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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, January 24, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the December meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry**
3. **Presentation of play equipment for Newton Centre Playground, Sheri Wasserman, United Cerebral Palsy, Director of Marketing**
4. **Tennis Rules, Regulations and Fees 2005 – Mike Lewitt**
5. **CPA Projects: Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner**
6. **Update Forte Park**
7. **Update Millennium Park**
8. **New Business**

Next scheduled meeting Monday, February 28, 2005

NOTE – JANUARY MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO SNOW STORM

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NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 28, 2005

City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the December meeting (January meeting cancelled due to snowstorm)
2. Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry
3. Presentation of play equipment for Newton Centre Playground, Sheri Wasserman, United Cerebral Palsy, Director of Marketing
4. Tennis Rules, Regulations & Fees 2005, Mike Lewitt
5. Newton North Little League, sound system for opening day
6. Update Forte Park and Millennium Park
7. Budget
8. Election of Officers: Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 21st Commission meeting
9. CPA Projects, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner
10. New Business

Next scheduled meeting Monday, March 21, 2005

COMMISSION MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II
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

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
March 21, 2005
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the February Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry**
3. **Presentation of play equipment for Newton Centre Playground, Sheri Wasserman, Director of Marketing, United Cerebral Palsy (Postponed from February meeting)**
4. **Angier School, presentation of design plans for new handicap accessible play structure, Pamela Appleton, Principal**
5. **CPC Status – Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner**
6. **Budget status**
7. **Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman**
8. **New business**

Next meeting: April 25, 2005

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 28, 2005

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Jennie DeVito, Gwen Fineberg, Arthur Magni, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Priscilla Leith, League Women's Voters, Mike Lewitt, Tennis, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, Rick Morrissey, Newton North Little League

Absent: Walter Bernheimer

- 1. Minutes of the December meeting were approved 7-0 with 1 abstaining, Andrew Stern. (January meeting cancelled due to snow storm)**
- 2. Commissioner's Report on Programs, Maintenance & Forestry:** The snowfall this season has amounted to 65" and climbing. The Department has worked very closely with the contractors in removing the snow from the designated areas. The City has spent over \$727,000 for snow removal at this time. Another highly successful Camp Fair was held on February 8th at the War Memorial Auditorium from 2:00PM to 7:00PM. Children were being registered for the Department's summer camps. This year's theme was animals. Also, everyone was delighted to see Mayor Cohen, who sat with the children while NewTV taped the segment for an upcoming show. The annual camp fair is a big plus for our Department. Because of an amusement ride accident last fall the State Public Safety Commission will make changes in the guidelines for the amusement ride industry. The rules will go into effect in the next few months. The rides were insured for one million dollars, this year the Safety Commission will ask for five million dollars insurance. The Commissioner has already met with the Law Department and the Inspectional Services Department to discuss the changes for the Department's upcoming carnival events. There are 40 carnival companies in Massachusetts. Three carnivals are held in Newton each year; St. Mary of Carmen, Harvest Fair and Springfest. The Commissioner will keep everyone updated as to the new rules and regulations for the carnivals.

Youth Award applications are in the folders. The Commission members are invited to submit an application for a most deserving recipient. The applications are due on April 26th and the Award Ceremony will be May 16th.

- 3. **The presentation of play equipment for Newton Centre Playground, with Sheri Wasserman, United Cerebral Palsy, Director of Marketing, has been postponed to the March Commission meeting.** United Cerebral Palsy of MetroBoston in partnership with the Newton Parks & Recreation Department and the community are looking forward to building a new fully accessible Universal playground at Newton Centre. A neighborhood abutters meeting will be held in March to inform the residents of the project and to get input from the neighbors. Concerns about the playground are, colors of paint on the equipment, type of fence, design, landscaping, curbing and what other departments need to be involved in this project. Standards need to be set for the future. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, has taken two CPSI, Playground Safety Inspector courses and Channon Ames, Manager, has taken the CPSI course. Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, will be also be working on this project. Andrew Stern asked 1) we are cognizant of areas that have historic importance in the planning and 2) design standards for historic areas, benches, fencing, etc.

In the folders is a letter from the League of Women Voters, urging that no new proposals from Parks & Recreation be entertained for CPA funding until the master plan is complete and heard in public.

- 4. **Newton North Little League, sound system for opening day:** A letter was received from Ellen Lipoma, President, Newton North Little League, requesting that NNLL be able to use a sound system on opening day April 23, 2005, rain date April 30, 2005. Ceremonies to start at approximately 10:00AM and should be finished by 11:30AM at the James E. Murphy Little League Field. Rick Morrissey, Co-President was present at the meeting.

Francis Rice motioned to approve the use of a sound system at the James E. Murphy Little League Field on April 23, 2005. Andrew Stern seconded the motion.

The commission members approved unanimously 8-0 to approve the request from the Newton North Little League to use a sound system on opening day April 23, 2005, rain date April 30, 2005 at the James E. Murphy Little League Field.

- 5. **Tennis Rules, Regulations & Fees 2005, Mike Lewitt:** The Rules Regulations & Fees are the same as last year. An off-time prime time fee was suggested to increase activity and participation as well as an extension of the season. Mr. Lewitt will have a person at the courts during these times. Also, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, mentioned that the tennis courts at Newton Centre were normally closed from 12:00-4:00PM, however, they will now stay open.

Francis Rice motioned to approve the Tennis Rules & Regulations for 2005 as specified. Jennie Devito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Tennis Rules and Regulations for 2005.

- 6. **Update Forte Park and Millennium Park:** The Forte Park bids were going out Tuesday for the bocce, lights, track, pathway and landscaping. Millennium Park is on budget and the dedication to be held in June.
- 7. **Budget:** This years budget cuts will be 5%, \$186,000 plus \$32,000 more will be needed for minimum wages. Minimum wage is going up from \$6.75 to \$7.50 per hour. The FY06 budget to be presented at the March Commission Meeting. The swim fees may be raised this year. Funding sources are running out of monies, i.e. Block Grants, Park Conservancy and State Grants.
- 8. **Election of Officers:** Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected at the March 21st Commission Meeting.
- 9. **CPA Projects, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner:**
 - Community Commons, the contract was signed for the gazebo
 - West Newton Common, drilling is suggested for another 400 feet
 - Bowen, new poles on Langley Path, 5 poles are being changed as they are unsafe (Francis Rice mentioned he might have 5 poles)
 - Wellington was approved for \$65,000 for basketball and tennis courts
 - Farlow Park, Historic Preservation, will come before the CPC on Wednesday evening
 - Senior Center – revitalizing the front
 - Newton Centre Playground, pathway for handicap to go before the CPC Wednesday evening
 - Washington Park, historic lighting
 - City Hall Historic Landscaping Study
 - Enhancements to Gath Pool
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- 10. **New Business:** Dog Park Task Force; The Board of Aldermen asked that the Parks & Recreation Commission choose one member to be on the Dog Park Task Force. Francis Rice, Parks & Recreation Commission member was selected to be on the Dog Park Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM

SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, April 7, 2005
Newton Centre Hut (Jeannette West Building)
81 Tyler Terrace, Newton
7:00PM

AGENDA

Special Meeting with the community to discuss building a state-of-the-art barrier-free universal playground that is inclusive for children with all types of disabilities at Newton Centre Playground.

**SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, April 7, 2005
7:00PM, Newton Centre Hut**

SUBJECT: Discussion with members of the community about building a universal playground for children with/without disabilities at Newton Centre Playground

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Gwen Fineberg, Peter Johnson, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Jack Neville, Alternate and Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner

Also attending: Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, Judy Dore, Recreation Manager, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator and Deb Miller, originator of playground project

Chairman Andrew Stern introduced the Commission members to the audience. Also, he introduced those presenting the proposal for the building of a universal playground which include; Sheri Wasserman, Director of Development, Marketing & Communications, United Cerebral Palsy of MetroBoston, John Hollerback, Miracle Recreation, Dave Webster, United Cerebral Palsy and Matt Mrva, Principal of Landworks Collaborative

Matt Mrva described the plans for a universal playground which would be at the same location as the old playground with a smaller footprint, more open space, 2 play areas, one for older children ages 5-12 and the other for younger children ages 2-5. Areas to be equipped with rubber play matting. The playground will be fully accessible with a concrete walkway to bridge and seating for parents.

John Hollerback, Miracle Recreation Equipment Company, special needs children of all ages and abilities will be able to use the play area on a safe surface. The playground will be fully accessible, heights of equipment to be supervised by an adult with a child, access ramps included with 12" – 18" in height. Children can maneuver through the structures, the designs were professionally done, the best components would be used and the concept is the same as a Boundless

playground. The equipment would be very durable in design, stainless steel, guarantee ramps for 100 years with the railings for 15 years.

Steve Hamilton: Access would be from ground to deck level, be handicap accessible, would include regular kids also, platforms to be used as well as more points of access, stepping pods and ramps on back side. Sheri mentioned there are stand alone activities for quiet times, with an activity center in Braille

Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, went before the Traffic Commission to have 2 handicap spaces made on Bowen Street. The walkway to be installed would be less steep and made of asphalt and in the shape of an S. In reference to the color of paint on the equipment, different colors would be used. Other playgrounds have used earth colors such as green & tan.

Joanne Andrews: All parks should be made handicap accessible.

Andrea Kelly, 28 Putnam Street, League of Women Voters, asked about the width of the pathway. It would be 5' across and the old pathway would be demolished. Fundraising to maintain the playground should be done the same time as raising funds to build the playground. The new playground is a great idea, however, she is worried about money for maintenance, upkeep and master planning. She asked about the rubberized area, answer was the rubber is poured and there is a gravel bed underneath. If prepared correctly the area will stay flat forever also there is a 5-year warranty on the rubberized area.

Sheri Wasserman, United Cerebral Palsy, is raising monies for the new play equipment, as well as Deb and Scott Miller. Included in the play equipment will be a wheelchair swing, (the first in Newton). She asked the audience's blessing to start the unique playground, which is a collaborative effort between a business and the community. Landscaping will be included, more trees planted, grass seeding and beautifying the areas.

John: The play equipment will be unique, not boring, fully integrated, hold the children's attention, have a 9' wide slide, rock walls, tornado disc, and offer challenges for all children. The first platform has a seating area, the second area has upper body devices, the third level has a balcony, phone to talk with a child in another area, level ground deck, steering wheel panel, sight and sound panel, pods to go up and down and a spiral slide on a 360 degree angle. On 4th platform, a child can get out of a wheelchair and go down the slide. The main platform has a climbing pole, trap door climber, 3 points of entry and a hexagon platform. Also, under the platform on the ground level will be other children's activities.

John Allen, resident Bowen Street, asked who will maintain the playground after it is built. There will be a group called Friends of the Playground who will raise funds to maintain the play area after it is built. Also, he mentioned that there is

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flooding in this area after a rainstorm and half the playground would be under water. The rubber matting will have holes in it to drain the water.

Commissioner Towle had a vision that all City park pathways need attention, therefore, started Pathways for Parks. Ironically, Newton Centre was at the top of the list to be done and the request is now before the CPC. The Millers came to Recreation with their plans for a universal playground and the project has proceeded from there.

Chairman Stern commented on the CPC proposal for the Pathway for Parks proposal beginning with Newton Centre Playground, as he heard from Doug Dickson, CPC Chairman. The proposal needs to be revised and re-submitted. The proposal should be expanded; 1) current needs active/passive 2) location 3) design principals.

Jim Pransky: Is there a reason why we cannot use the pathway from Bowen Street. The new pathway would be 5 - 11½ feet wide and S shaped.

Cynthia Esthimer, Bowen After School: In building a new play area, the Bowen After School could use the equipment for both handicap and normal children. A benefit to the afterschool would be handicap children could now be integrated into their program. The new playground equipment would be a plus for the neighborhood and the community.

John: Swings would be updated and the new pathway would be shaped like an S.

One resident asked if cars could drive to the play area and the answer was no.

Deb Miller said a spray floor sprinkler in the concrete area would be nice addition, however, it is not in this proposal. A master plan for the whole park would be a good idea. She and her husband moved here from Hartford, Connecticut a couple of years ago and have two boys, one of which is handicapped. There was a Boundless Playground in her area in which both of her boys could play together. Her goal is to start a Boundless Playground at Newton Centre Playground. After raising some funds themselves she and her husband contacted United Cerebral Palsy for additional help in raising monies for this playground.

Sheri Wasserman: Preparation for the playground would take a few weeks, and the playground should be built in 3-4 months pending funding and delivery of equipment. The plan is to start the project this fall, before the winter sets in. United Cerebral Palsy/Boston oversee the construction of the play area and a developer would do the in-kind work for us. Miracle Recreation Equipment Company has a certified project manager to oversee the project. The goal is to raise \$379,000 for the playground.

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United Cerebral Palsy of MetroBoston is a 501 © 3 non-profit agency. This is a working partnership between public, private and non-profit agency.

Although Alternate Peter Kastner could not attend the meeting he had a few questions; 1) How does the sponsor fund raising letter, indicating naming opportunities for major gifts fit into our policy on naming procedures. The name would remain the same, Newton Centre Playground.

2) What is the project increased use of the park due to this project-and what if any demands would this place on parking. Two handicap spaces to be added.

3) How does the size of this project impact upon the historic nature of the Newton Centre Playground. Would be within the same footprint as other equipment.

Michael Clarke asked about a GIS map of the entire Newton Centre Playground
Walter Bernheimer likes the concept but would like to see more details.

Commissioner Towle mentioned in the approval process, any changes will be reassessed for staff to review and the voting for this project may be taken at the next scheduled April 25th commission meeting.

Chairman Stern thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 25, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the March 21, 2005 Commission Meeting**
Minutes of the April 7, 2005 Special Commission Meeting
2. **Commissioner's Towle's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry**
3. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 13th July 17th, 2005**
4. **Mason Rice Playground**
5. **Newton Centre Playground Proposal**
6. **Swimming season fees, Gath Pool & Crystal Lake, Tom Cahill, Manager and Carol Stapleton, Manager**
7. **Youth Awards Presentation to be held in the Board of Aldermen's Aldermanic Chambers on Monday, May 16, 2005, 7:00PM, prior to 7:30PM Commission Meeting**
8. **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, 7:30AM at Boston College**
9. **Budget**
10. **New Business**

Next meeting to be held on May 16, 2005

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 21, 2005

7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Vice Chairman, Francis Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Judy Dore and Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Managers, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, Priscilla Leith, League Women Voters, Pamela Appleton, Principal, Angier School, Sheri Wasserman, Newton Centre Playground, Deb & Scott Miller, Devora Jacobs and Dave Webster, United Cerebral Palsy

Absent: Gwen Fineberg, Jack Neville, Alternate

1. **Minutes of the February Meeting were unanimously accepted 7-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported the Special Needs Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament was held at Newton North High School with 18 competing teams. A reminder that applications for the 27th Annual Youth Awards are due April 26th, ceremony to take place May 16th, 7:00PM at City Hall. This is a great opportunity to recognize the youth in our City. The Department has April vacation programs scheduled for children in grades 4 and above. The vacation program has become very popular with the parents and children. The 13th Annual Newton Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race will be held on Sunday, April 17, 2005. The Department should be hearing soon on our Tree City USA application that was submitted in December. The Boston Globe had an article dated March 21st (copy in folder) about Public Parks Hunt Private Aid, which is worth reading. The article states park funding has been slashed almost 40% in the last few years and private citizens are being asked to contribute money to maintain public spaces.

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3. **Presentation of play equipment for Newton Centre Playground, Sheri Wasserman, Director of Marketing, United Cerebral Palsy (Postponed from February meeting):** Sheri Wasserman and Dave Webster presented plans to build a state-of-the-art barrier-free universal playground for children with disabilities at Newton Centre Playground. There would be two areas, one for 5-12 year olds and another for 3-5 year olds (fenced in area). Access to the playground areas would be from Bowen Street across the bridge to the structures. This would be in keeping the structures within the areas of the footprints, have more open space and be accessible for wheelchairs. In the age 5-12 area there will be games in braille, rings, swings, etc. There are no points to any of the equipment as all edges are rounded. Miracle Recreation Equipment Company guarantees the equipment for 20 years. Also, the play equipment is checked twice a year by Miracle. When asked about signs, the only sign would be a list of rules for play areas. Deb and Scott Miller have a son with Cerebral Palsy and know the challenges and obstacles for children with special needs. They are in the process of raising money from private funds toward a handicap accessible playground for Newton Centre. Bathrooms will still be located at the Newton Centre Hut. The play area surfaces will be rubber; not wood chips with steel black fencing around the two sites.

The United Cerebral Palsy MetroBoston is proud to take a role in a partnership with the Parks & Recreation Department and the community to build a state-of-the-art barrier-free playground. United Cerebral Palsy of MetroBoston is a 501© 3 non-profit agency and will receive their recognition from the publicity involved in the building of the playground.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to involve the commission in the April 7th meeting. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously 8-0 to hold a special commission meeting on April 7, 2005, 7:00PM at the Newton Centre Hut to discuss the proposal to build a handicap accessible playground at the Newton Centre Hut.

The Procedure for Alterations of Lands is to have two meetings to decide on any proposal. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 7, 2005, 7:00PM at the Newton Centre Hut, 81 Tyler Terrace, Newton Centre, to meet with the neighbors/community. Letters will go out to the abutters informing them of the special meeting.

4. **Angier School, presentation of design plans for new handicap accessible play structure, Pam Appleton, Principal.** Pam Appleton, Principal, Angier School, presented a proposed handicap accessible playground design for the Angier

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School area. The original wooden play structure was built in 1972. The new proposal for the placement of swings would be just outside the original footprint area. The base of the area would be wood chips, the new play equipment would be a modular school age structure for general play, a picnic table and two benches. The only equipment staying would be the track ride. Ms Appleton has met with Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, and the Angier School PTO to plan the proposal. The cost will be between \$49,000 and \$50,000 dollars. Ms. Pelkowsky mentioned the original equipment is outdated and has a very limited use.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the proposed handicap accessible play structures to be built at Angier School.

Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the proposed handicap accessible playground at Angier School.

5. **CPC Status – Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner:**

- Community Commons to start construction today
- Washington Park now on Historic Register
- West Newton Common wells, waiting for contracts to be signed
- Bowen wells, waiting for NStar
- Farlow Park project denied

6. **Budget Status:** Commissioner Towle mentioned this is a tough time for budget cuts this year. The department is still working with the Executive Department on the budget cuts for the Parks & Recreation Department. There is a 5% budget cut, our department has a cut of \$180,000 and another \$32,000 for seasonal rates for a total of \$212,000. This has been the most difficult year for budget cuts, trying to save staff and provide the same type of services.

Michael Clarke suggested a park plan, involve the community, and raise funds in partnership with the community. Master Planning was suggested. What can we do to make it easier for groups to donate monies towards parks? We need to act instead of react and a framework needs to be in place. Priorities are needed as well as monies.

Chairman Stern suggested a "Park Foundation Sub-Committee to look into the existing department budget concept and suggest new ideas and solutions. Volunteers were Walter Bernheimer, Jennie Devito, Michael Clarke and Andrew Stern.

7. **Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman:** Chairman Johnson asked for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

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Chairman: Walter Bernheimer nominated Andrew Stern for Chairman. Jennie Devito seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to elect Andrew Stern as Chairman, Parks & Recreation Commission.

Vice Chairman: Walter Bernheimer nominated Francis Rice as Vice Chairman. Arthur Magni seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to elect Francis Rice as Vice Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2005
City Hall, Room 209, 7:30PM

AGENDA*

1. **Minutes of the April 25, 2005 Commission Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance, forestry and budget**
3. **St. Mary of Carmen request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 13th to July 17th, 2005**
4. **NNLL Concession Stand**
5. **Newton Highlands Playground**
6. **Nahanton Park**
7. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees 2005-2006**
8. **Budget**
9. **Update Forte and Millennium Parks**
10. **Policy Parks & Open Space**
11. **New business**

Next Meeting: June 20, 2005

- **Youth Awards to be held in the Aldermanic Chambers at 7:00PM, prior to the commission meeting**

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 25, 2005

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Walter Bernheimer, Arthur Magni, Jennie DeVito, Alternates Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Alternate Jack Neville

Also attending: Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator and Priscilla Leith, League of Women's Voters

- 1. **Minutes of the March 21, 2005 Commission Meeting were unanimously accepted 8-0.**
Minutes of the April 7, 2005 Special Commission Meeting were unanimously accepted 8-0.

- 2. **Commissioner Towle's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry:**
Commissioner Towle reported the month of April has been very busy. Another successful annual Marathon Race was held on Monday, April 18th' and Mayor Cohen complimented our Maintenance Department for the quick clean up of Commonwealth Avenue after the race. This was a real plus for our Department. The 13th Annual Newton Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race was held on Sunday, April 17th with over 1,000 runners. A pasta/pizza party was held on April 16th at Newton City Hall, free to all registrants of the race. Also, at the Sunday Race, a new game called Disc Golf was presented by Channon Ames, Recreation Manager. It is a new activity game laid out as a golf course using a Frisbee as a disc to aim for a basket. There were five little league openings this past weekend plus girl's softball started. The little league turn out at Lyons Playground was huge this year. The Angier School play equipment build has been completed. The Newton Special Athletes Awards Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 11, 2005, starting at 7:00PM at the American Legion Post 440. Special Needs Director, Mark Kelly, has invited the commission members to attend.

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Arbor Day is April 29th. Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, has started volunteer pruning classes for City trees and bushes. Marc has 12 volunteers who will attend Saturday's hands-on class outside at City Hall. On a positive note Newton Girls Soccer and Newton Youth Soccer have donated \$24,625 towards improvements and maintenance of Newton's playing fields. Also, they have donated 2 lining machines, priced respectively \$3,000 and \$2,825 for field preparation at Bowen. Because of the partnership of Girls Soccer, Youth Soccer and the Parks & Recreation Department, the fields in Newton will continue to be a high standard of quality.

After 16 devoted years of support as a Parks & Recreation Commission member, Gwen Fineberg has regretfully resigned due to health reasons. Gwen was committed to improving the quality of life through recreation in Newton. We will miss her presence at the meetings.

Commissioner Towle presented Peter Johnson an inscribed desk set with 2 pens and a clock, in appreciation for his two years as Chairman of the Commission and his assistance to the Department. Peter has been a member of the commission for 14 years. Photo's were taken and will be sent to the TAB Newspaper.

3. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 13 to July 17, 2005.** Commissioner Towle met two weeks ago with Nunzie Leone and the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival Committee to discuss the carnival rides, inspections, dates and times. Also discussed was a carnival ride death last year at an amusement park in Shrewsbury, and the steps that are being taken by the City and State to inspect mechanical rides.

There is now a Light Pollution Ordinance in effect in Newton. This may affect the lights after 9:30PM and a waiver may be needed from the Planning Department. Also, an alcohol permit will be needed. Chairman Stern asked that alcohol permits for drinking on public property be brought up at another meeting. A notice will go out to the abutters of Pellegrini Park informing them of the May 16, 2005 Commission meeting regarding a request from the St. Mary of Carmen Society to hold a carnival from July 13th to July 17, 2005 at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground. There were no complaints received at the Department about last year's carnival.

4. **Mason Rice Playground:** Chairman Stern informed the commission members that a public notice was sent to abutters of Mason Rice School regarding a Conservation Meeting in March. None of the neighbors opposed the school project.

Joanne Mead, John Taylor and Mark Springer, Principal of Mason Rice School presented the proposed addition to the Mason Rice Playground. The area would

have a retaining wall, rubber tile on the surface, gravel underneath and would also be handicap accessible. They proposed two picnic tables, one at each end, shade shelter and 4 swings. Also a fire engine is being taken out and replaced, which is not handicap accessible, and a Sugar Maple tree will be planted for shade. The committee has budgeted \$23,000 for equipment, \$50,000 construction work donated for a total of approximately \$75,000.

One of the questions that came up was half of the playground is on school property and half on City property. The Mason Rice playground project was started 2 1/2 years ago. The Newton Centre Playground project was started 3 years ago; both are about 200 yards away from each other.

Peter Kastner suggested a Master Plan for the Newton Centre Playground/Mason Rice School area. He asked about having one playground instead of two to save monies.

Mark Springer, Principal of the Mason Rice School commented that a playground 200 yards from the school would be difficult for the children to use. The children have 15 minutes for recess and 1/2 hour for lunch and would not have the time to walk to the play area and return to the school.

Deborah Miller commented the Mason Rice playground is for the school children to use during school time. The Newton Centre Playground is a separate area and totally independent from the Mason Rice Playground. Also, each playground project is being privately funded.

Peter Johnson asked why there would be two handicap playground areas in the vicinity. A master plan is needed.

Walter Bernheimer explained this is a different era than before, we have limited resources and budget cuts throughout the City. While this is a meritorious project and Newton is considered a wealthy community, there is a right and wrong way to do things. Monies could be saved if there was one play equipment area. We need to look at the whole picture and see what is best for Newton.

Principal Springer thought 200 yards to the Newton Centre Playground equipment would be a significantly long distance away for children and handicap children to go to on recess and lunch. Recess is 15 minutes in the morning and lunch is 30 minutes. The school has 1 nurse and 370 children to be responsible/available for. The travel time to the other playground is completely unacceptable, not doable! Recreation camps Camp Echo Bridge and the Mason Rice use the building and play area during the summer.

Francis Rice commented the school playground needs to be improved, it is not a park playground. Next to the school, the playground would be easier to supervise and also the monies are being raised with private funds. The play equipment is obsolete and suggests that the commission accept this playground proposal.

Jennie Devito is pleased with the 2 projects and said we should go forth with both playground projects.

Peter Kastner thought the Mason Rice PTO should take another vote on merging the two playgrounds. Also, it is the schools responsibility to use the monies wisely and perhaps a public hearing should be held.

Francis Rice motioned to accept the proposed play equipment addition proposal to the Mason Rice School. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The equipment takes 6-8 weeks to order and the playground committee would like the equipment in by the end of June.

Commissioner Towle: The Mason Rice Committee is here to replace the play equipment at the school where the existing equipment is located and have raised the monies for the new equipment. Perhaps if the merging of the two playgrounds was explained in the beginning of the projects and not towards the end, things would be different. Both playground committees have responded to the policy set up by the Commission.

Peter Kastner said a new procedure policy should be established.

Open space is an issue and we do not have a Master Plan as yet said Chairman Stern. Chairman Stern asked that a vote be taken to approve the Conservation Commission meeting's approval of the Mason Rice Playground.

Francis Rice motioned to treat the Conservation Commission's public hearing on Mason Rice Playground as the Parks & Recreation Commission's second public hearing. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members vote 5 for and 3 against, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke and Walter Bernheimer, to treat the Conservation Commission's public hearing on Mason Rice Playground as the Parks & Recreation Commission's second public hearing.

Michael Clarke commented we are stewards of parklands in Newton. The Mason Rice play equipment project is an excellent idea that will benefit the City and everyone in Newton. He asked the question is there a benefit to waiting on this project if we stop and think about it? We need to maximize the use of playgrounds and perhaps wait another year to decide approval of this project. We

need to make a cohesive plan for the two playgrounds including the pathway. Our open space needs to be preserved.

Arthur Magni thought the points were valid, however, it is not our funding being raised and improvements to the playground need to be made. The timetable for the other playground would be next spring and could the two play areas be merged closer to the school? Even though half of the area is on school land and the other half on City land we have to look at the issues, perhaps a better City process. We are grateful for the project and the monies raised.

The Commission members voted 7 for 1 against, Peter Kastner was the dissenting vote, to proceed with the proposed play equipment addition to the Mason Rice School Playground Project.

- 5. **Newton Centre Playground Project:** A special commission meeting was held on Thursday, April 7, 2005, at the Newton Centre Hut to discuss the Newton Centre Playground Project. According to Commissioner Towle, the plan has not been altered, however, the plan maybe revisited, as there is no final plan as yet. The Community Preservation Committee supports the concept of the plan.

The access points and the consensus of the concept is a laudable project for able and special needs children, per Arthur Magni. A master plan is needed for this playground and others. With 2 handicap spaces on Bowen Street, is this a long distance to travel with a handicap child or should the path be in a straight line instead of an S shape? He supports the general consensus of the project.

Francis Rice said we need to rely on Commission Towle and Deputy Commissioner Robert DeRubeis as experts on this project. He would like to hear from a consultant on a master plan for the area.

Michael Clarke again said we are the stewards of the parkland. In looking at a diagram, are there other possibilities for the project to be nearer to the school. We need to look at all possibilities.

Arthur Magni mentioned a lot of planning has already gone into this project by the UCP Committee as well as the Recreation Department. Are we going to change it all now! If so, any changes should have been done months ago. It is too late to re-tweak the project.

Jennie DeVito pointed out that Stephanie Peikowsky, Recreation Manager, has already proceeded to have 2 handicap spaces placed on Bowen Street for access to the playground.

Commissioner Towle talked about the old play equipment, which had been there for over 30 years with no complaints about location. Why are we trying to move the site to another area? If there were a problem with the original site, a better

location would have been chosen. In some other playground locations in the City, there may be problems near homes, and neighbors may feel not in my backyard. That does seem to be the case in this instance.

Peter Johnson agreed that there are no other viable locations and this is the perfect area for the play equipment. Also, this location is not near the abutter's homes

Jennie DeVito motioned to go ahead with the Newton Centre UCP Playground Project at the current location subject to further review regarding the revised conceptual plan, the nature of the equipment, access, special hearing and current location. Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 5 for and 2 opposed to go ahead with the Newton Centre UCP Playground Project at the current location subject to further review regarding the revised conceptual plan, the nature of the equipment, access, special hearing and current location. Opposed were Michael Clarke and Andrew Stern.

- 6. **Swimming Season Fees, Gath Pool, Tom Cahill, Manager and Crystal Lake, Carol Stapleton, Manager:** The fees are the same as last year, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool open June 13th, Crystal ends August 21st and Gath Pool ends on Labor Day. The only change is at Gath Pool; family and adult swim has been changed to general swim to attract more people.

Jennie DeVito motioned to approve the swimming season fees at Gath Pool and Crystal Lake. Andrew Magni seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the swimming fees for Gath Pool and Crystal Lake.

- 7. **Youth Awards presentation to be held in the Board of Aldermen's Aldermanic Chambers on Monday, May 16, 2005, 7:00PM, prior to the 7:30PM Commission Meeting.**
- 8. **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, 7:30AM at Boston College, Dr. Michael Jellenick, Newton Wellesley Hospital is the speaker.**
- 9. **Budget:** Commission Towle received the Department's budget cuts: Two positions were eliminated a W-8 and W-10 from the maintenance division for \$70,591, \$30,000 of which was put back into contractual grass cutting. Maintenance position at Gath Pool was eliminated \$1,500 as well as \$2,500 for an Arts in the Parks custodian. A reduction in repairs was \$2,500, mowing was reduced \$26, 669, and leaf removal was reduced \$20,780. Telephone charges cut \$1,000, as well as reduction in gas \$5,000 and a \$2,500 reduction in repairs. This is a total of \$103,400 cut. Monies in the amount of \$32,000 were added back into our budget for seasonal salaried minimum wages.

Also, Carol Schein, Open Space coordinator is now a City employee rather than a consultant. Electricity is up as well as health insurance.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, explained the line items on the budget page are different, i.e. less baseball & softball preparation, loss of maintenance coverage at Gath Pool, reduction custodial care, decrease in repairs to aging fleet, eliminate contractual leaf removal at 52 locations and decrease cellular phone payment and 143 grass cuts.

- 10. **New Business:** Chairman Stern requested prior minutes for NNLL be sent to commission members prior to next meeting, also we need to find out how much money the concession stand makes at the James Murphy Field.

Chairman Stern was grateful for the project listing of proposals and request locations of recreation projects in the City.

Also, we need to look over the powers of the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding parklands. We are obligated to follow the law as in Chapter 45, section 7 of the state statues as to the powers and duties of the commission.

Peter Johnson in regard to the Commission's policy on alteration of lands construction of any type of structure must be presented to the Commission. Play equipment is not considered a structure i.e building. At Mason Rice the request is to put in new play equipment and adding swings, this is not a structure.

Commissioner Towle commented play apparatus is not a structure, this is a good point. Would a group need to come before the commission to install 1 swing?

For future discussion should the proposals for new play equipment at playgrounds involve the commission and the public.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the May 16, 2005 Commission Meeting**
- 2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry**
- 3. NNL Concession Stand License Agreement Extension**
- 4. Doug Dickson, Chair, Integrated Pest Management, tick study**
- 5. David Naparstek, Commissioner, Health Department, regarding ticks in parks**
- 6. CPC Projects**
- 7. Andrew Stern, Chairman, Playground Equipment Policy**
- 8. New Business**

Next meeting to be held September 19, 2005

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 16, 2005

7:30PM Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Alternates Jack Neville & Peter Kastner, Fran Towle Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer and Alternate Michael Clarke

Also Attending: Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager and Scott Lennon, Alderman, Ward 1

1. **Minutes of the April 25, 2005 Commission Meeting were approved unanimously 7-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance, forestry and budget:**
Commissioner Towle reported the maintenance department is very busy cutting the grass for the City areas. Also, the carpentry crew, fence crew, garage mechanic and rubbish crews are very busy at this time of the year. The tree crew is busy as well and Marc Welch, Director of Forestry has over 20 people signed up for the first tree pruning class for volunteers. Regarding the publicity on the Crystal Lake Wall, Commissioner Towle is working with Law Department on this matter and will keep the Commission informed.
3. **St. Mary of Carmen request to hold their Annual St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 13th to July 17th, 2005.** The St. Mary of Carmen Society Committee and the Amusement Owner met with Commission Towle prior to the Commission meeting. Nunzie Leone said it is his 38th year as Chairman of the Carnival and people come from all around to attend the festivities. Great summer event for everyone. Also, this is the 70th Anniversary of the Annual Fiesta.

Jennie DeVito motioned to accept the request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 13th to July 17th. Vice Chairman Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 6-0 with 1 abstaining, Arthur Magni, to accept the request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Carnival at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground from July 13th to July 17th 2005.

- 4. **NNLL Concession Stand:** Ellen Lipoma, President, Newton North Little League, is requesting an extension of the Concession Stand License Agreement which expires on June 30, 2005, from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 at the James E. Murphy Little League Field.

Prior to the next Commission Meeting, June 20, 2005 the abutters to the James E. Murphy Field will be notified about the upcoming commission meeting and the request to extend the Concession Stand License Agreement for 1 year.

It was suggested by Peter Kastner that the NNLL group be invited to a single commission meeting only next year to take up all little league requests, rather than have the group returning several times.

Also, Ms. Lipoma asked if other little leagues were subject to all these approvals i.e. concession stand, sound system, etc. What is fair for one little league is fair for all little leagues, why is NNLL being asked to jump through hoops and not the other little leagues? Perhaps all little leagues could come in at the same time!

Vice Chairman Rice said, two meetings to approve a concession stand license agreement will change by next year. Also, it is none of the commission's business as to how much money the concession stand makes each year.

Ms. Lipoma is requesting the use of a portable sound system to be used during the little league tournament for 5 games during the first 2 weeks in July.

Vice Chairman Rice motioned to approve a portable sound system to be used during the little league's five tournament games during the first 2 weeks in July 2005. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the NNLL request to use a portable sound system during the league's 5 tournament games during the first two weeks in July 2005.

Next year a more streamlined process will be in place for little league requests per Chairman Stern.

- 5. **Newton Highlands Playground:** Paul Green spoke about a proposal for Newton Highlands Playground for new play equipment replacements. The existing tot lot needs to be replaced. A flyer will be sent to the abutters regarding a proposal for replacement of the equipment. Mr. Green will have a booth at Newton Highlands Village Day to discuss his proposal with the residents. Also, private and City funds would be used and the equipment would stay in the now existing footprint, which is 50 X 60 feet. The equipment would be adjacent to the tennis courts but not in the way of errant balls. Mr. Green presented photos of the proposed new play equipment courtesy of Landscape Structures Play Equipment. Fundraising will need to be done and the projected completion date is the fall of 2006. The

project would cost \$55,000 to \$60,000. Marathon and seed monies would be requested for this project.

Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, said there is a large grassed area, for school sports, soccer and football. It is a heavily used park. Also, the play equipment would be handicap accessible. Chairman Stern suggested Mr. Green apply for CPA funding for the replacement of play equipment.

In regards to holding a public hearing, Peter Johnson said this proposal is for play equipment not a structure and would be enclosed in the same footprint. Chairman Stern deferred Mr. Johnson's comments to be discussed towards the end of the meeting.

Mr. Green said this is just a presentation to let the Commission know what the upcoming plans are for Newton Highlands Playground. Monies still need to be raised.

It is a good idea to replace the play equipment with handicap accessible equipment, the equipment is not on a massive scale, however, an outline of the park is needed i.e. Master Plan.

Mr. Green would like to have a master plan in place, however, there are no funds available for this and also the monies are being raised by a small group of people.

Vice Chairman Rice motioned to accept the conceptual plan idea for the Newton Highlands Playground equipment. Jack Neville seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 6 for with 1 opposed (Peter Kastner) to accept the conceptual plan idea for new replacement play equipment at Newton Highlands Playground.

Mr. Green was asked to come back to the Commission after he had final approval from the other City Departments for his project.

- 6. **Nahanton Park:** Bayer Environmental Science and Waltham Services presented a proposal to the Parks & Recreation Commission with the purpose of placing a tick management system developed by Bayer at Nahanton Park. Presenting the proposal was Richard Berman of Waltham Services. Commissioner's Naparstek and Towle suggested Nahanton Park because of deer ticks in the area.

Doug Dickson Chairman, on behalf of the IPM Committee recommends approval of demonstration at Nahanton Park using MaxForce Tick Management System for Control of Deer Ticks.

A demonstration box was shown to the commission members, which consists of a heat-sealed bait box that contains a wick saturated with Fipronil. The box would

be anchored to the ground and will not open when the rodents go through. When the rodents enter the box they will encounter the non-toxic chemical, which kills the ticks. Three years ago the same work was done in Needham, 5 miles from Nahanton Park.

It is interesting to note, said Joseph Barile, Entomologist with Bayer Environmental Science, that ticks live for 2 years and white tailed deer distribute more ticks, which fall off and are picked up by mice and chipmunks. He answered many questions among them, is Fipronil a chemical and is it safe to use? None of the commission members knew about Fipronil as a chemical, they are just hearing about it for the first time. Also, there will be a signboard at the park with questions and answers with respect to the procedure.

A Nahanton Park gardener spoke about the project; he grows food, why would he want a chemical near his vegetables? He had requested the Parks & Recreation Department cut pathways around the garden areas, which would lessen any mice or ticks in the area.

Commission Towle met with David Naparstek, Health Commissioner, Richard Berman, Waltham Chemical, Duane Hillis, Friends of Nahanton Park and others to discuss the proposed plan.

Ellie Goldberg of Green Cap is against using chemicals in park areas. We do not know all there is to know about the chemical Fipronil. The Bayer/Waltham Services is just a marketing endeavor for them both. The meeting, which was held with Doug Dickson, was not attended by all in the community. If people want answers to the West Nile Virus they should read a book by Rachel Carson who talks about DDT and the West Nile Virus. It is time to think about how chemicals affect children. This box is just a "car wash" for mice. Chemicals can cause illnesses and precautions need to be taken no matter how small the dose.

Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis explained the meadow used to be mowed once a year. There is a potential for limited additional mowings to specific areas at Nahanton Park. This is a demonstration project and IPM and the Health Commission are overseeing the tick project at Nahanton Park.

Duane Hillis, Friends of Nahanton Park sent the committee a list of questions and some of them went unanswered. He would like answers to all of his questions and we need to look into the chemical Fipronil. We need to stop this test, he is not against Bayer, he is against the process. A better study needs to be done, and are their other alternatives. Mr. Hillis does not believe that Fipronil is a safe chemical.

Peter Kastner talked about the long range of this project, do we have monies in our budget each year for this, which would cost \$3,000-\$4,000 per year, expensive project. Also, do we have monies for signage and lawn cutting, if doing this test at Nahanton the best place to do it and should the area be fenced in?

The IPM Committee are the experts on chemical use, however, it is beyond the Chairman's expertise to talk about Fipronil.

As Jennie DeVito said, the commission just received the information on the project and the chemical being used is a foreign matter to us. We need to work together. No chemicals in grass at Nahanton Park.

It was suggested by Arthur Magni that Doug Dickson be invited to the next commission meeting to discuss tick use at Nahanton Park.

The Department is working with the IPM Committee regarding the tick project and the commission respects everyone's points, however, the IPM Committee are more of an expert than the commission. (See letter from IPM Committee).

Mr. Hillis asked what the rush was to promote this project, why can't we table this request for another time. I have sent a letter to David Naparstek with 12 questions on it and they have not all been answered.

Mr. Rice said we need more information on the chemical product.

Peter Johnson motioned to table the Bayer Demonstration Proposal of Ticks at Nahanton Park decision until more information is received from the IPM Committee. No action to be taken at this time. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 5 for, 1 opposed and 1 abstaining (Peter Kastner) to table the Bayer Demonstration Proposal Project until more information is received from the IPM Committee. No action to be taken at this time.

Doug Dickson, IPM Committee and David Naparstek, Health Commissioner, will be invited to the next commission meeting to answer questions.

Chairman Stern thanked Richard Berman, Waltham Services, Inc., and Joseph Barile, Entomologist with Bayer Environmental Science for attending the meeting.

7. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for 2005-2006:** Fees have not changed since last year, the facility is open from October to May.

| Permit Type | 2004/2005 Fees | 2005/2006 Fees |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Adult | \$60.00 | \$60.00 |
| Student | \$40.00 | \$40.00 |
| Non-Resident | \$125.00 | \$125.00 |
| Adult Daily Resident | \$6.00 | \$6.00 |
| Student Daily Resident | \$4.00 | \$4.00 |
| Non-Resident Daily | \$10.00 | \$10.00 |

Peter Johnson motioned to accept the proposed Newton North Indoor Complex fees for 2005/2006. Vice Chairman Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 6-0 to accept Newton North Indoor Complex Fees for the 2005/2006 season.

