by the City. The lights at Albemarle shine in the windows of the homes and Mr. Garabedian also does not like the sight of the porta potty. The porta potty should be moved out of sight!

Kathy Zigarelli said the kids have to go the bathroom somewhere. The porta potty was out of sight at one time and was set on fire. That is why the porta potty was moved forward. The league cannot afford to keep 2 porta potties at this location and do not want the porta potty tipped over again.

Ms. Farnsworth said the concession stand food is not healthy. They should be selling fruit drinks and fruit, not chips and hot dogs.

Joe Farina, NNLL, said he would like to meet with the Albemarle neighbors to air their differences and reach a satisfactory agreement.

Andrew Stern moved to approve Newton North Little League's request to approve a one-year extension on the concession stand at the James E. Murphy Field. Jennie Devito seconded the motion.

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The commission members voted 8-0 to approve Newton North Little League's request for a one-year extension for the concession stand at the James E. Murphy Field.

Newton North Little League members to return with a diagram of the area, meet with the Albemarle Group, see what the decibel level is on the speaker system and see that the electrical outlets are fixed.

Chairman Johnson thanked the members of the Newton North Little League and neighbors for attending the meeting.

5. Request to hold an Elvis Presley Day at Pellegrini Park on September 18, 2004 with a rain date of September 25, 2004:

Daniel A. Pellegrini, Director/Manager for the Elvis Day Committee is requesting a permit for the use of Pellegrini Park on Saturday, September 18, 2004 with a rain date of Saturday, September 25, 2004.

Mr. Pellegrini asked that the music be allowed to start at 7:30PM and end around 9:30PM. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the music should end at 9:00PM and start earlier in the evening. Music has to end at 9:00PM per City Ordinance.

Mr. Pellegrini said he would be happy to cooperate in any way to hold the 25th Anniversary Elvis Reunion. The event is a tribute to Fat, Joanne and Frank Pellegrini who have since passed away. No alcohol or cooking will be allowed, just chips and soda. There will be one comic, a raffle and fun for the community. Also, it is a non-profit event and the monies will go to the Nonantum Children's Fund Organization. Mr. Pellegrini said that his mother Camille Chick Pellegrini has taken over the reigns as Chairperson of the organization that was run by Fat Pellegrini. He would like to get the event permit until 10:00PM. He is asking for a 12-hour permit as time is needed to set up and take down the equipment and also clean up the park.

Francis Rice suggested the event start earlier and stop at 9:00PM.

No vote will be taken at this meeting, as a second meeting will be required. A mailing will go out to the abutters of Pellegrini Playground to inform them of the Elvis Event. The next commission meeting is June 21, 2004

Chairman Johnson thanked Mr. Pellegrini for attending the meeting.

6. Washington Park – CPA Application and request to make Washington Park Historic:

Nathan Cobb, Treasurer of Park Friends Inc., (Washington Park), spoke about applying for a CPA Grant with the Parks & Recreation Department as a co-applicant for historic lighting and making Washington Park a historic place. The lighting would be electrical replicas of the old gas lighting. He met with Public Works Commissioner Robert Rooney, Parks & Recreation Commissioner Fran Towle to discuss the 19th century gas lamps, cost for electricity, repairs, maintenance and parts. To develop the plan, the area needs to be recognized by the Historical Commission and eventually the National Register. Mr. Cobb has spoken and is working with

Laura Kritzer of the Planning Commission about historic plantings and dressing the area up with trees and benches.

Chairman Johnson asked if CPA Funds are used, are the costs of electricity, repairs, etc., already tied into the amount of the grant and Mr. Cobb said not as yet. Also, there are no definite plans at this time.

Andrew Stern said there would be some restriction with the monies in the grant. He asked about poles for the lights.

Peter Kastner suggested Mr. Cobb return to the Commission with more detailed information and the amount to be considered for the grant. Also, the park area should be dressed up with more shrubs, etc.

Arthur Magni motioned to approve the pursuit of the Washington Park idea to pursue the historical status of the park only, not the homes in the area. Peter Kastner seconded the motion.

Historical status of homes in the Washington Park area does not come under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the pursuit of the Washington Park idea to pursue the historical status of Washington Park only, not the homes in the area.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mr. Cobb for attending the meeting.

7. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2004-2005:** Recommendations are as follows:

	<u>2003-2004 Current Rates</u>	<u>2004-2005 Recommended Rates</u>
Adult	\$60.00	\$60.00
Student	\$40.00	\$40.00
Non-Res	\$125.00	\$125.00
Adult Res Daily	\$6.00	\$6.00
Student Daily	\$4.00	\$4.00
Non-Res Daily	\$10.00	\$10.00

Francis Rice motioned to approve the Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2004-2005. Jennie Devito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2004-2005.

8. **Status of Budget:** Commissioner Towle said the Parks & Recreation Budget will be on the agenda of the Programs & Services Committee Wednesday, May 19, 2004, 8:45PM in room 222 at City Hall.

Andrew Stern asked about the School Department's budget. We are definitely underfunded as a Department. What would happen if we did not cut the grass on school property? Commissioner

Towle responded with the Parks & Recreation Department maintains all fields and we reserve the hours groups are to be on the fields. Any monies we receive from the leagues goes into the General Fund as well as fees for swimming, picnic and permit fees. Camp funds go into the Revolving Fund for leadership, materials and supplies.

Fees are only a sliver of the pie in the budget; people want the same level of services, they don't want the fees raised, yet we only get more budget cuts; seems unfair said Peter Kastner.