- 8. **Budget:** Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry put together a budget Report outlining the Parks & Recreation Budget. The budget cuts are outlined, administrative support, open space, photo's, programs, maintenance and forestry divisions are included. Commissioner Towle is very proud and impressed with the Parks & Recreation budget booklet and she complimented her staff for the excellent job that was done on the very creative budget report. The Programs & Services Committee will be taking up the Parks & Recreation budget on Wednesday evening at 8:45PM. The Committee members will receive a copy of the new budget booklet.

Chairman Stern commented that the budget booklet was a great promotional tool and it was a herculean effort to put everything together. It is a wonderful start for a new budget brochure.

Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis mentioned next year's report will have more information in it with graphs, charts, costs, loss of trees and statistical analysis.

- 9. **Update Forte and Millennium Parks:** Commissioner Towle complimented Channon Ames, Manager, on the outstanding job she has done with the Forte Park Project and working with the Commonwealth of MA. The project is scheduled to be done June 30th, 2005.

The Salvatore A. Balsamo Millennium Park's dedication will be held on Monday, June 6th, 5:30PM on the grounds of Newton City Hall, Homer Street.

- 10. **Policy Parks & Open Space:** In the packets is a spreadsheet listing of Park & School Inventory Site Evaluations 2005 listings by Wards. Chairman Stern talked about the "structures" policy and the two meetings involved in the process. One meeting is to present the proposal to the Commission and prior to the second meeting, the abutters are notified about the meeting and can attend with any questions they might have.

In relation to play equipment, it was a good idea to invite the neighbors to the Newton Centre Playground meeting to give their ideas and comments. Colors of the play equipment are also very important. Private groups seem to have free reign on our parks with their proposals.

Children will come to an area that has new play equipment with tunnels, pods, etc. The Russell J. Halloran new playground equipment looks great and many

children go there each day said Vice Chairman Rice. We ask for standards, public meetings and now are we fluctuating around play equipment that stays in the same footprint?

Peter Johnson reiterated play equipment does not come under the structure's policy. It was never a consideration! The Department replaces the play equipment with monies that they have. Play equipment should be presented separately, not under structures.

Peter Kastner's suggestion is to have a group meet with the Commission and the Department to go over procedures and see what their proposal consists of. The second meeting should have public input, and then the group can appear before the commission.

Chairman Stern commented, as a commission we will continue to review the existing structure policy and update it. The first meeting should be with the Department and the second during a public hearing in which the abutters will be invited to attend. The next meeting would be with the commission for a final presentation and an option to vote. This would be a reverse process than what we have in place.

- 11. **New Business:** Newton West Little League is hosting the City Series on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 27th, 28th and 29th of May. Philip A. Glantz, President, NWLL is requesting the use of a loudspeaker system at Lyons Playground and will keep the volume to the lowest level.

Vice Chairman Rice motioned to accept NWLL's request to use a loudspeaker system at Lyons Playground on May 27th, 28th and 29th, 2005 for their City Series Games. Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve NWLL's request to use a loudspeaker system at Lyons Playground on May 27th, 28th and 29th, 2005 for their City Series Games.

Vice Chairman Rice commented he had his first meeting with the Dog Park Task Force Committee. He would like to bring to the next dog meeting a listing of the Wards, activities, people numbers, leagues involved, who uses the fields, etc. The Conservation Commission is not giving any of their land for dog parks.

Meeting adjourned: 10:20PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, June 20, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the May 16, 2005 Commission Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry**
3. **NNLL Concession Stand License Agreement Extension**
4. **Doug Dickson, Chair, Integrated Pest Management, tick study**
5. **David Naparstek, Commissioner, Health Department, regarding ticks in parks**
6. **CPC Projects**
7. **Andrew Stern, Chairman, Playground Equipment Policy**
8. **New Business**

Next meeting to be held September 19, 2005

**NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
June 20, 2005
7:30PM. Room 209, 7:30PM**

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays Secretary

Absent: Francis Rice, Vice Chairman and Michael Clarke, Alternate

Also attending: Scott Lennon, Alderman, Ward 4, Judy Dore, Recreation Manager, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters and., Duane Hillis, Friends of Nahanton Park

1. **Minutes of the May 16, 2005 Commission Meeting were approved unanimously 7-0.**
2. **Commissioner's report of program, maintenance, forestry and budget:**
 Commissioner Towle reported there was a small nor-easter storm in May, which kept the Forestry Department very busy. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake opened on June 13th according to schedule. Swim lessons will be held at both areas. A temporary dock was placed in the water in front of the wall area for swimmers as the sandy beach area was closed off until repaired. Gath Pool changed their night schedule this year for general swim from 6:00PM to dusk. There are however, 3 lanes open for adult lap swimming. Hopefully this would expand the permit numbers and a better use of the Gath Pool facility. Newton North High School held their graduation June 8th at Newton North outside the building and Newton South High School held their graduation June 9th at Newton South inside their new facility. The Department's maintenance division took special care to spruce up both areas. David Naparstek, Health Commissioner, is here this evening to discuss Nahanton Park and the Bayer proposal. Doug Dickson, Chair IPM Committee, is also here to talk about IPM policies and the Bayer proposal for Nahanton Park. New this year, Nahanton Park is being rented out for family/company outings. Commissioner Towle introduced Judy Dore, Recreation Manager, who will be handling the new picnic outings. Judy will also be entertaining 80 children from the Cabot School at Nahanton Park for catch and release fishing.

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The dedication of Millennium Park was held on Monday, June 6th, 5:30PM at City Hall. The ceremony was well attended. In the fall the Pensky plaques will be placed at the park. Forte Park will be finished around July and mid-August. Judy Dore, Market Master for Farmer's Market, is adding another day and location to the market, because of its popularity. The original Farmers Market will open Tuesday, July 5th at Cold Spring Park and the second one will be on Friday's at American Legion Post 440 starting July 8th. Camp Scholarship monies have provided 63 children with scholarships this year. This is a most worthy program that we offer the residents. At the September Commission meeting we will have the breakdown for the scholarship monies. The Special Olympics weekend races were held again this year at Boston University with 40 participants. Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director, has done a superior job with the yearly special athlete's weekend. Falls Balls, in its 30th year, was held at Lower Falls Community Center and over 300 families enjoyed the day.

Judy Kokesh, graduate student, put together an Albemarle Park Master Plan as a student project for Friends of Albemarle. The article in the TAB Newspaper, about the Master Plan was incorrect. Chairman Stern sent a rebuttal to the TAB correcting some of the statements.

3. **NLL Concession Stand License Agreement Extension:** Ellen Lipoma, President, Newton North Little League, asked for a 1 year extension on the license agreement for the concession stand at the James E. Murphy Field at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex.

Jennie DeVito motioned to approve the Newton North Little League Concession Stand at the James E. Murphy Field. Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 7-0 to approve the request for a 1-year extension for the concession stand at the James E. Murphy Field at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex.

Peter Johnson suggested the commission look into a permanent concession stand agreement instead of a 1-year agreement with just a yearly follow-up.

The porta potty issue was brought up and Ms. Lipoma mentioned that it is cleaned twice a week at a cost of \$115.00 per week.

A sub-committee will take up the issues of the little leagues, electrical outlets, porta potties, guidance of structures and instruction on better procedures.

4. **Doug Dickson, Chair, Integrated Pest Management, Tick Study:** At last month's commission meeting questions arose about the IPM Process and the tick study at Nahanton Park using the chemical Fipronil. The Commission tabled the

Bayer Demonstration Proposal until more information is received from the IPM Committee.

Mr. Dickson on behalf of the IPM Advisory Committee recommended approval of the demonstration Project at Nahanton Park using MaxForce Tick Management System for control of deer ticks. The IPM Committee has been in existence for the past 8 years. Also, the IPM Policy is to promote the health, safety, quality and sustainability of public buildings and landscapes, maximize the use of public buildings and grounds for passive and active purposes. The policy is to reduce the use of pesticides whenever possible, prevent contamination of buildings, soil, air and water and to protect people, animals and plants. The comprehensive policy is a model for other communities who manage the use of pesticides. The focus is to avoid the use of chemicals on weeds on landscapes, grass, shrubs, trees and also structures inside buildings. i.e. ants in buildings vs. outside buildings. When mowing grass raise the blades and leave the clippings as organic fertilizer, water, to keep turf healthy. Also, it is recommended that fields not be overused and rotate the use of fields after a few seasons, which is not practical at this time.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner talked about the use of grub and meomolade, which did not work on a certain area and they were forced to go to an herbicide use. However, biological remedies are always tried first. Poison ivy is approached with 2 components, which will not wipe out all of the poison ivy in the whole area.

Mr. Dickson said it is interesting to note that some adults/kids do not know what poison ivy looks like. The IPM committee develops guidelines and procedures and recommendations to The Health Department, Parks & Recreation, Public Buildings, Superintendent of School and Mayor Cohen regarding use of pesticides. They ensure that any pesticide considered for use is fully evaluated for the least adverse impact on people and the environment. The IPM Committee meets the 4th Friday of the month from 9:00AM to 10:30AM at City Hall.

The Bayer Environmental Science and Waltham Services proposal at Nahanton Park would demonstrate the benefits of a tick management system in our area. The system would be a heat-sealed bait box that contains a wick at the closed end of the box. The wick is saturated with Fipronil, and the rodents come into contact with it when entering the box. The product is safely isolated from accidental exposure to people and pets because the box is sealed. Also, the product would not contaminate water and create harm to animals. The IPM recommends the City go forward with this project.

Peter Kastner commented on the Bayer experiment in that the City was approached with this free project for residential experimental purposes and broader use for ticks. If Newton had a tick problem, the proposal would be helpful to us.

Doug Dickson said it was an experimental application, which met the needs of the IPM Committee. Also, the contractor's name could only be used with City approval. Mr. Dickson also said they looked at all options to see if this was a worthwhile project.

Commission members wanted more evidence of the experiment as they had a lack of chemical information in their backgrounds. It was felt that the members needed more communications with the IPM Committee and Health Department beforehand.

- 5. **David Naparstek, Commissioner, Health Department regarding ticks in Parks:** Mr. Naparstek noted that the tick experiment held in Needham about a year and a half ago was successful. Richard Berman, Technical Manager, Waltham Services, spoke with Bayer about using their services in Newton. The product was tested and proved effective. The experiment would have been free to the City of Newton.

A meeting was held with IPM, Recreation Department, Health Department, groups and citizens to review the proposal. Also, Bayer sent their entomologist in case anyone had questions.

At the last commission meeting the commission members voted 5 for, 1 opposed and 1 abstaining to table the Bayer Demonstration Proposal Project until further information is received. After the meeting Bayer lost interest in doing the Newton Project. They did not want negative publicity.

Jennie Devito appreciated Mr. Naparstek's expertise and would have liked to have received a letter of recommendation, for all the commission members, prior to the May Commission meeting.

As stated, Mr. Naparstek believes the project proposal was environmentally sound.

Dr. Chris Criscitiello, Cardiologist, believes tick disease is spreading and creeping into our area. Deer ticks feed on mice and chipmunks and extend to man. Ticks are concerns to physicians, with people getting Lyme disease. Most people do not know where they were or that a tick bit them. Mowing the grass is a good idea. Fipronil used in a minimal amount in the boxes would give minimal exposure to the environment.

Duane Hillis, Chairman, Friends of Nahanton Park asked if the tick studies are complete enough. He suggests mowing around the Nahanton Park gardens more often.

Before the commission can approve the proposal, more real facts/data is needed. The tick project maybe discussed again at the January meeting.

Chairman Stern thanked everyone for their comments and attending the meeting about the deer ticks.

- 6. **CPC Projects:** Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner spoke about two items that is now before the Board of Aldermen, Gath Pool and City Hall Historic Landscaping. Regarding the Washington Park Project, the historic lights are functioning. West Newton Common irrigation, no water as yet from the well, Skillings Company will try again. At Bowen School irrigation, project, the water is fine. The Farlow Park project was rejected, not enough community input.

Chairman Stern reminded everyone that the deadline for the next CPC meeting is in October.

- 7. **Andrew Stern, Chairman, Playground equipment policy:** In regards to policies for the Department a meeting was held with Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer, Michael Kruse, Director, Planning Department, Commissioner Towle and myself to discuss Recreation and CIP policies, priorities. A new process started and refined. A sub-committee has been formed with Walter Bernheimer, Arthur Magni, Commissioner Towle and myself and will meet during the summer months. Park Prioritization will be the main focus of this committee. Also, Jennie DeVito, Peter Johnson, Commissioner Towle and myself volunteered to be on the guidelines committee for 4-5 items.

All information will be put in writing and guidance for the Parks & Recreation Commission. This would include little leagues, signage, structures at parks, batting cages, porta potties, loud speakers, and quality of life in parks.

Today's society wants different things than they had years ago said Commissioner Towle. Priorities need to be put in place, which will include a ranking system, inventory and rate them 1-5 and put them in various categories. What parks need the most help? Not every area needs a master plan.

The Master Plan for Albemarle was put together for a class project by a student from Radcliffe. This is not a full-blown master plan. This was just input for her concept of a master plan. The newspaper got a hold of the project before a meeting that was held at Albemarle. The Department did not see a copy of this plan until the day of the meeting. The Department did not approve the plan. Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, was the Department's representative at the Albemarle meeting. The Department has suffered with this embarrassment as no one talked with anyone in the Department. Gath Pool was not even on the plan.

A broader plan is need for park play equipment. What are the priorities for size, usage, equipment and signs,. Any proposal for play equipment or replacement play equipment needs to come before the commission. However, meetings need to be held with the proposal groups, and meet with Commissioner Towle, before

appearing before the commission with their proposals. Sub-committees will set the priorities.

8. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle reminded everyone Anthony "Tony" Bibbo's retirement from the Newton Community Service Center will be June 28th, 8:00AM and 3:00PM at the community center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 19, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the June 20, 2005 Commission Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance, forestry and closing of Gath Pool & Crystal Lake (Crystal Lake closed August 21st and Gath Pool closed Labor Day, 9/5/05)**
3. **Newton Centre Playground Update**
4. **Update CPA Projects;**
 - a) **Williams School Outdoor Classroom,**
 - b) **Bowen School Playground Drainage,**
 - c) **Newton Highlands/Whitmore Tot Lot,**
 - d) **Stearns Park Improvements,**
 - e) **Pellegrini Park Improvements,**
 - f) **Albemarle Master Plan Implementation (Phase I), Central Corridor Proposal**
 - g) **Newton South High School/Middle Schools Athletic Fields**
5. **Discuss Park Assessment & Development Planning & Evaluation**
6. **New Business: Appoint commission member to the Angino Farm Commission**

Next meeting to be held on October 17, 2005

SPECIAL PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, September 15, 2005
8:00PM, Room 222 at City Hall**

AGENDA

1. Appoint commission member to the Angino Farm Commission
2. Discussion of strategic planning for parks

**SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, September 15, 2005
Room 222 at City Hall**

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Arthur Magni, Jennie DeVito, Peter Johnson, Myra Tattenbaum, Alternates Jack Neville and Peter Kastner

Also attending Bonnie Carter, League of Women Voters

1. **Appoint commission member to the Angino Farm Commission:** After a brief discussion the item was postponed and will be on the Commission Meeting Agenda for Monday, September 19th. More information about the Angino Farm Commission is needed before a commission member is appointed.

2. **Discussion of strategic planning for parks:** The commission members received a DRAFT copy of the Newton Parks & Recreation Five Year Park Assessment and Development Planning and Evaluation. The plan will help the commission members with the upcoming CPA projects. At the Monday, September 19, 2005 Commission meeting the members will hear proposals on the 6-7 CPA Projects. The projects need approval from the Recreation Commission before the CPA project deadline of October 3rd. Copies of the CPA Projects were handed out to the members to look over before Monday's meeting. Also, Chairman Stern complimented Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Marc Welch, Director of Forestry, Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance and commission members Walter Bernheimer and Arthur Magni for their time, input and efforts in preparing the DRAFT copy of the Five Year Assessment Plan.

In looking at the DRAFT plan, it was noted that Newton Highlands is at the top of the list. It would be the first park to undergo the strategic planning process.

It was suggested to make a map showing all recreation areas, and include the pocket vest parks in the City.

Francis Rice noted that the Crystal Lake Bathhouse and beach area should be added to the strategic list as well as Gath Pool. Each swim facility should be recognized and evaluated on their own merits.

A discussion followed that if a proposal is not on the Commission's priority list should it be recommended. All CPA projects need to be evaluated, as the Commission is a filter for the upcoming CPA projects. It is difficult to not approve all projects, however, some projects could be approved on its merits, worthiness and monies involved.

An interesting question by Peter Kastner was, what would happen to groups that have already raised some monies for their projects and we do not approve them.

Chairman Stern pointed out that the deadline for filing applications to the CPA is October 3rd.

The Commission would review all relevant projects at its next meeting on Monday, September 19th. Each proposal would be allotted 15 minutes for a presentation. The Commission would then review and discuss each project and a vote taken at that time.

Chairman Stern commented that the CPA committee is looking to the Parks & Recreation Commission for its recommendations on project proposals.

A second meeting could be held after the Monday, September 19th commission meeting on September 26th, if necessary.

Meeting adjourned 9:30PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, October 17, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the September 15, 2005 Commission Meeting
Minutes of the September 19, 2005 Commission Meeting
Minutes of the September 28, 2005 Commission Meeting**
2. **Confirm new Angino Farm Commission Representative**
3. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool summer figures**
4. **CPA – Williams School Project**
5. **DRAFT – Park Assesment and Development Planning & Evaluation
(Please bring your DRAFT copy to meeting) – Designate 2 parks for
CPA strategic design funding**
6. **Discussion about CPC Application/Parks & Recreation Commission
approval, public hearing process**
7. **Scholarship Report**
9. **New Business**

Next Meeting November 21, 2005

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 19, 2005
7:30PM in Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Faye Hays, Secretary

Alternates: Peter Kastner and Jack Neville

Also attending: Aldermen Amy Mah Sangiolo, Stephen Linsky and Kenneth Parker, Recreation staff; Judy Dore, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Carol Stapleton, Channon Ames and Carol Schein

1. **Minutes of the June 20, 2005 meeting were accepted 8-0**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry.**
Commissioner Towle commented on the following; it was a great summer, Crystal Lake closed August 21st and Gath Pool closed Labor Day, September 5th. Concerts and summer camps were very popular. Compliments to Carol Stapleton and her staff at Crystal Lake this summer. The Paddy's 3-mile run & walk will take place on Sunday, October 16th, starting at 11:30AM from 95 Elm Street. Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director, coordinates the race; to benefit the special needs program. Farmer's Market started in July and will run through to the end of October. This year a second market opened at Post 440 on Friday's from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.
3. **Newton Centre Playground Update:** Debbie Millar spoke about some changes that have been made in the plans. John Hollenback, Land Works, and John Wolpe, Creative Recreation spoke about the revised plan. The walkway will have a rubber safety surface at the tot lot for 2-5 year olds. Some of the equipment will be re-arranged. There will be 2 access gates, a change in equipment to lighten up the spaces, a playhouse, 2nd bay of swings, 2 lookout ladders and climber. Took out the concrete walkway and will plant trees and flowers. Also, benches will be relocated.

Sherri Wasserman, UCP Metro Boston, spoke about the continuation of fund raising and will have a booth set up at Harvest Fair for people's ideas, comments and donations to the project. Also, grants mass mailings, press releases, information in newspapers, businesses and magazines about the playground will

be done. This will be a community effort! One idea was to use pavers on the pathway. The playground project goal is \$379,000. There is no glitz & glitter, just a playground that is appealing to the eye. No monies are being asked from the Parks & Recreation Department.

Chairman Stern noted any signage would need to go through the commission for approval.

Motion was made by Myra Tattenbaum and seconded by Francis Rice to approve the Newton Centre Playground plans.

The commission members voted 6-2 to approve the donor brick area for the Newton Centre Playground Project. (Those opposed, Andrew Stern and Peter Kastner)

Debbie Millar and her committee will start the fund raising process in the spring for Phase I and Phase II of the Newton Centre Playground project.

4. **Update CPA Projects:**

a) **Williams School Outdoor Classrooms:** PTO Presidents Deborah Gelch and Ed Chang are working with the neighbors for an outdoor classroom and better use of parkland at Williams School. They are seeking CPA funds for an outdoor, cozy/natural classroom, to use as a meeting place, classroom project space, etc. The funding for the study would be \$15,000-\$20,000. No monies have been raised as yet. There was talk about using some of the Walker Center land, however, more discussion needs to be done as the Walker Center now has evangelical housing. They are looking for monies to fund a study for better use of the parkland area. According to the Park Assessment, the Williams School area is not at a top priority level. Perhaps the group could get school department funding for this project.

The Parks & Recreation Department have jurisdiction over the property site. It was asked how much space the classroom would consume. It is a partial shelter; 12 feet side and 25 feet long and would accommodate 30 children.

b) **Bowen School Playground:** Dee Mallon is the project planner for the Bowen Park Initiative and is here with Bowen School Principal Patricia Kelly. Dee started out as the "garden lady" at Bowen and over the years has made attempts to grow grass and fix up the area. The flooding problems have been disastrous; the schoolyard sometimes has 50-foot puddle and the water rushes down the hillside. Takes days for the ground to dry out. Mud & ice are problems as well. For this reason, Bowen Park Initiative was formed. The group wants to remedy the flooding problems with a new drainage system, designed by City engineers; undertake a habitat restoration effort and restore the woodlands; enhance playground by creating shaded area, an amphitheater near wood, plant grass, build walkways, replace old equipment; composting,

collect water in rain barrels and collaborate with teachers, administrators for science curriculum with educational tie-ins.

The group would like to install a handicap accessible picnic table and swings, shave 15 feet off the basketball court and have the poison ivy sprayed and under control. The snow removal process would need to be changed. It was suggested that the School Department take care of the cost of the drainage problem. Also it would be great to bring the woods back into the park area.

PTO has raised and dedicated \$10,000 for the project. The Initiative itself has raised \$7,000 in private donations. Bowen is slated to receive \$12,500 from a CIP fund for playground equipment.

- c. **Newton Highlands/Whitmore Tot Lot:** The Newton Highlands/Whitmore Tot Lot project was approved for replacement of play equipment. Newton Highlands is high on the list for a Master Planning overall. If a Master Plan is approved, Mr. Green would withdraw his application for a tot lot. A Master Plan is needed for the park in its entirety. Mr. Green will contact the NAA folks, football league, David Donahue, soccer leagues, and youth baseball for a master plan. In the Master Plan there will be a re-design of the area so we do not know where the tot lot will go at this time. The design and plan should take about 15 months, which is the end of 2006. This will be a great concept and community involvement will be needed. The group has already informed the surrounding community thorough a neighborhood meeting at the Brigham House and a fund raising last June at Newton Highlands Village Day.
- d. **Stearns Park/Pellegrini Park Improvements:** Danielle Bailey, Community Development, spoke about neighborhood improvements for Stearns & Pellegrini Parks which was started 2 years ago. The Nonantum neighborhood needs improvements for their parks. A few years ago a request was made for master plan funding for improvements to the two parks. A survey was sent, in March, to over 1400 Nonantum households about improvements with 9% being returned. On May 1st a community meeting took place with a follow up in June for uses of the parks. Marion Pressley, Pressley Associates, designed the improvements to the parks. Play areas need updating as well as rubberized surfacing at both parks.

Stearns improvements, package I includes; Tennis nets/posts, Gate, court fence, court color coating and drinking fountain.

Play area improvements: basketball posts, backboard, goal & net, trash barrel, drinking fountain, bench, pavillion, swing, play table & bench, spring rider, toddler's swing, play equipment, chain link fence, tree plantings. Park Area includes: player's bench, backstop, trash barrel, pedestrian path light,

bench, entrance granite bollard, signage, picnic table with concrete pad, vinyl fence, gate and drainage hydroseeding & trees.

Package II includes: curbing, mowing strip, player's bench, backstop, trash barrel, pedestrian path light, bench, entrance granite bollard, signage, picnic table with concrete pad, chain link fence, gate and trees.

Pellegrini, package I improvements include curbing and paving. Site improvements, trash barrel, pedestrian path light, upright, bench, granite bollard, bike rack, granite stair, handrail, signage, fence painting, spigot, drainage, hydroseeding, shrubs and trees.

Playground area; restore mural, pedestrian paving, rubberized surface, granite curb, stonedust, mowing strip. Site Improvements; baseball posts, backboard, goal & net, trash barrel, drinking fountain, seatwall, picnic table, pavilion, swing, play table & bench, climber, spring rider, toddlers swing, play equipment, water play equipment, fence, gate, basketball court color coating, drainage, spigot, hydroseeding, trees, players benches, backstop

Site Improvements; basketball posts, backboard, goal & net, trash barrel, drinking fountain, bench, granite seatwall with footing, concrete seatwall, picnic table with concrete pad, pavilion, swing, play table & bench, climber, spring rider, spring rider see-saw, toddler's swing, play equipment, fence, gate, basketball court color coating, drainage and spigot.

Package II: Site improvements, player's bench, bleacher, backstop, soccer goal & net, trash barrel, field light, drinking fountain, bench, bike rack, fence, drainage, spigot, hydroseeding, trees, shrubs.

At Stearns the tennis courts are slated for CIP monies. At Pellegrini the parking lot is 1/2 paved and 1/2 stonedust. Also, there is a need to improve accessibility.

The committee is asking for 1.5 million for Phase I, a & b and the design cost is 10% of the total. Part I would take nearly 2 years to finish before part II is started. Pellegrini Park is a heavily used park all year long. Stearns Park is in bad shape, new tennis courts would be utilized. Also, Pellegrini Park has a tennis group that plays there weekly if not daily.

Danielle Bailey and the community are very excited about both projects!

- e. **Albemarle Master Plan Implementation (Phase I) Central Corridor Proposal:** Curtis Betts spoke about the Central Corridor Proposal. Albemarle is 25 acres and the most utilized area in the City. Last June a draft of a Master Plan was developed by a graduate college student, Judy Kokesh, who surveyed the park. The plan was evaluated for priorities and the first step

would be the central corridor. The Friends of Albemarle have worked with the Parks & Recreation Department and other community groups to develop a vision of the future of Albemarle Park.

Project description includes, improving open space, restoration of part of Avery Woods, replacement of footbridge over Cheesecake Brook, new entry plaza for park and school, re-alignment of footpath from Albemarle Road to F. A. Day Middle School, add new plantings, berms, lighting and furnishing to compliment the area.

Any work on the bridge would need to be done by the Public Works Department, which would include drainage issues.

At the soccer field next to Roche field, there is 100 feet that is not in use and could be used to push the soccer field south. Murphy field is fenced in.

Peter Johnson said the Recreation Commission has not approved the proposed master plan by the student, Judy Kokesh.

The Recreation Department would be a co-applicant of the CPA project at Albemarle. At this time the CPA funding application would be for the design and engineering of renovations to Albemarle Park. The design would cost \$60,000 and the construction phase is estimated at \$400,000 and bridge construction \$100,000. Total cost \$560,000.

- g) **Newton South High School/Middle Schools Athletic Fields:** Ted Tye's presentation showed areas, designed by Geller Sports, for field upgrades at Brown/Oak Hill and Newton South High School fields. Rob Lanham, Coach at Newton South is in agreement with CPA proposal. Mr. Tye is working with Mayor Cohen and the Recreation Department on the project. The proposal is not for Astro Turf, but a new synthetic NEWTURF that looks like grass and does not have to be maintained or mowed. Waltham has 4 synthetic fields, Lexington 3, Cambridge 2 and Franklin 4. The synthetic NEWTURF which is environmentally friendly, less injuries, cushioned to drain well, low maintenance, no chemicals and does not need to be watered and looks like natural grass. The carpet lasts 12-14 years and would be used 10 months out of the year. The fields would be lined and the Recreation Department would then paint the lines on the field. In Phase II there would be a future baseball field in a multi purpose field. The initial phase would cost \$3,793,000 to be bonded over a 10-year period. In March of 2006, they would begin the design and community review process.

The commission discussed the responsibility and jurisdiction issues of who would be responsible for this project the School Department or the Recreation Department. Should this be a joint venture between the School & Recreation Departments?

Mr. Tye did mention that he had support from the soccer leagues. There are 5,000 families that go to watch sports in Newton.

Alderman Parker suggested the project be a joint venture between the School Department and the Recreation Department.

Chairman Stern said about \$4 million dollars is available for CPA projects involving affordable housing, open space, historic preservation and recreation.

Commission votes taken as follows:

Williams School Project: Myra Tattenbaum motioned not to accept the Williams School Project as it is not developed enough and needs more work. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 7-1 (Peter Johnson opposed) not to accept the Williams School Project as it is not developed enough and needs more work.

Bowen School Project: Walter Bernheimer motioned to recommend the Bowen School Project, however, not to include the cost of the drainage, as it is the City's responsibility. Myra Tattenbaum seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the Bowen School Project without the cost related to the drainage.

Newton Highlands/Whitmore Tot Lot: The commission supports the Newton Highlands/Whitmore tot lot project. Mr. Green would withdraw his tot lot proposal if a Master Plan study for the whole park is in place.

Stearns/Pellegrini Park Improvements: Francis Rice suggested the Commission vote on both the Stearns and Pellegrini Parks as one proposal.

Jennie DeVito motioned to approve the Stearns/Pellegrini Park Improvements; Phase I with Stearns Park being more in need of improvements than Pellegrini Park. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to approve of the Stearns/Pellegrini Park Improvements, Phase I with Stearns Park being more in need of improvements than Pellegrini Park.

Albemarle Master Plan Implementation (Phase I), Central Corridor Proposal: The Albemarle area has a high rating, therefore, the Central

Corridor Design would be voted on without the cost of the bridge. The Parks & Recreation Commission did not approve the study for the Master Plan.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to support the design phase of the Albemarle Central Corridor Proposal without the bridge cost. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to support the design phase of the Albemarle Central Corridor Proposal without the cost of the bridge.

Newton South High School/Middle Schools Athletic Fields New Turf Proposal: Walter Bernheimer made a motion to reject the Newton South High School/Middle Schools Athletic Fields New Turf Proposal as he felt the project was too expensive.

Motion was seconded by Francis Rice to reject the Newton South High School/Middle Schools Athletic Fields proposal.

The Commission members voted 7-1 (Myra Tattenbaum in favor) to reject the Newton South High School/Middle Schools Athletic Fields proposal.

- 5. **Park Assessment & Development Planning & Evaluation:** To be discussed at next meeting.
- 6. **New Business: Appoint commission member to the Angino Farm Commission:** The Angino Farm Commission will have a Board of Directors of 9 members, one from Jackson Homestead, one from Historical Commission and will work with Nick Parnell, Commissioner of the Building Department. The Commission meets the 1st Thursday of every month.

Chairman Stern asked for volunteers to the Angino Farm Commission. Peter Kastner, Alternate, volunteered for the position, provided we check with the Law Department to see if an alternate can be appointed.

Commission members voted 8-0 to appoint Peter Kastner to the Angino Farm Commission with approval from the Law Department as to whether or not an alternate can be appointed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20PM.

Next commission meeting to be held on October 17, 2005

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**SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, September 28, 2005
6:00 – 7:00PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

AGENDA

- 1. Reconsideration of the Newton South Turf Proposal for the
Community Preservation Commission**

**SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, September 28, 2005
6:00 – 7:00PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

Attending: Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito, Peter Johnson, Arthur Magni, Alternate Peter Kastner, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Faye Hays, Secretary (arriving later in the meeting were Chairman Stern and Myra Tattenbaum)

Also attending: David B. Cohen, Mayor, Kenneth Parker, Alderman, Ted Tye, NewTurf, NSHS Project and Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager.

1. Reconsideration of the Newton South Turf Proposal for the Community Preservation Commission.

Vice Chairman Francis Rice presided over the meeting. The meeting was called to discuss the Newton South NewTurf Proposal for CPA Funding.

Mayor Cohen explained to the Commission members that since the Commission's last meeting, Ted Tye, NewTurf had revised the proposal, which changed the focus of the sites selected for the synthetic turf proposal, and changed the funding request amounts. The revised proposal would only be applied to land that is under the jurisdiction of the Newton School Department. He also noted that this revised proposal was presented to the Newton School Committee on Monday, September 26, 2005 and it received their full support in concept but they did not vote on any financial commitment.

Mr. Tye then reviewed the revised proposal with the Commission. It was noted that the new proposal, Phase I, would not include spectator stands, the baseball field or any perimeter lighting. He noted that Phase II would include the baseball field.

Vice Chairman thanked Mayor Cohen for attending the meeting.

Alderman Kenneth Parker, who also attended the meeting, commented on his belief that the baseball field was an intricate part of the project.

Vice Chairman Rice thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 21, 2005
City Hall, Room 209

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry**
3. **Update Crystal Lake/Hannon Property with Dan Funk, City Solicitor and Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer**
4. **Maintenance Plan**
5. **NSHS Recreation Complex**
6. **Needs Assessment**
7. **Special Permits, Jennie DeVito & Peter Johnson**
8. **New Business**

Next Commission Meeting: December 19, 2005

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NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSIN MEETING
Monday, October 17, 2005
7:30PM in Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voter, Tom Cahill, Aquatics Manager and Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Jack Neville, Alternate and Michael Clarke, Alternate

1. **Minutes of the September 15th, September 19th (with some small changes) and September 28, 2005 Commission Meeting's were unanimously accepted 5-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report of program, maintenance and forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the highly successful Paddy's Road Race which was held on Sunday, October 16th as well as Harvest Fair and Autumn Invasion (youth commission). The sun finally came out Sunday, however, the winds were blowing and many tree and tree limbs came down. On Wednesday, October 19th, the Programs & Services Committee will hear the Department's request for \$86,000 in tree monies.

Carr School: Both Linda Plaut and Judy Anderson, Arts in the Parks, have now moved over to the Carr School. The building is now called Newton Cultural Center. Farmer's Market now held on Tuesday's (Cold Spring Park) and Friday's (Post 440) with plenty of parking spaces. The Tuesday Farmer's Market is a model for other cities and towns to emulate. On Monday, October 24th, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, will return to the Department after hip surgery. There has been a recurring problem with the night-lights at Albemarle that are now being worked on. The original lights were installed in 1978 and because of their age, they will all need to be replaced. The poles are all set, however, it would cost \$200,000 to replace some of the fixtures. The Department has recommended to the Programs and Services committee, replacement of the lighting at Albemarle (Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex)

Confirm new Angino Farm Commission Representative: Chairman Stern asked for a commission member to volunteer to be on the Angino

Farm Commission. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 18th. The item was deferred to the next commission meeting.

- 3. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool Summer Figures:** Total revenues for Gath Pool was \$89,517.00 and Crystal Lake was \$85,973.00. Swim fees were not raised this season and seniors 62 and older are free. Lessons are \$45.00 and people could register on line. More seniors attended Crystal Lake than Gath Pool. Commission Towle complimented Carol Stapleton and her staff for the outstanding job they did at Crystal as they had to contend with the wall and not being able to use part of the beach area. At the November Commission Meeting, Dan Funk, City Solicitor, Law Department will be available to discuss Crystal Lake. Great summer season at both facilities.

Commission meeting adjourned at 7:50PM for Mayor Cohen's State of the City Address. Meeting reconvened at 8:45PM.

- 4. **CPA – Williams School:** The Williams School CPA Project was found to be on school land not recreation land, therefore, the project is no longer under the Parks & Recreation Department.
- 5. **DRAFT – Park Assessment and Development Planning & Evaluation:** The Park Assessment and Development Plan is a 5 year plan for the Parks & Recreation Department. Two parks that are in need of developing are Newton Highlands Whitmore Playground and Upper Falls Playground. Paul Green submitted a CPA project for the Newton Highlands Playground for a new tot lot. The Upper Falls Playground is an active area where tennis and soccer are played daily. Also, there is a little league field on the lower level near the wooded area, which is in desperate need of repairs. Residents in this area are calling every year asking as to when the park will be renovated.

As for other areas on the list, Albemarle is one of the heaviest used areas in the City. Peter Johnson asked about taking the opportunity to do a Master Plan for Albemarle as it is a highly visible site. It would be nice to have one Master Plan in place. Since the Department/Commission did not approve the students Master Plan for Albemarle, now would be a good time to look into the project. Peter Kastner and Francis Rice agree with Peter Johnson regarding a Master Plan for Albemarle. It was suggested that the commission members be supplied with maps of the park areas.

Chairman Stern mentioned CPA Projects have already been submitted to the CPC Committee. If plans change now for Albemarle to start a Master Plan, the project is less likely to be funded as it would cost more than the Albemarle Corridor. The commission needs to look at the reality of CPC

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funding and where the recreation projects rank on the listings. The "draft" rating system is to be used as a tool to decide the priority projects.

Commissioner Towle spoke in regards to a Master Plan for Albemarle. There are still items in prior CPA plans that need to be started/finished. The Gazebo at Albemarle was just finished, and the irrigation is now in place. Not much more to do at Albemarle at this time.

Motion was made by Arthur Magni to recommend a Master Plan Study for the Newton Highlands Playground. Myra Tattenbaum seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 7-0 to recommend a Master Plan Study for the Newton Highlands Playground.

Motion was made by Peter Johnson to recommend a Master Plan Study for Albemarle. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 2 for and 4 against a Master Plan Study for the Albemarle.

Motion was made by Jennie DeVito to recommend the Newton Upper Falls Playground Master Plan Study. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 5 for and 2 abstaining, Peter Johnson and Francis Rice, to recommend the Newton Upper Falls Playground for a Master Plan Study.

Chairman Stern suggested a vote be taken at the November Commission Meeting on the "DRAFT" Parks Assessment & Development Plan & Evaluation.

Field Permit Policy: Tom Cahill, Recreation Manager, spoke in reference to a Field Permit Policy Plan. Plans will be made to take care of all field space, special events, carnival rides, not St. Mary of Carmen, i.e. Cabot School would like 5 little rides instead of one. A policy is needed to inspect all rides; insurance; what is allowed and what is not allowed; is their irrigation at that particular site; and can trucks go onto the areas in question. Also, inflatable rides need a policy. Suggestion is to have the School Committee get on board with these school projects as some projects are on school lands. Myra Tattenbaum will work with Tom on this project to be finished by January 2006.

6. **Discussion about CPC Application/Parks & Recreation Commission approval, public hearing process:** Chairman Stern discussed CPA applications that need to come before the Parks & Recreation Commission

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for approval before the projects can proceed to the CPA. Commissioner Towle spoke about projects i.e. Newton South Turf and the Williams School proposals, which were found not to be on Recreation land but school land.

It was suggested the deadline for CPA Projects would be June 1st. The Commission to be presented with CPA applications at the next June Meeting. If abutters need to be notified, the projects can be tweaked prior to the September meeting. This discussion may be deferred to another meeting. Also, Commissioner Towle mentioned that Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, will be back in the office and he will oversee all CPA projects.

7. **Scholarship Report:** Chairman Stern is very pleased with the work being done to provide scholarships for Newton children. He would like to see better marketing and publicity to raise more monies for this invaluable program.

Commissioner Towle talked about the guidelines, depending on the income of families, as no one is turned away. Francis Rice donates monies from the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, Mary Brown runs trips to Foxwoods to raise monies, and there is camp fundraising throughout the year. Also, it's a wonderful community related program. What is surprising is that there are so many needy families in Newton. We encourage the public to donate monies, as it is a tax-free item. The Department is very pleased with the scholarship program that sends children, who qualify, to camp for 2 weeks or more during the summer months.

8. New Business: No new business

Meeting adjourned: 10:15PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, December 19, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the November Meeting
2. Commissioner's Report on program, maintenance and forestry
3. Mark Kelly, Director Special Needs
4. Ice Skating Rules & Regulations/Crystal Lake General Rules
5. Update on school fairs/carnival permits
6. Newton South High School Turf Proposal
7. New Business

Next meeting: January 23, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, November 21, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Arthur Magni and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Dan Funk, City Solicitor, Law Department, Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer, Carol Stapleton, Manager, Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters and Ellen Lipoma, President Newton North Little League

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting were accepted 7 for and 1 abstention, Walter Bernheimer**
2. **Commissioner's Report of program, maintenance and forestry:**
Commissioner Towle reported on marketing and promoting the Department's programs and services. Department brochures are sent to schools, City locations, City Hall, Commission's, food chains, banks, etc. On Friday night November 25th, at the Marriott Hotel, former staff person Jean Cole, will be inducted into the Newton North/Newton High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Another plus for the Department, Mark Kelly, Director of Special Needs, was honored at the Massachusetts Recreation & Park Association's awards luncheon on November 15th, as Therapeutic Professional of the Year! Congratulation's from the commission members to both Jean and Mark on their awards. Also, Mark will show a power point presentation at the December 19th Commission meeting.

Update on CPA Projects:

- Bowen Irrigation: Last week power was installed to the pump. This Wednesday the controller will be finished and the well will be turned on and tested
- Farlow Park: Qualified for CPA design study
- City Hall Grounds: Historic Landscaping Architects, Pressley Associates
- Newton Centre Pedestrian Pathway to Parks: Scheduled to be finished in April

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- Gath Pool: Resurfacing the floors, adding benches, grab bar and bubbler
 - Community Commons Gazebo: 95% done
 - Washington Park: Installing Historic lighting
 - Wellington: Bid signed for resurfacing of tennis & basketball courts
 - Forte Park: Finishing punch list, dedication in the Spring
 - West Newton Common: Drilling finished, no water

Commissioner Towle will meet in two weeks with a resident requesting a temporary ice skating rink at Newton Centre.

NNLL has a request to renovate the James E. Murphy Field on Albemarle Road next March/April. The little league will be absorbing the cost of the renovation.

The lighting at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex is 25 years old and in dire need of replacement. The proposals are being worked on at this time. The cost will be between \$200,000 and \$300,000 to install/repair the lighting. Commissioner Towle will keep the commission members posted on this item.

Chairman Stern will be setting up a meeting with Commissioner Towle and Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, School Department, to establish a dialogue about projects on Recreation land/School land.