Commissioner Towle said we help maintain 5 major little league fields, and we are responsible for the irrigation, water, scarifying the fields, cutting the grass and marking the fields.

Andrew Stern asked if our Department could charge the School Department to use the fields? Also, what if we rescind our vote on the fees? Peter Kastner asked if some of the members of the Commission should go to the Mayor and speak to him about our budget cuts.

Commissioner Towle said the budget cuts regarding fees is in the hands of the Mayor's office at this time.

Gwen Fineberg said we need to think about the budget cuts for next year, where will they come from!

The commission members agreed to support the Parks & Recreation Department and their budget monies.

Andrew Stern recommend some of the commission members learn the Department's budget and then meet with Sanford Pooler, the Chief Budget Office to discuss the budget situation with him.

- 9. **Update Millennium Park/Artists Presentation Millennium Park "Time Capsule:"** Keith Cohen of the Artists of Claflin School Studios, spoke about the "Time Capsule Project" to be located at Millennium Park. The artists of the Claflin School would prepare a time capsule, with artist's project in it that would be sealed for 100 years. The artists will donate the time, capsule and its contents for placement at Millennium Park. The time capsule is a 14-inch stainless cube that would be buried on the grounds at Millennium Park.

Other Departments will need to be notified of this project including the Executive Branch, Aldermen, Design Group, Landscape Maintenance Task Force and Public Facilities said Andrew Stern. We need to retain the Olmstead Design at City Hall. Also, Commissioner Towle said this is a private enterprise on public property. The Procedures for Alteration of Lands for Private Organizations on Recreation Lands Policy needs to be followed. Mr. Rice said the idea is acceptable if the other Departments approve it. Chairman Johnson mentioned checking with the other Departments first and they need to go through the proper channels.

Commissioner Towle will send letters to the abutters of the Millennium Park, Mayor Cohen, Board of Aldermen and the TAB Newspaper apprising them of the Commission Meeting on Monday, June 21st and the Time Capsule request.

- 10. **Amend Andrew Stern's Appointment to CPC from 2 years to 3 years:** Francis Rice motioned to approve Andrew Stern's appointment to the CPC from 2 years to 3 years. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve Andrew Stern's appointment to the CPC from 2 years to 3 years.
- 11. **Update Forte Park:** Lights at Forte Park will be installed June 1st as per the Forte Park Project.
- 12. **UpdateSkatepark:** No new information of the skatepark.
- 13. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, June 21, 2004
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM**

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the May 17, 2004 Commission Meeting:
2. Commissioner's reports of program, maintenance and forestry
3. Millennium Park/Artists Presentation Time Capsule" to be buried on the grounds of Millennium Park
4. Request to hold Elvis Presley Day at Pellegrini Park on September 18, 2004 with a rain date Of September 25, 2004
5. Washington Park – CPA application and request to make Washington Park Historic
6. Stearns/Pellegrini project – Amy Youhouse, Planning Department, the CPA request was approved and Amy wanted to discuss next step with commission members
7. Newton North Little League – Ellen Lipoma
8. Deborah Miller –(Newton Centre)
9. Andrew Stern Request – Department budget questions/comments/concerns/needs for a Sandy Pooler presentation.
10. New Business

Next meeting September 20, 2004

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION MEETING**

June 21, 2004

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Arthur Magni, Alternate Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Jennie DeVito, Robert Platt and Alternates Jack Neville and Michael Clarke

1. Minutes of the May meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0.

2. Commissioner's Report of program, maintenance, forestry and events:

Commissioner Towle reported on the following; The Department's new summer brochure is in the folders, which we are very proud of as well as the Department's new logo. The outdoor swimming facilities Gath Pool and Crystal Lake are now open for pre-season, regular season starts June 28th. Crystal Lake will close on August 22nd and Gath Pool will close Labor Day. The Maintenance Department prepped over 25 sites for Memorial Day and helped the Veteran's Department with the flags. Falls Ball was held last Saturday at Lower Falls Community Center. This was the 29th year for the event. Warren/Lincoln Playground was dedicated last Sunday. Christopher Pitts was instrumental in the planning of the Warren/Lincoln Playground. There were 42 Special Needs Athletes at the Special Olympics Games at Harvard this past weekend with Special Needs Director, Mark Kelly and many dedicated volunteers. The Department operated 13 camps during the summer. A scholarship meeting was held and 70 needy children will receive 2 weeks of free camp this summer. Field renovations are being done at Cold Spring Park with CIP monies, which includes sod at the soccer field, and a field cut out for a women's softball field. Last year the soccer group gave matching funds for Cold Spring Park. The Commissioner spoke with Deborah Millar who is raising monies for a new universal playground at Newton Centre Playground. Some of the old play equipment will be taken out and new equipment installed. Plans for the playground will be forthcoming in the fall. Andrew Stern would like to attend any future meetings about the Newton Centre Playground. The Forte Park lighting has been completed for Phase I of II Phases.

The Commission was informed that a decision was made by the Mayor not to raise user fees (i.e. little league) which necessitated, \$22,000 being, taken from the operating budget, \$28,000 from CIP for trees and \$10,000 from Public Works Sidewalks, which totals \$60,000 from the department's budget.

- 3. **Millennium Park/Artists Presentation "Time Capsule" to be buried on the grounds of Millennium Park:** The "Time Capsule" project organized by Dr. Keith Cohen and Roberta Paul would be buried at Millennium Park in a 14" stainless steel cube and include the works of Newton artists. Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager, spoke about the project and attended all of the City's required meetings, Public Facilities and Building Task Force for their approval of the project. Notices of tonight's meeting went out to 120 abutters, Mayor, Board of Aldermen and TAB Newspaper. In the packets is a map of the project site. A plaque will be put in the ground to mark the Time Capsule Site.

Andrew Stern motioned to approve the 14" Stainless Steel Cube Time Capsule Proposal from the Claflin School Studios to be located at Millennium Park. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously accepted 7-0 to for approval.

Chairman Johnson thanked the Time Capsule Committee for attending the meeting.

Also, Commissioner Towle mentioned Millennium Park is almost ready to be completed. They are waiting for the plantings, benches and tables and 1330 inscribed bricks to be installed. Dedication to take place in September.

- 4. **Request to hold Elvis Presley Day at Pellegrini Park on September 18, 2004 with a rain date of September 25, 2004.** Mr. Dan Pellegrini, Manager of the Elvis Presley Day, explained that all proceeds after expenses from the Elvis Presley Event would now be donated to the Shriners Organization. Andrew Gately, Esquire, was present with a letter that prohibits the Elvis Presley Day Permit from using the name of the Nonantum Children's Christmas Party Association, Inc., for accepting donations on behalf of the NCCPA. There is a Court Order prohibiting Daniel Pellegrini and/or Camille Pellegrini, from soliciting and or/accepting any donations on behalf of or in the name of NCCPA. Also, Daniel Pellegrini presented a letter stating that until further notice all proceeds after expenses from the Elvis Presley Day will be donated to the Shriners Organization. The Special Events Permit will have changes with the proceeds going to the Shriners Organization. A letter will be needed from the Shriners stating proceeds of the event will go to their organization.

Peter Kastner asked about insurance for the event, do they need a rider from the Shriners?

The Elvis Day event to take place at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground on Saturday, September 18, 2004 from 5:00PM to 9:00PM, with a rain date of September 25th. The music is to cease at 9:00PM.

Francis Rice motioned to permit the Elvis Day Committee to hold their event on September 18, 2004, from 5:00PM to 9:00PM at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground with a rain date of September 25, 2004. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to allow the Elvis Presley Day Committee to hold their Elvis Presley Day at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground on Saturday, September 18, 2004 from 5:00PM to 9:00PM with music to cease at 9:00PM. Rain date to be September 25, 2004. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, will work with Daniel Pellegrini on the Elvis Day Event.

- 5. **Washington Park – CPA application and request to make Washington Park Historic:** Nathan Cobb, Park Friends Inc., has applied for CPA grant monies for historical gas lamps to be installed at Washington Park. Mr. Cobb gave copies of the lighting information to commission members. The Washington Park area is 900 feet long and 50 feet wide. Robert Rooney, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works will pay for the electricity and maintenance of the lights. The application for CPA funds is due November 1st. The Park Friends to work with Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, regarding the grant application. The historic lights would be 100 feet apart with 9 on one side and 8 on the other side. The Historical Commission is enthusiastic about the antique lights.

Chairman Johnson mentioned that while it is commendable that the existing lighting be replaced at Washington Park, however, the Park Friends need approval of the Commission to proceed to make the Washington Park area historical.

At the May Commission meeting the Commission members approved the pursuit of the Park Friends idea to pursue the historical status of Washington Park. The historical status of Washington Park does not include the homes in the area.

The Historical Commission supports the submission of Washington Park the Massachusetts Historical Commission for a determination of National Register eligibility for CPA funding.

Motion was made to vote for the Park Friends historic lighting project to go forth to the CPA for approval and funding.

Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion to support the Park Friends in their request to have historical lighting installed at Washington Park and to apply for CPA grant monies.

The commission members voted 5 in favor and 2 abstaining, to support the Park Friends in their request to have historical lighting installed at Washington Park and to apply for CPA grant monies. Those abstaining were Peter Johnson and Peter Kastner.

6. **Stearns/Pellegrini Project: Amy Yuhasz, Community Development Manager, Planning Department.**

The CPA request was approved and Amy wanted to discuss the next step with commission members. The Stearns/Pellegrini project was approved for CDBG funds in April. The project will pursue acquisition of the property, which abuts the Stearns property. Also, a private developer is interested in the abutting property for housing. There have been neighborhood meetings on this project to keep the neighbors informed as to the progress. Ms. Yuhasz will keep the commission informed as to the progress of the Stearns/Pellegrini Park CDBG Neighborhood Improvement Project. Neighborhood meetings are planned for August and September. The RFP for the Stearns/Pellegrini Project will go out within the next month. Chairman Johnson thanked Ms. Yuhasz for attending the meeting.

7. **Newton North Little League – Ellen Lipoma, President:** In reference to the electrical wiring at NNLL Field, the wiring was done by their electrician, however, they did not ask permission from the Recreation Commission. Electrical cords are run from the backstop to the pitcher’s mound for the pitching machine, which sometimes blows fuses. Ellen asked if an electrical cable box could be installed for the pitching machine with 2 available keys. Francis Rice asked about electrical outlets for the other little league fields? Most electrical outlets are on the backstops.

Andrew Stern asked that if the commission gives permission for the installation of electrical outlets, and if so, who pays for the electricity?

Peter Kastner asked how the sound system was originally installed at NNLL Field, as the Recreation Commission did not approve it.

Ellen would like permission for a sound system to be used for the NNLL’s City Championship games, which involve 5 other little leagues. The league respectfully requests a portable sound system for the upcoming games. The system is not intended for everyday use. There would be 6 divisional playoff games starting July 1st, 6th, 8th, 10th, 13th and 17th. If a sound system cannot be used, the championship games cannot be held in Newton.