Commissioner Towle invited the Commission members to a Holiday Luncheon, Thursday, December 8th, 12:00PM – 1:30PM at the Recreation office.

3. **Update Crystal Lake/Hannon Property with Dan Funk, City Solicitor and Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer:** Commissioner Towle introduced Dan Funk and Mike Rourke to the commission members. Dan Funk - There were issues last summer regarding the wall and the rights to use the beach area at Crystal Lake. A diagram was shown of the beach area. Who has what rights to the beach? In 1962 there was a lawsuit and the Law Department looked into the records at Middlesex Superior Court. The plan did not match the records. The records were then looked into at Superior Court in Cambridge. A plan was found in which the then owner tried to establish exclusive rights to the so-called beach area. In fact, on the map/records, it was found that the owner has the right and the City also has right to use the beach area! This is new and good information at this time. Also, the wall is on the homeowner's property. The commission voted to go into Executive Session to discuss certain issues surrounding Crystal Lake.

Myra Tattenbaum motioned to go into Executive Session regarding Crystal Lake. Francis Rice seconded the motion. Roll call vote was executed from all

commission members. All of the Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to go into Executive Session.

Visitors to the meeting were excused until the Executive Session is over. Also, this section of the meeting is not to be tape-recorded. Separate set of minutes to be read in Executive Session only.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to come out of Executive Session. Commission Meeting continued:

Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager, asked to speak about the horrific neon blue/green algae at Crystal Lake. Carol will be working with Martha Horn, Senior Environmental Planner, Conservation Commission, as to what the next step is to eradicate the algae. A notice of intent has to go out to the residents to treat the water. Health Department is also working with Carol on this project. When notice of intent is done, Carol and Martha will appear before the Conservation Commission for permission to treat the water. Also, the verbiage needs to be changed on the Rules & Regulations at Crystal regarding prohibiting skimobiles on the lake.

4. **Angino Farm Representative:** The Angino Farm Committee meets once a month on a Tuesday evening at 7:00PM. Commission member Myra Tattenbaum, Ward 8, has volunteered to be on the Angino Farm Committee. The Angino Farm will be a working farm and it is important for a commission member to be on the committee.

5. **Maintenance Plan FY06:** A Management Plan for Maintenance of Public Grounds FY06 is in the folders. A special thanks to Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, and staff for they're input and work in preparing the Management Plan. Alderman Verne Vance docketed the item for the Parks & Recreation Department. The new Maintenance Plan illustrates the various levels of preparation and responsibility that the Parks and Recreation Department are accountable for annually.

Derek Mannion and Marc Welch gave a power point presentation for the maintenance and forestry divisions. Highlights of the presentation included the following:

- Maintenance/Forestry care of Newton's parks, playgrounds and fields
- Two men remove rubbish from 511 barrels at over 180 locations (In 2004, 59,051 barrels were emptied by this crew
- Repair wooden fences, 30 miles of chain link fence and responsible for 470 benches city-wide
- Year round Community Service Program, Tuesday's & every other Saturday
- Marked 756 field in 2004
- Irrigation specialist is responsible for our irrigation systems

- Two Certified Playground Safety Inspectors examine playgrounds at 45 locations
- Certified pool operator
- Repair & maintenance of over 50 Departmental pieces of equipment
- Specialty Events
- Turf Maintenance
- Grass mowing, snow plowing
- Tree crew, Tree Commission, Tree Preservation Ordinance
- Responsible for 30,000 street trees, on 280 miles of road and 1,000 acres of land
- If funding becomes available, priority of trees is set up as 1, 2, or 3.
- Tree Manual will be revised for 2006
- Volunteers have done a great job pruning some trees at City Hall after the seminar by Marc Welch.
- Also, wood chips are put in Conservation areas

Commissioner Towle thanked Derek and Marc for the excellent presentation.

6. **Five Year Park Assessment Plan (DRAFT):** Motion was made by Francis Rice to accept the Five Year Park Assessment Plan as amended. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 8-0 to accept the Five-Year Park Assessment Plan as amended.

7. **Youth League Application, Jennie DeVito & Peter Johnson:** There are a limited number of groups that would use the Youth League Special Application. The applications should be sent out to the little leagues and soccer groups in January to fill out and return to the Department by February 1st. Also, the application has been streamlined.

Ellen Lipoma, President, Newton North Little League, commented on other little leagues and who has what on their sites. i.e. porta potties, storage bins, etc.

Motion was made by Francis Rice to accept the Youth League Special Application presented by Peter Johnson & Jennie DeVito. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the Youth League Special Application.

Chairman Stern thanked Peter Johnson & Jennie DeVito for the drafting of a Youth League Application.

8. **DRAFT CPC Application for Upper Falls Playground & Newton Highlands Playground:** Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, drafted an application for

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Community Preservation Funding for a Conceptual Plan for Upper Falls Playground & Newton Highlands Playground. This would include cost, goals, potential improvements to each site, community support, timeline, budget, funding, maintenance and how it benefits the community. A breakdown of prices would be needed for both projects.

Jack Neville asked about the snow-dumping site at Upper Falls Playground. Are there other playgrounds used for dumping snow?

Commissioner Towle commented the other snow dumping sites also include Nahanton Park and Edmands Park. Commissioner to work with Jack Neville regarding Upper Falls Playground.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the DRAFT copy application for Community Preservation Funding with some changes. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the DRAFT application for Newton Upper Falls Playground and Newton Highlands Playground with changes for CPA funding.

Chairman Stern mentioned the CPC favors two combined projects.

9. **Update on Carnival School/Fair Policy, Myra Tattenbaum & Peter Kastner:** Thomas Cahill, Recreation Manager to work with Myra and Peter in December on the Carnival/School/Fair Policy.
10. **NSHS Recreation Complex DRAFT:** Channon Ames, Recreation Manager, to establish new programs at the Newton South Recreation Complex. Activities will be run from January 22nd to March 12th, 2006. Programs for youths include, babysitting course, badminton, flag football, hip-hop sports, kid sports, preschool, open gym and ultimate frisbee. Adults programs include badminton, ballroom dance, clinics, volleyball, First Aid & CPR, line dancing, soccer referee certification, softball umpire certification course and swing dancing. These programs would be self-funded.
11. **New Business:** Turf Proposal NSHS, the baseball field is on Parks & Recreation land. The baseball field is not a high priority at this time to renovate.

Meeting adjourned: 10:00PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, January 23, 2006
7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

AGENDA
Revised

1. **Minutes of the December 19, 2005 Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry**
3. **Newton South High School Programs, Channon Ames, Manager (Postponed until February meeting)**
4. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival**
5. **Albemarle Central Corridor**
6. **CPA Projects, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner**
7. **Proposal for Special Permits**
8. **NSHS Turf proposal, update on status**
9. **Historic Landscaping meeting at City Hall, 1/24/06, 7:00PM, War Memorial, and Newton Centre Playground, 1/26/06, 7:00PM at Mason Rice School**
10. **New Business**

Next Meeting: February 27, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, December 19, 2005
7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Alternates Peter Kastner & Michael Clarke

Also attending: Carol Stapleton, Manager and Mark Kelly, Director of Special Needs

1. **Minutes of the November Meeting were accepted 6-0.**

2. **Commissioner's Report of programs, maintenance and forestry:**
Commissioner Towle reported on marketing and promoting the Department's programs and services. Staff attended a seminar, which was sponsored by the City, on The ABC'S of Customer Service by C. Fred Theiler. The seminar was very informative; be proactive, do first things first, look for win/win solutions. Department held their Annual Open House on December 14th, all commission members were invited. The food was super, Department gaily decorated, very festive, good people. Staff worked on a new Department slogan "Fun for a Lifetime". The Department will be requesting an appropriation of \$100,000 from the Board of Aldermen for two snowstorms. Programs during December school vacation include: activities at Lower Falls Community Center, All Sports Clinic at Pellegrini Fieldhouse and Family movie nights at West Newton Cinema. Postcards went out to the neighbors of Newton South High School informing them of the new Parks & Recreation Activities on Sundays at NSHS. Programs to will be managed by Channon Ames, Recreation Manager. Channon is also our point person for all the work being done at Forte Park. Looking forward to a spring dedication!

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, spoke on the progress of CPA projects.

- Bowen Irrigation: Power was installed
- Newton Centre Playground: Architect is Walker Design Group Associates
- Farlow Park: Qualified for CPA design study
- City Hall Grounds: Historic Landscaping Architects, Pressley Associates
- Gath Pool: Resurfacing the floors, adding benches, grab bar and bubbler
- Community Commons Gazebo: 95% done

- Washington Park: Installing Historic Lighting
- Wellington: Bid signed for resurfacing of tennis & basketball courts
- Forte Park: Dedication in Spring
- West Newton Common: Drilling finished, no water

3. **Mark Kelly, Director Special Needs:** Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director has worked for the Department for four years. He received his Masters at Boston University in Special Education. Mark has received the "Therapeutic Professional of the Year Award" at the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association's Annual Seminar in November of 2005.

Mark gave a power point presentation for the Commission members. The Special Needs Department at Parks & Recreation Department is a known leader in Massachusetts as well as New England. Four highlighted events include; Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament, Paddy's Roadrace, Nonantum Car Show and Awards Night for the participants. Other activities include: ice skating & skiing, cross country skiing & snowshoe Clinic, men's basketball, coed basketball, bowling, track training, swimming, Olympic swimming, rowing, tennis, golf horseback riding, baseball, adult socials, vacation camps, teen travel and summer camps to name a few.

When asked what Mark's goal for 2006 are, he replied, to start new programs for the pre-schoolers. Myra Tattenbaum suggested an article be sent to the TAB Newspaper for publication, highlighting Mark and the Special Needs Program.

The commission members thanked Mark for his outstanding special needs presentation!

4. **Ice Skating Rules & Regulations/Crystal Lake General Rules:** Carol Stapleton spoke about the Community Choir sing-along held at Emerson last Wednesday evening. Dunn Gaherins Restaurant catered the food and everyone sang and had a good time including Mayor Cohen.

Crystal Lake General Rules: The following are changes suggested for the Rules & Regulations at Crystal Lake;

The following would be prohibited:

- a) Jet skis, crew sculls, water skiing, - ADD – snow mobiles, ski mobiles, ATV's, Hovercrafts or the like craft – (exception emergency vehicles)
- b) Internal combustion engines – ADD – on or in the water (exception – emergency vehicles)

If approved by the Commission, Carol will contact the State of Massachusetts Access Board Officials and the verbiage listed above will be the recommended amendment to the current general rules and regulations for Crystal Lake.

Francis Rice motioned to accept the changes to the Rules & Regulations for Crystal Lake. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to accept the changes in the Rules & Regulations for Crystal Lake.

5. **Update on school fairs/carnival permits:** Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner & Tom Cahill will update the permits, however, they are not ready as yet. The goal is to have a new permit ready for February 1st as well as the commission voting on it at the January meeting. Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, School Department, Andrew Stern, Chairman, and Fran Towle, Commissioner, met to discuss the coordination and implementation of our policies and procedures with the School Department.

The Commission would vote on the permit, which would then go to the School Committee for their approval.

Chairman Stern talked about CPC, and the Stearns/Pellegrini project. At the November CPC meeting, the committee was delighted that two playground projects were combined to fit the CPC code. If more funding is needed, the group will reapply next year. Danielle Bailey, Community Development Planner, is doing a revised phasing plan for the Stearns/Pellegrini Project. The Parks & Recreation Department are co-applicants for this project.

(DRAFT) Application for Community Preservation Funding, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner; had minor changes in the draft application for Upper Falls Playground & Newton Highlands Playground Conceptual Plan application for CPC funding.

Commissioner Towle has contacted community groups about the new permit and for the 1st year, they will all receive copies.

The Five Year Park Assessment and Development Planning and Evaluation will be in next month's packets.

6. **Newton South High School Turf Proposal, Chairman Stern:** In reference to the CPC project, Newton South High School Turf Proposal, if the baseball diamond and the track, which is on Parks & Recreation land, is in a new proposal, would the Recreation Commission vote for it? The proposal would be for five million, three million to come from CPA, one million, five hundred thousand from CIP and five hundred thousand from private funding! For soil drainage, part of the reimbursement may come from state funds, which will need to be applied

for. A sub-committee has been set up for the drainage reimbursement. The three million-dollar request is working its way through the CPC.

Commissioner Towle presented a map of the NSHS area in question for everyone to look at. (Stands are not included in this project)

Walter Bernheimer spoke about the long-range view of the projects; are other projects precluded due to the magnitude of this project? He would like to see something in writing about a new proposal. Also, he would not like to see some projects put on hold forever. Need an open mind in the long run and review the higher priorities.

As to the priority items list, NSHS is not high on our list; however, if active citizens are raising monies for their projects, how do we proceed asked Myra Tattenbaum. If the funding were available, approval of NSHS project may change.

Chairman Stern asked for a straw vote to be taken at this time regarding the addition of the baseball field and track in a new proposal for NSHS. The members voted seven against, 1 for the project change.

The suggestion was to have a few commission members talk with Mayor Cohen in his office to discuss the NSHS proposal. Chairman Stern to call Mayor's office on Tuesday to set up a meeting. Walter Bernheimer and Jennie DeVito volunteer to meet with Mayor Cohen to discuss the NSHS project.

7. **New Business:** Chairman Stern wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 27, 2006
7:00PM, Room 209, City Hall

AGENDA

- 1. Newton South High School Turf Proposal**
- 2. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival**
- 3. Tennis Rules & Regulations 2007, Mike Lewitt**
- 4. New Business**

Special Commission Meeting to be held March 9, 2006, 6:30PM in the War Memorial for presentation of Landscaping at City Hall and Newton Centre Playground by architects.

Next regular Commission Meeting: March 20, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 23, 2006

7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Ellen Lipoma, Cesidio Bennington, Margaret Albright, Curtis Betts, Robert Rooney, Chuck Proia, Nunzie Leone and Ralph Caira

1. **Minutes of the December 19, 2005 meeting were accepted 7-0**
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry:** Commissioner reported the City experienced five snowstorms so far. Monies will be requested in the amount of \$233,180 to cover the costs incurred for tree and snow emergencies. Last year the City received twenty-one snow/tree storms. Open House at Newton South Recreation Complex on January 8th was a huge success. Programs start January 22nd under the direction of Channon Ames, Recreation Manager. New programs include badminton, ballroom dancing, indoor sports, babysitting course and others. In the packets is the Department's Upper Falls Playground & Newton Highlands Playground Strategic Design application for submission to the CPA. Also, enclosed is a copy of the Department's Five-Year Park Assessment and Development Planning and Evaluation. The Department's new website, prepared by Tom Cahill, is 95% complete. When Forte Park is finished, the City will be reimbursed monies from the State. Bocce is a very popular sport at Forte Park. Also, a dedication of the park will take place some time year. A donation of \$29,000 has been received by the City to help maintain Millennium Park. The Finance Committee to take up the item this evening. Even though Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer is retiring, he will stay on part time for some small projects. Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, will be the new Chief Administrative Officer. The Department has not yet received its budget costs for 2007. Camp Fair is Tuesday, February 7th, 2-7:00PM at the War Memorial.
3. **Newton South High School Recreation Complex, Channon Ames, Manager:** The presentation by Channon is postponed and will be presented at the February meeting.

4. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** Chuck Proia, Chairman of the St. Mary of Carmen Society Festival, spoke about the entertainment, carnival dates and rides to be held at Pellegrini Park.

The dates of the Carnival are July 12 – 16th, 2006 with set up and take down dates. The festival entertainment is different this year and contracts need to be signed early because of contracts with the different bands. Mr. Proia will have a map showing the placement of the rides for the next commission meeting. New this year will be an enclosed tent with a stage and seating for 488 people. Astro turf will be laid down inside the tent. All concerts to be held inside the tent except the Sunday night concert which will be held on the stage area. The festival committee is looking for corporate sponsorship this year. There are no rock bands this year.

Chairman Stern noted that in Phase II of Pellegrini Park, the field area maybe affected as the field might have irrigation within the next few years. There could be a problem with the carnival putting rides on a new irrigation area. Also, a fee policy is being drafted for private groups using City lands. Fees maybe applied to the Carnival this year. Commissioner Towle met with the St. Mary of Carmen Society members in her office to discuss the layout of the rides, noise, and impact on the neighbors. A map is needed to show where the rides are being placed on the outdoor area.

Mr. Proia said the carnival society is now a 501 C (3) Non-Profit organization. It is the society's mission to raise \$10,000 this year, some monies going towards breast cancer, some towards prostate cancer and other needy organizations. Last year the society netted \$3,000. In reference to parking, the society is looking into off site parking at other locations with a shuttle to the carnival. The society is expecting 30-35,000 people this year at the carnival.

Chairman Stern thanked Mr. Proia and the St. Mary of Carmen Committee for attending the meeting. The committee will return for the February 27th commission meeting along with abutters to Pellegrini Park.

5. **Albemarle Central Corridor:** Curtis Betts spoke to the commission members about the Albemarle Central Corridor. Two years ago a Master Plan, which encompassed the Russell J. Halloran Complex, Avery Woods, Cheesecake Brook, sidewalks, roadways, footbridge, was drawn up of the area by a college student, Judy Kokesh, (Commission did not vote approval of the plan). Efforts were made to see who owned the footbridge at the Albemarle area, which turned out to be the Public Works Department. The banks of the stream are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. The footbridge is a main evacuation route for the

schools and public. Mr. Betts has applied for \$60,000 CPA monies for design work for the central corridor including the bridge. Also, there are drainage issues involved in this plan.

Bob Rooney, Commissioner, Public Works, spoke about the bridge, landscaping, roadway and sidewalk expenses. He noted the land is under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Department. There are no sidewalks on the other side of Albemarle Road. This area, which runs from Watertown Street to Craft Street, is a unique area in the City. A Master Plan would be invaluable to the Albemarle area. Also, he noted that Albemarle is unique and is the Emerald Necklace in Newton!

Mr. Charles Wagner of Harrington Street said that he is receiving a CDBG funds grant for the Green Space stretch, which includes the Eddy Street to Watertown Street stretch. The upper stretch needs to be preserved/restored and linked to all the projects together. Dee Spiro is working with the group on the CDBG funds and hopefully the groundbreaking will start this summer.

Mr. Betts mentioned CPC suggested he meet with the Recreation Commission, to expand the scope and design for this segment. Chairman Stern suggested that Mr. Betts take out the footbridge component of the proposal and ask Public Works to be a co-applicant for the footbridge.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the change in the Albemarle Central Corridor by taking the footbridge component out of the CPA proposal. Peter Kastner seconded the motion.

The commission members voted 8-0 to support the change in the Albemarle Central Corridor by taking the footbridge component out of the CPA Proposal.

The footbridge would be added to the Department of Public Works CPA Proposal for Albemarle

6. **CPA Projects, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner:**

- Washington Park: Making lighting arrangements with Traffic Solutions
- City Hall Landscape, Special Commission Meeting March 9th
- Newton Centre Playground, Special Commission Meeting March 16th
- Farlow Park, Friends meeting is January 26th
- Senior Center – Pressley Associates, Architect
- Thompsonville, ballfield being irrigated

7. **Proposal for Special Permits:** Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner and Tom Cahill, Recreation Manager, worked on a DRAFT proposal for a Special Event Field Permit Policy. Once a field at a park has been irrigated, special events cannot be held on that particular field. It was suggested that Tom e-mail the permit to all of the commission members and they in turn could make any changes/suggestions that they might have. The policy would be for special events on City property.

8. **NSHS Turf Proposal, Update on Status:** A special meeting may be held in February , prior to our regular February 27th meeting. February 21st was suggested as well as inviting Mayor Cohen to discuss the NSHS Turf Proposal.
9. **Historic Landscaping meeting at City Hall, January 24, 2006, 7:00PM** at the War Memorial. Newton Centre Playground meeting January 26, 2006, 7:00PM at the Mason Rice School.
10. **New Business:** No new business

Meeting adjourned: 9:16PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, March 13, 2006
7:30PM, War Memorial at City Hall

(REVISED)*

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the February 27th, 2006 Commission Meeting
Minutes of the March 9, 2006 Commission Meeting
2. Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry
3. Newton East Little League
4. Girls Softball
5. Update on Budget Status
6. Update on CPA Projects
7. Update on Crystal Lake Order of Conditions Permits-Conservation
Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2006
8. Update on Dog Park Task Force
9. Update on Special Permit Application Process
10. New Business

* Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Commission

Next scheduled meeting April 24, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2006

7:00PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Mike Clarke, Alternate, Tom Cahill, Aquatics Director, Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager and absent was Jack Neville, Alternate

1. **Minutes of the January 23, 2006 meeting were accepted 8-0**
2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on Crystal Lake. A management consultant has been hired by the Conservation Committee to address the needs at Crystal Lake, sand, wall, etc. There is a Crystal Lake Grant for this in the amount of \$2,500. The Department is working with the Conservation Commission regarding the beach and a waiver of permits for the State. In January the City applied for an order of conditions to be granted by the Conservation Committee. The City will re-apply for an Order of Conditions on March 23rd. The Department is also working with the Executive Department to get the wall repaired. The same system as last year may be used this year, where the area was fenced off, near the wall.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, will serve as the City's temporary Chief Budget Officer during this budget season, while the City searches for a permanent replacement. Robert will be interim Budget Officer and Sandy Pooler is replacing Mike Rourke as Chief Administrative Officer. The City has recognized Robert's excellent qualifications and leadership abilities in assigning him to the temporary Chief Budget Officer position.

Also, Tom Cahill, Aquatics Director, will be posting a new Parks & Recreation Department website within a week or two. Tom as spent numerous hours on the website. Good work Tom!

3. **Newton South High School Turf Proposal:** Ted Tye, NEWTURF Co-Chair, is seeking the endorsement of the Parks & Recreation Commission to include a baseball/multi-purpose field and track as part of its application for CPA funding.
 - \$2,500,000 of Community Preservation Act Funding – For competition and softball/multi-purpose field expenses.*

- \$2,000,000 of City of Newton fundraising – Committed by Mayor Cohen in order to add the baseball/multi-purpose field, outdoor track and related expenses
- \$500,000 of Community Contributions funds to be raised from youth sports groups, community groups and private contributors. This will fund items such as scoreboards, benches, stands, equipment and related expenses

When asked about the drainage system, the drainage would not go on to neighbor's property and Mr. Tye is working with the Engineering Department on the drainage. The drainage will not flood on a field or downstream.

A motion was made by Walter Bernheimer to approve the New Turf Proposal as follows: "The Parks and Recreation Commission does not object to NEWTURF's proposal to construct an infilled synthetic turf baseball/multi-purpose field and to renovate the existing track, located on land under Parks & Recreation jurisdiction at the current baseball field at Newton South High School. This vote is taken with the understanding that this project is to be funded with non-CPA funds provided by the City of Newton, as well as community contributions. Furthermore, other projects designated as higher priority by the Parks & Recreation Commission for CPA funding shall not be adversely impacted." Motioned seconded by Francis Rice.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the New Turf Proposal.

Chairman Stern thanked Ted Tye and Mayor Cohen for attending the meeting.

4. **St. Mary of Carmen Carnival:** Chuck Proia, Chairman, St. Mary of Carmen Society spoke about this year's upcoming carnival. One of the changes is to move all entertainment from the stage at the park entrance into an enclosed tent in the back of the Hawthorne Gym for the Wednesday through Saturday entertainment. The Sunday entertainment will be held on the stage at the park entrance. The tent will have minimal staking, no damage to the grounds. The society will appear before the Licensing Commission for alcohol sales as well as getting permission from the Police, Light & Noise Ordinance, Music Permit with Board of Aldermen and Inspectional Services. The Fire Department will do the inspection for the tent.

Peter Johnson motioned to approve the St. Mary of Carmen Society Carnival, under the normal permitting requirements, scheduled from July 12th through July 16th, 2006. Francis Rice seconded the motion.

The commission members 7 for and 1 abstaining, Arthur Magni, to approve the request from the St. Mary of Carmen Society to hold their Carnival from July 12th through July 16th, 2006, at the Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground.

5. **Tennis Rules & Regulations 2007, Mike Lewitt:** The Tennis Rules & Regulations for Newton Centre Clay Courts are submitted for commission

approval. The fees are the same as last year with more tennis hours and tournaments involved.

Seasonal Permit Rates

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Resident Adult | \$110.00 |
| Resident Student (under 18) | \$ 60.00 |
| Non-Resident Adult | \$150.00 |
| Non-Resident Student | \$ 95.00 |

Hourly Rates

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

Off Prime Time Membership

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Residents | \$ 65.00 |
| Non-Residents | \$ 90.00 |

Newton has 71 courts, 66 hardsurface and 5 clay.

Newton Centre Clay Tennis Courts

| | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fees | \$ 8,205 | \$ 9,363. |
| Instruction | \$39,523 | \$53,885 |
| Tournament | \$ 400 | \$ 400 |
| Total | \$48,128 | \$63,648 |
| 13% for City | \$ 6,256.64 | \$ 8,274.24 |

| Participation | <u>2004</u> | <u>2005</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Members | 82 | 97 |

Membership Growth

2003 – 60

2004 – 82

2005 – 97

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the Tennis Rules and Regulations for 2007. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to accept the Newton Tennis Rules and Regulations for 2007.

Commissioner Towle commented that Mike Lewitt has done a super job with the tennis program in Newton.

4. **New Business:** Chairman Stern asked about the status of the special permit policy, in which a DRAFT copy will be ready for March meeting. The permit policy will be sent to all commission members to respond to prior to the next meeting. Tom Cahill has already received 3 applications for Cabot, Peirce and Franklin Schools

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM



March 9, 2006

Special Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

**Open to the Public
All Residents Welcome**

**Presentations of Design Alternatives for
Two Public Park Projects Funded by
the Community Preservation Act (CPA)**

Location: War Memorial Auditorium
(handicap access from City Hall's Homer St. parking lot)

6:30-7:30 p.m.

**City Hall and War Memorial Historic Landscape
Preservation Master Plan**

Pressley Associates, Inc., Landscape Architects

8:00-9:00 p.m.

**Newton Centre Playground
Accessibility and Rehabilitation Plan**
Walker-Kluesing Design Group, Landscape Architects

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466
Office: 617 796-1500
Fax: 617 796-1512



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR



FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

LANDSCAPE TREATMENT PROPOSAL NEWTON CITY HALL AND WAR MEMORIAL GROUNDS

March 9, 2006 – 6:30 PM War Memorial Auditorium
Newton Parks and Recreation Commission Open Meeting

Present: Commissioner Fran Towle, Vice Chair Francis Rice, Peter Johnson, Myra Tattenbaum, Jack Neville (Alternate) – 14 Citizens

Francis Rice, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Commissioner Fran Towle introduced Marion Pressley and her associate, Lauren Meier, from Pressley Associates, Inc., a landscape architecture firm specializing in historic preservation, and Carol Schein, Newton Parks and Recreation Project Director. A slide show was presented and the plan focused primarily on “protecting, stabilizing and restoring this significant historic resource for future generations; meeting the community’s current needs for the site; and arriving at a landscape solution that the City’s Park & Recreation Department can maintain with limited resources.”

Time Frame for Project:

- ◆ November 2005 - Start
- ◆ January 2006 - History completed
- ◆ February 2006 - Design alternatives
- ◆ April 2006 - Produce Master Plan with treatment recommendations and maintenance plan for public approval. The site would be divided into areas for projects to be done in stages according to priorities.
- ◆ Fall of 2006 - Funding to be established by CPC (Community Preservation Commission).

Pressley’s Recommendations (highlights):

- Rehabilitation landscape treatment: repair pavements, walls, etc., replace hazardous trees and take out invasive species.
- Ponds treatment: for historical purposes remove vegetation around the shoreline except near the bridges; restore views in and out and ponds as reflective; will allow access for silt and sand removal (so that removals can be done less often and less expensively); enlarge third pond to restore original size and improvement storm water management.
- Lawn areas out back and on Comm. Ave.: stabilize grass panels in order to strengthen those lawn areas currently used for city wide events. Important in terms of maintenance.

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II
WARD 6 - ANDREW STERN, CHAIRMAN

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - MYRA TATTENBAUM
FAVE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466

Office: 617 796-1500

Fax: 617 796-1512



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR



FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND ACCESSIBILITY AND REHABILITATION PLAN March 9, 2006 - 8:00 PM War Memorial Auditorium Newton Parks and Recreation Commission Open Meeting

Present: Commissioner Fran Towle, Vice Chair Francis Rice, Peter Johnson, Myra Tannenbaum, Jack Neville (Alternate), Peter Kastner (Alternate), 25 citizens

Francis Rice, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Commissioner Fran Towle introduced the consultants: Victor Walker, preservation planner and landscape architect of the Walker-Kluesing Design Group and his landscape architect subconsultant Antonia Bellalta of Bellalta 3 Design.

Victor Walker (VW) presented a short slide show. He took the audience for a walk through the park with a quick look at historic photos, plans and existing conditions. He went on to present the alternates. F. Rice, as moderator, told Victor he was to present one alternate at a time and allow for discussion after each. Victor stated that he preferred to present the options all the way through and then to have a discussion but Mr. Rice insisted they be presented one-by-one.

Alternate Site Plan A was presented and discussion followed:

This alternate shows general upgrades and repairs.

(Ripley) What are you saying about a railing at Tyler Terrace? (VW) We're proposing a railing along Tyler Terrace to define the edge of the park.

(Richard Abrahams, long-time Tyler Terr. resident) A barrier might make accessing the park a problem for the large crowds of people that come for large events and enter the park from Tyler.

(Citizen) Concerned about a drop-off for cars at the Hut; the pulling in and out now at the Hut is uncontrolled and dangerous. (VW) Agreed. The condition of the Recreation Center area out front is a mess; trying to control the mess by putting up a barrier.

(A. Zukerman, tennis player) – concerned about flood storage; please explain. VW explained the idea of flood storage in the field; would just be wet like it is now. VW's

COMMISSION MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II
WARD 6 - ANDREW STERN, CHAIRMAN

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - MYRA TATTENBAUM
FAVE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

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NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORKING SESSION

Wednesday April 5, 2006
7:00PM, War Memorial Auditorium

Attending: Walter Bernheimer, Vice-Chair and moderator, Andrew Stern, Jenny DeVito, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, Victor J. Walker, Walker-Kluesing Design Group and Antonia Bellalta, Bellalta 3 Design

Commissioner Towle opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. She introduced the Newton Centre Playground design consultants, Victor Walker and Antonia Bellalta. Using the handout in the Commission's packet entitled *Departmental Recommendations Based on Alternate Site Plans A, B & C* (enclosed), the Commissioner went down the list of park elements that the Department staff and maintenance crew was recommending for incorporation into one final plan. The designers would then present this compromise plan at a final public meeting (to be scheduled for early May).

Issues discussed:

Play Equipment Area:

Andy was much surprised to hear that the to-be-donated-and-privately-constructed universal play area was to be located in the center of the park where the outdated play equipment sits currently. He would prefer to see it located as shown in Alternate B. It was his opinion that the basketball court is not well used for basketball and that there is a court over at Mason-Rice. He envisioned enhancing the existing grove and creating a large passive treed space in the center of the park extending from the most westerly Hammond Brook bridge over to the area between the active ballfields. Others preferred to see the basketball court remain where it is based on public input and Peter Kastner felt that the Commission needed to honor their prior approval of this location given to the donors back in the fall of 2005. Andy wants to see at the April 24th Comm. meeting the final plans for the universal play area that includes an elevation of the play equipment with an adult standing next to it.

HC Parking at the Homer Street Entrance:

The Commissioner wanted hc parking in the park at the Homer St. entrance and felt that about 10 spots including a few hc spots would be appropriate. The Commission felt that at game time the coaches would grab the regular spots and that alone would not alleviate the on-street parking problem. They much preferred to keep green space rather than pave it. When asked, Victor Walker's opinion was that either you choose to have a full-size parking lot to alleviate the traffic issues or provide for none at all. The Commission opted for the hc spaces only.

Little League Ballfield:

The Commissioner stated that the field should remain where it is located despite the fact that it is 185', not regulation size. While one option is to relocate it and make it regulation size (200') she had been advised that merely raising the outfield fence would have the same outcome: to make it more difficult to hit the ball out of the park.

Storm Water Management/Public Safety re the Brook:

Wally raised the issue of storm water management and thought that the Commission should take a stand on that. It was explained that it best be dealt with downstream, outside the scope of this project. He and others would like to see the channel walls lowered/softened so that less fencing would be required.

The designers left the meeting and the Commission went on to discuss the Department's recommendations for the City Hall and War Memorial Historic Landscape project.

The Commission went through items in the second handout in their packet entitled *City Hall and War Memorial Historic Landscape Preservation Master Plan, Departmental Recommendations re Master Plan L-7 dated March 9, 2006 by Pressley Associates, Inc.* and the 11x17 drawing entitled L-7 (enclosed).

Items discussed:

The Commission agreed that the veterans' memorials on the War Memorial west lawn and turnaround should be relocated as recommended. They suggested that the Commissioner follow up her 4/3 meeting with Fred Guzzi, Director of Veteran Services and Alderman Carleton Merrill with a letter re-emphasizing the salient points for Mr. Guzzi to use in his upcoming discussion with the veterans.

Despite the expressed and anticipated resistance, the Commission recommended to replace the existing fountain and plantings out front when, in the future when the time comes, with the original fountain design in keeping with the project's historic preservation goals.

They agreed with the proposal to enlarge the north pond for storm water management purposes.

They concurred with the proposal re no parking around the central fountain area. They thought that the traffic and fire department needed to be called in to substantiate the need to keep the area free of cars.

They concurred with removing non-historic shrub masses around the ponds and replacing the existing goose fence with a less obtrusive one. They were glad to hear that the chosen bench style would be that of the ones out there already—wood teak.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 24, 2006
7:30PM, Cafeteria, Basement, at City Hall*

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the March 13, 2006 Meeting
2. Commissioner Towle's Reports on Program, Maintenance & Forestry
3. Farlow Park Design, Clarissa Rowe, Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc.
4. Farlow/Chaffin Park Plans, Keith Jones
5. Elliot Church Plans for Play Equipment
6. Swimming season fees, Gath Pool & Crystal Lake, Tom Cahill & Carol Stapleton, Managers. Update on Crystal Lake Neighborhood Meeting
7. Budget Presentation by Commissioner Towle (May 9th, 7:00PM, Parks & Recreation Budget before Board of Aldermen)
8. CPA Updates Presentation
9. Special Event Permit Application – status
10. Dog Park – status
11. Newton Highland & Upper Falls Playgrounds CPA Projects presentation to Board of Aldermen April 25th, time to be determined
12. Youth Awards Presentation to be held June 5th, 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers
13. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2006 at Boston College, speaker Liz Walker, WBZ4
14. New Business

***Meeting in Cafeteria at City Hall**

Next Meeting: May 15, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, March 13, 2006
7:00PM, War Memorial, City Hall

Attending: Andrew Stern, Chairman, Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Jack Neville and Michael Clarke, Alternates

Also attending: Thomas Cahill, Aquatics Director, Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager, Robert DeRubeis, Acting Chief Budget Officer and Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters

1. **Minutes of the February Meeting were accepted 7-0.**
Also in the packets are the minutes of the March 9th Special Commission Meeting for architect presentations of Newton Centre Playground and Landscaping at City Hall

2. **Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance & Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the 28th Annual Youth Service Awards to be held on Monday, June 5th, 2006, 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers prior to the Commission Meeting. For the 17th year in a row, Newton received the Tree City USA Award. Marc Welch, Director of Forestry, has done an exceptional job with forestry under extremely tight financial conditions. The 14th Annual Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race will be held on Marathon Monday, April 17th, 8:30AM – 11:30AM, prior to the Marathon Race. The 19th Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament was held on March 11th, at Newton North High School, under the direction of Mark Kelly, Director of Special Needs. Recreation programs are being planned for April vacation week in several of our facilities. The Department's budget cut for FY 2007 is \$148,900, which was a 5% cut. Commissioner to keep the Commission Members posted as to any changes. Also, the Department is working with the Fire Departments, Wire Division, regarding the light situation at Albemarle. The lights went out three times while sports games were in being played last year. A bid will go out to revamp the ballfield lighting at Albemarle. Also, the service box will cost \$30,000 to replace. The wiring and cable costs will be over \$300,000. Captain Jeff Knight is working with the Department to push for a mid-June completion. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake open on Monday, the 2nd week in June.

3. **Newton East Little League Proposal for Bowen Field:** Michael Penta, NELL, made a presentation to the commission members regarding a proposed little league field at Bowen. NELL is the largest of the five little leagues with over 500 children ages 5-12. The league is comprised of 5 divisions, Majors, AAA, AA, Farms and T-ball. There are 76 (slots) fields needed for practice and games. The weekly practice field shortage is 17 fields. The benefits of a second field at Bowen are; a safer playing surface, use of new irrigated area, soccer organizations are in full support of field and location, close to school, meet need for more baseball fields, will not add to the Department's maintenance costs and the field is being donated to the City at no cost!

The field cost to NELL is \$4,200 for fencing, \$3,500 for landscaping for a total of \$7,700. NELL committee members met with Commission Towle last week to discuss the proposal at Bowen. The old field is not being replaced, the new field is in a different area and there is 400' between home plates. Also, the field will not infringe on the soccer area. Walter Bernheimer mentioned the commission needs to approve the final plan for the field. Also, a public hearing will need to be held and soccer members to be invited. Members of the NELL committee were asked to return to the April 24th Commission meeting with their layout plan of placement at the new field at Bowen.

Chairman Stern thanked the NELL committee for their very impressive field presentation.

4. **Newton Girls Softball, Doug Clott, League President:** Newton Girls Softball is requesting permission to place a sign at Cold Spring Park. There were 150 participants; however, there are now 500 Girls Softball participants in grades 1-8. Mr. Clott is asking for a green sign 4' in height, 6' in width, with white lettering. Plaques on sign will not exceed 5" in height and 20" in length using the names of the larger recognition/donor sponsors. The sign will be placed on a storage bin 8' X 8' X 10' near the basketball courts, behind the backstop. The sign and recognition of the larger sponsor plaques placement to be under the direction of the Parks & Recreation Department. Members would like to see the layout and the soccer layout of the fields at Cold Spring Park.

Francis Rice motioned to accept the Newton Girls Softball request to place a sign on a storage bin, at Cold Spring Park, green with white lettering, 4' in height, 6' in width and plaques not to exceed 5" in height and 20" in length, with the names of the larger recognition donors/sponsors. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The commission members voted unanimously, 8-0 to accept the Newton Girls Softball proposal for a sign at Cold Spring Park.

5. **Update on Budget Status:** The Department's budget cut for FY07 is \$148,900. Some cuts entail less lighting for games at night, cut grass schedules, work with soccer groups regarding marking paint and ask the little leagues to help defray the

irrigation costs. It was suggested by Walter Bernheimer to re-visit the Department's fees, and increase them to cover the increase in costs. The fees that are now collected go into the City's General Fund. Myra Tattenbaum suggested the Department contact the businesses surrounding the parks for donations.

6. **Updates on CPA Projects:** Chairman Stern gave updates on CPA Projects; April 4th the CPC meets for the Turf Proposal and Upper Falls & Newton Highlands Proposals; Stearns/Pellegrini Proposal is on the Finance Committee Agenda tonight; Gath Pool shade/flooring will be going out to bid soon and Forte Park is finalizing the irrigation system. The CPA has 4 million per year and 2 million from the State for 2006. The Albemarle Pathways were approved as well as The Greenway-Corridor Brook/Bridge CPA project, submitted by Robert Rooney, Commissioner, Public Works. Chairman Stern mentioned the Parks & Recreation Department is very efficient and astute with their CPA Projects.
7. **Update on Crystal Lake Order of Conditions Permits-Conservation Commission Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2006:** Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager, talked about the January Conservation Committee Meeting, the Notice of Intent for an Order of Conditions which was submitted for Crystal Lake. Another meeting will be held in March. Also, there have been no updates on the wall on left beach at Crystal Lake. Commissioner.
8. **Update on Dog Park Task Force:** Vice Chairman Francis Rice, reported on the Dog Park update. A meeting will be held Tuesday morning at 8:30AM with some of the Aldermen, Commissioner Towle, Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager and Mr. Rice to discuss what lands are available for a dog park. Parks or school grounds will not be used; however, the committee is looking for fenced in areas. There are 8-9,000 dogs in the City and only 2 dog officers to enforce the dog laws.
9. **Update on Special Permit Applications:** Commission members were e-mail the updated version of the Special Event Field Permit Policy to edit and return by e-mail to Tom Cahill at the Department. Chairman Stern returned his edited copy and Tom is waiting for the others. In the folders is a Special Events permit for the Boston Common for members to look over.
10. **New Business:** On March 9th the Parks & Recreation Department held an open meeting to see the architects versions of Newton Centre Playground Accessibility and Rehabilitation Plan and the Landscape Treatment Proposal for Newton City Hall and War Memorial Grounds.

Victor Walker, Preservation Planner and Landscape Architect of the Walker-Kluesing Design Group, presented the Newton Centre Playground Accessibility and Rehabilitation Plan on March 9th as well as Marion Pressley, Landscape Architect in historic Preservation, Pressley Associates, Inc., for Landscape Treatment Proposal Newton City Hall and War Memorial Grounds

The commission members appreciated seeing both proposal concepts. Mr. Walker had information on 3 options for Newton Centre Playground. To then be incorporated into one final plan. Priorities are the handicap accessible tot lot and handicap parking spaces.

The next scheduled Special Commission Meeting is to be held on April 5th, 7:00PM, War Memorial at City Hall to discuss the two projects.

11. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Commission:** Chairman Stern handed the gavel over to the Commissioner. Commission Towle, took the gavel, and asked for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. Jennie DeVito nominated Francis Rice as Chairman of the Commission, Peter Johnson seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 in favor of Francis Rice as Chairman of the Commission.