Francis Rice motioned to approve the use of a portable sound system for the NNLL championship games.

Peter Kastner seconded the motion to all the NNLL to use a portable sound system during the little league championship games.

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The Commission voted 5 for and 2 abstaining to use a portable sound system at the NNLL little league championship games starting July 1st, 6th, 8th, 10th and 13th. The two abstaining were Andrew Stern and Walter Bernheimer.

8. **Andrew Stern Request – Department budget questions/comments/concerns/needs for a Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, presentation regarding the Parks & Recreation budget.**

Andrew Stern is requesting a meeting be held with Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, to discuss the Parks & Recreation Budget with some members of the Recreation Commission. He asked, “what is the role of the Parks & Recreation Commission in regards to the budget?” What is the commission’s proper execution of duty in how the department’s monies are to be spent annually and the amount of money designated for the department.

Peter Kastner would like explanations from the Chief Budget Officer regarding the Parks & Recreation Department’s budget.

Andrew Stern mentioned that Sandy Pooler is willing to meet with a few of the commission members, however, he would like an agenda as to topics they will discuss. The sub-committee will consist of the following commission members: Andrew Stern, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Kastner and Francis Rice. Andrew Stern to call Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, to make an appointment to discuss the Parks & Recreation Budget.

In the City Ordinance our role is to advise the Mayor on matters of the Parks & Recreation Department and the Board of Aldermen about parks, recreation, sports, open space and preserve and enhance our parks. We need to look at the State and City Ordinances regarding Parks & Recreation budgets.

9. No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004
CITY HALL – ROOM 209, 7:30PM**

AGENDA*

1. Minutes of the June Meeting
2. Reports of summer programs, maintenance, forestry and closing of Crystal Lake and Gath Pool (Crystal Lake closed 8/22/04 and Gath Pool closed 9/6/04)
3. City Hall Landscaping Restoration Proposal, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator
4. Accessibility Inventory, Pathway for Parks, Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director
5. Park Inventory, Derek Mannion, Superintendent of Maintenance
6. CitiStat, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner
7. Update CPA Projects, Community Classroom, Bowen, West Newton Common, Gath Pool benches, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner
8. Update Forte Park
9. Elvis Presley Day in Nonantum at Joanne Pellegrini Park
10. Update Millennium Park
11. New Business

*Beautification Awards Ceremony in War Memorial, 6:30PM, prior to Commission Meeting

Next meeting to be held on October 18, 2004

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION MEETING
September 20, 2004
7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall**

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Peter Kastner, Alternate, Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, Mark Kelly, Director, Special Needs and Margaret Doris, Gath Pool Benches/Shade Canopies

Absent: Robert Platt and Jack Neville

1. **Minutes of the June Meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0 with a correction to Mr. Magni's name and a change in a sentence on page 2, The Commission was informed that a decision was made by the Mayor not to raise user fees, etc.**

2. **Reports of summer programs, maintenance, forestry and closing of Crystal Lake and Gath Pool (Crystal Lake closed 8/22/04 and Gath Pool closed 9/6/04) Commissioner Towle reported that it was another great summer season at the Parks & Recreation Department. The 4th of July Fireworks were the best we ever had. Great evening! The St. Mary of Carmen Carnival went well, no complaints. We will be evaluating the St. Mary of Carmen event with the festival committee in the near future. A dog tour field trip was held in Brookline with Alderman Marcie Johnson. The Town of Brookline has an established dog park area and the hours are from 6:00AM to 1:00PM. Photos were taken of the dog park as well as the signage. I will keep the commission posted on the dog park item. Mayor Cohen has a fitness challenge for the City of Newton employees and there are 5 teams from the Parks & Recreation Department! Two weeks ago the Commissioner attended a career celebration retirement party for Joel Lerner, Director, Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Mr. Lerner was instrumental in our grant process for the City of Newton. The grants have supported Commonwealth Golf Course, Forte Park, Phase I and II, Cold Spring Park and Nahanton Park.**

- 3. **City Hall Landscaping Restoration Proposal, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator:** Commissioner Towle introduced the newest member of our staff, Carol Schein, Landscaper Designer. Carol worked on the Big Dig Landscaping project and is familiar with the 1932 Frederick Law Olmstead Landscaping design at Newton City Hall. The landscapes at City Hall have changed throughout the years and are an on-going challenge for the Parks & Recreation Department. In an effort to improve the overall appearance, the Department is seeking Community Preservation Act funds for the development of a landscape plan for historic preservation of the City Hall Landscaping site.

The Landscape Advisory Council, Newton Historic Commission and the City Hall Preservation Task Force have all provided letters of support for this project.

Phase I: the Department is requesting funds to go to bid for professional services of a landscape architect in the amount of \$40,000 which would include, a written report with recommendation, priorities, a master plan drawing, cost estimate and maintenance plan. The landscape architect would begin work in the spring of 2005.

Phase II: Would ask for CPC Funds for implementation of the plan's recommendations and permitting, beginning in the Fall of 2005.

It was asked where it would fit into the Needs Assessment, what types of plants are needed, will they take out the old plantings? Carol said as to what plants would be planted or removed, that would be up to the landscape architect.

It was suggested that if other committees were involved in the plan, it would have a better chance of being presented to the CPC. Providing passive recreation to the landscaping would be complimentary to the building.

Jennie DeVito motioned to support the Proposal to the CPC, with the Historical Commission as a co-applicant, for Rehabilitation of the City Hall and War Memorial Landscape for funding for a consultant.

A Landscape Architect was not needed for the Millennium Park Project, why do we need one for this proposal. Could the Planning Department come up with a plan said Francis Rice.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that a consultant was hired for recommendations for improvements at the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course.

Projects for the CPC are due on October 15, 2004. The next Commission meeting will be October 18, 2004. Projects for the CPC, pertaining to Recreation

maintained lands or proposals would need approval from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The proposed draft needs some work before it goes to the CPA for funding said Michael Clarke. Carol Schein asked that any comments on the draft be sent to her.

Arthur Magni mentioned the proposal needs a co-sponsor to participate in the CPA Funding such as the Historical Commission. Also, this should be considered a Historic Preservation Project.

Peter Kastner asked about the public's interest in this proposal; it would need to be in a Master Plan, and a lot of money has been spent on City Hall already. What about funds for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake!

Chairman Johnson asked for a vote on the motion to support the proposal for the Rehabilitation of the City Hall and War Memorial Landscape, co-sponsored with the Historic Commission. Phase I is for professional services of a Landscape Architect with historic landscape preservation (\$40,000) to develop the plans starting in the Spring of 2005.

The Commission members voted 7 for, 1 opposed (Walter Bernheimer), to support the proposal for the Rehabilitation of the City Hall and War Memorial Landscape, co-sponsored by Historical Commission. Phase I is for professional services of a Landscape Architect with historic landscape preservation (\$40,000) to develop the plans starting in the Spring of 2005.

- 4. **Accessibility Inventory, Pathway for Park, Mark Kelly, Director, Special Needs:** Mark and Derek Mannion worked on a playground accessibility list for all Newton Playgrounds. Mark has submitted an Accessibility Prioritization Project List for all eight Wards in the City. The top four priorities are:

- Newton Centre Park, Tyler Terrace, Ward I
- Auburndale Cove, West Pine Street, Ward 4
- New Cold Springs Park, Beacon Street, Ward 5
- Burr Park, Park Street, Ward 7

At the Newton Centre Playground a group is interested in a disability playground project. United Cerebral Palsy of Metro Boston, Boundless Playgrounds are the Department are working together to construct a playground that is barrier free and developmentally advantageous for all children. A pathway is needed for all people to enter playground areas, whether they are handicapped, in wheelchairs and people with strollers, etc. Pathways for Park were inventoried with \$12,500 from marathon monies.

Andrew Stern talked about the Newton Centre Playground plans being in the Master Plan for future generations. Parking spaces also need to been reviewed for playground areas. Michael Clarke asked if the original plans for Newton Centre Playground were available.

When asked about the Special Needs Camps, Mark said the camps are for 3-6 year olds and 7 year olds to adults. The children and adults also utilize the facilities at Lower Falls Community Center, Mason Rice School and Newton North High School. Mark is on the Mayor's Handicap Committee.

Andrew Stern suggested as a grant for CPC, choosing 10 of most neediest playgrounds for accessibility pathways.

Mark reminded everyone about the Annual Paddy's Road Race, 3 mile walk/run on Sunday, October 17th at 11:30AM, starting at 95 Elm Street.

Chairman Johnson thanked Mark for attending the meeting.

5. **Park Inventory, Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance:** Commissioner Towle introduced Derek Mannion to the Commission members.

A Master Inventory was done citywide for Parks & Playgrounds Play Structures for an application towards a Needs Assessment with anticipation for funding. Commissioner Towle mentioned that this was a Herculean task and she is very proud of both Derek and Mark for their time and efforts. Walter Bernheimer agreed on the concept of a Needs Assessment and supports the project.

There are 66 locations and 8 Wards throughout the City. There are 71 tennis courts for example, do we need 71 tennis courts. This is what the Needs Assessment will tell us. Also included in the report are the number of fields; soccer, baseball, softball, football, basketball, field hockey, play structures, parking, facilities, irrigation, shelters, benches, barrel, picnic tables, bubblers, life courses, etc., by Wards.

The list includes the following:

- 471 benches
- 261 barrels
- 31 bubblers
- 28 bleachers
- 15 irrigation well sites

The project took Derek and Mark 6 months to complete.

Chairman Johnson thanked Derek for his presentation.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve a Needs Assessment Project for CPA for passive/active recreation for approximately \$60,000. Michael Clarke seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve approximately \$60,000 in funding from the CPA for a Needs Assessment Citywide.

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Commissioner Towle to check to see if \$60,000 is the right amount for the Needs Assessment. Also, she will call the Town of Brookline regarding their Needs Assessment. The next step is to call Marion Pressley with an update.

It was suggested that 2-3 commission members work with the consultant on the Needs Assessment Project.

- 6. **CitiStat, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner:** Postponed until the October Meeting.
- 7. **Update CPA Projects, Community Classroom, Bowen, West Newton Common, Gath Pool benches, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner:** Gath Pool Benches & Shade: Margaret Doris spoke about a CPA Project for Gath Pool, which includes benches with backs and arms and shade/canopies for the area. The Playground Project at Albemarle, Inc., and the Friends of Albemarle would like to assist the City by applying jointly for a CPA Grant. The group would also like to propose new drinking fountains, grab bars in locker room at Gath Pool and better access to the Kiddie Pool. The Friends would like 20 seats and 3 benches on the main deck. Shade is a priority for everyone. Margaret is looking for a vote of approval from the Commission, as the CPA Projects are due October 15th, prior to the next Commission Meeting on October 18th.