The gavel was then turned over to Chairman Rice for nominations for Vice Chairman. Francis Rice nominated Walter Bernheimer as Vice Chairman of the Commission. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 8-0 to nominate Walter Bernheimer for Vice Chairman of the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 15, 2006

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the April 24, 2006 Commission Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry
3. Farlow Park Tot Lot
4. Update Budget
5. Update CPA Projects
6. Newton North Indoor Complex Fees 2006-2007
7. Crystal Lake Update
8. New Business

Reminder: Youth Awards Presentation June 5th, 7:00PM in the Alderman Chambers, deadline is May 15th, forms also available on the Recreation website

Mayors Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, May 25th, 7:30AM at Boston College, see Faye Monday evening regarding tickets, \$20.00, checks payable to Newton Community Prayer Breakfast

Next Commission meeting: June 19, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 24, 2006

7:30PM in the Cafeteria at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Andrew Stern, Myra Tattenbaum, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alderman Carleton Merrill, Alderman Scott Lennon, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, Carol Stapleton, Manager

- 1. Minutes of the March 13th meeting were accepted 6-0.**
- 2. Commissioner's Report on Program, Maintenance and Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the following programs: On March 11th, the Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament was held with 18 teams competing, under the direction of Mark Kelly, Special Needs Director; in March, Mark took 20 children skiing at Loon Mountain; also, the Girls Boston College hockey teams help Mark with the Special Needs ice skating program; deadline to return the applications for the Youth Awards is May 10, presentation June 5th; the outstanding April vacation programs included 2 movie nights at West Newton Theatre, with 400 people attending one night and 500 the next night; a visit to the IMAX Theatre, minor league baseball game in New Hampshire; There were 4-5 little league openings last weekend and Newton Central Little League opening on Sunday.

The Newton Conservators Committee met last Thursday at the main library to discuss CPA projects and who benefits from them. The Parks & Recreation Department has 10 CPA projects worth over 1.1 million dollars; Marc Welch, Director of Forestry directs another tree pruning class of 20 people on how to use their skills to prune trees. At the March 23rd meeting with the Conservation Commission, an Order of Conditions was approved for Crystal Lake. The Department plans on opening Gath Pool and Crystal Lake on June 12th. Commissioner Towle received a call from the St. Mary of Carmen Society canceling the tent and the music entertainment scheduled for the Carnival in July. However, they are requesting the music end at 10:00PM instead of 9:00PM. The Newton Centre tot lot design may be moved slightly because of the access road. The Department is working with the designer on this and final design plans are forthcoming.

3. **Farlow Park Design, Clarissa Rowe, Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc:**

Commissioner Towle introduced Clarissa Rowe to Commission Members. Ms. Rowe presented plans for Farlow-Chaffin Park which include the Pedestrian Bridge Study, Pond Water Feature, Floral Garden Study and a Pavillion/Bandstand Structure.

Pedestrian Bridge Study: The study is to investigate the feasibility of replacing the existing pedestrian bridge over the "pond" area located in the center of Farlow Park with a new bridge that is handicap accessible and in character with the historical nature of the surrounding park.

Pond Water Feasibility Study: The goal is to assess the feasibility of renovating the (now dry) historic pond at Farlow Park. If the pond freezes in the winter, ice-skating may be available and the depth would be 18" deep. Also, the pond would be an attractive water feature during the spring, summer and fall months.

New Pavilion Study: A new pavilion/bandstand structure is being studied to provide a shared community space within the Park.

Floral Garden Study: A study of recreating the Chaffin estate floral gardens is also being studied.

The changes would be an asset to the community. However, in discussing the water pond, questions were asked about monies for construction, water, electricity and yearly maintenance.

The bandstand would be 24' in diameter, informal and a gazebo type. On the floral garden study, Clarissa mentioned that one or two rose bushes may be fine, as roses are hard to take care of, and use perennials for the rest. The water for the pond would cost \$30,000 per year; perhaps the water could be recycled. Also, aerators would be needed for the pond. Some monies have already been raised to take care of the park.

Chairman Rice thanked Clarissa Rowe for her Farlow/Chaffin Presentation.

4. **Farlow/Chaffin Park Plans, Keith Jones:** The Friends of Farlow Park are requesting consideration of placing the rebuilt historic gazebo in Chaffin Park. The gazebo is at a temporarily site next to the library parking lot. The Friends of Farlow Park would like the gazebo placed on the west side of the library and needs the Commission's approval.

When Chaffin Park was given to the City it stated no buildings were to be erected on the site. The Law Department ruled that the gazebo is considered a building. The 1923 deed clearly says no buildings to be built on site. Therefore, the gazebo would need to be placed near the parking lot.

The gazebo would be placed on library land, under the jurisdiction of the Library, and the Maintenance Department would cut the grass.

5. **Farlow Park Tot Lot Committee:** Amelia Zolfman spoke about renovating the aging tot lot located in Farlow Park, in memory of five year old Jack Kaczmarek, who passed away two years ago.

The City-owned playground is adjacent to the Eliot Church and used by families in Newton Corner. The swings and play equipment is worn and outdated, there are no benches and very little shade. The update would include new equipment, black chainlink fencing, shaded area, double slides, swings, and a structure with a "Firefighter" theme. In memory of Jack, there would be a plaque and pathway called "Jack's Way." Contributions have been received in the amount of \$15,000.

Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve in principle, the plans for the tot lot located in Farlow Park. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted 8-0 to approve the tot lot project, in principle.

Chairman Rice thanked the tot lot group for their presentation.

6. **Swimming season fees, Gath Pool & Crystal Lake, Tom Cahill & Carol Stapleton, Managers. Update on Crystal Lake Neighborhood Meeting:** Carol Stapleton, Manager: On April 8th, a neighborhood meeting was held at the main library to discuss Crystal Lake. A small sub-committee was formed to deal with neighborhood parking issues and illegal swimmers. The Newton Highlands Area Council will host future meetings.

The Crystal Lake and Gath Pool fees are the same as last year:

- Adults \$45.00
- Students \$20.00
- Seniors over 62, no charge for permit
- Resident Adult Daily \$6.00
- Resident Student Daily \$4.00
- Non-Resident daily \$10.00 each
- Swim Lessons \$45.00 with a season permit and \$60.00 per person without season permit

Chairman Rice motioned to accept the Crystal Lake and Gath Pool fees as recommended. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission voted 7-1, with Walter Bernheimer abstaining, to accept the Crystal Lake and Gath Pool proposed fees, as he felt a further discussion is necessary on fee increases .

Also, Carol mentioned the new website for the Department is up and running! Tom Cahill did an excellent job and it is definitely worth seeing as it outlines everything the Department does for the City.

- 7. Budget Presentation by Commissioner Towle:** Commissioner Towle and Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, presented the Parks & Recreation budget for 2007. Solar Trash Compactors: There is one in front of J. P. Licks Ice Cream in Newton Centre. The Board of Aldermen approved the \$23,000 grant check the Department received, so that five trash compactors can be ordered and put in designated areas. Robert DeRubeis and David Mandatori wrote the grant for the trash compactors. The Department is responsible for picking up trash barrels in the squares, parks & playgrounds with 1 trash truck and 2 maintenance personnel.

Goals & Objectives: To design Upper Falls and Highlands Playgrounds, rental use of buildings, increase recreation programs, more marketing, increase quality & content of website, continue development of the playground build procedural manual, policy procedure for employees, management plan, build playgrounds, maintenance of public grounds, maintenance of sports lighting, work with City Departments for in-house projects, track and expand on Schooldude, monitor & improve irrigation & turf, continue RecStat programs and tracking, continue tree inventory, evaluate and prioritize parks for handicap accessibility.

The Department's budget cut was \$69,100:

- Elimination of pay phones at 6 Recreation buildings \$ 4,500
- Reduction in printed promotional materials at Carr \$ 2,000
- Reduction in frequency of watering locations irrigated by City water \$ 31,000
- Reduction in funding for grass cutting & poison ivy treatment program \$ 12,600
- Reduction in field marking paint \$ 1,000
- Cut leadership for lights at North & South High Schools \$ 8,000
- Reduction in Leadership Account @ Emerson \$ 5,000
- Reduction in Leadership Account @ Hamilton \$ 5,000

The Parks & Recreation Department's budget for 2007 will be presented to the Board of Aldermen on May 9th, 7:00PM at City Hall. All Commission members are invited to attend in support of the budget cuts.

- 8. CPA Updates:** In the folders is a listing of all CPA Projects 2003-2006.
- 9. Special Event Permit Application – Status:** Commissioner Towle reminded the commission members to e-mail Tom Cahill, Manager, with any changes in the Special Event Permit Application.
- 10. Dog Park Status:** Chairman Rice commented that there are only 2 dog officers in the City and no progress has been made on dog parks for the City.

11. **Newton Highlands & Upper Falls Playgrounds CPA Projects presentation to Board Aldermen April 25th, time to be announced:** Andrew Stern, Chairman of the CPC Committee, reported that the Newton Highlands & Upper Falls Playground CPA proposals will be reviewed Tuesday evening, April 25th at 9:30PM.
12. **Youth Awards Presentation to be held June 5th, 7:00PM in the Alderman Chambers.** Deadline for applications is May 10, 2006.
13. **Mayor's Prayer Breakfast to be held on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at Boston College, speaker Liz Walker at Channel 4.** See Faye for tickets, \$20.00.
14. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 19, 2006

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

1. **Minutes of the April 24, 2006 Commission Meeting
Minutes of the May 19, 2006 Commission Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry**
3. **Crystal Lake Update**
4. **Update Dog Park**
5. **Farlow Park Tot Lot - Vote**
6. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees 2006-2007**
7. **Newton Centre Playground Update – Judy Dore, Manager**
8. **Newton East Little League for a second little league field at Bowen**
9. **CPC Projects**
10. **New Business**

Next meeting to be held September 18, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 15, 2006

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alderman Carleton Merrill, Priscilla Leith, League Women Voters, Amelia Zukman, Anna LeBlanc, Margaret Doris and Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager

Absent: Arthur Magni, Andrew Stern, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner and Jack Neville

- **Only four commission members attended the meeting, therefore, votes could not be taken (5 members are needed for a quorum)**

1. **Minutes of the April 24, 2006 Meeting:** To be voted on at next meeting.

2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry:**

Commissioner Towle reported on the following: The Annual Special Needs Banquet was held at Post 440 on May 10th, under the direction of Special Needs Director Mark Kelly. The theme this year was an awards ceremony with a red carpet, trophies, and females in dresses and guys in tuxes. This was an outstanding event that was taped by NewTV. Thanks go to Francis Rice and the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course Committee for their annual donation to the scholarship fund. This year the check was in the amount of \$6,000. Also monies are received from Mary Brown, Senior Director, who runs senior trips to benefit the scholarship fund. Stephanie Pelkowsky is in charge of incoming scholarship monies. There are \$20,000 to 23,000 monies this year for scholarships. Requests for scholarships are due May 19th. The Department was awarded a grant in the amount of \$23,000 to buy 5 Solar Powered Trash Compactors. One compactor is already installed in front of J.P. Licks in Newton Centre. Press conference to be held in a few weeks. Last week Carol Schein and Commissioner Towle met with neighbors regarding the Newton Centre accessibility project.

In the folders are thank you letters from Newton Girls Soccer and Newton Youth Soccer for their donations to provide maintenance and improvements to our fields. Little games are opening all around the City.

This past weekend KidsFun Fest was rained out and there is no rain date. Also, Lyons Playground was flooded because of the rain.

Tom Cahill, Recreation Manager, was hospitalized for heart problems. He was released and is home doing well. Jennie DeVito asked the members to send cards and Faye will e-mail the members Tom's address. Everyone wishes him a speedy recovery.

3. **Farlow Park Tot Lot:** Amelia Zakman spoke about the Farlow Park Tot Lot behind the Elliot Church. The tot lot is not in good shape; there are no swings, shade or benches. The group is proposing new slides, spring riders, swings, toddler swings and a fire truck with an activity center. Trees will be added as well as black fencing. The playground will be a tribute to Jack Kaczmarek, a 4 year old that passed away 2 years ago. The pathway to be called "Jack's Way."

Margaret Doris suggested the group reconsider the plastic slides as the components are a hazard for children with autism and implants. Amelia thanked Margaret for the suggestion.

Alderman Carleton Merrill wholeheartedly approved the Farlow Park tot lot project.

If approved the construction of the playground would start next spring and fundraising will continue. The Committee is looking to raise \$62,000. Chairman Rice thanked Amelia for the tot lot presentation.

To be voted on at next meeting.

4. **Budget Update:** Fran Towle, Commissioner, presented the Departments budget to the Board of Aldermen's Finance Committee on Tuesday, May 9th, 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers. The Commissioner's power point presentation included budget cuts, administrative support, open space program, recreation programs, camps, sports leagues, tennis, therapeutic recreation, senior programs, Newton North & South High complexes, year round programs, farmers markets, Arts in the Parks, maintenance and forestry and CPA projects. Also, Alderman Verne Vance e-mailed the commissioner regarding the excellent job she did at the budget presentation. The e-mail will be forwarded to all commission members.

5. **Update CPA Projects:**

- Forte Park: Going over punch list, going for reimbursement
- Bowen: Working on punch list
- Albemarle Classroom: Electrical problem, Inspection Services is checking on the problem. Drinking Fountains and planters will be in by the end of June.
- Stearns/Pellegrini: Working on phase plans
- Wellington: Breaking ground, Ted Klukinski is a real plus to the project and he is moving forward with the plans. Carol Stapleton is the project manager

- Washington Park: Lights bids are being worked on by Marc Welch
 - Gath Pool: The flooring and benches went out to bid, shade will be taken care of after the season ends. Tom Cahill is the project manager.
 - City Hall Landscaping: Final public meeting
 - Newton Centre Playground Access: Public Meeting in June
 - Farlow Park: Working on final plans
 - Newton Highlands/Upper Falls Playgrounds and Albemarle Corridor CPA projects to go before the Finance Committee Monday, May 22nd
- Commissioner Towle will speak at the next meeting about upcoming CPA Projects for October.

6. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees 2006-2007:** Recommend fees are the same as last year. Walter Bernheimer asked for a unit chart for the last 3 years. Scholarships are available for those who meet the qualifications. Newton North Indoor Complex fees to be voted on at next commission meeting.
7. **Crystal Lake Update:** On Tuesday, May 23rd at 11:00AM, the State Office of Environmental Affairs will make a site visit to Crystal Lake. The purpose of the inspection is to determine if the area is significant to the interests of the Wetland Protection Act and to informally discuss the relevant issues.

Chairman Rice recommended the Department submit a proposal to the Mayor as to what we would like to do with the property at 20 Rogers Street if the site became available to the City.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 19, 2006

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Arthur Magni, Andrew Stern, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Jennie DeVito and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Judy Dore, Recreation Manager, Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, Nico Gargaro, Recreation Intern/Summer, Priscilla Leith, League Women Voters

1. **Minutes of the April 24, 2006 Commission Meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0**
Minutes of the May 19, 2006 Commission Meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0
2. **Commissioner's Reports of Program, Maintenance and Forestry:**
Commissioner Towle reported on the following: At the Mayor's weekly press conference, Newton Youth Soccer and Newton Girls Soccer were both acknowledged and thanked for their generous donations of \$40,000 to the improvements to provide high quality fields, which include irrigation, slice seeding and maintenance. Tuesday, July 4th activities include Kids Morning, Open-Air Market & amusement rides, picnic, band and the fireworks at 9:00PM. During the month of May, the rain put a damper on all outside activities/leagues and marking of fields. David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance and Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, are working with Contractors to restore the lights at the Russell J. Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex. The cost of a new service box is \$30-35,000. The Department has a new grass contractor, Elm Service, North Andover, which starts in July. Also, the new Forestry contractor is D & B from Quincy. Commissioner complimented Marc Welch, Director of Forestry, for the pruning classes he is holding with the public. Commissioner Towle noted that Marc also assisted with the coordination of the Parks & Recreation Budget for 2006-2007.
3. **Crystal Lake Update:** As most everyone is aware, the land owner at 20 Rogers Street, Patrick Hannon, has petitioned the courts to deny the City access to the left beach area at Crystal Lake. The hearing was held on June 14th at the Land Court in Boston. The Judge denied Mr. Hannon's petition at this time.

The aqualator, which is being evaluated by the State, has not been turned on as of this date. If there should be a problem with turbidity and/or bacteria counts, David Naparstek, Health Commissioner will make a determination if the machine should be turned on. Hopefully a decision on the aqualator's use from the State should be forthcoming.

4. **Update on Dog Park:** Chairman Rice, who is also on the Dog Park Committee, was not at the last dog park meeting, in which the committee voted on a couple of items. Chairman Rice will let the Commission know the items voted on at the last meeting.
5. **Farlow Park Tot Lot Vote:** Presentation of the Farlow Park Tot Lot was held in April and May. As there was not a quorum last month, the project will need to be voted on at this meeting.

Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, spoke on the Chaffin property, which is on the Historical Register. The suggestion is to move 20', but not change the footprint. There is a decorative fence, not wrought iron, and the points are facing down. The goal is to raise \$48-\$55,000 for this project. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, is the certified representative for the safety of the equipment on playgrounds. The plaque would be very small; however, it would be in memory of a little boy who lost his life at age five.

Arthur Magni motioned to approve the Farlow Park Tot Lot. Jack Neville seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7-0.

6. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees:** Tom Cahill, Aquatics Manager, is doing well after his hospitalization. Tom is not recommending raising an increase in fees this year for Newton North Indoor Complex. Motion was made by Peter Johnson to approve the NNIC fees for the 2006-2007 season. Andrew Stern seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the NNIC fees.
7. **Newton Centre Playground Update, Judy Dore, Manager:** The project manager Judy Dore, Playground Manager, spoke about the handicap accessible proposed play equipment for Newton Centre Playground. There will be an area for tots and an area for older children. This would be the first Universal Play Equipment in Newton. A final design was displayed at the meeting. Deborah Millar was the big donor to the handicap accessible playground. Also, she requested different colors of the equipment. Carol Schein mentioned some parts of the equipment are an aqua blue, which is the only color available for that piece. The height of the older children's platform is 15 feet. Wheelchairs and walkers can be used on the equipment.

Commissioner Towle has been working with the neighbors at the meetings regarding the colors of the play equipment. Some groups want different colors and the policy does recommend the green and tan colors.

Andrew Stern, is against the bright colors as it is not within the Departments policy of tan and green to blend in with the environment. One of the colors of some parts of the equipment was purple, which Mr. Stern objected to at this time.

Judy Dore mentioned that the colors of the equipment have been toned down dramatically. The donor originally wanted yellow, red and orange in the beginning of the project.

Myra Tattenbaum suggested we compromise with the major donor about the choosing of the colors of the play equipment. Carol Schein mentioned that the aqua blue color in the diagrams couldn't be changed as that is the only color available for that piece. Trees and low shrubs would be planted after the equipment is installed.

Stephanie Pelkowsky said Franklin School has play equipment for the visually impaired and that it was necessary to paint the steps orange for some children.

Andrew Stern motioned to follow the play equipment policy and go with the green and tan colors, unless a different color is proven to be necessary for disabled children. Peter Kastner seconded the motion.

Arthur Magni suggested that more answers are needed on the colors of the play equipment before a vote can be taken by Commission Members.

Judy Dore and Carol Schein will meet with Ms. Miller to discuss the color scheme.

Commission members voted 2 for and 4 against, with Peter Johnson abstaining, to go with green and tan colors for the play equipment at Newton Centre Playground.

After a lengthy discussion, it was suggested that a special meeting (1/2 an hour to an hour) be held regarding the play equipment colors as the Commission needs more information before voting on it.

Peter Kastner volunteered to contact The Carroll Center for the Blind and other agencies for more information of play equipment colors and report back to the Commission.

Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, gave a brief project review for Newton Centre Playground Accessibility and Rehabilitation Plan. Newton Centre

Playground is a significant historic public landscape that expresses the design vision of the Olmsted firm.

The purpose of the plan is to develop and recommend accessibility and rehabilitation for entire playground. There would be 3 phases; 1. Improves accessibility to and within the playground. 2. 6' wide paved pedestrian routes from Bowen Street into the playground. 3. Completion of improvements.

8. Newton East Little League-A request for a second little league field at Bowen:

Mike Penta, Supervisor of Fields and Jim Marks, Vice President, NELL along with Landscape Architect, Andrew Leonard, presented a diagram showing the location of the second field at Bowen. At this time, the area has an irrigation system. NELL will take absorb the cost of the second field. They came up with the best use of the 2nd field so that 2 games could be played simultaneously. Also, soccer will be able to use the area so that the field will have maximum use. The field would be kitty cornered from one end to the other. Soccer would be located between the 2 fields on a rotation basis. There would be a wrap around backstop, 12' high with 6' wings. Dugouts would be 16' with 8 wings, black in color.

Commissioner Towle is working with the NELL and will go to the site with David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, Derek Mannion, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, Mike Penta and Jim Marks to see the layout of the 3-way site. The bench would be near home plate. Mike Stoller, of Newton Girl's Soccer, is involved with this project. Two player's benches will be installed behind the fence area.

Lee Breckinridge, Oakmont Road asked about adults using this field area. Mike Penta said only 11-12 year olds would be allowed to use this field. Ms Breckinridge commented that neighborhood makes great use of the Bowen field area for passive recreation activities. Mike commented the second field is in the least intrusive area, however, there will be cut outs, bases, pitchers mound, compact backstop and mostly the area will be grassy. The benches that are there are permanent.

Motion was made by Peter Johnson to approve the NELL request for a 2nd field at Bowen with black chain link fencing and items previously discussed, under the direction of Commission Fran Towle and her staff. Andrew Stern seconded the motion.

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the NELL request for a 2nd field at Bowen under the direction of Commissioner Fran Towle and her staff.

Chairman Rice thanked the NELL committee for attending the meeting.

9. **CPC Projects:**

- Forte Park: This project should be completed by end of the month.
- Bowen Irrigation Project is completed.
- Albemarle Outdoor Classroom Gazebo: Two items remain on the punch list.
- Wellington Park Improvements: Bids has gone out and construction should begin this summer.
- Washington Park Lighting Bid will go out this week.
- Gath Pool & Bathhouse Improvements: Floor is finished. The bid for benches and shade canopy was sent out but there were no bids on the project therefore, the project will need to go out for re-bid
- City Hall Landscaping: Marion Pressley has completed the plant design
- Newton Centre Playground Accessibility & Rehabilitation Plan: Designs are in and complete
- Farlow Park Master Plan: Committee is working with the Commission
- Stearns/Pellegrini Master Plans: Phase I of plans complete

There will be an overview of CPC proposals in October. At the September meeting managers will present proposals for City Hall, Newton Centre Playground and Farlow Park. In October the projects can go to CPC.

Andrew Stern mentioned the CPC is being sued by 10 taxpayers regarding the use of funds for Stearns/Pellegrini's Project.

Andrew Stern proposed a motion to meet in Executive Session to discuss the Stearns/Pellegrini Project. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to go into Executive Session. Members included Arthur Magni, Peter Johnson, Chairman Rice, Andrew Stern, Myra Tattenbaum, Jack Neville and Peter Kastner.

The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0 to go out of Executive Session. Members included: Arthur Magni, Peter Johnson, Chairman Rice, Andrew Stern, Myra Tattenbaum, Jack Neville and Peter Kastner.

Andrew Stern proposed a motion in favor of applying for CPC funds or to take whatever action is necessary to purchase the property at 20 Rogers Street which is located next to Crystal Lake Bathhouse and Beach Area. Jack Neville seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 7-0.

Stephanie Pelkowsky, Farlow Park: The pond with a bridge is in the Master Plan. The pond may not be feasible as it would cost \$40,000 per year to maintain and the Department does not have funds to maintain the pond. The shrubs would need to be maintained once a year. The community does maintain the park with volunteers. There are 2 major cleanups per year with the neighborhood volunteers. Farlow Park is historic and there will be signs around the park and will also have some new pathways. Phase II includes restoring the Eldridge Street entrance, which was designed in 1871. Flowers will be placed at the entrances to

the park. The Department will work with the Friends regarding the pond and maintenance issues.

- 10: New Business:** Commissioner Towle presented Andrew Stern with a clock/pen set for being Chairman of the Commission for 2005-2006. Andrew Stern thanked everyone!

Meeting adjourned at 11:00PM

SPECIAL NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Tuesday, August 15, 2006
8:00AM, Room 202 at City Hall**

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Andrew Stern, Myra Tattenbaum, Arthur Magni, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Mayor David B. Cohen, Judy Dore, Recreation Manager, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager and Margaret Doris, Playground Project at Albemarle

AGENDA

1. Discussion of colors of play equipment for Newton Centre Playground

Meeting called to order at 8:00AM by Chairman Francis Rice.

Recreation Manager, Judy Dore, spoke about the play equipment colors for Newton Centre Playground. Diagrams were shown to the Commission members of the play equipment and the Teal and Purple color scheme.

Andrew Stern recommended the tan/green colors, for the fifteen-foot play equipment, which are the colors recommended in the Parks & Recreation Department's Safety Policy for Playground Apparatus.

Mayor David B. Cohen spoke regarding the Newton Centre Playground project. There are extraordinary Newton citizens who have invested, monies, time, effort and a labor of love in a project that would benefit all residents. Plans have been in progress for almost three and a half years now and under these circumstances, it would benefit the City to be flexible, as this is a great play equipment project for children with disabilities.

The mayor commended the efforts and commitment of those citizens involved with the playground project. It is pleasant to see how many people step forward to volunteer their time and efforts for a worthwhile project. An example of working together as volunteers is the Parks & Recreation Commission. We are all trying to make the City better by improvements to the City and working with volunteer's who are committed to their projects. The Newton Centre Playground Project group has shown much effort in planning of this project

Andrew Stern has praise for the donors and understands the lack of City finances for play equipment at playgrounds and the need for outside donations.

Peter Kastner noted the Commission has a clear responsibility to the public. The Newton Centre Project was approved without a Master Plan. The area is historical and we should counter our general objections to make the historical area project use less bright colors.

Walter Bermheimer asked what the objections to the colors were? He expected to see more colors in the plans than what was shown in the diagrams. Also, he did not see the colors as offensive.

Resident Nancy Haug spoke about an accessibility and rehabilitation plan that asks that bright colors not be used, as they are not appropriate. In using the colors presented there may be regrets in later years.

Andrew Stern mentioned there is an application in CPA in the amount of one million dollars, for monies in the historic preservation category, and the color scheme of Teal and Purple that was presented may not pass. The colors are not in keeping with the historic nature of the park.

Chairman Rice noted the colors presented are the manufacturer's colors. The question is, do we want to take a vote now on the colors of the play equipment at Newton Centre?

Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, talked about colors at another historical playground. The commission passed the plans and colors, which are under the historic guidelines, and the colors are bright. I agree with Mayor Cohen that community support is needed when there are no monies available for community generated projects. A compromise is needed as a lot of work has already gone into this project.

Margaret Doris noted this is a handicap accessible project, the colors have already been compromised, and no plastic parts are being used. Also, there was not a free color palate to choose from. The gazebo at Albemarle has limited colors and is visually accessible. The colors red and green cannot be used together for the visually impaired and a subdued palate is best.

Andrew Stern mentioned, David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, Parks & Recreation Department, recommends the use of green and tan for play equipment. The green and tan colors are easier to repaint when needed. Also Mr. Stern asked about a

yearly maintenance fund for the project. There is a yearly maintenance fund in the amount of \$1,000 per year.

Margaret Doris has worked with David Mandatori amicably on other playground projects. If an equipment part is broken Margaret gets a call and then refers the information to David Mandatori.

Walter Bernheimer mentioned that play equipment project committees can use most colors. The guidelines can be narrowed and funds are needed to repair/repaint the equipment.

Resident Lisa Gordon questioned the safety of the 15' tower roof. The roof is in the plans by Creative Recreation Inc and Landworks.

Resident Carol Barenberg was very excited about the project, thought it was a positive plan and hoped the commission passes the Newton Centre project.

Mrya Tattenbaum moved to approve the question to take a vote on the colors of the play equipment at Newton Centre Playground. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7 for and 1 opposed (Andrew Stern opposed).

Myra Tattenbaum motioned to approve the Newton Centre play equipment colors as shown in the plans presented. Jack Neville seconded the motion.

The commission approved the motion, 6 for and 2 opposed, (Peter Kastner and Andrew Stern). Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:30AM.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
September 18, 2006
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

1. **Minutes of the June 19, 2006 meeting, June 30th Meeting and August 15th Special Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance forestry and the closing of Gath Pool (last day Monday, September 4th) & Crystal Lake (last day Sunday, August 20th)**
3. **CPA Projects:**
 - **Presentation of Phase I, construction of Farlow Park**
 - **Presentation of Phase I, construction of City Hall Landscaping Master Plan**
 - **Presentation of Phase I, construction of Newton Centre Playground Accessibility and Rehabilitation**
4. **CPA Project Updates**
5. **Crystal Lake Update**
6. **Dog Park Update**
7. **Newton Centre Playground Update**
8. **Vacancy – Ward 6, Andrew Stern resigned**
9. **Representatives for CPA and Angino Farm**
10. **New Business**

Next meeting is Monday, October 16, 2006

**SPECIAL
NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Friday, June 30, 2006
8:00AM, Room 202 at City Hall**

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Andrew Stern, Myra Tattenbaum, Arthur Magni, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Judy Dore and Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Managers, and David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance

1. Discussion of colors for the play equipment at Newton Centre Playground Meeting called to order at 8:00AM.

Andrew Stern motioned to follow the Parks & Recreation Guidelines for dark green & tan play equipment with the exception of the aqua/teal coloring, in line with the Safety Policy and the safety markings on walkways. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

In reference to the Safety Policy For Playground Apparatus and Development and Design Requirements for Playground Apparatus, page 7, does not say you have to use green/beige, the Maintenance Division recommends green/beige colors for play equipment.

Judy Dore presented the diagram that shows the play structure in green/tan & aqua colors and a catalog to show the commission members. If green and tan are the only ones used, Deborah Millar will not release or approve funds.

David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, recommends the green/tan colors. In other playgrounds around the City, green & tan colors are used; however, there are many different shades of the green & tan. If bright colors are used, it seems to attract more graffiti. It takes various paint colors to take the graffiti off the brightly colored equipment. Earthy colors are not offensive to the neighbors.

The Canadian Institute for the Blind's colors coordination for play equipment is inconclusive per Peter Kastner. If all the children are visually impaired that is a different situation. He described the Boston Common playground as colorful with

a wrought iron fence with decorative circles. The American Disability Act booklet does not say to use specific colors.

Stephanie Pelkowky mentioned other playgrounds have other colors other than just tan/green.

Myra Tattenbaum asked if monies would be set aside for maintenance, and the answer was approximately \$1,000 would be in the account on a regular yearly It was asked if the trust fund accumulated interest and who receives the interest. That information was not known at this time.

Commissioner Towle mentioned this is a unique trust fund for handicap play equipment at Newton Centre Playground. The Safety Policy will be used as a guideline, colors can be added to the equipment. A non-profit status will be set up for the trust fund.

Each year marathon monies are set aside for four play areas around the City. The PTO's generally raise funds for the remainder of the monies.

Andrew Stern mentioned the Police are called every night about people in the playground after hours. Also, Newton Centre Playground is a Historic Playground. He is concerned with the color of the railings and ramps in the play equipment and would like to stick with the guidelines in the safety policy.

Chairman Rice commented the play equipment at Albemarle includes purple, teal and orange and others.

Peter Kastner suggested more information is needed to discuss play equipment colors.

It was suggested the Commission rely with the guidelines of green/tan for play equipment and the exception would be to add the teal color.

Commissioner Towle mentioned the original color tones have been drastically reduced and they are not far off from muted colors.

Andrew Stern's Motion: Vote was taken and there was a tie. Three votes for the green/tan colors were – Andrew Stern, Peter Kastner and Arthur Magni. The three nay votes were Myra Tattenbaum, Francis Rice and Jack Neville.

Arthur Magni suggested some color accents could be added. David Mandatori and Peter Kastner suggested green/beige with some highlight colors.

After a brief discussion it was decided another meeting needed to be held and a color palate scheme will be needed.

Judy Dore to discuss with Debbie Millar about the play equipment colors.
Members will be e-mailed with the date and time of the next meeting to discuss
the colors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45AM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 16, 2006

7:30PM, Room 222 at City Hall*

AGENDA

1. Minutes of September 18, 2006 meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry
3. Farlow/Chaffin Park, CPA Proposal
4. Newton East Little League requesting to be allowed to leave the batting cage at Newton Centre up throughout the year. Also, requesting to replace the backstop and dugout fences on the primary baseball field at Bowen Elementary School.
5. Crystal Lake & Gath Pool summer figures
6. Special Permit – Tom Cahill, Myra Tattenbaum
7. CPC update
8. Scholarship Report
9. Dog Park – Francis Rice
10. Angino Farm Representative
11. New Business

***ROOM CHANGED TO 222**

Next Meeting: November 20, 2006

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
September 18, 2006
7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Myra Tattenbaum, Arthur Magni, Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Ben Weisbuch, Alderman, Stephanie Pelkowsky and Carol Stapleton, Managers, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters

1. **Minutes of the June 19th, June 30th and August 15th Commission Meetings were accepted unanimously 6-0.**

2. **Commissioner's Report of Program, Maintenance and Forestry:**
Commissioner Towle reported on the following: Super summer for swimming at Gath Pool and Crystal Lake. St. Mary of Carmen Carnival was successful as well as the 4th of July Celebration. Forte Park grand opening dedication was held on August 17th. The park now has new soccer and softball fields, a basketball court and three bocce courts all with lighting, refurbished tot lot and an exercise pathway with fitness stations. It was a fun evening enjoyed by everyone.

Crystal Lake closed August 20th and Gath Pool on September 4th. Maintenance Division revised their turf-mowing schedule to provide better product for field users and increased the summer turf management program at well water sites with our state contractor. Forestry Division focused on backlog of hazardous tree removals and increased the Citizen Pruner Program.

3. **Presentation of CPA Project Phase I, Construction of Farlow Park:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, presented the design plans for Phase I. The CPA funding request for Phase I is \$304,655. Some monies will be received from CDBG funding. The plans would tie the two parks together. Monies to bring back the pond are overwhelming i.e. it would take 1.6 million gallons of water per year to maintain. One of the closed entryways would be opened again for pedestrians. In Phase I there would be new historic sign design and installation, few added trees, shrubbery and stump removals. Proposed schedule for final design and engineering 2007-08.

Keith Jones: The community has been taking care of the plantings, trees and maintenance of the two parks for the last 10 years. Phase I requires no maintenance. Underwood School uses the tot lot area, which is part of the park.

It was mentioned that Phase I also includes engineering designs, soil and water testing, feasibility of well. Phase I does not have any maintenance, however, in Phase II & II \$6,484 will be needed to fertilize the trees.

Motion was made by Jennie DeVito to approve the Phase I plans for Farlow/Chaffin Parks for CPC. Arthur Magni seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Presentation of Phase I, Construction of City Hall & War Memorial Historic Landscaping Preservation Master Plan, presented by Fran Towle,

Commissioner: The CPA request for funding is \$1,140,748 for design development, bid documents and construction by independent consultant and contractor. Phase I includes the ponds and parkland improvements: restores & stabilizes ponds' embankments, ponds' perimeter planting, bridge repair, signage, rehabilitate walkways for improving access, prunes/removed hazardous trees, installs new trees & shrubs, restores lawn areas & provides for stabilized maintenance access routes. This would be a low maintenance plan based on the historic design intent of Olmsted's Plan.

Proposed City funding for Department of Public Works for removal and disposal of silt from City Hall ponds \$142,500.

Peter Johnson motioned to approve the CPA plan for the City Hall and War Memorial Historic Landscape Preservation Master Plan. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Presentation of Phase I, Newton Centre Playground Accessibility and

Rehabilitation Plan, presented by Fran Towle, Commissioner : The CPA funding request is \$616,000 for design development, bid documents & construction of access improvements by independent consultant and contractor. Funding includes, creating an accessible route interconnecting all the park's major accessible facilities with the Mason Rice parking lot, Homer and Centre Street entries, create emergency/service route from Centre Street over the brook via new vehicle bridge, connecting all major facilities, create new entrance and access to the park's north side fields via new Hammond Brook pedestrian bridge near Mason Rice parking lot, provide shade, character and form to the landscape with trees, shrubs and restored lawn areas. Pathways would be 6' wide on one side and 12' for vehicles. Pathways would be made of asphalt.

Andrew Stern raised question regarding cost and timing of application for CPA funds. Also, why not granite pathways instead of asphalt? Why not use better materials for the handicap accessible pathways. What is the cost difference between granite and asphalt? Why not go the extra mile now with better materials for the handicap pathways. Also requested was the elevation plan for the donor provided shrubbery for the fifteen-foot, one and half story structure.

Several meetings have been held with the public and this is the first time that the commission has heard about granite on the pathways. Also, what other options would work, are there other funds available for more monies for this project.

The main entrance into the park would need to be asphalted. Handicap parking spaces will be at the Mason Rice School and 2 on Bowen Street.

Jennie DeVito recommended that the commission proceed with the plan and see what the CPC says that we can or cannot do regarding the plan.

Myra Tattenbaum suggested checking with the designer regarding as to what they might use on historic surfaces for handicap accessible pathways. Commissioner Towle will check with the designer.

Peter Johnson motioned to accept the Phase I, Newton Centre Playground Accessibility and Rehabilitation Plan as presented.

Jennie Devito seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6-0

4. **CPC Project Updates:**

- **Forte Park:** Dedication was held on Thursday, August 17, 2006, 6:00PM with a ribbon cutting by Mayor David B. Cohen
- **Bowen Irrigation:** Done
- **Albemarle Corridor:** RFP to go out
- **Williams School Outdoor Classroom:** RFP is being reviewed by committee
- **Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Improvements:** In litigation
- **Wellington Park Improvements:** Basketball & tennis courts finished, working on walkways
- **Gath Pool & Bathhouse Improvements:** Need to go out to re-bid on benches and shade canopy. Floor was completed in June
- **Farlow Park:** Feasibility Study and proposed plans have been completed
- **Washington Park Lighting:** Overbid, rebidding
- **City Hall Landscaping:** Designs have been completed
- **Newton Upper Falls & Highlands Playground:** Select design

5. **Crystal Lake Update:** Carol Stapleton, Manager, reported on the bacteria level at Crystal Lake this summer. Carol worked closely with David Naparstek, Health Commissioner, all summer regarding the water quality. On Thursday, Carol will

go before the Conservation Commission regarding a design for run off of water from the parking lot into the lake. A meeting will be held at Crystal Lake with Commissioner Towle, Nick Parnell, Building Commissioner, Carol Stapleton, Manager, and Chairman Rice to discuss the Crystal Lake Facility.

Myra Tattenbaum suggested charging the seniors a small fee to swim at Crystal Lake.

6. **Dog Park Update:** Chairman Francis Rice will be attending the next Off-Leash Dog Task Force Meeting. Minutes of last meeting and History of the task force are in the folders.
7. **Newton Centre Playground Update:** Plan approved by Commission to go forward to the CPA Committee.
8. **Vacancy – Ward 6, Andrew Stern resigned from the Parks & Recreation Commission.** Will seek replacement member for Ward 6.
9. **Representatives for CPA and Angino Farm:** Commission members not available at this time to be a representative for the Angino Farm Committee.

Motion was made by Arthur Magni to elect Walter Bernheimer as the Parks & Recreation Department's representative to the CPA Committee. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

10. **New Business:** Commissioner Towle mentioned Mary Brown, Manager/Senior Director for the Department will be retiring on October 10th after 23 years of devoted service. There will be a farewell party for Mary on Thursday, October 19th, 2:00PM – 5:00PM at Post 440. Everyone is welcome to attend. Resumes for the Recreation Manager/Senior Director position are forth coming. Commission members are invited to the yearly lunch & golf at Newton Commonwealth Golf Club on Tuesday, September 26th, 12:00PM. The Special Permit Committee will meet and present the permit at the next commission meeting. Commissioner Towle will be attending the yearly Massachusetts Recreation & Parks Association meeting on Monday, September 25th in Springfield.

Ellen Lipoma, Newton North Little League: Spoke to Commission members about the vandalism at the James Murphy field. There is a security light out near the utility pole; the door gets broken to the storage shed all the time. The door is on special order, went out to bidders, very expensive! The batting cages have been cut and torn.

The league is fund raising, as monies are needed to cover expenses. Tom Cahill, Manager, has called Jeff Knight, who is in charge of the City's lights, regarding the much-needed light being out.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, November 20, 2006
7:30PM, City Hall, Room 209

AGENDA*

1. **Minutes of the October Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry**
3. **Update – Crystal Lake Property**
4. **Angino Farm Representative**
5. **Special Permit Report, Myra Tattenbaum**
6. **CPA - Updates**
7. **Building Fees, Permit Fees**
8. **New Business**

Next Commissioner Meeting: December 18, 2006

***Mayor's State of the City Address, 8:00PM**

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

October 16, 2006

7:30PM, Room 222 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Alternate Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Jennie DeVito Peter Kastner and Michael Clarke

Also attending: Ben Weisbuch, Alderman, Scott Lennon, Alderman, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, Carol Stapleton, Manager, and Ellen Lipoma, President Newton North Little League

1. **Minutes of the September 18, 2006 were accepted unanimously 6-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report of Program, Maintenance and Forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the following: Paddy's Road Race was held on Sunday, October 15th with over 1400 participants. Harvest Fair was held October 14th & 15th at Newton Centre Green. Youth Autumn Invasion was held at City Hall with local bands from 12-5PM. Also, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Wellington Playground on Sunday, October 15th with Mayor Cohen attending. All weekend events were highly successful and the weather was outstanding.

On Thursday, October 19th, a retirement party will be held for Mary Brown, Senior Director/Manager, Parks & Recreation Department, from 2-5PM at Post 440. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Department is starting the interview process for the new Senior Director.

Forestry is working on preservation pruning, and Maintenance is busy with soccer and weekend games.

Chairman Rice commented on Cheesecake Brook. He noted that the walls of the brook did not look very secure. Commissioner Towle reported that the brook is under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Water/Sewer Department. She also noted that when the new storm drainage fee is implemented, the brooks will be put on a maintenance schedule. Chairman Rice suggested the Commissioner send a note to Public Works regarding the condition of the brook.