There are no diagrams or specific plans for this project. Costs of benches and shade canopies are not available as yet. More specific information is needed for the commission members to approve this project. It was asked that the updated proposal for Gath Pool be presented at the October 18th Meeting. Chairman Johnson thanked Ms. Doris for attending the meeting.

Robert DeRubeis updates: the bid for Community Commons (Gazebo & site) went to bid Thursday. Derek Mannion is working on the irrigation contract for Bowen, the site has not been prepped as yet and Public Works is supposed to lower the drains. West Newton Common, waiting for Skillings Company to dig well.

- 8. **Update Forte Park:** The first part of Phase II has been completed for Forte Park. Monies have been received for the start of the Phase II Forte Park Project.
 - 9. **Elvis Presley Day in Nonantum at Joanne C. Pellegrini Park:** The Elvis Day event was postponed because of rain. The rain date is September 25th.
 - 10. **Update Millennium Park:** The Millennium Park Project is nearing completion and should be finished by the end of October. Dedication to take place in 2005.
 - 11. **New Business:** No new business
- Meeting adjourned at 9:55PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, October 18, 2004
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA*

1. Minutes of the September Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports on programs and maintenance
3. CPA Projects:
 - Gath Pool – Shade
 - Farlow Park
 - WellingtonCPA Department Projects – Updates:
 - City Hall Landscaping
 - Pathway for Parks
 - Master Planning
4. Update Forte Park
5. Update Millennium Park
6. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, CitiStat
7. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake Summer Figures
8. New Business

* Mayor David B. Cohen's State of the City Address will be in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7:45PM

Next Meeting, Monday, November 15, 2004

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, October 18, 2004
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM**

AGENDA*

1. Minutes of the September Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports on programs and maintenance
3. CPA Projects:
 - Gath Pool – Shade
 - Farlow Park
 - WellingtonCPA Department Projects – Updates:
 - City Hall Landscaping
 - Pathway for Parks
 - Master Planning
4. Update Forte Park
5. Update Millennium Park
6. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, CitiStat
7. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake Summer Figures
8. New Business

* Mayor David B. Cohen's State of the City Address will be in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7:45PM

Next Meeting, Monday, November 15, 2004

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**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
COMMISSION MEETING
October 18, 2004
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Alternate Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alderman Robert Gerst, Thomas Cahill, Gath Pool Aquatics Manager, Margaret Doris, Gath Pool, Keith Jones, Farlow Park and Ted Klukinski, Wellington Park

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Michael Clarke & Peter Kastner

1. **Minutes of the September meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Reports on programs and maintenance:**
 - Newton North Indoor Complex opened October 4th evenings, Monday through Thursday.
 - Swim registrations will be held October 19th, 20th & 21st.
 - Harvest Fair was held October 16th & 17th, on the Newton Centre Green. Great crowd, good weather! There were some issues with the rides, i.e. Shrewsbury incident; however, everything was worked out for the Harvest Fair.
 - Paddy's Race had over 1,000 participants on October 17th. Proceeds go to the Newton Parks & Recreation Special Needs Program, Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director.
 - Farmer's Market at Cold Spring Park ends the last Tuesday in October.
 - Mark Welch, Director of Forestry will be receiving a grant to inventory the condition and types of trees in Newton.
 - The staff will be attending a Marketing and Planning Seminar, with instructor; Marc Wey, to build on the Department's goals and accomplish marketing plans.
 - The Department is very proud of the new Parks & Recreation logo and the Department's Fall/Winter brochure.
 - Robert Platt, Commission member from Ward 8 has resigned from the Commission. His expertise at the meetings has been a valuable asset to the Commission.

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3. **CPA Projects: Gath Pool:** Margaret Doris, Friends of Albemarle, asked the Commission's support for CPA funding for accessible enhancements to the Gath Pool. This would include shading parts of both the kiddie pool area and main deck with a custom super-span sun sport. They are proposing 14 backed benches, drinking fountains, grab bars in the shower area and non-slip flooring in the locker rooms. During the summer there are over 500 children using the pool per day, no shade and limited areas to sit. The benches would hold 2-4 people and the benches would be aluminum. Accessible drinking fountains are also needed.

Chairman Johnson reminded everyone two meetings are required before approval is given. At the second meeting the abutters of Gath Pool would be invited to the meeting for their input and opinions. Deputy Commissioner Robert DeRubeis explained, the Gath Pool application was submitted to the CPA contingent on the Parks & Recreation Commission's approval.

Arthur Magni motioned to give conditional approval to the Accessible Improvements to the Gath Pool CPA proposal. Approval of the proposal to be decided at the next Commission meeting on November 15th after abutters to the property gives their comments/opinions. Jennie Devito, seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 5 for 1 against (Francis Rice) 1 abstaining (Andrew Stern) to give conditional approval to the Accessible Improvements to the Gath Pool CPA proposal.

Farlow Park/Chaffin Park, Historic Preservation and Recreation Study:

Keith Jones, Friends of Farlow Park, proposed the preparation of a study which will provide plans to preserve and restore Farlow Park, Newton's first park. Phase I would be a preliminary design and engineering plan for Farlow and Chaffin Parks. The study would include 9 tasks. Task V is for a structural engineer's report on the safety of the current foundation of the bridge, cost of repairs/replacement. Task VI includes a pond designer for costs of reinstallation and maintenance of a round pond. (Original pond no longer exists)

Chairman Johnson read a FAX from Maryan Amaral regarding the Friends of Farlow Park Proposal. Ms. Amaral learned of the project Sunday and that the proposal would be on the October Commission Agenda. As Chairperson of the Friends of Newton Corner Branch Library and Chaffin Park she was surprised at the plans, as they did not include in their meeting a group discussion with the Friends of Newton Corner Branch Library and Chaffin Park. The Friends of Newton Corner Library and Chaffin Park will hold their next meeting on November 12, 2004 and would like Keith Jones to attend.

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Keith Jones said he has made every effort to be inclusive and included the abutters to Farlow/Chaffin Park at their last meeting. He will attend the Friends of Newton Corner Library and Chaffin Park meeting on November 12, 2004.

Francis Rice mentioned the Friends of Farlow Park Proposal was the best and most complete one he has ever seen. A lot of time and efforts went into this proposal.

Alderman Robert Gerst supports the proposal and thinks it is a good idea for the Newton Corner neighborhood.

Commissioner suggested a prioritized list of CPA Projects i.e. Forte Park, Cold Spring Park, Nahanton Park, Needs Assessment and Master Plan before the next CPA meeting in 2005. We need to decide what the department's priorities are. The cost of the Farlow Park study would be \$65,500. It was suggested that the Historical Commission co-sponsor this project.

Jennie DeVito motioned to approve the Farlow Park/Chaffin Park Historic Preservation and Recreation Study on its own merit. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 6 for and 1 abstaining (Andrew Stern) on the CPA proposal for Farlow Park/Chaffin Park Historic Preservation and Recreation Study on its own merits.

Wellington Playground Improvements Project: Theodore Kuklinski is requesting \$64,000 in CPA Funds. The desired improvements to Wellington Park include extension of accessible pathway to the south Kilburn Road entrance and Princess Road entrance, water fountain, garden hose connection and backflow valve, play equipment, benches, tree, bulletin board, signage and miscellaneous items. The improvement project has committed funds towards the improvements; \$60,000 in CIP funds \$10,000 in CDBG funds and \$1,000 in contributions. A total of \$135,000 is needed to complete the improvements.

Francis Rice motioned to approve the Wellington Playground Improvements Project with Parks & Recreation as co-sponsors for CPA funds. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 6 for and 1 abstaining (Andrew Stern) to approve the Wellington Playground Improvements Proposal with Parks & Recreation as co-sponsors for CPA funds. This vote is contingent on the public's support at the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Towle reported the City Hall Landscaping CPA Proposal was submitted with letters of support from the Preservation Commission, Historical Society and Historical Commission.

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Pathway for Parks, Newton Centre Proposal was submitted by Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator to the CPA. Carol also met the Mayor's Handicap Committee on this proposal.

Andrew Stern spoke with Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer about monies for a Master Plan. If the plan was not in for the October 15th CPA meeting, the project will have to wait another year. Andrew urged the commission members to call Mike Rourke/Mayor Cohen to proceed with a Needs Assessment and Master Plan.

Commissioner Towle met with Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer and Mike Kruse, Planning Department Director regarding a Master Plan. A little more homework needs to be done for a Master Plan for the next CPA round of funding.

4. **Update on Forte Park:** Phase II of Phase II of the Forte Park Grant has been approved and includes a walkway, bocce courts, lighting, swings and composite stabilized stone dust. The project to be completed by next June.
5. **Update Millennium Park:** The last of the pavers were put down and the grass area is being dressed up. The sign to be installed in the spring as well as the dedication.
6. **Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, CitiStat:** The CitiStat demonstration is postponed until the next meeting.
7. **Gath Pool and Crystal Lake Summer Figures:** The total revenues for Gath Pool were \$85,966.05. Total revenues for Crystal Lake were \$82,145.00.
8. **New Business:** No new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM for Mayor Cohen's State of the City Address and reconvened at 8:45PM.

Meeting adjourned: 10:20PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 15, 2004
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry**
3. **CPA Proposals: Gath Pool Improvements**
Wellington Improvements
4. **Ice Skating Rules & Regulations for 2004-2005**
5. **Update Millennium Park**
6. **Update Forte Park**
7. **Master Planning**
8. **New Business**

Next Meeting December 20, 2004

3/1/0

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 15, 2004
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Gwen Fineberg, Jennie DeVito, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, and Arthur Magni

- 1. Minutes of the October Meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0**

- 2. Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry: Commissioner Towle reports on the following items:**
 - There was a 4" snowstorm this past weekend. Our crews were out as well as the contractors cleaning up after the storm. Over 20 trees came down and 3 tree crews worked over the weekend.
 - CPA Committee held a meeting on November 10th and will hold another meeting on November 16th to hear the CPA Proposals. Our Department has 6 projects: Access Plan for Newton Centre Playground, Accessibility Enhancements to Gath Pool, Wellington Park Improvements Project, City Hall Historic Landscape, Washington Park Historical Lighting, Preservation Study for Farlow/Chaffin Park
 - On a positive note, a banquet is being held on Friday, November 26th, at the Marriott in Newton honoring Russell Halloran, former Commissioner, and others to the Newton High School Hall of Fame. The late Howard Ferguson, former commission member, is also one of the recipients of the awards. Tickets are \$45.00 and if you are interested in attending, please see Faye for more information.
 - On a sad note, one of our Recreation Employees, James Mastroianni passed away. Jim worked for the Maintenance Department for 27 years and was a very valuable maintenance employee. Everyone in the Department will sadly miss Jim.