3. **Farlow/Chaffin Park, CPA Proposal:** Keith Jones spoke about the CPA Project for Farlow Park, Phase I. He apologized that the design and construction of the bridge

were not in the original plans. In a meeting since, to begin fundraising, it was asked that the bridge/pond be in Phase I so that they can pursue the design and construction of the bridge. The cost would go from \$350,000 to \$512,000.

Question was asked if you could ice skate under the bridge, would it be high enough? Mr. Jones did not know the exact height of the bridge, but believed you could skate under it. Question was asked about the height of the bridge now, which is 3 and ½ feet. Mr. Jones proposed to add 3 or more feet to the height of the bridge. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, revised the spreadsheet for tonight's meeting. Instead of three phases, there would be Phase I and II only. The bridge would be in Phase I.

Myra Tattenbaum, motioned to accept the change in the Farlow/Chaffin Park proposal to include the bridge in Phase I of the proposal. Arthur Magni seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

4. **Newton East Little League is requesting to be allowed to leave the batting cage at Newton Centre up throughout the year. Also, there is a request to replace the backstop and dugout fences on the primary baseball field at Bowen Elementary School:** Mike Pinta, NELL, spoke on the request to leave the batting cage at Newton Centre up throughout the year. The batting cage was installed in March of 2004. Each year the cage is put up and taken down. The net weights about 300 pounds and there is wear and tear on the cage as well as the sleeves the cage is set into. The NELL pays for a crane to take the cage down and put back, which is \$700.00. The cost to replace the netting is \$4,000.00.

It was asked if it is fair to the neighbors to look at the batting cage all year. Ellen Lipoma noted that snow does collect on the top of the netting.

It was suggested that a meeting be held with the abutters of the Newton Centre field by the Newton East Little League, to inform them of their request before the Commission. Chairman Rice requested the league take down the batting cage for this year. A list of the Newton Centre abutters will be given to the league.

Motion to leave the batting cage at Newton Centre up throughout the year is tabled and the NELL to meet with the abutters to explain their request before returning to the Commission.

Bowen Field: NELL is requesting to replace the backstop and dugout fences on the primary baseball field at the Bowen Elementary Baseball field. Mike Pinta and Jim Marks spoke about the current backstop, which is inadequate, in disrepair and presents safety concerns. Also, the dimensions and its distance are improper. The league proposes to replace the existing backstop with a new black plastic coated one with dimensions similar to those used at three minor league fields. The backstop would be 20' high with a 4' canopy, the back is 16 feet high with two 8-foot wide

sections and two 8-foot side wings running at angles. The League also requested permission to replace the 8-foot high by four foot by 6-foot dugout fences.

Myra Tattenbaum motioned to accept the Newton East Little League's request to replace the backstop and dugout fences at the baseball field at Bowen Elementary School. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

5. **Crystal Lake and Gath Pool summer report.** It was noted by Commission Towle that season permit sales at Crystal Lake were down for this past summer. Several issues may have contributed to this especially the early season controversy concerning the Aqualator and the algae bloom. Gath Pool the numbers were up somewhat. The floors have been redone; however, the benches and shade canopy need to be re-bid.

Walter Bernheimer recommended an increase in swimming fees in 2007.

6. **Special Event Permit – Tom Cahill, Myra Tattenbaum:** Myra Tattenbaum spoke about the Special Event Permit. Questions asked were about a security deposit, certificate of insurance, damage to area, and re-check the area after a function. There would be categories such as: Minor Event, Medium Event and Major Event. A Major Event would be i.e. July 4th, Medium Event i.e. schools, amusement rides, Minor Event i.e. school grounds for a one-day event.

Please look over the DRAFT and send any changes to Tom Cahill tcahill@newtonma.gov. The Special Event Permit will be on the November agenda.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, talked about the insurance rider, damage to facility/site, and that the legal department will need to review the permit. It was suggested, perhaps insurance companies should be polled regarding the deductible.

Walter Bernheimer suggested looking over building fee's, fees for applications and usage at another meeting.

7. **CPC Update:** Walter Bernheimer went to his first CPC meeting, which was very informative. The Committee at that time did not discuss proposals. The next CPC meeting will be Monday, November 30th. Also, a civil lawsuit is pending contesting the City's use of Community Preservation Act funds on recreation properties, by 10 Newton residents. Legislation may be needed to change the law. The Board of Aldermen have not approved the NSHS turf proposal.
8. **Scholarship Report:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, reported another successful year for fund raising for camp scholarships. There are \$5.00 fees that have been added to some of the Department's programs i.e., trips to Foxwood. Also, monies have been received from the Newton Centre Garden Club and the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. Monies available for summer of 2006, was \$26,469.00.

9. **Dog Park: Chairman Francis Rice** reported that he will be attending the next dog park meeting. He also reported that the Committee will soon be requesting to be put on the Commission's Agenda for discussions.
10. **Angino Farm Representative:** Still seeking a commission member to represent the Commission of the Angino Farm Commission.
11. **New Business:** No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, December 18, 2006
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the November Meeting**
- 2. Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance and forestry**
- 3. Ice Skating Rules & Regulations**
- 4. Special Event Field Permit, Myra Tattenbaum**
- 5. New Business**

Next meeting: January 22, 2007

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

November 20, 2006

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer and Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the October meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry:**
Commissioner Towle reported on the following: The 18th Annual Newton Girls Soccer Tournament was held October 7th & 8th. Eighty teams participated this year with 1,400 players at Brown/Oak Hill/South High and Weeks Field. The Maintenance Department prepares the fields for the tournament. This year Newton Youth Soccer and Newton Girls Soccer generously donated \$40,000 for improvements and to provide high quality fields, which include irrigation, slice seeding and maintenance. Interviews for the Senior Director position are still being held. In the Maintenance Department the grass cutting is finishing along with the scarifying of fields. There are 2 fields left to do before spring in which turf control and slice seeding will be done. Thanksgiving Day football games, Newton North playing at home and Trinity Catholic playing at Newton South. The Forestry Department took down 40 trees on Winchester Street and planted 80 new ones. Newton South Little League renovated a field at Bowen. Commission members are invited to a Holiday Party on December 7th, 12:00 to 1:30PM at the Recreation Office.
3. **Update – Crystal Lake Property:** A citywide meeting was held on Monday, November 6th, 6:30PM at the Druker Room in the main library. The Hannon property has not been appraised as yet. Commissioner Towle mentioned the purchase of the Hannon property would be a real plus for Crystal Lake and the Department. The Commission will be notified if further information is available.
4. **Angino Farm Representative:** A commission candidate has not been selected as yet for Angino Farm.
5. **Special Permit Report, Myra Tattenbaum:** Tom Cahill, Recreation Manager and Myra Tattenbaum have worked very diligently on a DRAFT of the Special Event Field Permit Policy and Procedure, which she gave to the Commission members. Myra Tattenbaum requested the Commission members look over the

DRAFT, which will be e-mailed to them, and return by e-mail to either Tom Cahill or her by Monday, November 27. The members discussed an option for a third party to arbitrate. The DRAFT will then be sent to the Law Department for their review. The changes will be made and presented at the next Commission on Monday evening, December 18th.

6. **CPA – Updates:** Designer, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., has been hired as designers for the Newton Upper Falls and Newton Highlands Playgrounds. An upcoming project before the CPC will be City Hall and War Memorial Historic Landscape Preservation Master Plan. Phase I will be the Ponds and Parkland. The Public Works Department will be looking into the dredging of the ponds. Also, the Newton Centre Accessibility Pathway project design has been approved.
7. **Building Fees, Permit Fees:** At the last meeting a member asked about the permit fees for the buildings and fields which go into the General Fund to pay for leadership costs. The revolving fund is for camps, clinics, etc, and is self sustaining. Swim permit fees also go into the General Fund.
8. **New Business:** 8:00PM, meeting adjourned to go to Mayor Cohen's State of the City Address in the Board of Aldermen's Chambers.

Commission meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, January 22, 2007
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the December 18, 2006 Commission Meeting**
2. **Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance and forestry**
3. **Dog Park – Francis Rice**
4. **CPA Projects, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner**
5. **Special Event Permit, Myra Tattenbaum**
6. **Filled position for new Recreation Manager/Senior Director, replacing Mary Brown. Nancy Scammon will start Tuesday, January 16th**
7. **New Business**

Next meeting to be held February 26, 2007

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 18, 2006

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Walter Bernheimer, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville, and Peter Kastner

1. **Minutes of the November meeting were accepted unanimously 5-0.**

2. **Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance and forestry:**

Commissioner Towle reported on the following: Harvard Kennedy School for Government students were doing a budget analysis project with the Department's staff members. The final presentation was held at City Hall on Monday, December 18th, at 4:00PM with members of the Executive Department, Parks & Recreation staff and the Harvard project students. A lot of time and energy was spent on the project, which will continue with Sandy Pooler, Chief Administrative Officer. The cost analysis project included unit cost of buildings, materials, supplies, time, direct cost of camps Schooldude and budget line items. The Department's project information will be the poster child for other cities and towns to follow. The Thanksgiving Day football game was held at Newton North High School and Trinity Catholic played at Newton South. The Maintenance Department is working on picking up leaves and the grooming of fields for the spring. Monies have been allotted for a new trash truck and a backhoe tractor with attachments. Both items are critical in order to maintain the maintenance division. The tractor will help improve the fields, slice seeding, etc., which can now be done in-house.

The December vacation programs are in place for the last week in December. The St. Mary of Carmen Society donated \$500.00 to the Department to help with yearly maintenance at Pellegrini Field. Crystal Lake update: Appraisal of the Hannon property, next to Crystal Lake with is forthcoming. In the Urban Forestry Department, Marc Welch is working on the Parker Street and Terraces projects. Bare rooted trees now cost between \$80 and \$100 and have a 2-3 year maintenance program. Monies received on these projects would go into the Revolving Account.

3. **Ice Skating Rules & Regulations:** In order to open Ware's Cove, Crystal Lake or Bullough's Pond, the entire area must be frozen in order for safe skating to occur. Six inches of black ice is required or 9: of snow ice. There is a safety officer that checks the ice as well as the Department's staff. Also, the Maintenance Department takes care of planing the ice. No skating sign's are put up when there is no safe skating. The ice-skating hotline number is 617-796-1536.

Motion was made by Peter Johnson to accept the 2006-2007 ice-skating Rules and Regulations. Jennie devote seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. **Special Event Field Permit, Myra Tattenbaum:** Next week the details of the DRAFT for the Special Event Field Permit will be edited for the January meeting. Suggestions included: are field irrigated or not, add the list of fields, new name besides Tiers, profit & non-profit organizations, outside organizations, traffic, send a copy to the School Committee and an area made for damage to fields. Security monies will go into a special account; rest of the incoming monies will go into the General Fund.
5. **New Business:** The School Committee wants to reopen Carr Elementary School as a fully operational elementary school building for the 2009-2010 school year. The Commissioner will keep the Commission members apprised as to any additional information regarding the Carr School.

Walter Bernheimer, who could not be here this evening, sent along an e-mail regarding his report on the CPC process. Information is included in the commission folders.

CPC Projects:

- Newton Centre Access Playground before CPC, November 29th
- Chaffin/Farlow Park: Commission approved change to include the bridge in Phase I
- Washington Park: Changed contractor, project should have lights in early spring, Went back out to bid.
- Gath Pool: Re-bid on shade and benches in January
- Williams School Project Master Plan: Project Managers are Judy Dore/Carol Schein, architect in place
- Upper Falls and Newton Highlands Playgrounds, designer has been selected, Project Manager is Carol Stapleton
- Stearns/Pellegrini: Pellegrini is in Phase 1A. Parking lot is in the hands of the Engineering Department. Stearns: The tennis courts went out to bid again. Playground area at Stearns 1B is in the hands of the Law Department

A copy of the Crystal Lake Maintenance Report is in the folders.

Commissioner Towle wished everyone "Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year."

Meeting adjourned 8:15PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 26, 2007
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of January Meeting
2. Commissioner Towle's Reports on program, maintenance & forestry
3. Nancy Scammon, Senior Director/Manager
4. Special Event Permit -- Linda Plaut, Director of Cultural Affairs
5. New Business

Next Meeting: March 19, 2007

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 22, 2007

7:3-PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the December meeting were accepted unanimously 7-0**

2. **Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance and forestry:**

Commissioner Towle reported on the following: Recreation programs at Newton South Recreation Complex started on January 21st and will run for 7 weekends. This includes, Wizard's Workshop, badminton, volleyball, exercise room with trainer, babysitting training course, etc. Since there is no snow, the maintenance department is working to clean up leaves and clean areas i.e. Lyons playgrounds, brush, etc. Newton Upper Falls and Newton Highlands playground meetings have been scheduled. Park questionnaires for both playgrounds are on line to see what the public opinions are for the playgrounds. Also, questionnaires were sent to the abutters of both playgrounds. The designer for the playgrounds is Weston & Sampson, Engineers, Inc. This year's Camp Fair is Tuesday, February 6th, 2:00PM – 7:00PM at Newton City Hall's War Memorial. Manager's Judy Dore, Stephanie Pelkowsky and Nancy Scammon were selected to be on Mayor's Cohen's News Conference today. They spoke about the Camp Fair and recreation programs. Funtastic February school vacation programs are scheduled February 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd at the Burr Park Community Center. On January 30th, Steve McGuire, noted speaker, will hold a workshop on evaluations 1:00 – 4:00PM in room 222 at City Hall. In reference to Crystal Lake, the Executive Department is in negotiations with Mr. Hannon.

Peter Kastner asked about repairs to Crystal Lake. The cost estimate to fix the repairs, sanitation issues and outdoor showers at Crystal Lake is \$60,000. Nick Parnell, Building Commissioner, has send a cost estimate to Sandy Pooler, Chief Administrative Officer for free cash in CIP funds. Commissioner Towle to work with David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, on in-house repairs to the building at Crystal Lake.

3. **Dog Park, Francis Rice:** Susan Albright, Alderman, had previously asked Mr. Rice about the land/parks available to place dog parks in each of the 8 Newton Wards i.e. Norumbega, Cold Spring and Cabot Woods. Conservation did not have any space available for dog parks. Members of the dog park committee will be appearing before the Commission in regards to available dog parks in the City. Mr. Rice also noted that there are only 2 dog officers in Newton.

4. **CPA Projects, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner:**
 - Albemarle Corridor -- RFP
 - Williams School, architect in place, looking at the whole site area
 - Stearns/Pellegrini – in litigation
 - Wellington – Basketball & Tennis areas are done, waiting on walkways
 - Gath Pool, bathhouse done, shade area
 - Farlow Park – In Phase I
 - Washington Street – Bay State Piping has the bid, starting in spring
 - City Hall Landscaping in CPC
 - Upper Falls and Newton Highlands Playgrounds - Weston & Sampson are the architects for both playgrounds, neighborhood meetings in February
 - Newton Centre Access

Walter Bernheimer, also a member of the CPC, mentioned there are nine projects before the CPC, two of them being recreation projects i.e. The Durant Kennick homestead; house and land, Fire Department door, renovations to the brick at Warren House and the Crystal Lake project. Also, fields not acquired with CPC lands to come under new legislation to receive CPC monies.

5. **Special Event Permit:** Myra Tattenbaum/Tom Cahill – Excellent job on the DRAFT for the Special Event Permit. Few suggestions:
 - Upgraded Premier sites replacing Tier 1 & 2
 - Security deposit involves the weight of the carnival machines
 - Premier site, irrigation or upgraded
 - List the premier site on the web
 - Approved subject to change, to recommended
 - If it is a Medium Event, requirements are 2 meetings, one before the commission members, 2nd, abutters to be invited to meeting
 - Put list of fields and policy on website

Peter Johnson motioned to approve the Special Event Field Permit Policy and Procedure with modifications as discussed. Jack Neville seconded the motion. The commission members voted 6-1 (Jennie DeVito, abstained) to approve the Special Event Field Permit Policy with modifications.

Mike Cronin, School, Chief of Operations, School Department to be notified of the Special Event Field Permit Policy & Procedure. School Committee may need to vote on Policy.

6. **Nancy Scammon new Recreation Manager/Senior Director:** Nancy started working for the Department on January 16th. She previously worked at the Maristhill Nursing and Rehab Center. Nancy is a welcome addition to the Department.
7. **New Business:** No new business

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 19, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the February Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance & forestry
3. Linda Plaut, Special Event Permit for:
 - Newton's Heartbreak Hill Roadrace
 - KidsFest Events
 - 4th of July Events
 - Harvest Fair
4. Off Leash Task Force
5. Update Budget Status
6. Update CPA Projects
7. Update Crystal Lake
8. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman
9. New Business

Next scheduled meeting April 23, 2007

REVISED

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 26, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Walter Bernheimer, Acting Chairman, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Faye Hays Secretary

Absent: Frank Rice, Jennie Devito and Michael Clarke

1. **Minutes of the January Meeting were accepted 5-0.**

2. **Commissioner Towle's Report of forestry, maintenance & program:** The Commissioner reported there were ten ice-skating days at the Auburndale Cove. The skating information was on the web site, and skating hot line. Also, the skating is a wonderful family activity and free to everyone. One weekend there were 500 people and the next weekend there were 400 people. The maintenance staff measures the ice daily. When there is no skating, signs are placed around the Cove area. The Annual Camp Fair was held on February 6th at the War Memorial Auditorium. The fair is great publicity for our Department, which includes information on all of our summer camps as well as the day's entertainment for the children. There have been 2 snowstorms this year. The Commissioner met with Sandy Pooler, Chief Administrative Officer, and the budget for FY08 will be level funded. The status on Crystal Lake is that the City will begin the process of an eminent domain procedure. The CPC will meet on Wednesday, March 7th, 6:45PM in the cafeteria at City Hall regarding Crystal Lake. Francis Rice, Chairman, and Fran Towle, Commissioner, will attend the upcoming meeting.

Acting Chairman Bernheimer, as a member of the CPC Committee, mentioned t Mr. Hannon and Alderman Parker were at the last CPC meeting. Mr. Hannon was asking 4.6 million for the property, is now asking for 3.9 million. The City wishes to purchase the property for 2.3 million. Also, there are 12 million in liens on the Hannon property. The CPC approved of the Mayor's effort to purchase the property. CPC monies for the Crystal Lake project are now available, as the turf project monies will no longer be from the CPC.

Peter Kastner mentioned that the original name of Crystal Lake was Baptist Pond.

3. **Nancy Scammon, New Senior Director/Manager:** Commissioner Towle introduced Nancy to the Commission members. Nancy, a Newton resident, started working as the new Senior Director/Manager, on Tuesday, January 16, 2007.

Nancy will design and plan senior citizen recreation events/programs as well as assisting other recreation managers. She worked at the Maristhill Nursing and Rehab since 2004 as the Activity Director. Also, she has been working in the field of Therapeutic Recreation and Leisure Studies. Nancy is working toward her Bachelor's Degree at Harvard University School of Extension, graduating in the Spring of 2007.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that Nancy was chosen over 24 other candidates and she is a welcome addition to the Department.

4. **Special Event Permit – Linda Plaut, Director of Mayors Office for Cultural Affairs & Judy Anderson, Arts in the Parks:** The following events will take place 2007.

- 15th Newton Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race
- KidsFest
- 4th of July Celebration
- 34th Annual Harvest Fair

Linda Plaut works very closely each year with the Police, Fire & Recreation Departments regarding the above events. Safety is always the first consideration.

The Special Event Permit requires 2 Commission Meetings. The first meeting is to explain the events to the Commission and the 2nd meeting would be for the abutters/public comments.

Arthur Magni motioned to approve the events in theory; however, a second meeting is needed with the abutters in order to be approved. Jack Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with Peter Kastner abstaining.

5. **New Business:** Faye to e-mail the members a copy of the Dogs Off-Leash Task Force, Final Draft Ordinance 10/30/06.

Meeting adjourned 8:05PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 23, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the March Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance & forestry
3. Vote on KidsFest Events, 4th of July Events & Harvest Fair
4. St. Mary of Carmen Festival
5. Cabot School Fair, Susan Sagan
6. Swimming season fees for Crystal Lake & Gath Pool
7. Tennis, Mike Lewitt, Stephanie Pelkowsky
8. Update on Dog Park
9. Budget Presentation
10. Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman
11. New Business

Next meeting: May 21, 2007

Newton Parks & Recreation Department Commission Meeting
March 18, 2007
7:30 pm – Room 209 – Newton City Hall

Attending: Chairman Francis Rice, Peter Kastner and Myra Tattenbaum, Fran Towle
Commissioner, Bob DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, and Carol Stapleton
Recording Secretary

Absent: Jennie Devito, Michael Clark, Walter Bernheimer, Arthur Magni and Jack
Neville

Chairman Rice noted that due to the absence of many Commission Members, there was not a quorum and therefore no votes could be taken on any of the items on the agenda. Tonight's meeting would be an informational meeting only.

The previous months minutes were discussed as Myra Tattenbaum noted that, she thought the vote recorded on the subject of the Special Event Permit item was incorrect.

After a discussion, it was noted that Myra Tattenbaum did not abstain on the vote. Peter Kastner confirmed that he abstained on the vote and the minutes will be changed accordingly to reflect this correction.

1. Commissioner Towle's Report of Forestry, Maintenance and Programs:

The Commissioner reported that due to the most recent snowstorm of last weekend she would have to amend the original request for snow monies, which will be presented to Program and Services on March 21st.

She also reported that she had just visited Marc Welch's Citizen Pruner Class at Albemarle and remarked that this is the 3rd year of this program. At present, there were no openings in the class and another would be offered in the Spring.

The Newton Highlands and Newton Upper Falls CPC Projects had a great turnout and resident participation at the respective neighborhood meetings. The second community meeting for each project is scheduled for April 5th for Newton Highlands and April 11th for Upper Falls. When the Master Planning Process Input Phase is complete and conceptual plans are complete, they will be brought to the Commission for their approval.

Commissioner Towle also reported that the Budget had not yet been finalized and when final figures were determined, the Commission would be notified.

Additional flyers for April vacation programs noting a lot of fun and exciting programs were distributed to Members.

CRYSTAL LAKE ITEMS:

Commissioner Towle reported that she had a meeting with Nick Parnel, Building Commissioner, Dave Mandatori, Maintenance Superintendent and Carol Stapleton, Manager on site at the Crystal Lake Bathhouse.

The purpose of this meeting was to finalize a list of requests for the repairs and upgrading of bathhouse issues that are plaguing the aging facility. She also thanked Peter Kastner for his photo's and input into this process.

Continuing on Crystal Lake, Commissioner Towle reported that at the CPC Committee Meeting held on March 7th, members voted 7-0 to recommend to the Board to expend 2.3 million dollars to purchase the land adjacent to the Bathhouse and Beach at 20 Rogers Street, whether by eminent domain or a direct purchase of the property. Chairman Rice and Myra Tattenbaum who also attended the hearing both commented on the great turnout by residents at this meeting in a strong show of support for this expenditure.

On Thursday, March 22nd, The Conservation Commission will hear the request for a notice of intent for work being proposed by Public Works and the Engineering Department at Crystal Lake for storm water run off improvements.

CPA Projects Update

Deputy Commissioner Bob DeRubeis gave a presentation on the status of CPA Projects:

Gath Pool Shade Structure will be delayed and probably re-bid as the original contractor went out of business. Tom Cahill continues to work on this project.

Albemarle Central Corridor – Weston & Sampson is working with Public Works on this project.

Washington Park is moving forward with a spring construction anticipated.

Williams Outdoor Classroom – The School is now looking at the entire site including the outdoor classroom which will include the parking lot and other safety issues.

Newton Centre Playground and City Hall Grounds Projects are now in a holding pattern.

Special Event Permit Process

Abutter notification letters for this meeting were sent out by the Department. To date, we have received no objections for the events. Judy Anderson represented the Arts in the Parks Programs and a listing of major events was discussed. Because the Commission was unable to vote on the item at this meeting, Commissioner Towle and Chairman Rice agreed that the Commission would be polled regarding a vote to allow the Heartbreak Hill Road race on April 15th and that the remainder of the items would be voted on at the next meeting.

Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

This item was postponed until the April Meeting

Off Leash Task Force and Proposed Ordinance Changes

Alderman Albright and Fischman joined the Commission for a discussion on the results of the draft report and proposed ordinance change. The Task Force will have a final round of meetings to review the report and examine input from all Commissions, Departments, and Boards that will be impacted.

The Report of the Task Force was emailed to the Commission on the day of this meeting and copies were made available to the Commission Members present. Realizing that this was not enough time for Commission Members to read the report in its entirety by all members, Alderman Albright began the discussion with a brief history of the Task Force's work and thanked Chairman Rice for his participation on the Committee.

Alderman Albright and Fischman discussed the Task Force's conclusion that the Task Force itself was not the appropriate group to make recommendations in choosing specific sites for off-leash activity. The report leaves that decision to the appropriate Commissions and Departments.

Chairman Rice pointed out again that enforcement by The Newton Police Animal Control Officers was a central issue and that there was no formal discussion on any type of a budget for the implementation of any of the items proposed.

Commissioner Towle reminded the Commission that a clear and precise set of site selection criteria points had not been agreed upon and furthermore reiterated the need for a "win/win" for all stakeholders. She also felt that a small trial site should be set up and evaluated.

The Task Force's recommendation for the creation of an advisory committee was discussed at length. When Alderman Albright was asked by Peter Kastner to whom does the Advisory Committee report to and who in City Government supervises the Task Force, she indicated that the Committee would report to the various bodies within the city (Parks and Recreation, Conservation Commission, School Department) that had responsibilities for land under their jurisdiction. She could not point out which body in City Government would supervise the task force. Peter pointed out that he felt this advisory committee was an example of a "free floating committee" that needed to come under some standing organization within the city government. Peter also indicated that since the majority of the members were either citizens appointed by the Board of Alderman or members of the Board of Alderman-the Task Force was in fact a creation of the Board and should most likely report to a committee of the Board. Even it was accepted that the Task Force was a creation of the Board of Alderman, Peter indicated that a formal method of transmitting requests or advice from the Task Force to Parks and Recreation would need to be coordinated through the Executive Branch.

In addition, Peter noted that the suggested origination of the ordinance has the Task Force holding meetings directly with the neighbors in place of Parks and Recreation. Peter pointed out that the Commission's guidelines require the Commission to hold open meetings with abutters and that for a host of reasons, including citizens' reluctance to speak at a public meeting which is called by a vested interest group, the Commission requires that it conduct public meetings that affect its land.

It was the sense of the Commission Members present that the task of informing and inviting abutters to attend meetings and to evaluate the sites falls within the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Commission and not the Advisory Committee.

Lastly, Peter indicated concern that unless the Task Force were strictly supervised, particularly if it had some assumed authority, there was a danger of opening up the Parks and Recreation Commission to special pressures that would prevent the Commission in planning for all of the users of the recreational and park areas.

Myra Tattenbaum pointed out the need for a realistic and formalized enforcement program.

Alderman Albright and Fischman agreed that some very good talking points had been raised and they will take these items back to the Committee and to the Law Department for further review. They thanked the Commission Members for their time and interest in this report.

Since there was not a quorum of members present for this discussion, this item would be placed on the Commission's Agenda in future months.

Next Meeting: Monday April 23, 2007

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 21, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the April Meeting
2. Commissioner's reports of program, maintenance and forestry
3. St. Mary of Carmen Festival
4. Newton North Indoor Complex Fees 2007-2008
5. Crystal Lake Update
6. Update FY08 Budget
7. Update CPA Projects
8. Dog Ordinance Update
9. New Business

Reminder: Youth Awards Presentation, (Prior to Commission Meeting) June 18th,
7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers.

Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Thursday, May 31st, 7:30AM, Boston College, tickets \$20.00.

Also, please bring your best smile, as a group photo will be taken of the Commission members.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 23, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Arthur Magni, Jennie DeVito, Myra Tattenbaum, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Susan Albright, Alderman, Lee Mottard, Commission candidate, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager, Mike Lewitt, Tennis, Chuck Proia & Nunzie Leone, St. Mary of Carmen and Susan Sagan, Cabot School PTO.

1. **Minutes of the March Meeting were approved unanimously 6-0.**
2. **Commissioner Towle's report on programs, maintenance and forestry:** The Commissioner reported on the following: Another highly successful Special Needs Yellow Cab Basketball Tournament was held in March at Newton North High School. Last Saturday there were several little league openings held around the City. Community meetings were held for park development for Newton Upper Falls (2) and Newton Highlands (2) playground projects. In June the final plans will be drawn up for the two projects and Weston & Sampson are the designers. Sunday, April 29th is the 7th Annual NewtonServes projects. This is a day of community service bringing volunteers of all ages together to complete tasks that benefit the City. There were fifty projects, eighteen of the projects are for Recreation. The maintenance department will be picking up the trash collected from the NewtonServes project. Kudos to all our volunteers, without their help the Department could not accomplish all of its projects. May 31st is the Annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, 7:30AM at Boston College, tickets are \$20.00. Youth Awards will be held June 18th, 7:30PM, just before the 7:30PM Commission meeting. Chairman Rice asked the members to nominate a most outstanding individual who has contributed to enhancing the quality of life in our community. A group photo will be taken at the next commission meeting on May 21st. Mr. Lee Mottard, waiting to be approved by the Board of Aldermen as a commission member, is in attendance at tonight's meeting. Wednesday evening a special meeting may be held by the Board of Aldermen to take up the status of the Hannon property next to Crystal Lake on two counts.
3. **Vote on KidsFest Events, 4th of July Events and Harvest Fair requests to take place in the 2007 calendar year:** Votes could not be taken at the last commission meeting, as there was not a quorum. Arthur Magni motioned to accept the requests to hold KidsFest Events, 4th of July Events and Harvest Fair in 2007.

Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6-0. The request for the Heartbreak Hill International Youth Race was taken by phone unanimously 6-0 prior to the race, which would have been held on April 15th.

4. **St. Mary of Carmen Festival:** Chuck Proia and Nunzie Leone attending the meeting to ask permission to hold the next St. Mary of Carmen Annual Fiesta from July 11, 2007 through July 15, 2007. There is no difference in the request from last year to this year regarding the carnival dates and times. Mr. Proia will be acquiring permits from the Planning Department, Parks & Recreation, Noise Control, Light Control and Alcohol Permit. The second meeting, as required, will be held on Monday, May 21st, and festival notices will be going out to the abutters and TAB Newspaper.
5. **Cabot School Fair:** Commissioner Towle introduced Suzanne Sagan, Co-Chair, Cabot School Fair. The Cabot School Fair has been held for the last 10 years, with North American Amusements, Bob Perkins. The amusements include a pirate ship, mini ferris wheel, dunk tank, pony ride, inflatable amusements, DJ and a food vendor. The event to take place on Saturday, May 5th. Due to a change in the special event rules this year, the schools were not notified of the changes in time for some events. The PTO will send an informational letter to the abutters apprising them of the fair. Ms. Sagan is asking the commission to waive the Special Event Permit this time, so the Cabot Fair may maintain their schedule.

Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, motioned to waive the normal procedure for special events and approve the request to hold the Cabot School Fair on Saturday, May 5th. Andrew Magni seconded the motion. Motion was approved 6-0.

6. **Swimming Fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** Commissioner Towle reported there are no fee changes or increases this season for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. Construction may be anticipated on the wall on the left beach area at Crystal Lake. In expectance of the construction, the pre- season hours may start at 3:00PM, on June 11th, for 2 weeks. Weekends would be the regularly scheduled hours at Crystal Lake.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the Crystal Lake and Gath Pool Rules & Regulations for 2007. Myra Tattenbaum seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

7. **Tennis Rules & Regulations for 2007:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager and Mike Lewitt, Director of Tennis, attended the meeting. The only rate that went up was \$10.00 for season holders. The last day to use the Newton North Tennis courts will be June 25th, because of the new construction at the high school.

Jennie DeVito motioned to accept the Tennis Rules and Regulations for 2007. Walter Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-0.

8. **Update on Dog Park:** Alderman Susan Albright attended the meeting to discuss the Dog Off-Leash Task Force Draft Ordinance dated 4/20/07. At this time there is no special area for a dog park. In reference to an advisory committee, the suggestion was to select a volunteer resident from each Ward and a volunteer supervisor would also be needed to police the area to see that feces are removed and properly disposed of. Also, pamphlets should be available at any particular dog site. Monies would be needed for trash barrels, signs and bags. The Town of Brookline has a good model for a dog park.

At this time there are places where people take their dogs i.e. the Norumbega, Cold Springs and Cabot areas. It was suggested that someone from the dog park group go to the above two areas to see if neighbors/dog owners would volunteer to oversee an area selected and go from there. Perhaps the dog committee could meet with the abutters in the eight ward areas. Also, decide/select two pilot dog areas, with volunteer groups, and try it out on a trial basis.

It was noted that there are 23,000 dogs in the City and only 9,000 have dog licenses. Newton has 2 dog officers to control the rules & regulations in respect to dog control. How would the dog ordinance be enforced; volunteers?

A suggestion from Mike on the Dog Task Force committee was to give brochures to the Department's maintenance crews, so they can give to the people who are on the parks with their dogs on City parks.

Alderman Susan Albright was asked to return to the Commission with any evaluations, ideas/information from 1-2-test/experimental-dog sites (model). The Task Force will have a final round of meetings to review the report and examine input from all commissions, Departments and Boards.

9. **Budget Presentation FY08:** Commission Towle reported the FY08 budget is level funded this year at \$4,300,588.00. My thanks to Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Marc Welch, Director of Forestry for putting together the information for the FY08 Budget and the FY2008 Budget Report. There is a .75 increase in seasonal wages for FY08. As of June 2007 Newton North High School will be closing. The entire area will become a construction site and there will not be a need for irrigation, grass mowing and lights. Therefore monies saved will be available to replenish an aging fleet and new equipment. Savings to go into equipment for a van, 2 ranger 4 X 4's and a ½ ton pick up truck.

Using the cost savings from the laborer position, the department plans to put a number of the remaining grass sites out to contract.

Two maintenance staff have retired this year, one position has been eliminated and the existing position has been upgraded to a turf specialist, to be hired July 1st. In reference to CIP, the Department will be acquiring a new packer (rubbish) truck in July and a backhoe will be replaced with a multi-purpose tractor so that

slice seeding and aeration can be done in house. In reference to the solar trash barrels, the jury is still out, as the Department needs more time to evaluate the savings.

Thursday, May 5th, Commissioner Towle will present the FY08 department's budget to the Board of Aldermen at 7:45PM.

10. **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:** Chairman Rice handed the gavel over to Commissioner Towle. Commissioner Towle took the gavel and asked for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. Jennie Devito nominated Francis Rice as Chairman of the Commission. Arthur Magni seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 in favor of Francis Rice as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Congratulations!

The gavel was then turned over to Chairman Rice for nominations for Vice Chairman. Arthur Magni nominated Walter Bernheimer for Vice Chairman of the Commission. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. The Commission members voted unanimously 6-0 in favor of Walter Bernheimer for Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Congratulations!

11. **New Business:** Vice Chairman Bernheimer passed along a compliment from Spenser Lookner to Commissioner Towle regarding her doing a great job for the Department and the City trees.

Meeting adjourned 9:15PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 18, 2007
7:30PM* Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the May Meeting
2. Commissioner's reports of program, maintenance and forestry
3. Scholarship Report
4. Conceptual Plan Presentation for Newton Highlands/Upper Falls Playgrounds, Weston & Sampson Inc., Gene Bollinger
5. Crystal Lake Update
6. Newton Centre Playground Update, Judy Dore
7. CPC Projects
8. Dog Park, Chairman Rice
9. Swim Rules & Regulations for Waterslide and Special Permit Recommendations, Tom Cahill
10. New Business

Next meeting to be held September 17, 2007

*Reminder: Youth Awards Presentation, (prior to commission meeting) June 18th,
7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 21, 2007

7:30PM, Room 222 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Myra Tattenbaum, Alternates Jack Neville and Peter Kastner, Lee Mottard, Commission Candidate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Arthur Magni

Also in attendance: Alderman Scott Lennon, Priscilla Leith, League of Women Voters

- 1. Minutes of the April Meeting were approved unanimously 6-0.**
- 2. Commissioner's reports of program, maintenance and forestry:** On May 23rd, the Board of Aldermen will vote on the budget. In response to a question on in-kind services from youth/leagues, all five little leagues contribute to the Department, which includes cutting grass, spreading infield mix, day to day lining of the fields. Also the little leagues have made a number of renovations to their major league fields. The Maintenance Department will be receiving a new tractor for use in-house, to aerate and slide seed the grass areas. Gath Pool leaks around the rim seal. Plans are in place to fix the leaks, paint the inside of the pool in time for the June 11th opening. The fields at Newton North will not be in use after June 25th, the lights will be out also. The Department is working with the new Athletic Director Tom Giusti regarding fields. The high school will be using the track at the YMCA. A meeting to take place Wednesday with the Athletic Directors regarding the use of the fields. June 11th, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool will open. An end of the season Special Needs Banquet was held at Post 440 honoring the special needs group and also Rick Cass, who has worked for the Special Needs for over 30 years and was an asset to the Department. Rick just received his PHD and is now known as Dr. Cass. Next month a scholarship report will be included in the folders. KidsFest was held at City Hall May 12th & 13th and it was very successful. Memorial Day Parade was held on May 20th, a week earlier this year.

3. **St. Mary of Carmen Festival:** The St. Mary of Carmen Society celebrates its Annual Fiesta on July 11, 2007. Chuck Proia, Festival Chairman, spoke on behalf of the festival committee; there are no changes from last year to this year. Also, John Flynn, Carnival Operator was at the meeting. Mr. Flynn explained the position of the rides on the playground. The only complaint was it was noisy towards Watertown, however, the ride will be moved to another area. The committee will need permits from the liquor committee, noise ordinance, planning, Health Department and Inspectional Services. Alderman Scott Lennon, Ward I, to work with Dan Funk, Law Department on changes in the Ordinance.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the permit for the St. Mary of Carmen Society Festival on the grounds of the Joanne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground subject to earlier discussion plans. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-0.

4. **Newton North Indoor Complex Fees 2007/2008:** The Newton North Indoor Complex fees are the same as last years. With parking issues that will be coming along attributed to the construction project due to start at this site June 25, 2007, we will be successful if we maintain our membership at its current level;
- Adult Permit - \$60.00
 - Student Permit - \$40.00
 - Non-Resident Permit - \$125/00
 - Adult Daily - \$6.00
 - Student Daily - \$4.00
 - Non-Resident Daily - \$10.00

Jack Neville motioned to accept the Newton North Indoor Complex Fees 2007/2008. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion accepted 6-0.

5. **Crystal Lake Update:** Commissioner Towle reported the Community Service Court group painted the inside of the Crystal Lake Building. The bottom half of the outside of the building will be power washed. The lake will open on Monday, June 11th, at 3:00PM for two weeks in order to allow for the construction on the newly acquired property next door to take place. Crystal Lake is indeed an asset to the City!
6. **Update FY08 Budget:** On May 23rd, the Board of Aldermen will vote on the Mayor's proposed budget.
7. **Update CPA Projects:** The Newton Highlands Playground will be holding their final Community Meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, Countryside School Auditorium, 6:30-8:00PM.

Upper Falls Playground will be holding their final meeting on Monday, June 4, 2007 at the Emerson Community Center, 6:30-8:00PM.

Vice Chairman Bernheimer mentioned the CPA projects are on hold, Kendrick House, Farlow Park and handicap path at Newton Centre.

Next week a meeting will be set up to meet with Debbie Millar regarding the Boundless Playground at Newton Centre, per Commissioner Towle.

8. **Dog Ordinance Update:** Chairman Rice mentioned there is no new information on the Dog Ordinance at this time.
9. **New Business:** The Board of Aldermen were voting Monday evening on the status of Lee Mottard as a new commission member. Chairman Rice asked Mr. Mottard if he would like to be on the Angino Farm Committee, which meets the first Thursday of the month. Mr. Mottard will get back to Mr. Rice regarding Angino Farm.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:10PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, September 17, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

1. Minutes of the June Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry
3. Conceptual Plan Presentation for Newton Highlands/Upper Falls Playgrounds, Weston & Sampson Engineers Inc., Gene Bollinger, Sherri Ruane. Second public meeting for CPA submittal.
4. Oak Hill Park Flea Market, Joe Frassica
5. Update CPA Projects, Robert DeRubeis
6. Update on Crystal Lake
7. Dog Park Update, Francis Rice
8. New Business

Next meeting is Monday, October 15, 2007

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 18, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

(Youth Awards at 7:00PM)

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Lee Mottard, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Tom Cahill & Judy Dore, Managers, and Carol Schein, Adopt-A-Space Coordinator

1. **Minutes of the May meeting were accepted unanimously 8-0.**
2. **Commissioner's reports of program, maintenance and forestry:** The Commissioner reported on the following: Crystal Lake and Gath Pool opened on June 11th. The beach stone wall at Crystal Lake is almost finished, with the work being done by the Public Works Department. Gath Pool has a few cracks where water was leaking, and is now fixed. Newton North High School fields and tennis courts will close on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 due to construction of the new high school. The Special Olympics Summer Games were held last weekend. Accommodations were held at Boston University and the track, tennis & swim events were held at Harvard University. There were 53 Special Needs participants at the olympics event. Farmer's Market at Post 440 will open July 6th, 1:30PM – 6:00. Farmer's Market at Cold Spring Park will open July 10th, 1:30-6:00PM. The majority of the summer camps are full; there are very few openings at this time. Construction started on the tennis courts at Stearns Park today. July 1st the Department will be looking to hire a new Athletic Turf Grounds Specialist. The Memorial Day Parade was held a week earlier this year. Fireworks will take place at the Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex on July 4th.
3. **Scholarship Report:** There were 61 scholarships awarded for summer camps this season, which included 46 families. This year \$17,737.00 was available in scholarship monies.