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3. **CPA Proposals:**

Gath Pool Improvements:

Margaret Doris, spoke about the Gath Pool Improvements Proposal. The proposal was presented to the CPA on Wednesday, November 10th. The proposal was given conditional approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission at the October 18th commission meeting. The improvements to Gath Pool include: Sunshade areas, benches, drinking fountains, grab bars and non-slip floor surfacing.

Francis Rice motioned to co-sponsor the CPA proposal for accessible enhancements to Gath Pool. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 7-0 with 1 abstaining (Peter Kastner) to co-sponsor the CPA proposal for accessible enhancements to Gath Pool.

Wellington Park: Theodore Kuklinski spoke about the Wellington Park Improvements proposal to the CPA at their Wednesday, November 10th meeting. The improvements to Wellington Park include extension of accessible pathway to the south Kilburn Road and Princess Road entrances, water fountain, garden hose connection and backflow valve, play equipment, benches, tree, bulletin board, signage and miscellaneous items.

Residents spoke about the condition of the tennis courts, new play equipment, walkways into the area and revitalizing the park.

Francis Rice motioned to co-sponsor the Wellington Park Improvement Project for Improvements to Wellington Park. Jennie Devito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to co-sponsor the CPA proposal for the Wellington Park Improvement Project

4. **Ice Skating Rules & Regulations for 2004-2005:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manger, spoke about ice skating at the Auburndale Cove. The ice skating rules and regulations are the same as last year. There were 27 ice skating days last year. The snow/ice is planed for smoother skating by our Department. The cove is a natural formed skating area on the Charles River.

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Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the Ice-Skating Rules and Regulations for the 2004-2005 season. Gwen Fineberg seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Ice-Skating Rules and Regulations for the 2004-2005 skating season.

5. **Update Millennium Park:** Commissioner Towle reported Millennium Park is just about finished. The dedication will be held in June of 2005.
6. **Update Forte Park:** The contract is signed for Phase II of Phase II of Forte Park. The project that consists of lighting for bocce, exercise trail, lighting, signage and landscaping which needs to be completed by June of 2005.
7. **Master Planning:** Commissioner Towle has spoken with Marion Pressley, Pressley Associates, about Master Planning for the City. The Department is looking forward to a citywide Master Planning Park system.
8. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, December 20, 2004
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the November Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry**
3. **CitiStat Presentation – Robert DeRubeis**
4. **Update on Millennium Park**
5. **Update on Forte Park**
6. **Update Community Preservation Act**
7. **New Business**

Next meeting January 24, 2005

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, December 20, 2004
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Arthur Magni, Alternates Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg and Alternate Jack Neville

Also attending: Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters

1. **Minutes of the November Meeting were accepted unanimously 5-0.**

2. **Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry:**
Commissioner Towle reported on the following;
 - The Commissioner wished everyone "Happy Holidays." The Newton North Thanksgiving Day Game was dedicated to James Mastroianni, who was a marker of fields for the department. Jim worked for the department for 27 years. His initials were marked into the end zone for that day's game. Also, Jim's mother, sister and family attended the game. Unfortunately, Jim's dad is in the hospital at this time.
 - Holiday Lighting Ceremony took place on Thursday, December 2nd at City Hall. Mayor Cohen did not attend as he was in the hospital. In the Mayor's absence, President of the Board of Aldermen, Lisle Baker, presided over the holiday lighting ceremony.
 - New Year's Open House will be held on Sunday, January 2, 2005, 1:00PM at City Hall.
 - The yearly Special Need Holiday Party was held at the Hibernian Hall on December 14th. The festivities were dedicated to Anthony "Fats" Pellegrini.
 - Maintenance crews were picking up leaves from recreation areas, pruning shrubs around tennis courts and baseball fences.
 - Forestry Preservation Pruning continues and well as several planting projects currently underway

- 3. **CitiStat Presentation – Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner:** The CitiStat program was started over a year ago. Those working on the project continuously are Marc Welch, Director of Forestry, Thomas Cahill, Director of Aquatics, Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance and Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner. They are collecting statistical information for maintenance, forestry and programs. There are four departments, working on CitiStat programs at this time: Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Police and Assessing. The City of Baltimore started the Citistat program for statistical analysis. Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer and Bob attended a seminar on CitiStat. Bob continues to incorporate the CitiStat Program at the Parks & Recreation Department for the purpose of statistical measures.

An example of one of the statistics; 2 men in the packer truck picking up 120-130 barrels a day for a cost of \$1.50 each barrel. Also, the Department hired an Irrigation Specialist, to take care of the department's irrigation areas, which is a plus for us. There was a 50% increase in water rates and the drilling for wells have helped the water rates tremendously.

The CitiStat program identifies areas to be measures and evaluated, collects timely & accurate data, measures customer service, revenue & attendance, track phone calls, uses demographics and will give cost analysis for maintenance, forestry and programs. Eventually all the Department's statistical information will be on CitiStat.

The Chairman and commission members thanked Bob for the excellent CitiStat presentation.

- 4. **Update on Millennium Park:** Project on hold for the winter season.
- 5. **Update on Forte Park:** Forte Park project is going out to bid for Phase II of Phase II. The project will consist of a walking trail, lighting, a sign on California Street and landscaping. Project to be completed in June of 2005. John G. Crowe Associates are the architects for this project.
- 6. **Update Community Preservation Act:** Working sessions for the CPC will start in January to go over the submitted proposals. The first working session in 2005 is January 15th, 7:00PM, Room 209 at City Hall.
- 7. **New Business:** No new business. Happy Holidays to all!

Meeting adjourned at 8:28PM