4. **Update on Conceptual Plan Presentation for Newton Highlands and Newton Upper Falls Playgrounds.** Commissioner Towle and pertinent staff have met with Mr. Bollinger and Ms. Ruane for the past six months, as well as holding three neighborhood meetings for public input. Eugene Bollinger and Sherri Ruane, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., presented the scope of the work plans for tonight's commission meeting presentation. A more comprehensive written plan should be ready at the end of this month. Some items need tweaking and the plan is to return to the Commission in the fall with any changes.

Neighbors of the park attended tonight's meeting as well as little league coaches which include Elliot Lowe, Karla Hailer, Mike Pinta Alderman Scott Lennon and Recreation Personnel.

Newton Upper Falls Playground, is a six acre, waterfront property, park site. The work includes topographic surveys, neighborhood participation, report on park facilities, condition, safety issues, develop conceptual master plan, budget and feedback from the community as well as other City Departments. Also, user surveys were sent out to abutters to the parks and 105 responses were received. Discussion ensued on passive recreation, multigenerational recreation, paths, and aesthetics, fencing, cost pavement and phasing. The pathways will be 8' wide for emergency and City vehicle use. The lower level area near the Charles River is uneven at this time.

The preferred plan includes restoration, and reconstruction or redevelopment of the entire property. Shade tree plantings and ornamental fencing will be at the Chestnut Street entrance. The parking lot will have more designated spaces. The ballfield will remain in the same general area and the footprint of the field will be rotated. The two tennis courts will remain in the same area, but back from the road. The children's play area will be replaced and fenced in. Bathroom and storage area will be restored. The baseball diamond to be rotated. Also, the basketball court is to be reduced and relocated and the court footprint will be reduced in size. A rectangular multi-use field will be located at the lower terrace. New benches, trash receptacles & drinking fountains will be installed. The lower tier would include a backstop and home plate for t-ball and little league use as well as a practice area. Trees/bushes would be planted around the area as well as some fencing. There will be a handicap accessibility pathway around the entire park. Selective pruning would be done to emphasize the waterfront river area for the users of the park. The Chestnut Street entrance would hold spaces for 50 cars in stead of 43. Monies for funding for the Master Plan would hopefully be through Urban Self-Help, Community Preservation Act, Handicap Accessibility, private donations, and monies from sports leagues & user groups.

Commissioner Towle mentioned that this meeting was the first of a two meeting process with the Commission and the other meeting to take place in September. Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Schein, Adopt-A-Space

Coordinator, attended a seminar on how to apply for Urban Self-Help monies. Elaine Gentile, Director of Special Projects, will write the grant.

The deadline to apply for Urban Self-Help monies is July 31st, 2007. A vote is needed to move forward to apply for \$500,000 in matching funds for the Newton Upper Falls Playground Master Plan.

Myra Tattenbaum moved to apply for Urban Self Help Grant monies for the Newton Uppers Falls Master Plan. Jack Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Motion was made by Jack Neville to devote the land at Newton Upper Falls Playground as parkland. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Newton Highlands Playground: Meetings were held with neighborhood residents, youth sports league, same as with Upper Falls Playground. There are 4.88 acres of land and in an earlier view of the park, you can see the original Stearns Brook. Conditions are essentially worn and also there are safety conditions within the park. Car access is on a private street (Upland Avenue), which is in poor condition as well as the parking area. The park lacks accessible pathways to the fields. The baseball field is always under water and poorly graded. The football field is in fair condition, however, lighting is substandard as well and the courts are also in poor condition. The children's playground does not comply with ADA standards. There is no visual impact to the playground on Winchester and Dedham Streets.

New pedestrian entrances are needed on Dedham and Winchester Streets as well as reconstruction of vehicle access and refurbishment of parking areas. New recreation facilities will improve the neighborhood. The existing baseball field will become a little league field. There will be a pathway loop around the park for walking and jogging. Reconstruction of football field with lights as well as the little league field for evening games. Reconstruction of tennis & basketball courts will be made as well as space for storage and concessions. Trees and landscaping to surround the majority of the park area and two of the older trees will be protected.

The plan identifies restoration, reconstruction or redevelopment of the entire property. The intent is to improve the recreational opportunities for neighborhood use and citywide recreation. New pedestrian entrances would improve access to the property from the neighborhood and link the public with the major facilities, which include a new parking area. The existing baseball field will become a premier level tournament facility little league field with irrigation and lights. The tennis and basketball courts to be reconstructed. Children's playground to include appropriate equipment and will be fenced in. There will be space for storage, concessions and bathrooms, as well as new entrances for pedestrians, park

signage, tree plantings fencing and informal seating, picnic tables, new lights, trash barrels, bubblers and bike racks.

In regards to Stearns Brook, which is covered over with cement, residents asked that the cement be removed and the running brook be exposed to help improve the park aesthetics. The depth of the running water would be approximately 12”.

Elliot Lowe, International League President, spoke regarding the Newton Highlands Playground being home to the Babe Ruth League for many years. The Babe Ruth team practices there, however, little league needs a state of the art little league field. Mr. Lowe is extremely pleased with the new plans for the Newton Highlands Playground to benefit the leagues. Also, Karla Hailer, Newton North Little League, mentioned having a new regulation, tournament size little field in the City of Newton would be exciting. Mike Pinta, Newton East Little League, mentioned that he agrees with everything being said about the improvements to both playgrounds. about the improvements to the playgrounds.

The presentation was excellent per the commission members. Presentation of the Master Plans will need to go before the commission members twice, the first for the commission members presentation and the second for the commission members, abutters/public. Letters will go out to the abutters in September as well as an article in the TAB Newspaper, notifying them of the upcoming meeting as a final vote is needed on both plans.

5. **Crystal Lake Update:** The stone wall at Crystal Lake is almost finished along with the grading of the land by the Department of Public Works. Also, the forestry personnel took care of the many trees, which abut the lake. The project should be finished by Monday, June 25th.
6. **Newton Centre Playground Update:** Commissioner Towle reported the Department is working with the community and construction is to start in September on the Newton Centre Playground. The committee is working with Boundless Playground staff. The Mayor’s Handicap Committee to finance the handicap walkway from the Mason Rice parking lot to the handicap accessible playground equipment and play areas.
7. **CPC Projects:** Vice Chairman Bernheimer spoke on the Farlow Park CPC project; in which they voted not to approve the Farlow Park Project at this time. The committee is considering Newton Centre; however, a meeting needs to be set up with the new Director of CPC funding. Commissioner Towle mentioned Newton Centre Playground is in a Historical Park.
8. **Dog Park Committee, Chairman Rice:** No new information on the dog park.
9. **Swim Rules & Regulations for Waterslide and Special Permit Recommendations, Tom Cahill:** Bids are open for the water slide and they came

in under budget. Tom presented a photo of the water slide and the Swim Rules & Regulations. The slide has a 7' platform and the slide twirls and goes into the pool. Also, water will be attached to the slide for a better ride. On page 2 of the Rules & Regulations, there is a 4-6' water test for each person and the area will be controlled with competent staff. Weight limit on slide is 40 lbs. maximum and 400 pounds maximum. Only one person is allowed on the slide at a time and sliding headfirst is prohibited.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to approve the Water Slide Rules and Regulations at Gath Pool. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Special Permit Recommendations: Tom Cahill spoke about the difficulty the Cabot Group had in trying to get a bond for their special event. He is recommending the removal of the insurance bond verbiage and recommends \$750.00 as a security deposit for medium impact events. He recommends a \$1,000.00 security deposit for high impact events. If there is no damage to the property, the group would receive their deposit monies back.

Jennie DeVito motioned to accept the changes in the Special Permit to \$750 as a security deposit for medium impact events and \$1,000.00 security deposit for high impact events. If there is no damage, the monies would be returned to the applying group. Also, to delete the Insurance Bond verbiage. Arthur Magni seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

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

Meeting adjourned 9:35PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
October 15, 2007
7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the September 17, 2007 Commission Meeting**
- 2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry**
- 3. Alderman Victoria Danberg, Edmands Park Well**
- 4. Farlow Park, Keith Jones**
- 5. Scholarship Report**
- 6. Crystal Lake & Gath Pool summer figures**
- 7. Dog Park, Francis Rice**
- 8. CPC Update**
- 9. New Business**

Next Meeting: November 19, 2007

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, September 17, 2007
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chair, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chair, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Lee Mottard, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Stapleton acting Secretary.

- 1, Minutes of the June meeting were accepted unanimously 8-0.
- 2 Commissioner's reports of Program, Maintenance and Forestry: Commissioner Towle reported that this past summer's programs were an enormous success. Both Crystal Lake and Gath Pool had very successful and safe summer seasons and that Gath Pool remained open until Labor Day. Each of the Department's Camps programs as well as Arts in the Parks, Square Dancing in the Parks and Senior Citizen's programs were very well attended and received. The Maintenance Division's in-house turf program of slice seeding, fertilization and aeration went very well. Commissioner Towle also noted that the Department was in the process of interviewing for the new Turf Specialist Position.

Commissioner Towle reported that the Department had applied for an Urban Self Help Grant for the Upper Falls Project. This completed application was due to the diligence of Elaine Gentile from Public Works and Bob DeRubeis. Within a week after the application was delivered, we had a site visit with Robert O'Connor, DCR Director. We should hear back from the State sometime in October if our application was successful. This application is for a matching fund scenario and that because Upper Falls Project would incorporate the renewed use of the Charles River, we could receive a higher point evaluation for that phase of the overall project.

Commissioner Towle was happy to report that Newton Youth Soccer had donated \$60,000 to our Department toward the purchase of a new tractor and other supplies. The St Mary of Carmen Society also donated \$500 towards the improvement of the Pelligrini Park field.

Commissioner Towle also reported Marc Welch, Director of the City's Forestry Division is partnering with Andover Newton Theological School on a State funded project to plant more trees in Newton. On Thursday September 27th in Newton Centre and Saturday September 29th at Albemarle Park, volunteers will plant 60 trees providing aesthetic and health-related improvements.

3. Oak Hill Park Flea Market.

Several interested Oak Hill Park Association members and residents were at the meeting in support of the event along with President Joe Frasca. This was a request of the Association to the Commission to waive the usual 2 meeting process vote under the Special Permit Program and to allow the Association permission to hold the Flea Market on Saturday September 29th. President Frasca addressed the members giving a history of the flea market – noting that the last time this event was held was in 1998 and noted that at that time, a permit was not necessary. He apologized to the Members as he was not aware of the permit process but reported that the Association had submitted the pertinent insurance binder documentation to the Law Department this past week as well as completion of all other necessary forms.

Commission Member Myra Tattenbaun offered a motion to allow the waiver for this event and was seconded by Jennie DeVito. The motion passed 8-0. Commissioner Towle and Chairman Rice thanked the group and wished them a very successful event.

4. Second Public Meeting for the Conceptual Plans for Newton Highlands and Newton Upper Falls

Gene Bollinger and Sherri Ruane from Weston & Sampson began the presentation with the Newton Upper Falls project. Gene began the overview with the news that we had submitted an Urban Self Help Application for a \$1,000,000 Phase I Program. Representatives from the State have already made a site inspection and we could expect to hear in late October from the State on our application. The draft conceptual plan presented was the result of three neighborhood meetings over a 6-month period and this is the required second meeting of the Commission. The first Commission meeting was held in June.

Sheri Ruane presented the Phase 1 aspects of the plan. Components of Phase 1 included reconstruction of the tennis courts; a new entrance and refurbished parking lot on Chestnut Street; the children's play lot on Pennsylvania Avenue; pedestrian pathways through out the entire park; general landscape enhancements and the Charles River Access point with a fishing pier location. Phase 11 aspects would include refurbishing of the baseball field, basketball court and other improvements. Commissioner Towle pointed out that the maximum match that we can apply for is 1 million dollars at any one time. The State's share would be \$500,000 and the City's match would be \$500,000. The Commissioner also noted that Carol Schein, who was in the audience, was going before Newton's Historical Commission on this Park as CPC has a Historic Restoration Component to their program.

A discussion followed with Commission Members Johnson and Neville concerning the size of the basketball court. The court was presented in the drawings as a "reduced" size court, which was agreed upon by the neighbors who had attended the previous public hearings. The history on the recommendation of the "reduced" size court was that residents felt that a full size court would draw a different type of user group. The recommendation of the "reduced" size court was modeled after the court at the Emerson Community Center to encourage the informal younger kids play rather than the more competitive full court game played by older teens and adults.

Gene Bollinger reminded the Commission Members that as Sheri pointed out, this is only a conceptual plan, and that the basketball court was part of the Phase 11 component of the overall Master Plan. The dimensions of the basketball court could be reintroduced to the community at that time for further discussion.

Chairman Rice called for a vote of the Commission. Peter Johnson offered a motion that the Commission accept the Master Plan for The Newton Upper Falls Playground. Jack Neville seconded the motion and the motion carried 8-0.

A second motion was offered by Jack Neville to allow Commissioner Towle to pursue any avenue to secure funding for this project. Myra Tattenbaun seconded the motion and the motion carried 8-0.

Newton Highlands Conceptual Master Plan

Gene Bollinger began the presentation with an explanation that the original plan that was presented in June has been changed. He explained that on the original plan, Upland Ave., which is a 50 ft private way, that separates all the commercial abutters from the park originally showed the pavement stopping a bit short of the northern end of the commercial property. The original drawing did not show the upper parking lot connector roadway to the lower lot. This caused some alarm for some of the commercial property owners. The new drawing that Gene offered corrects this mistake. He also noted that it would be in everyone's best interest to upgrade this corridor and that the City would certainly work with each of the commercial property owners to accomplish this upgrade. Gene also mentioned that there was some additional research being done that would flush out the precise limits of the corridor.

Phase I program includes Improvements to storm drainage and utility infrastructure with the exploration of day lighting Stearns Brook; new premiere Little League field with lighting; Little League support building and improved parking conditions either along the Upland Road extension or within the park.

Mr. Elliot Lowe spoke to Commission Members and reported that all five Little Leagues in Newton are aware of this plan and are in unanimous support of this premier Little League Field with Lighting used for tournament play and the City Series. A formal schedule of use had not been formulated but Mr. Lowe thought that all five Little Leagues would share this site on a rotating basis.

Sheri Ruane pointed out to the Commission, that the first real piece of any work to be done at this site should be work done on improvements to the storm drainage and utility infrastructure. The cost of this work could be \$150,000. The cost of the premiere Little League field which would include lighting, irrigation and sub-drainage could be \$500,000. The Little League Support Building which includes restrooms, storage, and a concession area could be \$200,000. The cost for a temporary or permanent approach to the parking area would depend on the existing programs displaced in these improvements. This cost could be around \$100,000.

The total estimated cost for Phase 1 subtotaled \$950,000 with a 20% contingency of \$190,000 and for design engineering a cost of \$140,000 bringing the total of \$1,280,000.00.

A discussion followed on possible funding sources, which could be pulled from several different sources for this project i.e., Little Leagues, and possibly from the Commercial Owners that abut the Park.

Myra Tattenbaum also brought up the possibility that the issues that are being felt at Newton South High School with South Meadowbrook flooding could also influence and impact issues at Newton Highlands.

Walter Bernheimer began a discussion concerning a deadline for this project. Commissioner Towle pointed out that we would not be eligible to apply for funding under Urban Self Help Grant Program but if we were to apply for CPA funds, that deadline would be in December.

Commissioner Towle also pointed out that should the Commission vote to approve this conceptual plan, Elliot Lowe and Buzz Dunker as well as Paul Green were waiting to begin fund raising efforts for the Park. A discussion followed on the priorities of a phase I implementation and that if efforts to raise funds for the Tot Lot happened rapidly then the tot lot construction would be moved from a phase 11 to a phase 1 component.

At this point, comments from the audience were taken. Mr. Bruno DeFazio who is a commercial property owner on the Winchester Street Side of the area introduced himself. He commented that he was thrilled with the plans but cautioned the Commission on the increase of parking that would be now necessary with the new design. If there were going to be a new little league field that the need for bathrooms was essential. Mr. Alan Starr from the Boston Showcase Company also spoke concerning the scheduling of activities on the fields during business hours for the commercial owners and wanted to make sure there would be no conflict during game days. He also pointed out that in years past, the neighborhood had raised objections to a flood lite being installed in the rear of his property and yet the neighborhood seemed to have no objection to sports lighting. Gene explained that spillage from a flood lite was very different from the sports lighting. The sports lighting would be pointed down and the spray from the flood lite was directed in a much broader scope.

Chairman Rice called for a vote. Arthur Magni offered a motion for the Commission to accept the Conceptual Plan as presented for Newton Highlands Park. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion and the motion carried 6-2 with Walter Bernheimer and Peter Johnson voting no.

5. Update on Crystal Lake

Commissioner Towle reported that this past summer season was one of the best seasons in a long time. The sale of Adult and Student memberships was up as well as the total number of children who participated in the swim lesson program. With the addition of the property at 20 Rogers Street and the entire left beach area returned to its previous use, the program attendance also soared. The new wall structure was completed in late June by Public Works and the tree work and grass seeding produced a beautiful new lawn area which was maintained all summer by the Department and by use of the Community Restitution Program. It is the hope of the Department that this new area would be ready for use for the next season. Commissioner Towle also reported on the Crystal Lake Task Force's progress and noted that a report will be due to the Mayor in January of 2008. The Commissioner also reported that the request for the appropriation for funds for the demolition of the house on the 20 Rogers Street site was currently in the Aldermanic process and before the appropriate committees. It was estimated that the cost for this demolition would include removal of the structure from the site once it was demolished and would include back filling of the site, looming, and seeding the area. The property remains fenced as it is unsafe for public use.

Commission Member Myra Tattenbaum requested that a discussion be held at a subsequent meeting to explore the feasibility of keeping the Lake open beyond the usual closing date of the 3rd Sunday in August. While she understands fully that the issue is the staffing problem of lifeguards and other support staff returning to college and school, Myra is hoping to find an alternative to this issue.

Commissioner Towle mentioned to the Commission that it would be appropriate for the Commission to write a letter to The Mayor in support of the purchase of the 230 Lake Avenue Property. A discussion ensued about the funding process but Walter Bermheimer pointed out that Mayor Cohen was driving the process and that as a Commission, a letter in support would be appropriate with out any mention of the funding sources. Myra Tattenbaum motioned that the Commission write a letter to the Mayor in support of the purchase of the property at 230 Lake Avenue and Fran Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0-1 with Peter Johnson abstaining.

6. Update on CPA projects

Deputy Commissioner Bob DeRubeis reported on the status of the following projects:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wellington Park (Stapleton) | Neighborhood needs to come together and agree on the remaining walkway/site furniture issues. |
| Senior Center Park (Stapleton) | Completed – Grand Opening Ceremony on September 8 th . |
| Newton Highlands & Upper Falls Master Plans (Stapleton) | Presentation to Commission on 9/17 for final review vote |
| Williams (Dore & Schein) | Awaiting decision by School Dept concerning the parking lot |
| Gath Pool (Cahill) | Phase 1, 2 & 3 completed. Fence contract awarded |
| Stearns & Pellegrini (Cahill) | Tennis Courts at Stearns completed – all other work on These two sites is on hold due to the lawsuit |
| Washington Park (DeRubeis/Welch) | Project completed DPW to take out overhead lights. |
| Bowen (Pelkowsky) | Contractor to paint lines on basketball court and fill holes alongside maintenance driveway with loam & seed. The project will then be complete. |
| Cheesecake Brook Greenway | Contract with Weston & Sampson signed and DPW project will likely start up this fall. |

7. Update on the Dog Park Committee

Chairman Rice reported that there were no new developments and that the Committee was going before Programs & Services for a public hearing sometime this month for a discussion on the recommended Ordinance Changes.

There was no new business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Stapleton, Manager



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, November 19, 2007

7:30PM at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of October 15, 2007 meeting
2. Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance and forestry
3. Gas blowers ordinance/noise, Alderman Ted Hess Mahan
4. Edmands Park Wall (CPA), Alderman Vicki Danberg
5. Farlow Park Bridge(CPA) Keith Jones
6. Update Crystal Lake Property
7. Ice skating Rules & Regulations
8. Current Dog Park Ordinance
9. Angino Farm Representative
10. New Business

Next meeting December 17, 2007

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 6 - LEE MOTTARD

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - MYRA TATTENBAUM
FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, October 15, 2007
7:30PM, Room 209 Newton City Hall

Attending Francis Rice, Chair; Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chair, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Lee Mottard, Jack Neville. Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager and Carol Stapleton, Manager & Acting Secretary.

1. Minutes of the September meeting were accepted unanimously 9-0.
2. Commissioner's reports of Program, Maintenance & Forestry: Commissioner Towle reported on the very successful Soccer Tourney and Harvest Fair events held in early October. In addition the very successful Oak Hill Flee Market, which was very well organized with some 60 vendors on site for the daylong event. The Commissioner also reported that our new Turf Specialist position was filled and our new Employee John Pesce began work today. Commissioner Towle also reported that the Forestry Division has inspected nearly every street in the City and they have determined that there are approximately 850 trees that are dead, dying, or structurally unsafe. In our current budget, we do not have enough funds to take care of all the hazards. A proposal for additional funds has been submitted to the Administration. Over 150 new trees will be planted in late October, early November. All of the new trees will be bare rooted. Our maintenance division continues to mow grass, work on necessary playground repairs and our irrigation specialist continues to monitor the 38 different sites while adjusting schedules due to changing weather conditions.
3. Edmands Park Well -- postponed to a future meeting.
4. Scholarship Report: Commissioner Towle reported that the total monies available for the Summer of 2007 was \$20,066. Stephanie Pelkowsky reported that the number of applicants decreased approximately 6% from 81 applicants in 2006 to 73 in 2007. Of the 73 applicants, 64 applicants accepted the scholarship for a total of \$17,520. The remaining 9 applicants did not qualify or declined our offering and did not attend a summer camp. The amount awarded to each participant was based on need and number of weeks attending the camp. Every applicant that applied was awarded a scholarship ranging from one to four weeks of camp. A discussion ensued concerning possible ways to obtain more funds for scholarships. Myra Tattenbaum suggested that information could possibly be included in tax bill mailings or other City mailings. Commissioner Towle said that she would contact the Executive Department for guidance on this subject.

5. Summer Swim Report: Commissioner Towle reported that both facilities had a safe and very successful season. Crystal Lake's attendance climbed and the revenue from permits also increased. The Commissioner also noted that with the purchase of 20 Roger's Street and all of the work that was done on that land and to the wall and seating area on the left beach side was truly appreciated by the public. The year-end report for each facility was included in each Commission Member's packet. The Commissioner noted the number of permits that are given to Senior Citizens-age 62 & over, at each facility at no cost. At Crystal Lake a total of 451 permits were given out to Newton Senior Citizens. A discussion ensued, as it has in the past, by Wally Bernheimer that fees should be raised especially in view of the fact that we now have a new piece of property and the potential of the City acquiring an additional piece of property to help offset additional costs of running the summer program. Wally also commented that it is his belief that Senior Citizens should also be charged a discounted fee for using the facility. Myra Tattenbaum felt that we could make allowances for those seniors, who could not afford the fee, similar to our scholarship fund. Commissioner Towle offered to have staff conduct a survey of other Cities & Towns in our surrounding areas not only for swimming fees for Senior Citizens but for all other programs that are offered where Senior Citizens participate. Myra Tattenbaum also expressed an interest in seeing the total operating cost to run each facility. Commissioner Towle commented that she would work towards preparing a report, which would take some time, of the total operating costs for each facility, that would include all of the utility costs as well as leadership costs and any other costs related to the overall operation of each facility during the summer program.
6. Dog Park Update: Peter Kastner felt that a letter should be sent by The Commission Chair as well as The Commissioner, to the Chair of the Dog Park Task Force, asking for a clarification of issues and strong objections that were brought up in previous meetings by Commission Members. Peter also expressed a concern that the ordinance sets up a mechanism by which a free floating group is empowered to hold meetings representing the use of the property and present those views to other public bodies on a theory that some sort of public meeting had taken place. He felt that in terms of public policy that this was a bad idea. Peter felt that we should go on record that the issues and concerns addressed in a letter to the Task Force on April 23, 2007 were never addressed and that The Commission would like those issues and concerns to be addressed by Chairman Albright. Commissioner Towle and Chairman Rice agreed that a letter to Chairman Albright would be sent on behalf of the Commission within the next week.
7. CPC Update: Walter Bernheimer reported that the next CPC meeting would be on October 23rd and the subject would be the purchase of 230 Lake Avenue. He also commented that he had taken a walking tour with Carol Stapleton of the site. Walter also noted the ruling by Middlesex Superior Court Judge Bruce Henry, who ruled that the City could not spend \$765,000 in CPA funds for improvements to the Stearns & Pellegrini Parks Project. This decision could return the money that was allocated for these two parks back into the CPC Budget. Wally would report back to the Commission after the October 23rd meeting.

8. Farlow Park Project: Keith Jones addressed the Commission on behalf of the CPC proposal which advocates for the return of the historic bridge to Farlow Park and the exploration of costs related to the pond at Farlow Park and historic signage for Farlow & Chaffin Parks. The original CPC Proposal was turned down this past spring primarily because of stiff competition for other projects at that time. He also discussed the fact that the needs assessment that was performed by the Parks & Recreation Commission had not placed Farlow Park near the top of the listing. In his letter to Commission Members, Mr. Jones also pointed out that the CPC failed to recognize that the proposal was an historic preservation project, but at the CPC meeting, it was treated as a park project and that the needs assessment did not apply in this instance.

He returns to the Commission asking for support as they plan to reapply again to the CPC for this project. He requested that the Commission consider looking at this project as a historic preservation project and that the Commission would give the project its support. A copy of the Farlow/Chaffin Phase 1 budget report was also submitted with his letter.

Keith noted that the budget had not changed significantly but that they had cut out the maintenance of trees request at the urging of the CPC. Both Peter Kastner and Wally Bernheimer asked for an explanation of the 15% Contingency and the Final Design/Engineering at 15% CB item. Stephanie Pelkowsky explained that those amounts came directly from the design firm and the Master Plan. Peter asked that Stephanie recheck that amount and Wally pointed out that the CPC would be looking closely at the budget, which he felt needed to be refined to reflect any changes for final submission.

Wally asked Keith for an explanation on the bridge – mainly what is the bridge going to be over? the plans show the bridge over water and thought that the necessity of this element was unclear. Keith pointed out in the drawings of the bridge we have now and the bridge we once had which was a thing of beauty and over water. Keith explained either we think about returning the Park to what it once was or we leave it as it is now. He explained that the Parks & Recreation Department has agreed to do a test boring to determine if there is any ground water on the site. If it were found that there was no ground water to tap into that the budget reflected an item to dig a bigger well. Keith believes that the depth of the original pond was about 2 ft. Fran Rice asked about the maintenance responsibilities and budget for the pond. Keith responded that they did not have exact costs at this time and that possibly the water that would come from the well could also be used to irrigate the fields and lawn area at the playground side and would offset the cost of maintenance through that money saved from the City water that is now being used for that purpose.

Chairman Rice asked Commissioner Towle for her opinion on this matter. Commissioner Towle responded that she was not that familiar what pond maintenance would entail. She also stated that she does have concerns on the maintenance of the pond and has expressed that opinion several times in the past. She also pointed out that she is concerned that there are certain water quality standards as well as safety issues that must be maintained. Arthur Magni asked if there were certain guidelines and standards concerning safety and requirements by ordinance or by health codes concerning fencing of bodies of water in a public area. Keith stated that they had looked into the liability issues and that Alderman Scott Lennon had talked to the City's Law Department and that issues surrounding this pond would not be any different than there were with other body of water.

Myra Tattenbaum complimented Keith on his persistence and that certainly a project such as this is what CPA historic restoration funds are meant to accomplish.

Peter Kastner asked Keith for a report on the City's Historic Commission's findings. Keith responded that he had received letters of support from the Historic Commission and Historic Society as well as The Mayor and the 3 neighboring churches.

Chairman Rice asked Commissioner Towle where this site falls in the Department's Needs Assessment Report. With respect to development, Commissioner Towle responded that Farlow Park falls within the lower third of the priority listing.

Wally asked Keith for a description of the next phase of this plan. Keith reported that some fencing and some shrubs would be removed and that any fencing that was deemed necessary to remain, that the fencing would be of an historic nature and not chain link fencing. There would also be granite edging along some of the pathways and a return of a pathway that was originally present in the Park and some bollards and a garden area. In addition, CDBG funds would be used to restore a few of the sidewalks located within the Park at this time.

Commissioner Towle reminded the Commission that there are three projects in the Historic Preservation application process to CPC. The Newton Centre Project, the City Hall Grounds Project and the Upper Falls Project and Farlow/Chaffin Project would make the total four. As Wally pointed out with regard to the CPC's budget issues with the possible return of the funding from the original Stearns & Pellegrini law suit, there may be additional funds available, but he was not able to confirm that at this time. He also pointed out that the CPC will most certainly ask where this project falls in terms of priorities. Wally noted that the question will be raised as to where the monies will come from to maintain this site on an on going basis in future years.

Wally commented on the budget numbers as they was presented this evening. Wally asked Keith to rework the budget figures and that the Commission would defer this item to the November meeting. He also asked that Keith meet again with Fran and discuss where the funds would be coming from to maintain the pond, any ordinances or standards or guidelines that must be taken into consideration on a standing body of water and that if there was not going to be a pond, to provide the Commission with an explanation of the necessity of having a new bridge on the site.

New Business: Carol Stapleton reported on the reception for 1956 Olympic Figure Skating Gold Medal Ms. Tenley Albright, hosted by the Board of Alderman earlier in the month. Shortly after Ms. Albright won the Gold Medal, she skated a benefit performance on Crystal Lake. Several Aldermen who worked with Mr. Leo Geraci from Upper Falls on the project offered a Board Resolution. Carol noted that there was interest expressed by Ms. Albright's Family in addition to Mr. Geraci & other residents to move forward on having a permanent marker placed somewhere at Crystal Lake in her honor. This project would follow The Commission's Commorative Policy Guidelines and a report would follow on the progress of the project.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Stapleton, Acting Secretary

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, December 17, 2007
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the November Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance and forestry
3. CPA Project, Heritage Landscape Inventory, Amy Yuhasz, Community Development
4. Crystal Lake Update
5. New Business

Next meeting: January 28, 2008

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, November 19, 2007
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall**

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Arthur Magni, Jennie DeVito, Myra Tattenbaum, Lee Mottard, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commission, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending, Alternate Peter Kastner, Alderman Ted-Hess Mahan, Alderman Victoria Danberg, Alderman Scott Lennon, Keith Jones, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Carol Connolly, Andy Gluck & Tom Coan

1. Minutes of the October 15, 2007 meeting were accepted 7-0.
2. Commissioner's Report on programs, maintenance & forestry: Commissioner Towle reported on the very successful Paddy's Annual Roadrace, which included over 1,600 runners/walkers. There were two Community Playground Builds; Hunnewell Park and Farlow Park. In the folders are photos of the Farlow Park Build and the (50) people who came to do the work, which included neighbors, firefighters and carpenters along with Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager. This project is almost done except for the wood carpet and fence. Newton Open Studios held their Fall Arts & Craft Show at Carr School November 10th & 11th. Linda Plaut has done an excellent job in coordinating the programs at (Carr School) Newton Cultural Center. There is no new information on the City taking back the Carr School.

Newton Centre Playground is moving forward and will be completed in the spring of 2008. Newton Youth Soccer and Newton Girls Soccer donated monies for Turf maintenance of fields, slice seeding and also a tractor. The donation from the soccer group enables the Department to renovate the fields and use the tractor for in-house projects. The Department is hiring a person for the late John Cole's former position. A snow meeting was held today to discuss snow removals between Parks & Recreation and Public Works. The school areas are our Department and Public Works takes care of the streets. There are in-house crews as well as contractors who take care of the snow.

Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Schein, Open Space Coordinator, met to discuss the Newton Centre playground accessibility project as well as the Newton Upper Falls Project. Both projects are under Historic Preservation in the CPC. Also, the projects are due December 14th.

3. Gas blower's Ordinance Noise: Gas Leaf Blowers and Restrictions on the use of Gas Leaf Blowers within City limits. The Programs & Services Committee met to discuss the leaf blowers. Commissioner Towle attended the meeting. As the Commissioner's suggestion, Alderman Ted Hess-Mahan was invited to attend the Commission meeting with his findings. At present he is proposing the ban on gas leaf blowers. The leaf blower's decibels will be included in the noise ordinance, with a level of 80 decibels. Inserting the following section 20-14 under #422-06 would hereby amend the revised ordinance. The effective dates on the seasonal ban would be April 15th to October 15th. Times would be before 7:00AM during the week and 8:00AM on weekends.
- a) Definition of leaf blowers
 - b) Use of Leaf Blowers Restricted
 - c) Use of Leaf Blowers Subject to Noise Control Ordinance
 - d) Use of Leaf Blowers in Close Proximity to Operable Windows, Doors or Mechanical Air Intake Openings or Ducts Prohibited
 - e) Blowing or Depositing Debris onto Neighboring Properties and Public Right-of-Way Prohibited
 - f) Policies to Ensure Compliance with Foregoing Restrictions by City Departments Responsible for Maintaining City-Owned Property
 - g) Violations
 - h) Notice
 - i) Section 20-14 Restrictions on Use of Leaf Blowers Within City Limits
 - First offence: warning
 - Second offense: \$75.00
 - Third offense: \$150.000
 - Fourth & subsequent offenses: \$300.00
 -

Alderman Hess-Mahan brought information on Safety Precautions regarding the use of leaf blowers. Also, he spoke with Commissioner Towle previously about the money ramifications to the Department. He mentioned that he has received many phone calls from constituents about the banning of leaf blowers, from people working at home and people trying to sleep. Chairman Rice asked about golf courses and would the ordinance apply to them. Alderman Hess-Mahan did not hear back from any of the golf courses in the City.

Commission members asked if this ordinance was a final version of the draft and is the dates changeable from May to October as this includes a 5-month ban throughout the year.

Commissioner Towle re-iterated that she herself has not had one complaint about leaf blowers in all the time she has been Commissioner. The staff must be doing something right! The big impact on the grass contract would be \$60,000. Grass/leaf removal would be another \$45,000. This ordinance would be very difficult for landscapers, City contractors as well as City workers.

It was asked if the City workers could be exempt from the leaf blower ban or could leaf blowers be used within 50-150 feet of a residence.

Alderman Hess-Mahan commented that neighbors/constituents are concerned with the noise of the leaf blowers. One hour of using a leaf blower with the noxious emissions constitutes 7 hours of driving a car with emissions. Other emissions include wind speed, herbicides, pest controls, animal droppings, ozone from tires etc. In Los Angeles, California, no one is allowed to use leaf blowers. The alternative to leaf blowers is rakes. People with asthma, lung problems, respiratory problems, children seniors and joggers all suffer from emissions. There is a health aspect to the emissions problem. Also, there are safety problems that people should be aware of while using the leaf blowers, i.e. eyes, feet.

One commission member asked if City operations of leaf blowers were exempt could borders be created, and are street sweepers exempt. Another member said he does work at home during the day, when the leaf blowers are in use and the leaf blowers are noisy. He mentioned four out of ten people do their work at home. Also, he mentioned that this is not a final version of the ban on leaf blowers.

Chairman Rice thanked Alderman Ted Hess-Mahan for attending the meeting with his update on the gas leaf blowers.

4.

Edmands Park Wall CPA: Ward 6 Alderman, Vicki Danberg: Edmands Park was one of the clean-up sites for Newton Serves Day. At Edmands Park, there were 30 large bags of trash and debris collected including tires. It was noticed that the cap protecting the historic glacial boulder wall along Blake Street was in disrepair and needed to be refurbished. Therefore, CPC monies were suggested, however, the project would need the vote from the Parks & Recreation Commission. The wall was made of glacial boulders, 84 sections and each section is 24 feet long. The caps are deteriorating and water is seeping into the wall damaging it. The cost to repair the wall would be \$102,000 and 18 sections would need to be replaced. The City of Newton's Public Works Department would do all of the work on the wall. It was asked if there were any Federal funds that could be used for this project and the answer was no.

Edmands Park has been in CIP for a good many number of years now, however, it is not on the Departments list of priorities. It was suggested that this project go through the Historical Commission for a vote.

It was noted that Blake Street is not a finished street and it is unpaved. Some of the people who use the park are birders/hikers; people with their dog's run free and also there are no immediate abutters to the property. The project has been put off for so long, that the wall is deteriorating at this time. The committee is not asking for any monies from the Parks & Recreation Department.

Motion was made by Myra Tattenbaum to send the Edmands Park walls project to the Historic Commission for their approval. Jack Neville seconded the motion. Commission members approved the motion unanimously 8-0.

A suggestion was made to Alderman Danberg to call John Bliss as he used to Chair the Edmands Park Committee at one time. Alderman Danberg will be meeting with Alice Ingerson to submit the Edmands Park Wall Proposal. Chairman Rice suggested the Public Works Department do the work during overtime.

Chairman Rice thanked Alderman Victoria Danberg for her time and efforts on the Edmands Park Wall Project.

5. **Farlow Park Bridge CPAProject:** Commissioner Towle complimented Keith Jones and the community on their energy, time and efforts on behalf of the park plans. The community has done an excellent job with their volunteer time in maintaining the park. The park is very well maintained by the volunteers.

Keith Jones again has come before the Commission on behalf of the CPC Proposal, which advocated for the return of the historic bridge to Farlow Park and the costs related to the pond. Also, he said Mayor Cohen backs the Fallow Park project. Keith is returning to the Commission asking for their support as they plan to reapply to the CPC under Historic Preservation. Keith attached Phase I and Phase II to this recent proposal. The bridge has always been a defining architectural structure for the park and having a bridge without a pond will always be a beauty in the park. Keith is asking for support and hopes that the commission will place his project at the top of the recommendation list. The bridge is an architectural feature of the park with or without the pond.

Alderman Lennon also attended the meeting with Keith and they were looking into the cost of maintenance for other ponds in the City. Keith Jones has worked on the Farlow Park project for a very long time. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, also attended the meeting and has worked with Keith on the budget process.

The Parks & Recreation Department have agreed to do a test boring to determine if there is any ground water on the site. Possibly the water from the well can be used to irrigate the fields and lawn at the playground site. Mayor Cohen suggested that the Parks & Recreation Department charge the Newton School Department

for use of the water from the pond for irrigation on the small baseball/soccer field at the school side of Farlow Park.

Keith mentioned the reason Newton is the Garden City is because of the beautiful "Rose Garden" established at Farlow Park in 1880. Farlow Park is a Historical Park. Skillings and Sons Company to do a soil analysis at the park. The bridge cost has been lowered by 15%. Maintenance costs could be minimized with no need for filtration systems if there is adequate water flow.

Chairman Rice commented that at this time, the top four CPC projects, co-sponsored by the Department are Upper Falls Playground, Newton Highlands Playground, Newton Centre Playground and City Hall Landscaping.

Myra Tattenbaum asked about the ruling by Judge Bruce Henry, who ruled that the City could not spend \$765,000 in CPA funds for improvements to the Stearns Pellegrini Parks Project, as the property was not purchased with CPC funds. This decision could eventually return the monies back into the CPC Budget. The Law Department is now appealing the Stearns/Pellegrini Park vote.

Questions arose about the bridge, will there be water under the bridge, and to find a way to get water under the bridge as it will be a more complete project. It was suggested that it would be worthwhile to dig a well. Chairman Rice suggested that the Farlow Park Bridge project be put on the list as #5. The other projects include Newton Upper Falls Playground, Newton Highlands Playground, Newton Centre and City Hall. Farlow would be fifth on the list of five.

Alderman Scott Lennon appreciates the concept of the Farlow Park Project and would like to proceed with Phases I and II.

Keith was surprised that the Farlow project would not higher on the list of five, as Farlow Park is a gem in the City of Newton. The park is the best shape because of volunteers, hours worked, monies, and is next to a pre-school and the church.

Jennie DeVito was impressed with Keith Jones and his project at Farlow Park. He and his group have worked hard to get this project on the CPC list. Also, Jennie suggested switching Phase I and II. Phase I of the project is \$239,200 and Phase II cost is 199,477.50.

Jennie motioned to make the Farlow Park Project the 5th project on the list of top priorities. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. Motion accepted 8-0.

Comments were about the well and if water could be found on the site under the bridge first. Then if water were found, it would constitute a complete project, and include the water and the bridge.

Jennie DeVito motioned to accept the Farlow Park Project as an entire proposal. Myra Tattenbaum seconded the motion. Motion accepted 8-0.

Chairman Rice thanked Keith Jones and Alderman Scott Lennon for attending the meeting.

6. **Update Crystal Lake Property:** A combined Board Meeting and Programs & Services Committee meeting on the Crystal Lake Avenue property will take place Tuesday evening, November 27th by the CPC to acquire the property. The CPC will have a formal meeting on Wednesday evening; November 28th Vice Chairman Bernheimer was impressed with his tour of the property and remarked that it was a good opportunity for the City to buy the property. There is a Crystal Lake Task Force Committee that meets to discuss passive and active recreational opportunities for the land. The 230 Lake Avenue property would extend the property at 20 Rogers Street expanding the public beach.

7. **Ice Skating Rules & Regulations:** The Outdoor Ice-Skating Rules & Regulations for 2007-2008 are the same as last year, per Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the 2007-2008 Outdoor Ice-Skating Rules & Regulations. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously 8-0.

8. **Current Off Leash Dog Park Ordinance:** Chairman Rice mentioned the Off Leash Dog Park Committee needs to come before the Commission with their changes in the current Off Leash Dog Park Ordinance.

9. **Angino Farm Representative:** Chairman Rice suggested Lee Mottard look into being the Commission Representative to the Angino Farm Committee. The Angino Farm Committee paperwork will be forwarded to Lee's home. He will get back to the Commission with his final decision.

10. **New Business:** Vice Chairman Bernheimer mentioned the status of the CPC Stearns/Pellegrini project as the project cannot be granted as it was not purchased with CPC monies. The Law Department is appealing the verdict. The Stearns monies may go back to the CPC fund for other projects. Walter to keep us apprised of the status of the Stearns/Pellegrini project.

Myra Tattenbaum met with Jeremy Solomon, Policy & Communication Director, regarding inserting information in the Water Bills regarding Parks & Recreation scholarships.

In reference to the swim fees for seniors, Carol Stapleton and Nancy Scammon, Recreation Managers are working on the project, and are in communication with other communities at this time.

Peter Johnson recommends there be a standard completed form for all users of the CPC Projects when they come before the Parks & Recreation Commission. Instead of the public coming back to the commission several times, the form should be all filled out and ready to process. Commission members agreed with Mr. Johnson.

Meeting adjourned 9:25PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Monday, January 28, 2008
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the December 17, 2007 Commission Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance and forestry
3. Cabot School Fair, Laura Dreese
4. Relay for Life, Amanda Starkel
5. Newton West Little League Lights, Richard Alexy
6. Parks & Recreation Department Budget
7. Gath Pool & Crystal Lake senior swim rates
8. New Business

Next meeting to be held February 25, 2008

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

December 17, 2007

7:30PM, Room 209, City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Lee Mottard, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Absent: Jack Neville, Michael Clarke and Peter Kastner

1. **Minutes of the November 19, 2007 Commission Meeting were accepted 7-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report on program, maintenance & forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the Thanksgiving Day football game at Newton South High School, and senior rates survey. Questions arose about charging the seniors fees, what would be the appropriate age for a senior, not charging them, would the monies go back into Recreation funds The senior monies collected, if passed by the Commission, would go into the General Fund. There were 450 senior swim passes given out last summer. Chairman Rice proposed the members bring their senior rate ideas to the next Commission Meeting on January 28th.

The Dog Park Ordinance was passed 17-7 by The Board of Aldermen. The members of the Dogs Off Leash Task Force Committee will take ownership of the program, enforcement, cost are their responsibilities and would hand in reports on the progress. Chairman Rice is also on the Dogs Off Leash Task Force Committee and he said the committee was considering three places, Norumbega, Cabot and Cold Spring Park for tentative penned in dog sites. The Dogs Off Leash Task Force Committee will need to come before the Parks & Recreation Commission with their plans for dog park site approvals.

There were 3 snowstorms so far this winter season. The Department requested \$275,000 from the Board of Aldermen for snow clean up monies. So far, there have been 19" of accumulated snow. The excess snows from the City squares were taken to Rumford Avenue, Elliot Street and Nahanton Park. At Nahanton Park there is a certain site in which the snow is taken to. The Public Works Department looms and seeds the area after the snow disappears.

CPA applications are in for Newton Upper Falls Playground, Newton Centre, Farlow Park and Edmands Park.

The Parks & Recreation proposed budget cut for FY08 is 6.6% in the amount of \$270,000.

On a sad note, William Baker, whose family taught archery for the Parks & Recreation Department for 55 years, passed away at the age of 60.

3. **CPA Project, Heritage Landscape Inventory, Amy Yuhasz, Community Development:** Ms. Yuhasz discussed the Heritage Landscape Inventory regarding a master list. The amount of \$10,000 for funding is requested through the CPA for consultant services to prepare a Historic Landscape Inventories for Newton.

The goal is to identify and evaluate significant landscape resources in the City and to present recommendations for preserving these important resources. The inventory would be based on the model established by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Heritage Landscape Inventory Program. parks, playgrounds, farms. Cemeteries, estates and gardens are just a few examples. If approved the CPA funds would be used to hire a consultant with experience conducting heritage landscape inventories. Ms. Yuhasz asked the support of the Parks & Recreation Commission for this project.

After a brief discussion, the Commission members voted. Walter Bernheimer motioned to support the application limited to development of the inventory itself and with no prioritization. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion passes 7-0.

A letter of support will be sent to Alice Ingerson, Community Preservation.

4. **Crystal Lake Update:** Commission Towle reported the Hannon house abutting Crystal Lake will be torn down within a month and the Department will e-mail the commission members as to the demolition date. Also, a sign, with the demolition date on it, will be posted at the Hannon property for the neighbors as well as the community.
5. **New Business: Angino Farm:** Commission member Lee Mottard attended the December 6th, Angino Farm Committee Meeting. The farm is a non-profit organization and has been in existence since 2006. At this time the inside of the barn is being stripped down.

Chairman Rice mentioned that the YMCA is donating an hour on Saturdays for the Newton Parks & Recreation Department's Special Needs track program. This would be a total of 6 hours. If the YMCA had charged the Department, it would have been a total of \$725.00. Thank you YMCA.

Commissioner Towle will meet with Newton West Little League regarding the lights at Lyons Playground. The little league would be paying for the lights themselves. Commissioner will discuss the maintenance and electricity costs for the lights with the league.

Myra Tattenbaum asked if the letter regarding the scholarship fund would go out with the next tax bills. The letter should go out with the water bills and the donation

scholarship checks would be separate from the water bill. The Scholarship donation monies to go into the Revolving Fund.

Commissioner Towle wished everyone "Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year"

Meeting adjourned: 8:30PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 25, 2008
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the January 28, 2008 Commission Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance and forestry
3. Cabot School Fair, Laura Dreese (2nd meeting)
4. Relay For Life, Amanda Starkel (2nd meeting)
5. Newton West Little League Lighting (2nd meeting)
6. Parks & Recreation Department Budget
7. Gath Pool & Crystal Lake senior swim rates
8. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman
9. New Business

Next Meeting: March 17, 2008

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 28, 2008

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Arthur Magni, Myra Tattenbaum, Lee Mottard, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Laure Dreesse, Deborah Klein, Ellen Lipoma, Jim Klumpp, Robert Joyce, Richard Alexy, Amanda Starkel, Terry Morris and Carol Stapleton

Absent, Peter Kastner & Michael Clarke, Alternates

1. **Minutes of the December 17, 2007 meeting were accepted 8-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report on program, maintenance & forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the 9th snowstorm of the season. Trees were a big problem with the branches falling because of the heavy snow on them. The Public Works Department sent crews out to pick up all of the fallen branches last week and this week. The Department's snow budget request so far is over \$430,000. The Commissioner to appear before the Programs & Services Committee on February 4th for snow monies. The Auburndale Cove opened Sunday for ice-skating. The Cove will be open daily, weather permitting. The ice skating hotline number is 617-796-1536. Also, the ice skating information will be posted on the Parks & Recreation website and at the Cove.

The Department has a new summer camp called Auburndale Station. The camp is for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade. The camp will be held at the Williams School in Auburndale and will offer 5 one-week sessions. Candidates for the coordinator's position have been interviewed. The Annual Camp Fair is Tuesday, February 5, 2008. Planning in place for February school vacation programs, which are very positive and highly successful. The Globe Newspaper had a great article on summer camps, which included the Department's Albemarle Acres.

There was a CPA public hearing presentation last week, and on the agenda were Upper Falls Playground, Newton Centre, Farlow Park and Edmands Park. The CPA Committee's discussion will be February 27th. Walter Bernheimer spoke about the Stearns/Pellegrini lawsuit, which is still on appeal. Should the monies

for the Stearns proposal be saved? The CPA Committee has \$900,000 to spend this year.

Crystal Lake, 230 Lake Avenue: The Programs & Services Committee passed the proposal and the Finance Committee voted it down 1-6. The proposal then goes to the full Board of Aldermen for a vote. Commissioner Towle will keep the Commission posted on more information.

Myra Tattenbaum asked as to when the Parks & Recreation scholarship information would go out with the next water bill to all Newton residents. Commissioner Towle said the information would go out in the next water bill.

3. **Cabot School Fair, Laura Dreese:** The Cabot School PTO would like to hold their annual fair on Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 10-3:00PM at Cabot Playground. (Set up at 7:30AM) All rides will be placed in the same positions as last year. All vendors have liability insurance naming the City of Newton as an additionally insured party. They will have amusements, pony rentals, food vendors, games, crafts and a yard sale on the grassy area.

The Department will send out notices to the abutters for the next commission meeting on February 25th apprising them of the fair. The second phase of the Special Permit Application Process requires the abutters be notified of the event. The \$50.00 check for administrative charges has been received.

Motion was made by Walter Bernheimer to approve the Cabot School Fair. Arthur Magni seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Cabot School Fair.

4. **Relay for Life, Amanda Starkel:** The American Cancer Society and Relay For Life Fundraiser, respectfully requests permission to utilize the track and field at Newton South High School for this year's event on May 31 – June 1, 2008. A candlelight ceremony will be held at the track. Teams form at the local track, during an 18-24 hour period, and one team member is always walking, jogging or running, while other member's camp out along the track. The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority is donating 2 portable light towers pointed down onto the track area. The event starts at 6:00PM goes all night and ends 12:00 noon the next day. Also, the event has the required Certificate of Liability Insurance. Commissioner Towle and Carol Stapleton met with Ms. Starkel to discuss the event. The \$50.00 check for administrative charges has been received.

The Department will send out notices to the abutters for the next commission meeting, second phase, on February 25, 2008 apprising them of the Relay for Life Event.

Motion was made by Myra Tattenbaum to approve the Relay for Life Event. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion.

The Commission voted unanimously 8-0 to approve the Relay for Life Event.

5. **Newton West Little League Lights, Richard Alexy:** Robert Joyce spoke on the proposal from Newton West Little League Field for the installation of lights at Lyons Little League field. NWLL uses Lyons Little League field for its spring summer & fall baseball programs. The installation of lights will be an excellent benefit to the league and the 400 families that are part of NWLL. By adding lights it would be possible to increase its weekday usage by having 2 time slots for games/practices at 5:30PM – 7:30PM, game ending by 9:30PM. The league proposed to fund this project without cost to the City of Newton. Also, the league is requesting permission to mount 4" X 6" nameplates recognizing individual/corporate gifts on the dugouts and plaques on the 4 light poles recognizing the principal donors. Chairman Rice recommended one location for the donor plaques. Plaques on benches were also recommended.

The lighting proposed is the minimum lighting standard for this type of field with 60-foot steel poles with a black finish to blend in with the vegetation.

The NWLL spends \$15,000 – 20,000 annually to maintain the field at Lyons Park. Based upon price quotations received projects the cost to be in the range of \$71,000. Annual estimated cost for electricity and maintenance is \$2,288. All operations and maintenance cost is the responsibility of NWLL.

The NWLL has met with Commissioner Towle Deputy Commissioner DeRubeis prior to this meeting to discuss the lighting proposal.

The following questions arose on the plaques being attached to the light poles: Should the donor plaques be limited to one area i.e. dugout, benches. Does the Design Review Committee need to approve the proposal?

The Department will send out notices to the abutter of Lyons Parks to apprise them of the lighting proposal. The \$50 check for administrative charges has been received.

Motion was made by Arthur Magni to approve the Newton West Little League light proposal. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion was approved 8-0. Walter Bernheimer amended the decision to one recommended place for the donor plaques. The Commission members voted unanimously for the amendment change.

6. **Parks & Recreation Department Budget:** Commissioner Towle has not heard back from the Mayor's Office regarding the Department's FY08 Budget cut. The budget cut is 6.6% in the amount of \$270,000.

7. **Gath Pool & Crystal Lake senior swim rates:** All swim permit monies go back into the General Fund. Questions arose regarding raising the swim fee permit rates. The age of a senior citizen (62) to receive a free permit. The seniors can get a scholarship for those who could not pay. There were 450 free senior swim permits at Crystal Lake last year. If the seniors were charged at least \$10. for the permit x 450, the incoming revenue would be \$4,500. Jennie DeVito did not want the seniors charged as they brought the City to what it is today, and they may not be able to afford to live here. Vice Chairman Bernheimer mentioned the City needs the revenues. If the seniors are not charged, the other program fees could be raised.

It was asked that at the next budget meeting, the Commissioner bring up the request to the Mayors office that if seniors are charged for the swim fees, could the monies go back into the Parks & Recreation budget.

Chairman Rice suggested the Commission postpone the senior swim fee increase until Commissioner Towle speaks to the Mayor's office regarding the Parks & Recreation budget.

8. **New Business:** Chairman Rice requested the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman be on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 17, 2008

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the February 25, 2008 Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports on program, maintenance & forestry:
3. Tennis – Mike Lewitt
4. St. Mary Carmen Festival – Chuck Proia
5. Budget Update
6. Crystal Lake Update
7. New Business

Next meeting: April 28, 2008

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 25, 2008

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Chairman Francis Rice, Vice Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jennie DeVito, Myra Tattenbaum, Arthur Magni, Lee Mottard, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

1. **Minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting were accepted 8-0**

2. **Commissioner's Report on program, maintenance & forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the following: There have been 10 snow storms this winter season amounting up to \$500,000. Commissioner Towle and Carol Stapleton, Manager, attended a meeting last week to discuss conceptual plans for Crystal Lake area, a copy of which is on the Commission table for all to see. The 230 Lake Avenue building is to be added onto the plan. There are 3 areas at Crystal Lake that can be linked together. The design fee would be \$50,000 for a Master Plan. The City acquired 20 Rogers Street and is in the process of acquiring 230 Lake Avenue, which includes a house. When purchased, a caretaker will be living at the house until it is sold. These parcels can provide a more flexible recreation facility for the citizens of Newton who enjoy Crystal Lake. A meeting is scheduled for 7:45PM at City Hall to discuss the Crystal Lake CPC project. This year's "Camp Fair" was the most successful one we ever had and was very well attended. The Department has a new summer camp this year called Auburndale Station. The camp will be at the Williams School for grades K-5. Wednesday evening, February 27th, the Department will be presenting the proposed Parks & Recreation FY09 budget cuts at City Hall. The Department is very proud of Mark Kelly, our Therapeutic Special Needs Director, who will be receiving a Federation for Children with Special Needs Community Partnership Award. On Saturday, March 1, 2008 the award will be presented at a statewide conference held at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston. Also, the Department celebrates its 30th anniversary of providing therapeutic recreation programs to the special needs community.

On March 5, 2008, at 10:00AM in the Druker Auditorium at the Main Library, the State Ethics Commission will be presenting an educational seminar on the State Conflict of Interest Law. Commission members are invited to attend as well as Recreation Personnel.

Last November the Forestry Department was given an appropriation of \$36,000 in monies to take down hazardous trees, which are still being removed at this time.

Commissioner Towle introduced Heather Page, an intern for the Department, who is here for a few months. Heather attends Southern Connecticut College and is majoring in Recreation and Leisure.

3. **Cabot School Fair, Laura Dreese (2nd meeting):** Ms. Dreese spoke about the Cabot School PTO Fair, which is to be held on Saturday, May 3, 2008. Rides are the same, using the same vendors. Peter Johnson motioned to approve the Cabot School PTO Fair Event. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

4. **Relay for Life, Amanda Starkel (2nd meeting):** Ms. Starkel spoke about the American Cancer Society and the Relay for Life requesting permission to utilize the track and field at Newton South High School for this year's event on May 31 – June 1, 2008
Myra Tattenbaum motioned to approve the proposal for using Newton South High School for this year's special American Cancer Society and the Relay for Life event scheduled to be held May 31 – June 1st. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

5. **Newton West Little League Lighting (2nd meeting):** Robert Joyce, NWLL, spoke regarding the lighting proposal for Lyons Playground. The little league spends \$12,000-\$13,000 per year maintaining the NWLL fields. There is a need for lighting for night games, one game to start at 5:30, the other to start at 7:30PM, end at 9:30PM. Chairman Rice reiterated that the little league would be paying all the expenses, no cost to the City. Myra Tattenbaum, in looking at the specifications the league has, would the league be working with other City Departments, Electrical, Conservation, Flood Plain, and done according to LL standards. There would be no lighting outside the field with no impact on the neighborhood. Commissioner Towle mentioned traffic concerns at Islington and Commonwealth Avenue and she will have the City Engineer, Lou Taverna look into it. Mr. Joyce indicated 12 players, 24 or more cars would be parking there. One member said 24 cars sounded like a very low number.

Commissioner Towle read a 2 page letter from David Lurie in reference to the lighting proposal. Mr. Lurie is opposed to the installation of lights at Lyons Field for lack of need for night games, traffic/parking, noise and cost of additional police officers to direct traffic.

Frederick Abernathy read his letter opposing the lighting proposal. Lighting would produce major changes and noise associated with games in the evenings. Also, the request for lighting also includes more advertising. The lighting would have an adverse effect on our environment! Children should be home at night studying.

Bob Joyce:

Bev & Tom Droz (e-mail) are opposed to lighting. With the loss of shrubs and trees on the backside of the park, the noise and lights have grown increasingly invasive over the past few years.

Stan Kruzensk1, 221 Commonwealth Avenue, the focus is on the field and who will maintain it, the parking is spread out on the strip of grass. Who will maintain the lights as to the noise, could the little league use wooden bats?

Larry Smith in favor of the fields, however there is no pattern to parking, especially concerning little kids. Also, there is a blind curve on Islington Road that hampers traffic. Maybe people should car pool or walk to the games.

Peter Goddard, 6 Islington Road, all for keeping kids busy, however he is concerned about parking on the grass strip and at Islington and Commonwealth Avenue. There should be a formal parking system.

Phil Glantz: Agrees with Mr. Goddard, parking is a big problem. Lights should be shut off early.

Dom Caruso, 16 Duffield Road: Parking is a problem for the Newton teams. No teams from other cities/towns, City Series, should be allowed to play at Lyons.

Alderman Amy Sanguilo: The storage container is moved when not in season, the little league has removed past advertisement. Some of the neighbors are for the proposal and some are not. It is a tough call, will all the conditions be met and would the lights be out at 9:30PM.

Alderman Paul Harney: Spoke on some of the e-mails that he received, lights should be shut off at 9:30PM, parking is a big issue, however, he is willing to work with the little league and neighbors and there is a need for a safer intersection.

Thomas Barclay, Islington Road: In favor of the request as long as the games are over by 9:30PM. People are parking on Islington Road in front of people homes and some are not aware of the narrow road and the bad curve in the road. Also, what is going on with the lights at night by the sewer system at Lyons. MWRA is working on the sewer system/drainage in the lower part of the park.

One member asked about an updated elevation plan and photos of light standards, as it would be very helpful to look at. Also, has the little league gone before the Conservation Committee for the lighting proposal? A maintenance plan in writing would be needed with cost estimates, replacement costs, period of maintenance and contractor who is installing and maintaining the lights.

Peter Kastner: The NWLL has made many modifications to Lyons park, including fence, batting cage, fenced in field, dugout, concession stand and storage shed. The structures come under the Commission's Policy of Private structures on City Lands. Is there an ordinance about parking on the median strip? Could the light towers be taken down at night?

Ann Marie Abernathy: Very concerned with the noise in the evenings, you can also hear the cars on Commonwealth Avenue as well as the turnpike. Playing ball at night would include shouting, which is very intrusive. Is there a solution to parking on the median strip?

Nick Nedscoff: There are 4 poles and 7 heads on each pole. Is there a picture of the lights? Traffic will be very busy, and organized parking is needed. Is the existing parking legal? Will other little league teams be playing at Lyons?

Terry Morris: Terry mentioned that each little league takes care of their own fields. The NWLL will pay for the lighting at no cost to the City. Also, playoff games are a source of pride for the little leagues. At this time there are not enough little league fields for all the games that need to be played. Lighting would address the field issues.

Vice Chairman Bernheimer agreed that there is a shortage of facilities/fields and lighting is important, however, there are good merits to the proposal. The lack of elevation needs to be addressed and the issues cannot be addressed in just a few weeks and his suggestion is to wait until next year. Arthur Magni concurs with Mr. Bernheimer regarding the issues.

Peter Johnson asked about extra games, and will there be a problem with parking. Lyons would be an ideal field to install direct lighting if the parking issues were addressed.

Jennie DeVito is in favor of the project, if the traffic pattern and noise is addressed. Would the little league need to go before the Traffic Commission? Everything that has been done prior to receiving this proposal is appreciated i.e. all the work that has been done and paid for by the little league.

Myra Tattenbaum mentioned that if the little league wanted to start the night games in June, construction would need to start now.

Jack Neville thought the lighting of a little league field was good for the City, however, parking is still the issue.

Lee Mottard -----

Chairman Rice talked about the noise issue at night, the Saturday/Sunday games do not seem to be an issue. Parking is a serious problem. There is not enough time to put light in this season. Plus, all the issues this evening need to be answered to everyone's satisfaction.

Mr. Joyce said perhaps the little league could use the Corpus Christi parking lot for the overflow of cars during the games.

Walter Bernheimer motioned not to approve the little league's proposal for installation of lighting at Lyons Field at this time. The issues included: games with exclusive use for Newton teams only, police detail, traffic, lights out at 9:30PM, parking on Islington Road as well as the carriage road and the number of nights each week to play. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion, Peter Johnson abstained, ----- 1 opposed. Vote was 6 for, 1 abstained and 1 opposed .

6. **Parks & Recreation Department Budget:** Wednesday night the Parks & Recreation Department's FY09 budget will be presented to the Finance Committee and Board of Aldermen.

Parks & Recreation Budget Reductions Overview:

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Grass Cutting | \$ 83,255 |
| • Leaf Removal | \$ 43,680 |
| • Eliminate position | \$ 52,355 |
| • Construction Equipment | \$ 64,500 |
| • Close Newton North Indoor Complex | <u>\$ 39,000</u> |
| Total 6.8% reduction | \$282,790 |

7. **Gath Pool & Crystal Lake senior swim rates:** An increase in senior swim rates are not encouraged at this time.

Walter Bernheimer asked about creating a revolving fund just for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. The swim money at this time goes into the General Fund. -----

8. **Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman:** Chairman Rice handed the gavel over to Commissioner Towle. Commissioner Towle took the gavel and asked for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. Jack Neville nominated Francis Rice as Chairman of the Commission. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

The gavel was then turned over to Chairman Rice for nominations for Vice Chairman. Peter Johnson nominated Walter Bernheimer for Vice Chairman of the Commissioner. Jennie DeVito seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0. Congratulations to Francis Rice and Walter Bernheimer.

9. **New Business:** Jennie DeVito, Ward 1, made an announcement that she is resigning from the Parks & Recreation Commission this evening. She enjoyed working on the Commission and with the commission members.

Also, Myra Tattenbaum, Ward 8, made an announcement that she is resigning from the Parks & Recreation Commission this evening. Myra also enjoyed working on the Commission and with the commission members.

Commission Towle thanked Jennie and Myra for their dedication and service to the Commission.

Meeting adjourned 9:25PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 28, 2008

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the March Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance & Forestry
3. St. Mary of Carmen Festival – Chuck Proia
4. Swimming season fees for Crystal Lake & Gath Pool
5. Tennis – (Mike Lewitt -Stephanie)
6. Minga – Rebecca Kantar, Special Permit
7. Update on Dog Park
8. Update on Crystal Lake
9. Newton West Little League Update
10. New Business

Next Meeting May 19, 2008

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
March 17, 2008
7:30pm Room 209 at Newton City Hall

Attending: Peter Johnson, Acting Chair, Arthur Magni, Lee Mottard, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Carol Stapleton, Acting Secretary.

- 1. Minutes of the February 25, 2008 meeting were accepted 3-0.**
- 2. Commissioner's Report on program, maintenance and forestry:
Commissioner Towle reviewed this past winter's snowstorms of which there have been 14 to date that the Department has either plowed or sanded & salted amounting to approximately \$600,000. Commissioner Towle also reported on the Senior Trips, which are starting up again in full force under Nancy Scammon's direction. Special Needs Program Director Mark Kelly has just completed the Kevin Clancy Tourney held at Newton North High with some 18 teams participating this year. Commissioner Towle also reported that she had been in contact with the Newton West Little League's representative, Rich Alexy regarding the League's proposal for Lyons Field. The League should have a more detailed report for the April meeting. Commissioner Towle also reported that she had been in contact with the City Solicitor, Dan Funk regarding the issue of parking on the reservation area in front of Lyons Field and Traffic & Engineering Departments will also have a more detailed report for the April meeting. A letter was sent to Bob Joyce, League President as a follow-up to the February Commission, which was enclosed in the Commission packets for this month. The Department is also working toward a spring clean up of all areas, especially for the Marathon on April 21st. All little league and high school ball fields will also be receiving clean up and preparation for opening seasons for all leagues.**

3. **Tennis Update:** Stephanie Pelkowsky, Manager presented the proposed fee structure for the 2008 Season for the Clay Courts at Newton Centre. Commissioner Towle explained that even though the Commission would not be able to vote to accept the fees, the presentation would be noted in the March meeting minutes and voted at the April meeting.

Season Fee –May to October

Resident Adult would be increased \$10.00 to \$130.00

Resident Student would be increased \$5.00 to \$65.00

Non-Resident Adult would be increased \$15.00 to \$180.00

Non-Resident Student would be increased \$10.00 to \$115.00

***Increases reflect the rise in rates for water for the courts.**

There was no increase recommended for hourly rates for this year.

Stephanie also handed out the Rules and Regulations for the Newton Centre Clay Courts and noted that all recommended changes in wording were highlighted in bold type. She explained that most of the changes were allowing the rules to be more explicit thereby allowing the staff to enforce the rules. She also noted a change in the hours from 3pm to 4pm.

4. **St. Mary of Carmen Festival**

Chuck Proia, Festival Chairman presented the yearly letter of request to hold the annual celebration on the grounds at JoAnne C. Pellegrini Memorial Playground.

The dates are as follows:

July 14th to 16th Set up and preparations

July 16th to July 19th 6pm to 11pm all lights off by 11:30pm

July 20th 1pm to 11pm – all activity ceases – carnival operator will be allowed until 1:00am to begin the process of clean up and equipment removal. All activity will cease at 1:30am.

July 21st & July 22nd final clean up and removal

Commissioner Towle also noted that the Society makes a donation for the clean up of the field and facilities.

A formal vote by the Commission will take place at the April meeting.

Abutter notifications will be sent out in early April.

5. Coletti-Magni Park Improvements Project

Danielle Bailey – Planning Department Planner was in attendance to report to the Commission on this Proposal that she has worked with the Nonantum Advisory Committee as well as other city agencies for improvements to the area.

The estimated project cost at this time was approximately \$80,000. These monies would be funded by the CDBG Block Grant Fund Program.

A detailed breakdown will be available for the April meeting.

Danielle pointed out some of the highlights of the proposal, most notably a new fence surrounding the entire Park similar to the black ornamental fence at the Senior Centre as well as new signage, new concrete sidewalks and a new accessible curb cut.

The Project will be sent out for public bid in April and if successful, the construction could begin in the fall of 2008.

6. Budget Update:

Commissioner Towle reported that the Department has prepared two Budgets. One Budget will reflect a no override vote and will note some deep cuts in the operations of the Department. A second budget has been prepared with level funding. A date has not been set for the override vote at this time.

7. Crystal Lake Update: Carol Stapleton reported that the Board of Alderman would be taking up the purchase of 230 Lake Avenue this evening. She also noted that the Task Force received funding for the Master Plan Study. \$35,000 would come from City Funds and a very generous donation of \$15,000 from the Conservators for a total of \$50,000

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 19, 2008

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the April Meeting
2. Commissioner's Reports of program, maintenance and forestry
3. Request from Minga's Art Celebration for use of City Hall Grounds on May 31st and June 1st, 2008
4. School Rope Structures – Gwen Smith, Curriculum Coordinator Health & Wellness, School Department
5. Crystal Lake Update
6. Update FY09 Budget
7. Update CPA Projects
8. Dog Ordinance Update
9. New Business

Reminder: Mayors Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, May 21st, 2008, 7:30AM at Boston College. See Faye for tickets

Reminder: Youth Awards Presentation prior to Commission Meeting on Monday, June 16th, 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 19, 2008

7:30pm, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Arthur Magni, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

Also attending: Alderman Carleton Merrill and Alderman Scott Lennon

1. **Minutes of the February 25, 2008 were accepted 5-0**
Minutes of the March 17, 2008 Meeting were accepted 5-0

2. **Commissioner's Report on program, maintenance & forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the following: Newton Serves, the Maintenance cleaned up 50 sites, of which 33 belonged to the Department plus school sites. David Mandatori, Superintendent of Maintenance, coordinated the clean up. Beverly Droz is the Newton Serves Director. Marathon clean up was again very successful this year, Maintenance Division worked with Public Works and the job was done early. Mr. Mandatori had commented that the debris at the watering stations were a problem this year. Little League's openings have started. The Heartbreak Hill Youth Race was once again successful this year. The Forestry Department has taken down 800 trees and will plant 100 more. Carol Schein, Adopt-A-Space, is working on pathways for parks. The Department is very proud of the programs during school vacation week April 21st. Many trips were held, movies, All Sports Clinic, basketball, games & activities, Puddlestompers, etc. The Department is proud to announce two new camps this summer: Auburndale Station at the Williams School and T'Ville Trails at the Bowen School. Senior programs include bike riding, walks and Senior Olympics in June at Springfield, MA. At Gath pool the shade structures have been installed as well as the slide. New on the website are the Department's policies, parks areas and activities. Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on May 21st, 7:30AM at Boston College, see Faye for tickets.

3. **St. Mary of Carmen Festival:** The St. Mary of Carmen Society is requesting permission to celebrate its Annual Fiesta from July 16, 2008 through July 20, 2008 at Pellegrini Playground. There is one new ride the Wacky Worm, a family roller coaster, however, they are still keeping the same number of rides as last year. Noise was discussed.

Walter Bernheimer motioned to accept the request to hold the St. Mary of Carmen Society's Annual Fiesta at Pellegrini Park from July 16th through July 20th. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed

4. **Swimming season fees for Crystal Lake and Gath Pool:** The swim fees are the same as last year. Opening day at both sites is June 9th.

2008

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Adults (18 years of age & older) | \$45.00 season |
| Students (6 thru 18) | \$20.00 |
| Seniors (age 62 & over) | opt for no charge |
| Resident adult daily fee | \$ 6.00 |
| Resident student daily fee | \$ 4.00 |
| Non-resident daily fee | \$10.00 regardless |

Of age

Residents with financial hardship may apply to the Commissioner of Parks & Recreation for a scholarship/waiver

Discussion ensued on raising the price of fees for next year and also a fee for senior citizens; if a senior cannot pay, scholarships will be available.

Motion was made by Peter Johnson to accept the Gath Pool and Crystal Lake swim fees for the 2008 swim season. Arthur Magni seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0 with 1 abstaining, Walter Bernheimer.

5. **Tennis:** Tennis fees for Newton Centre Clay Courts and Regulations:

| | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Resident Adult | \$120.00 | \$130.00 |
| Resident student (under 18) | \$ 60.00 | \$ 65.00 |
| Non-Resident adult | \$165.00 | \$180.00 |
| Non-Resident student | \$105.00 | \$115.00 |

Hourly Rates (No changes)

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

Motion was made by Walter Bernheimer to accept the Newton Centre Clay Courts Fees and Rules and Regulations for 2008. Arthur Magni seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

6. **Minga, Special Permit, Rebecca Kantar:** Minga is requesting a special permit for the use of City Hall grounds on May 30th and June 1st. Minga is a youth-run-non-profit organization dedicated to ending the global sex trade in children. They will sell handicrafts from around the world and all proceeds will go the Minga's partnership with A Home for Little Wanderer's to fund their advertisement campaign and Minga's Rehabilitation programs.

Ms. Kantar, who is requesting the City Hall site will be at the next Commission Meeting on May 19th, to present Minga to the abutters to City Hall and residents.

7. **Update on Dog Park:** Chairman Rice reported the dog park committee is trying to decide as to where in the City, dog parks should be placed.
8. **Update on Crystal Lake:** Vice Chairman Bernheimer spoke on the Crystal Lake CPA project. CPA approved ½ the monies for the house, which is on the market and may have a buyer. Through an agreement, the City will gain a waterfront easement, connecting the City's waterfront properties. Negotiations will take place with prospective buyer.
9. **Newton West Little League Update:** Commissioner Towle has been in contact with the NWLL, Law Department and Traffic Division. The Median strip is a public way however, it is under the jurisdiction of Public Works. There is an Ordinance prohibiting parking on the median strip. Clint Schuckel, traffic Department, will be checking, for the next two months, on the parking and traffic and will give a recommendation for both. (Ordinance would need to be changed for parking on median strip). Also the league needs to work with Conservation about the lights and flood plain, as neighbors have issues on the lights as to when they go on and off at night.

Robert DeRubeis mentioned a traffic study is being done to address the parking situation and parking in the Corpus Christi parking lot may not be a good idea as the children will need to cross Commonwealth Avenue. The little league feels the lights are not the same issue as the traffic/parking.

10. **New Business:** It was asked that Youth Award nomination papers be sent out to the Commission members.

Upper Falls Playground has new play apparatus and a ribbon cutting ceremony will soon take place.

Arthur Magni was concerned about an article, "Lead found in artificial turf in New Jersey." In an e-mail to Commissioner Towle, David Naparstek, Health Commissioner, had spoken to the Consumer Product Safety Commission and they indicated there is no need for undue concern about this matter.

Meeting adjourned 8:17PM

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
June 16, 2008
7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall*

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the May Meeting
2. Commissioner Towle's Reports of program, maintenance & forestry
3. School Rope Structures: Gwen Smith Presentation
4. Scholarship Report
5. CPA Projects Update
6. FY09 Budget Update
7. Dog Ordinance Update
8. Newton Centre Playground Update
9. Crystal Lake Update
10. Shade structure at Newton Community Service Center: Bill Garr & Lonnie Schroeder
11. New Business

Next meeting to be held September 15, 2008

** Reminder: Youth Awards to be held prior to Commission Meeting, Monday, June 16th, 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 19, 2008

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis Rice, Chairman, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chairman, Peter Johnson, Arthur Magni, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays, Secretary

1. **Minutes of the April 19, 2008 meeting were accepted 5-0.**
2. **Commissioner's Report on program, maintenance & forestry:** Commissioner Towle reported on the following: Coming up is the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, Wednesday, May 21st at Boston College. Linda Plaut, held Open Studios last week at the Newton Cultural Center, which was very successful. On the same day there were House Tours from Jackson Homestead. The Youth Awards will be held just before the next Commission Meeting on June 16th at 7:00PM in the Aldermanic Chambers at City Hall. Suggestion was to have the Youth Awards every other year. Graduation for NNHS will be June 4th at Boston College and NSHS graduation will be June 5th at Newton South. A Special Needs Banquet was held on May 14th at Post 440. This was the 30th year of the Special Needs Program for the Department. Over \$1,200 in donations has been received for scholarships, as a result of a notice that went out with the water bills that went out to the residents. Gath Pool & Crystal Lake open June 9th for the season. Gath Pool has a new slide and shade structure. Nancy Scammon, Senior Director, is taking seniors to the Senior Games in Springfield in June. There are 2 new camps this summer season, T'Ville Trails and Auburndale Station. The Maintenance Department is working on a new turf program.
3. **Request from Minga's Art Celebration for use of City Hall Grounds on May 31st and June 1st, 2008.** Rebecca Kantar, student, gave a presentation to the Commission members about Minga's Art Celebration. The celebration to take place May 31st and June 1st on the grounds of City Hall. Minga is a youth run non-profit organization dedicated to ending the global sex trade in children. The event will raise monies to build a rehabilitation center for children in the Philippines. At the event will be an art sale for well-established artists and emerging artists. They will also sell handicrafts from around the world. Rebecca is also asking permission to set up minor structures on the Monday before the event. Setting up the structures (ports) before the event will attract curiosity and publicity. The ports cause no lawn deterioration. The event is to raise awareness to end the child sex trade. Chairman Rice thanked Rebecca for the great presentation.

Motion was made by Walter Bernheimer to approve the Minga Art Celebration to be held at City Hall on City Hall Grounds, May 31st and June 1st. Peter Kastner seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. **School Rope Course Structures Presentation:** Amy Aransky and Peter Klajnecer gave a presentation on school rope structures. The monies for this purpose came through a Federal funds grant, and the structures would implement challenges for the children throughout the courses. Students will be engaged in educational experiences using new adventure oriented equipment and challenge courses.

The start up programs would be at Day and Bigelow Middle Schools. The posts would be 3" into the ground and the planks would be 1' off the ground. Also there would be foot cables and guy wires during the sessions. The groups would break into teams and solve physical problems. Eventually this program would be for kindergartners to high school seniors. This program would strengthen the wellness and emotional growth of physical education. One site would be a small piece of the Avery estate; however, they have not talked with the neighbors about this yet. This program would require two Commission Meetings and the abutters would need to be notified at Day (Avery Estate) and Bigelow (Burr Park). The next commission meeting will be June 16th. At Bigelow they would use the semi-wooded area between the basketball courts and the wall, near the long jump pit. Commissioner Towle mentioned that this is a dead end space and not used for other activities and is enclosed with bushes. When the equipment is not used it will be stored in the schools. Commissioner Towle will work with Gwen Smith from the School Department regarding the courses. Also, it was suggested the group contact the Friends of Albemarle, Burr Park, Bigelow and Day with this information.

Motion to postpone the vote until the next Commission meeting on June 16th. Abutters to be notified. Motion was seconded. Motion approved 5-0.

5. **Crystal Lake Update:** The Crystal Lake Task Force will meet in June and Commissioner Towle will update the Commission members.
6. **Update FY09 Budget:** Commissioner Towle reported on the Parks & Recreation Budget that was presented last week to the Board of Aldermen. The Department's budget presentation started at 10:00PM that evening. The FY2009 Department Budget booklet is in everyone's folders.
7. **Update CPA Projects:** The only CPA Project that is active is the one for Farlow Park Pond, which is under Historic Preservation.
8. **Dog Ordinance Update:** Chairman Rice mentioned that there are suggestions from the Dog Park Committee, for 3 trial dog park sites, Cabot, Old Cold Springs

and the Conservation area at Norumbega. They would need 5-10 people to clean up at each site and to keep the sites clean. The Dog Ordinance Committee would need to come before the Recreation Commission for approval.

9. **New Business:** Amy Yuhasz, from the Planning Department was in attendance to request the recently installed, CDBG funded walkway adjacent to the Stearns Park Tennis Courts be named the Alice Webber Way. There would be 2 granite posts, one with a dedication plaque. Ms. Webber was a committed member and chairperson of the Nonantum Advisory Committee for 30 years.

Arthur Magni motioned to postpone the vote until the next Commission meeting on June 16th. Peter Kastner seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Commissioner Towle announced the retirement of Faye Hays, Secretary to the Commission and the Recreation Department after working for the past 22 years. A retirement party will be held on Friday, June 20th, 5:30PM at Post 440. A buffet to be served at 6:30PM. The members congratulated Faye on her retirement at the end of June.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40PM

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR

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**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2008
7:30pm Room 209 at Newton City Hall**

Agenda

1. **Commissioner's Reports on programs, forestry and maintenance.**
2. **Amy Yuhasz, Planning Department, request to dedicate walkway at Stearns Park in honor of Alice Webber.**
3. **Newton Public Safety Memorial Proposal for the Newton Centre Green.**
4. **Off Leash Proposal for Old Cold Spring Park, Dunklee Road-Lee McIntyre**
5. **Newton School Department Challenge Course Installation request at Halloran/Avery Estate and Newton South/Brown & Oak Hill Schools.**
6. **Newton West Little League request for installation of a lighting system at Lyon's Park – Traffic Study report.**
7. **West Newton Common Bocce Court installation proposal.**
8. **CPC application for City Hall Grounds – Olmstead Design**

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 6 - LEE MOTTARD

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - MYRA TATTENBAUM
FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks



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FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 16, 2008

7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Walter Bernheimer, Acting Chairman, Peter Johnson, Arthur Magni, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner and Faye Hays Secretary

Also attending: Marcia Johnson, Alderman and Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, School Department & Amy Aransky and Richard Klainsclie also from the School Department.

1. **Minutes of the May meeting were accepted 5-0.**

2. **Commissioner's Reports on maintenance, forestry, and program:**
 Commissioner Towle introduced Kathryn Heitman, soon to be appointed, Commission member, Ward 8 replacing Myra Tattenbaum. The Commissioner reported on the following: During the past weekend, Special Olympics event was held at Boston University for Summer Games. A total of 48 athletes were competing. Senior Olympics were also held over the weekend at Springfield College and members of the Recreation Department came back with the "GOLD." Crystal Lake is now open, and the new grassy picnic area has a fantastic view of the Lake. Gath Pool opened and has a new slide and shade area for the swimmers. A Memorial Day ceremony was held, at Newton Centre Playground the installation of Universal play equipment is in process. The Department of Public Works will be working on the new driveway at Burr Park.
 The Commissioner reported on a new machine called the Vertiquake that softens the soil, and will be used at Pellegrini, Burr, W. Newton Common, Auburndale, and Upper Falls. A dedication was held at the Farlow Park Tot Lot in memory of Jack Kaczmarek, a young child, who used to play there. The Wellington project is just about completed. The Newton Conservators honored Mark Welch with a Director's Award on Wednesday, May 28th. Camps are full except for a few openings.

3. **School Rope Structures Presentation, Gwen Smith School Department:** The Newton Public Schools was awarded a 3-year grant of \$1,023,842 from the U.S. Department of Education for the Carol White Physical Education Program. Amy Aransky and Richard Klainsclie presented the proposed plans and layouts for the Challenge Courses.

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 6 - LEE MOTTARD

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - MYRA TATTENBAUM
- FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

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The challenge courses will challenge outdoor personal development and team building activities, which include rope course components. There are low elements near the ground and High elements will use utility poles. On the poles would be guy cables, some high some low. In addition, there would be a teeter platform, which looks like a table. The courses would challenge k-12 grades. The two sites, Burr Park & the grassy area on the Avery Estate, are on Recreation property. Other sites are on School properties at Newton South & Oak Hill.

Alderman Johnson was interested in the proposal for the Avery Estate. She is concerned about the effect on the neighbors of the area and felt that much more information is needed to be presented to her and the neighborhood that immediately abut the property.

Acting Chairman Bernheimer inquired about the proposed program during the fall and spring months. Richard Klainsclic reported that in the fall, the program would be an 8-10 week program and in the spring, there would be two classes at a time during the school day for 8-10 weeks.

Sharon Kelly, 321 Crafts Street spoke and noted that she would like to see the Avery Estate left as open space. Ms. Kelly also noted that years ago, there was a ropes course in this area and eventually everything deteriorated and after several calls, the course was taken down. She also noted that there is always a lot of rubbish in the area, which she picks up, and feels that the City would not maintain the area. She wondered if the course could be located in the City Hall area.

David Lindstrom, 345 Crafts Street spoke and noted that teenagers use The Avery Estate after hours. He also questioned why this program could not use the gym at Day Middle School. He felt that the climbing wall would attract people after hours. He also wondered if the area would be fenced off and locked when not in use by the School Department. He wanted the Commission to know that he is opposed to the proposal to put the ropes course project at the Avery Estate.

Ms. Bai, 230 Crafts Street, said that she and her family are concerned for security of their home. She pointed out that kids run through their property and over the fence to get to Day Middle School all the time.

Jeff Bai, 230 Crafts St, is also concerned about the security of he and his family in the evenings, and would like to leave the area green and open. This is a natural area and should be left as open space.

Eric Chasalow, asked that the location be changed to another area of the Albemarle Complex.

Acting Chairman Bernheimer mentioned that the Burr Park site seems fine, however, at the Day/Avery site, another area should be chosen.

David Lindstrom wondered if the Avery site the only site on this side of the City and had other sites been considered. He requested that the location be changed to another area at The Halloran Complex. A suggestion was made to put the ropes course project between the baseball fields.

Marietta Markatelli from Burr Park asked where the equipment would be stored after use each day. Mr. Klainsclic responded that storage was at Bigelow Middle School.

Acting Chairman Bernheimer suggested that the Ropes Project for the Avery Estate be changed to another location and to look at other option sites. If another site were chosen, the proposal would come before the Parks & Recreation Commission and would require 2 meetings.

Acting Chairman Bernheimer thanked staff from the School Department, for the Ropes Course Proposal. He also thanked those residents from both sites for attending the meeting.

Motion was made by Arthur Magni to approve the Ropes Project for Burr Park only. Peter Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

4. **Scholarship Report:** Stephanie Pelkowsky presented the Summer Camp Scholarship report for 2008. As of June 16th, 2008, there were 62 applicants and only 57 qualified for guidelines for low to moderate income. This year we are recommending every applicant receives 50% of what they requested. Total amount available \$21,820.00, Scholarship recommended \$20,835.00, with a balance of \$985.00. It has been traditional that we receive 8-10 additional requests throughout the summer. Myra Tattenbaum, former Commissioner Member, had suggested inserting a flyer "Help Send a Kid to Camp this Summer." into tax bills. The donations are up over \$2,300. The Scholarship Fund is a real plus for the Department and for many families.
5. **CPA Projects Update:** The only CPA project at this time is Farlow Park, which is going through the Board of Aldermen process. This project is to drill a well for water use, and not to use the City's water supply.
6. **FY09 Budget Update:** At this time the Board of Aldermen are voting on Resolutions for the budget. One resolution is to reduce the Parks & Recreation salaries by \$89,799 and Recreation expenses by \$5,161 and fringe benefits by \$5,045.

Robert DeRubeis mentioned that if programs need to sustain salaries, the benefits of 38% need to be figured in. Monies would be paid out of a revolving account.

7. **Dog Ordinance:** Robert DeRubeis is now on the Dog Ordinance Committee. He met with the committee last week to finalize a letter/form for the dog parks. A letter will go out to different groups and the first area in mind is Old Cold Springs Park. A report will come forth in September.
8. **Newton Centre Playground:** Carol Schein mentioned the tot lot is completed, but the surface is not complete. The contractor will start the older children's play equipment next week. Carol is coordinating the pathway from the Mason Rice playground over the bridge to the Universal play equipment area.
9. **Crystal Lake:** The new area next to the bathhouse gives an excellent view of the Lake. The grassy area will also be used as a picnic area with tables for those who use the Lake during the season. At the end of the season, the fence will be removed and the entire park will be opened to residents. The upper portion of this land has been seeded once again and access will be closed off until the grass lawn has been established.

Acting Chairman Bernheimer mentioned that he would like the Commission to take up a discussion on the merits of charging the seniors citizens swim fees for next year at a later meeting.

10. **Community Development Block CDBG:** Carol Schein and Stephanie Pelkowsky spoke for the Lowell Park at Watertown Street and Charlesbank Park Master Plan. Both Carol and Stephanie held meetings with the community to get their ideas. The architect Ray Dunetz also attended the meeting. The design for Charlesbank includes a new continuous walkway that will have a ramp up from the sidewalk and then connect to a level area with play equipment, benches, and picnic tables.

The Mayor's Committee has approved the funding request of \$30,000 for Coletti-Magni Park for the perimeter sidewalks, the ramp, and the accessible drinking fountain.

(Please note that the Shade Structure at Newton Community Service Center with Bill Garr and Lonnie Shroeder, which was on the agenda, was postponed to another time)

11. **New Business:** Acting Chairman Bernheimer thanked Faye Hays, Commission Secretary for the past 22 years, for taking the meeting minutes each month. Faye will be retiring at the end of June.

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR

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NEWTON
Parks & Recreation

FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

Newton Parks & Recreation Department Commission Meeting
Monday, October 20, 2008
7:00pm* Room 209 at Newton City Hall

NOTE TIME CHANGE-MEETING TO BEGIN AT 7:00 PM

Agenda

1. Commissioner's Reports on programs, forestry and maintenance
2. Off Leash Dog Park final proposal presentation
3. Open Space and Recreation Funding Priorities – CPA
4. Scholarship Report
5. Summer Swim Report
6. New Business

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 6 - ANDREW STERN

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - MYRA TATTENBAUM
FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

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FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Monday, September 15, 2008 7:30PM, Room 209 at City Hall

Attending: Francis J. Rice, Chair, Walter Bernheimer, Arthur Magni, Paul Camilli, Kathleen Heitman, Jack Neville, Alternate, Peter Kastner, Alternate, Michael Clark, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner and Carol Stapleton, Acting Secretary

1. Minutes of the June meeting were accepted.

2. Commissioner's Reports on Maintenance, Forestry and Programs:

Commissioner Towle took this time to introduce and welcome two new Commission Members: Ms. Kathleen Heitman, Ward 8, for a term that will expire in 2011 and Paul A. Camilli, Ward 1, for a term that will expire in 2011. Commissioner Towle reported that this past summer's programs and activities were very well appreciated and attended, especially the two new Camps that we were able to offer for residents as well as the swim programs at both Gath Pool and Crystal Lake. The new park at Crystal Lake was opened for the swim season and used every day by camps and swimmers. The Crystal Lake Task Force continues its work meeting sometimes twice per month and hopes to have a report ready for review by the Commission in late fall. Gath Pool opened with a number of new additions: a slide was added into the deep end of the pool as well as two shade structures and new deck benches. The Farmer's Market Program at Cold Spring now has an additional site at Post 440 on Friday's and the Senior's Program is going non-stop with daily trips and events. The Arts in the Parks Programs were also very well attended especially the July 4th Fire Works Program at Albemarle Playground. Commissioner Towle also commented on the Park Maintenance Program's cuts that were sustained during the budget process, which forced us to decrease the number of cuttings for fields and areas through out the City. However, we were able to hire a field turf specialist this past spring and Faye Hays's position has been posted following union guidelines and hopefully the interview process will begin in the fall. Another reminder to the Commission was also mentioned in that the Department had to cut the contractual leaf removal portion of the budget and we hope to be able to do some removals with an in-house crew and assistance from Public Works.

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - JENNIE DEVITO
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 6 - ANDREW STERN

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ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

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3. **Dedication of Walkway at Stearns Park in honor of Alice Webber:** Danielle Bailey of the Planning Department presented this request on behalf of the Nonantum Advisory Committee to name the recently installed CDBG funded walkway adjacent to the Stearns Park Tennis Courts, "The Alice Webber Way". Ms. Kathy Zigarelli who is the chair of the NAC was also present at the meeting. The NAC will purchase two granite posts which would be installed and on one post, a bronze plaque would be affixed with the following inscription:

"The City of Newton dedicates this walkway to the service of Alice Webber (1917-2004). A lifelong Newton resident, community leader and activist, Alice Webber served for nearly 30 years as a member of the Human Service Advisory Committee and Chairperson of the Nonantum Advisory Committee. She worked to improve the quality of life for all in Nonantum and championed many CDBG-funded projects."

Motion was made by Paul Camilli to approve the naming of this walkway in honor of Alice Webber and seconded by Arthur Magni. Motion passed 8-0.

4. **Newton Public Safety Memorial Proposal for Newton Centre Green:** Attorney Robert J. Gaynor presented to the Commission the purpose of the proposed Memorial which is to pay tribute to the dedication, training, effort and sacrifice of Newton Public Safety Personnel. Funding for this project would come from a non-profit charitable corporation who would raise the money privately to fund the proposed monument. Mr. Robert Shure, who is the sculptor for this project was introduced by Mr. Gaynor, who noted some of Mr. Shure's current pieces located though out the Country as well as the State. The proposed site location for this Memorial is the Newton Centre Green. The size of the area needed for the Memorial would be less than 10 square yards. Mr. Gaynor pointed out that the purpose for his visit was to ask for the Commission's permission to go forward with putting together a final draft for the proposal as well as the final site selection for the Memorial. Chairman Rice pointed out to Mr. Gaynor that before a final proposal could be presented to the Commission that a joint proposal which would also include The Newton Centre Task Force's recommendation as well would have to be submitted. Peter Kastner also pointed out that there is a proposal before the Board of Alderman, by Alderman Albright, for the formation of a task force to investigate the creation of a Commission of Public Art whose members will be jointly appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Alderman. The job of this Commission would be to raise funds, solicit commissions, and select public art for villages and or parks. The Commission was also joined at this time by Alderman Vickie Danberg who agreed to meet with Mr. Gaynor and others and return to the Commission later with a joint proposal for discussion. Mr. Kastner also stressed that he felt it was important that there is a process that deals with the issue of the sensibility of the piece that is proposed. Alderman Danberg also pointed out that the Newton Centre Green was one of the locations that they were looking at and that there are a number of items that are involved with the proposal, site location, the sculpture itself and that the proposal is properly vetted by all of the groups that would have to agree that this is an appropriate piece of work to be placed anywhere in the City. Mr. Gaynor thanked the Commission and promised to return at a later date.

5. **Off Leash Proposal for Cold Spring Park.** Mr. Lee McIntyre of Commonwealth Avenue opened the discussion by explaining to the Commission that he represented about 40 dog owners calling themselves "The Friends of Cold Spring Dog Park" – many of whom were present in the audience. The proposal that was in front of the Commission was to designate the old ball field side of the lower portion of Cold Spring Park off of Dunklee Road as a site for a legalized off leash site for dogs. Mr. McIntyre pointed out to the Commission that in December of 2007, the City of Newton passed an off leash pilot program ordinance and to date there had not been a formal proposal for a site. This proposal would be the first attempt to formalize a site for an off leash area for dogs. This area apparently has been used for the last 20 plus years, as an unofficial off leash area and this proposal is an attempt to legalize this area. What the proposal asks for is a 6-month trial of this site and to begin as soon as possible in order to get data for the fall, winter and early spring months. Mr. McIntyre also pointed out that the Off Leash Ordinance will expire in December of 2009.

Wally Bernheimer, Commission Member from Ward 5 explained that Mr. McIntyre had sent him a copy of the proposal earlier and that he had made some comments related to the content of the proposal. Wally commented that he thought that instead of a 6 month trial, a nine month trial would be more appropriate as it would allow for much more data to be collected. Wally also noted that there are a lot of "shoulds" which he felt should be replaced with "musts" – for example – when a dog is exhibiting threatening behavior instead of saying the owner is expected to put the animal on leash the proposal should say the owner "must" put it on a leash immediately. Wally would like to see the proposal much more definitive as a set of rules for dog owners. He also pointed out that he felt that the group should recommend a set of signs to be posted and that the group should raise funds for the purchase of those signs and to have them installed before the Commission would allow the group to begin with the trial. Wally asked Mr. McIntyre if the group was incorporated and Mr. McIntyre acknowledged that they were not. Wally also was looking to see who is in fact, in charge of the group. Mr. McIntyre replied that he would be happy to be the point person. Any and all signs would have to be approved by the Parks & Recreation Department. Wally also wanted to see an absolute defining of the park area. This would mean that the group would only have access to the unused left side of the park and would not include the ball field side of the area nor would it include the pathway behind the area. Wally also questioned on how we to measure whether the trial succeeds and what is going to be the criteria used to measure whether the trial as a success or failure. Wally felt that the group needed to be able to propose these measures. Mr. McIntyre explained that he did not feel that he could speak for any other owners who used the area nor could this group enforce the rules for those who are not part of this group.

Mr. Rice also questioned who from this group was going to be in charge of cleaning the field and who was responsible for checking that all dogs were properly licensed while using the facility.

Alderman Susan Albright and Alderman Mitch Fischman joined the meeting. Alderman Albright acknowledged that many of the issues that have been mentioned are perfectly reasonable and commented that we are on a journey and this proposal and meeting was the first step along the way. The hope of her advisory committee was to begin to change the behavior of dog owners and that the first idea was to get several parks through out the City where people can go and take their dogs off lease legally. She also noted that back in the spring; the Newton Police Animal Control Officer had appeared before Programs & Services Committee and agreed to help with enforcement. Peter Kastner commented that there needs to be a specific guarantee from the Police Department included in the proposal that they would provide a minimal amount of policing for a specific period of time to cover this area. Peter also noted that the Commission had made several recommendations to the Advisory Committee regarding police issues, enforcement, and that to his knowledge none of the recommendations had been taken into consideration by the Advisory Committee.

Wally also pointed out that he felt that the proposal needed to have a procedure which included names of group members who were in charge of policing the area, checking to see if all dogs were licensed, and in charge of the overall group. Mr. McIntyre explained that perhaps at the end of the trial there could be a mechanism whereby the Commission would invite public comment on the trial. Wally also pointed out that the mitt mutt station "must" be installed with proper signage all over the area. Chairman Rice also asked the group to think about a separate tag for their group while they are using the area. A discussion followed by several Commission Members as to the liability issues involved with the sanction of an area such as this. Commissioner Towle will check with the Law Department on this item.

Michael Clarke motioned that this group come back to the Commission with a set of definitive rules; names of those responsible for the groups activities, a commitment to provide the signs subject to the approval of the Department, a clear and a definitive procedure for the policing system of clean up. The proposal should also note the installation of mitt mutt stations and the restocking of each station as well as a clear statement of the involvement of the Dog Officer, and a more definitive proposal on identification tags as well as licenses. Michael also requested that when the group returns that they provide some comparison data from other cities and towns in the area. The group should also change the request for a trial of 6 months to a 9 month trial. The motion was seconded by Kathleen Heitman and voted in favor 8-0.

6. Newton School Department Challenge Course Installation request at Halloran/Day Middle School and Newton South/Brown & Oak Hill Schools.

Commissioner Towle welcomed Gwen Smith, Curriculum Coordinator for Physical Education, Health and Wellness, Amy Aransky PEP Grant Project Director and Mike Cronin, Chief of Operations, Newton Public Schools again to the meeting.

Gwen presented the Project Overview, noting that Newton Public Schools had been awarded a three year grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a project entitled "Teaching Children Today for a Lifetime of Health and Wellness." As required by the federal government, Newton Public Schools will provide matching funds as well as in-kind contributions such as existing staff salaries.

Students will use portable props and equipment as well as low and high element challenge courses. The course at each site will be used from September to November and March until June during the academic year. Gwen explained that access to each area by students must be done quickly as class time is only 40 minutes per class which includes the time for the students to change for the class. Rich Klainsclic presented a power point presentation to the Commission on the components for each site.

Annual challenge course inspections will be performed by a qualified challenge course inspector, per Massachusetts Department of Public Safety Standards.

Daily visual inspections will be performed when using the challenge course by the teachers at each site before they set-up and use the elements in their classes. For safety purposes, teachers will be removing detachable equipment on a daily basis and storing it in the schools. The School Department will cover all costs of the challenge course maintenance and equipment replacement if needed.

At a previous Commission Meeting, the original proposed site for the Avery Woods at Day Middle School was not accepted by the Commission. The Commission asked Commissioner Towle and members of the School Department to revisit the site recommendation and to come forward with another site recommendation. At this time, Ms. Smith proposed that the new site be located immediately behind the School Entrance. (see map attached). All elements would be located a minimum of 15 feet from any wooded area and the maximum pole height would be 15ft.

At this time, the Commission acknowledged receipt of a letter from Margaret Doris, President of The Playground Project, Inc. Ms. Doris's letter suggests to the Commission that they decline the request to have the Challenge Course build at the front entrance to Day and consider locating the course on the site adjacent to the basketball half court, just in front of the Horace Mann teacher's parking lot.

Commissioner Towle pointed out that there is concern for vandalism in this area as relayed by Margaret Albright who was present at the meeting. Mike Cronin reported that on behalf of the Newton School Department, a commitment is made to install a series of additional dusk to dawn lighting on the existing poles in this area and the addition of surveillance video equipment would also be installed in this area. Gwen also noted that the equipment would be taken down at the end of each school day by the Physical Education Teachers. It was also noted that although there is only a small portion of this area is School Department land, the major portion of the land is under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Department and that The Department would only be allowing the School Department to use this area for the challenge course project only.

Commissioner Towle reported on the numerous meetings that she and staff have had at each site and that the School Department has taken great care to make sure that each of these courses will not interfere any of the existing fields at these locations. Commissioner Towle also commented that one of her main concerns was maintenance and she was assured by the Newton Public Schools that they have a maintenance contract for each site and would not be a responsibility of the Parks & Recreation Department.

Paul Camilli asked if there were other school districts with a similar set of courses within our area. Gwen reported that towns such as Wellesley and Arlington have challenge courses and she would send a list to the Department.

Curtis Betts spoke to the Commission about a previous discussion concerning the development of a Master Plan for this area and that the application for funding, which was co-sponsored by the Commission, got caught up in the CPA law suit issue and has not been funded. Commissioner Towle pointed out that the area in question for this proposal, if funded when the law suit is settled, would be a part of the proposed outdoor classroom area.

Mr. Wenstrom commented from the audience, that some of this area should be left open as open space as there is so much space committed for team sports and school use.

Motion was made by Arthur Magni to allow the School Department to erect challenge courses at each of the sites with the stipulation that at Day Middle School, additional security lighting must be installed as well as video surveillance equipment.

Motion passed 6-1-1 with Walter Bernheimer opposed and Michael Clarke abstaining.

7. Newton West Little League request for installation of a lighting system at Lyon's Park Baseball Field – Traffic Study report.

In a previous meeting, Commission Members received a formal proposal from the Newton West Little League for a proposal for the installation of lights at Lyons Field, including a site plan, an estimate for the light poles and fixtures and documentation on little league lighting standards. Newton West anticipates financing the cost of this project from its general fund and fundraising activities. The Commission requested that a traffic study be presented by The City Traffic Engineer concerning parking conditions in the vicinity of Lyons Field during game nights, including those related to new field lighting.

Rich Alexy reported that since the last meeting in February the NWLL has worked with neighbors who expressed concern over this proposal as well as any and all pertinent city agencies with regard to this proposal.

The proposal seeks to maximize the utilization of its only dedicated fenced youth field. The lighting plan includes state of the art spill light and glare control features.

In the Spring (late April-end of June) and Summer (late June-late August) seasons NWLL proposes to schedule games to end with "lights out" no later than 9:15-9:30 to conform to Newton's "Light Trespass" ordinance. Lights in the fall season would be used only when necessary to complete games started at 5:00pm.

Chairman Rice began the discussion by pointing out that if this proposal were voted on favorably that the two smaller fields in the outfield portion that were granted to NWLL in 2001 would be eliminated and would thereby reduce the traffic impact in this area.

Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer reported that his staff was on site for observations in May and June during peak usage times for games. The parking demand associated with 3 games/practices occurring simultaneously at Lyons is 60 to 70 cars. This number includes the major league field and the two smaller fields in the outfield portion of the park used for ball and minor league games/practices. Clint pointed out that about half of these cars park in the median and along the Commonwealth Avenue carriageway. The parking demand associated with the additional nighttime game is typically expected to be 25-30 cars. Parking on the grass reservation is illegal by city ordinance and has not been enforced in this area.

He noted that there were also cars parked in the carriageway adjacent to the field near Dewire Brothers Auto Body.

Clint noted to possibly improve the situation and consolidate the parking a little better would probably involve removing the gate that exists on the carriageway that would discourage the parking that occurs on the grassy area now. In his view, the key to the traffic and the lighting is how the League would schedule its games. The overlap of one game finishing and another game about to start produces a lot of traffic congestion.

The concept Clint presented shows the carriageway adjacent to the field would be converted to one-way eastbound and the existing white pasture fencing would be removed. He cautioned that this concept has had no engineering study or cost estimates attached to it at this time. He felt that this concept made some sense from a traffic flow and a safety prospective.

He also felt that one of the side benefits of this configuration would be the Islington Road issues. A few months back, the traffic council met on a request of residents on the Islington Road end of the Avenue on how difficult it was to exit Islington Road and move onto Commonwealth Avenue.

The new parking configuration could include buffer areas such as landscaped neck down entrances at Islington Road and exits at Ash Street as well as additional plantings in the grass median to further screen the parking area.

If additional parking were added in the carriageway adjacent to the field, the Newton Police could further discourage parking on the grass median strip to the east of Ash Street via Enforcement of existing City Ordinances.

The existing carriageway is approximately 22.5' wide, 500' long and lies below the elevation of Commonwealth Avenue. If the curb/sidewalk along the field remained as is, this area could be reconfigured to increase parking spaces.

If this recommendation were to advance, further study is required to determine project costs and potential drainage requirements as a result of creating additional impervious areas.

Clint's report also noted that he did not view this parking reconfiguration as a pre-condition of the approval for the lights, and that his report was a recommendation based on observations of the existing conditions.

Peter Kastner wondered if Clint had any information from the Newton Police on accident reports in this area. Clint responded that he would provide this information but Rich noted that he had a copy from January that showed accidents were only minimal over a 5 year span. The traffic council report noted that there were no accidents reported at the corner of Islington Road and Commonwealth Avenue since 2002.

Peter Kastner also asked if Clint had consulted the Commonwealth Avenue Task Force concerning this project and Clint reported that the Task Force has not met in quite some time. Peter also reminded the Commission that the Commonwealth Avenue median area is considered a linear park.

Commissioner Towle commented that if there was a decision to establish legal parking on the median it would likely require the involvement of multiple municipal departments/boards, the state government and the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Walter Bernheimer pointed out that if we were able to create the 44 spaces in the existing configuration and do it safely and limit the night parking based on scheduling by NWLL this would answer some of the questions that the neighborhood as well as the Commission had raised in the previous hearing.

Chairman Rice began a discussion on the timing of the last game and the time that the lights would be shut off for the evening. Rich replied that the lights would be on an automatic timer and would be automatically shut off each evening at an exact time. Mr. Rice wanted to make sure that the control of the lights would rest with the Parks & Recreation Department as they are at the Albemarle Field.

Mr. Fred Abernathy and his wife Anna Marie of 45 Islington Road pointed out that cars are parked at the corner of Islington Road and the carriageway and causes a lot of traffic issues at this corner. Mr. Abernathy was not sure if these cars were parked for games or for business at Dewire Brothers. NWLL sends out letters to each of its families asking that there be no parking in this area and the League requests the City put signs in this area making it a no parking zone. It was noted by other neighbors that the traffic congestion in this area is a real concern and that it is probably not all related to little league games.

Clint suggested that the neighborhood as well as the area Alderman petition the Traffic Council to seek a change in the parking restrictions.

Mr. Mark Litwack noted that with this proposal for lights, it will reduce the parking demand in this area.

Chairman Rice noted that we were joined by Alderman Harney and Swinston for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Abernathy questioned who would be responsible for the payment of the lighting bill and it was noted that the NWLL would be responsible for these costs.

Mr. Rice motioned that the Commission accept this proposal and allow NWLL to move forward on the request for the installation of lights for the major league field only. This would mean that the two small fields in the outfield would be eliminated and taken down and that scheduling reflect that only one field would be in use at all times. In addition there would be an exact time of 9:30 pm for the lights to be turned off and that any and all permits required by the City. The City must also approve the lighting plan as presented in the NWLL proposal

Motion was seconded by Paul Camilli and the motion carried 8-0

8. Request to construct a bocce court at the West Newton Common was withdrawn at this time and will be resubmitted at a later date.

9. City Hall Grounds – CPA Project

Commissioner Towle reported that there could be funding for this project if it were submitted under the Historic Application Process for CPA monies and she was asking for a vote by the Commission to submit the original proposal to the CPA. The first phase of the preservation master plan was to improve the storm water holding capacity of the three ponds by Newton Public Works Department and then to re-establish the historic character of the Ponds and their surrounding landscape.

The Commission voted 8-0 to allow the Commissioner to re-submit the project to the CPA.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Stapleton

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DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR



NEWTON
Parks & Recreation

FRAN L. TOWLE
COMMISSIONER

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Monday, November 17, 2008 Newton City Hall-Room 209 7:30pm.

1. Commissioner's reports of programs, maintenance & forestry
2. Dog Park Proposal
3. Sign Funding
4. Charlesbank & Lowell Park Master Plans-Planning Department
5. Skating Rules & Regulations 2008/2009
6. Crystal Lake Report – Task Force update
7. Senior Fee Policy Survey
8. Gath Pool & Crystal Lake Statistics
9. Upper Falls Neighborhood Meeting report
10. Bullough's Pond Association Request

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - PAUL CAMILLI
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 6 - LEE MOTTARD

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - KATHLEEN A. HEITMAN
COMM. SECRETARY - VACANT

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

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DAVID B. COHEN
MAYOR



Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2008-7:00PM

Attending: Francis J. Rice, Chair, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chair, Arthur Magni, Paul Camili, Peter Johnson, Alternate Jack Neville, Alternate, Michael Clarke, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Carol Stapleton, Acting Secretary.

1. Commissioner's Reports of Program, Forestry and Maintenance.

Commissioner Towle reported on the success of the Paddy's Road Race for the benefit of Special Olympic Athletes; another very successful Harvest Fair in Newton Centre; the opening of a pilot program at Newton North High School in late October and the Youth Commission's Autumn invasion program at City Hall. The Commissioner also noted that the purchase of the easement behind the house at 230 Lake Avenue which will connect the shoreline along Crystal Lake has been finalized and details for the pathway would be forthcoming. The Crystal Lake Task Force continues to meet on a monthly basis and will be coming in to report to the Commission at a later date. The Commissioner also noted that the Universal Playground at the Newton Centre Playground has been completed and is now opened for all residents to enjoy. The CPA project at Farlow Park is proceeding and Bob DeRubeis is writing the specs for the well process in order to know if there is water available for the new pond at the site. The Department is also working on the Newton Highlands Playground Master Plan meetings with the stakeholders who are interested in doing fundraising for the Park. The Forestry Division has completed another "windshield drive inventory" city wide and we have found that we still have many trees in the hazardous category and we will be contacting the Executive Department for additional funding.

2. Scholarship Report: Commission Members received a copy of the final summer report prepared by Stephanie Pelkowsky who was unable to attend the meeting. Bob DeRubeis reported that the total monies available for 2008 were

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 - PAUL CAMILLI
WARD 2 - ARTHUR MAGNI
WARD 3 - PETER JOHNSON

WARD 4 - FRANCIS J. RICE, CHAIRMAN
WARD 5 - WALTER S. BERNHEIMER II, VICE CHAIRMAN
WARD 6 - LEE MOTTARD

WARD 7 - VACANT
WARD 8 - KATHLEEN A. HEITMAN
COMM. SECRETARY - VACANT

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE

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\$42,220. 73 applications were received and 64 applicants accepted the scholarship for a total of \$ 23,540. 9 applicants did not qualify or declined. The account shows a balance of approximately \$19,000 to be used for fall, winter and spring programs.

3. **Summer Swim Report:** Commission Members received a copy of the final reports from Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. Both sites reported increases in permit sales and swim lesson participation during the past summer. Commission Chairman Rice requested that the Department work on a report noting the expenses to operate for each facility to be submitted at a later date. Wally Bernheimer noted that, once again, the numbers of passes that are given out to senior citizens at no cost had increased. These numbers are almost 45% of the total of adult permits that were sold during the season. Wally believes that senior citizens should pay a fee and would like a discussion by the Commission on this subject. Commissioner Towle commented that the Department will conduct another survey of other cities and towns in the area and present it to the Commission at a later meeting on charges for senior citizens.

4. **Off Leash Dog Park Proposal:** Chairman Rice introduced Alderman Susan Albright who began the discussion by introducing Sally Rizzo who is the Co-chair of the Advisory Committee. Sally thanked the Commission for talking and working with the Committee on this proposal. She noted that the time frame is very short as there is about 13 months before the Committee must return to the Board of Alderman to file a report on the status of the off leash ordinance. Alderman Albright noted that the group that has petitioned the Commission for permission to use the Old Cold Spring Park has answered all the questions and points from the last meeting and was present to answer any additional questions from the Commission. Chairman Rice commented that the Department had sent out 147 letters to abutters of Cold Spring Park and he had reviewed the 5 letters that were sent to the Department on the subject. Ms. Anne Li addressed the Commission on behalf of a number of abutters who were at the meeting. Ms. Li began her comments by noting that they were not in favor of creating an off lease park on this site. She also noted that the timing of the notification letter that was sent out to abutters was received late and that if the notice had been sent earlier, many more abutters would have come to the meeting.

Ms. Li read an email that she had received from a resident on Terrace Avenue noting a strong objection to formalizing this area as an off leash area and that on several occasions had been bothered by dogs who run around the park without a leash which led him to be concerned for the safety of his children. Ms

Li also noted a letter sent by Ann Stock of 43 Beverly Road. The rear of her house directly abuts the Cold Spring Park. At one point, Ms. Stock was a member of Lee McIntyre's Friends of Cold Spring Park group and had attended the first Commission Meeting in September. After that meeting she requested that her name be removed from the list. Ms. Stock believes that there is no gain for dog owners and a potential loss for abutters. Her letter goes on to point that there is potential for increased traffic and parking if the proposal were to pass. She also points out that the vast majority of dog owners who use the park are responsible dog owners. But like any group, there are those who are less responsible. Ms. Stock pointed out that there are owners who drive down Duncklee Street, park their cars and let their dogs go all over the area. She also points out that in the rules, there are requirements that signage be posted at the entrance but she wonders at which entrance to the area would signs be posted.

Discussion resumed on which entrances to the Park the required signage would be located. In addition topics such as the exercise trail, parking and other uses of the area proposed.

Jose Saporta also commented that his children are afraid to use the area due to the dogs that run in the area off leash. He also noted that there was a woman who chose to run her pit bulls off leash in the area.

Brenda Harsham also spoke to the group about how nervous and concerned she is when her children are out playing. Ms. Harsham noted how many people simply drive up to the area and just open their car doors and let their dogs run. She also noted that even during the snow months of the year, dogs still are let loose all over the park. She wondered if a set number of hours could work and not have the park open for dogs from dawn to dusk.

Jessica Straus commented that the notion that this park was chosen was that it has been operated by so many as an off leash area for so many years and a reminder that it is illegal to do so in Newton. She also noted that not long ago, a dog entered into her house. She was concerned that there would be a lot of dog owners who would now visit the park from outside of Newton which would also add to the parking issues the neighborhood experiences now.

Alderman Albright noted to the group that these issues mentioned are city wide issues. It is the hope of the Task Force that a group such as this, who has come forward and is willing to work with the issues can now begin to work with owners to be much more considerate and responsible owners. The Task Force and the Advisory Committee realize that there is a problem with dogs off leash and very inconsiderate and irresponsible down owners and that this proposal would hopefully be a start in the right direction.

Lee McIntyre noted that he felt that most of the comments from abutters and their concerns were caused by owners who allow their dogs off leash BEFORE

they get to the meadow area. He hopes that if this proposal were to pass, his group would work very hard to educate other owners to leash their dogs until they are in the meadow area

Commission Member Wally Bernheimer noted that as a resident of Winslow Road which is on the south side of the park and directly next to the running paths, he and his family have experienced many issues with dogs off leash. He believes that the concept of a trial experiment makes sense but still wonders how the experiment is going to be measured as a success or failure. To him, not to see dogs off leash on the paths would be a measure of success. He also noted that perhaps Cold Spring Park was not the right park to try an experiment at this time. It does seem that there are two distinct and separate groups of dog owners that use the area. One group walks down to the meadow area and the other group is the runners with dogs that run the paths throughout the Park. He also felt that the Police enforcement would not increase due to a lack of Animal Control Officers.

Commission Member Arthur Magni also stressed the enforcement issue and that the early morning noise was not acceptable.

Eric Poley felt that dog owners policing other dog owners who are not considerate and responsible would really help the issues raised by the abutters.

Wally Bernheimer also noted that there are so many access points into the area. Lee McIntyre pointed out that his group was willing to pay for and install signs at whatever entrances the Commission would request.

Sally Rizzo pointed out to the Commission that if a trial was granted to this particular group and it was found to be successful, then other groups from other parts of the City would come forward to work together to curb the problems with dogs running off leash city wide.

Alderman Albright noted that when the City sent out the dog license renewal forms a notice was enclosed about the opportunity to form a group such as Lee's and they received about 60 responses from residents which would be for about 6 problem parks in the City. All of these interested residents are watching what happens with this first proposal before they make an attempt to formalize an area in their neighborhood.

Commission Member Peter Johnson agreed with Alderman Albright that if a trial was not granted for this proposal, other groups would not come forward to attempt to control dog issues in other parts of the City. He also felt that self policing by responsible and considerate dog owners would be an effective method to try and ease some of the abutters concerns.

Chairman Rice polled the Members to see if they would like to pause in the meeting at this point to go to the Chambers to listen to the Mayor's State of the City Address. Members voted to remain and to conclude the meeting.

Alderman Albright noted that there is an email address, a web address and a complaint form which will be on the City's Web Site which is being produced by Mike Kruse in the Planning Department.

Wally Bernheimer motioned that a formal vote be postponed for one more month and that a vote be taken in November. He also noted that in addition to the proposed communication system and increased signage, he would like to see a much stronger commitment by the Police Department to do random enforcement in the area and requested Commissioner Towle to pursue a meeting with the Police as soon as possible. Commission Members voted in favor of postponement of this item until the November Meeting 7-0.

5. Alice Ingerson, CPA Program Manager briefed the Commission on the three hearings to be held this fall by the CPC – one on housing, one on historic resources and one on open space and recreation. The idea on these hearings is that monies are getting tighter and priorities must be set by the CPC. She passed out charts and graphs showing how money is allocated and suggested that the Commission and Department be well represented at the hearing on Wednesday. Wally Bernheimer noted that the funding for Historic Resources is an important component of the process especially in projects like the Upper Falls Park and Playground and the Newton Centre Playground. The criteria for Historic Resources are extremely broad. It speaks to the history of the park, the area and the memories associated with life in the community. Commissioner Towle noted that the Department would be represented at the hearing by herself and Carol Schein. Wally also noted that the Upper Falls Project is one of the Commission's highest priorities. Jack Neville remembers being able to fish from the Park onto the River when he was growing up in the area.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Stapleton



Newton Parks & Recreation Department Commission Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM*

Agenda

**** PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE-MEETING BEGINS @ 7:00PM***

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes
2. Commissioner's reports on programs, forestry and maintenance
3. Vote Charlesbank site
4. Vote Lowell Park site
5. Correspondence process



Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Room 209 Newton City Hall

Monday, November 17, 2008

Attending: Francis J. Rice, Chair, Walter Bernheimer, Vice Chair, Arthur Magni, Paul Camilli, Kathleen Heitman, Peter Johnson, Michael Clarke, Alternate, Jack Neville, Alternate, Fran Towle, Commissioner, Robert DeRubeis, Deputy Commissioner, Carol Stapleton, Acting Secretary, Robin McLaughlin, Administrative Assistant.

Correction: To be reflected in October Commission Meeting Minutes: Kathleen Heitman's name was omitted in the minutes. Ms. Heitman was in attendance for this meeting.

- 1. Reports of Program, Maintenance and Forestry:** Commissioner Towle introduced Robin McLaughlin who will replace Faye Hayes as Commission Secretary and Administrative Assistant and Office Manager. The Commissioner also noted that our Director of Special Needs Programs, Mark Kelly and his wife welcomed their first child Carolina Maria into the world on November 1st. The Commissioner reported that our maintenance department has just finished up on this year's turf work and fertilization efforts citywide. Marc Welch will be submitting a proposal for the completion of the dead and hazardous tree survey which was done on a citywide basis. It is anticipated that we will need to go before the Programs & Services Committee on this request. The Commissioner also noted that the Department has been meeting with the Citizen's Advisory Committee on the revenue portion of their report which is due out shortly.

The minutes and the Commissioner's report were accepted 8-0 with the notation to add Kathleen Heitman's name as in attendance for the October Meeting.

- 2. Dog Park Proposal:** Chairman Rice opened the discussion with a request that only 3 representatives of the area abutters speak on the subject. The Commission had received many emails and letters that were sent to the Department regarding this proposal. Alderman Susan Albright began the discussion noting that the Planning Department would be responsible for setting up a web site which would include information on the Task Force Committee as well as a complaint form or any other issues or topics that the Commission would require. Alderman Albright also noted that she had requested that the Law Department comment on City liability issues pertaining to Dogs-Off-Leash. The Law Department's response was circulated to each Commission Member and is a part of the official documents for this Commission Meeting. Alderman Albright noted that since the City is neither the owner nor custodian of dogs brought into any park or any off-leash area, the City has no liability.

Amy Koel summarized the results of the meeting with the abutters two weeks ago and a formal report was submitted to the Commission. Chairman Rice again requested that more than one name be submitted as the primary contact person on behalf of the Cold Spring Friends Group proposal in order that residents can contact several persons with questions and/or complaints and should be noted on the web site as well.

Chairman Rice introduced Animal Control Officer Jim Pellegrini. Officer Pellegrini spoke about and submitted the Important Dog Laws information sheet formulated by the Police Department. Officer Pelligrini felt that for the dog park to be successful, the area should be fenced. He felt this would control the area and allow those park users that did not want to be bothered by dogs to be able to use the park at anytime.

Kathy Heitman addressed the group, specifically Lee McIntrye as the primary contact person of the proposal. Ms. Heitman noted that in several areas of the proposal and also in Lee's presentation, he mentioned that "we" would oversee the Park. Ms. Heitman asked for a specific number of how many people are involved with the Friends Group that would oversee the Park's proposed rules and regulations. Mr. McIntrye responded that he has a list of 25 members of the group. Ms. Heitman commented that she felt this was a large task for 25 members to monitor this area. She also asked if the group had a chart of assignments for each member. Mr. McIntrye responded that they did not have a chart prepared but noted that in the proposal there were names and phone numbers listed for those assigned to various tasks such as weekly clean up, maintenance of the mitt mutt stations and fundraising for signs. Ms. Heitman also thought that it would be a much better idea if there were certain designated hours for off leash dogs rather than dawn to dusk. Ms. Heitman also commented that in the summary of other cities and towns dog park areas, it is noted that owners must be in control of the dog so that it does not disturb the surrounding areas or other actions. She noted that many of the abutters were very concerned with many of the actions of dogs off leash, running through private yards or even into private homes. Ms Heitman said that she feels for these abutters. She questioned Mr. McIntrye on how he and the members of his group proposed to control most of the complaints of the abutters.

Mr. McIntyre noted that many of the letters and comments he had received from the abutters were for dogs on private property. He explained that this is due to owners who drive up to the area and open the car door and let the dog run loose without being leashed until they arrive at the actual site of the proposed off leash area. He noted that they had hoped that they could immediately address that problem with publicity and proper signage. An effort would be made immediately to do press releases and notification in the Newton Tab of the specific rules and regulations governing the use of the off leash area. Ms. Heitman commented that she is aware people from other cities and towns coming to the Cold Spring area to use this area.

Alderman Albright also reported that the Committee had met again on signage with Chairman Rice, Vice Chair Wally Bernheimer and Newton Police Captain Cummings concerning extra patrols assigned to the area for the first two weeks of the opening of the area. Captain Cummings committed to an informational trial effort by patrol officers and after the trial, possible citations would be issued to chronic abusers of the rules.

Mr. Dyer of Terrace Ave asked that the area be enclosed with a fence. Chairman Rice pointed out that it would be a very costly undertaking to fence this area and the Parks & Recreation Department does not have the funds available for fencing.

Wally Bernheimer reminded Commission Members that although he is an abutter to the Park and in a unique position as a member of the Commission, he saw no reason not to try the experiment of an off leash area on a trial basis before the ordinance expires. He felt that if there were some effort made to control those owners who run the trails with their dogs off leash then that would be a measure of success. If at the end of the trial, abutters of the area saw no changes in this behavior by owners then the trial would be over. He also felt that there should be signs at the 6 points of entry into the Park, which would explain the rules and regulations, directional maps on each sign and a concerted effort by Newton Police Patrol Officers to hand out tickets to abusers of the rules.

Arthur Magni pointed out that it was acknowledged by all, that there were two different populations of dog owners; those that use the meadow and those that use the trails. Arthur felt that the meadow could be self policed by the FOCSP but thought it would be very difficult for this group to police the trails.

Alan Noguee of 48 Kingston Road explained to the Commission that his family and at least 12 other households on his street were very much in favor of this proposal as they felt it was a tremendous asset to their neighborhood and not to assume that all abutters were against the trial.

Commissioner Towle agreed that enforcement was the key to the trial's success and that it should be evaluated in increments i.e. the first two weeks and then on a monthly basis and if we find that it is working well, then the trial would continue. If it was found that the trial was not working then either make the corrections or stop the trial.

Peter Johnson wanted to make sure that there was a mechanism in place with the Off Leash Task Force for the evaluation process. Amy Koel responded that there is a form on the Web Site and that there is also a form for any and all comments from abutters or any other residents to comment and evaluate the trial. This information would go directly to the Task Force and they would be responsible for taking and all actions necessary and collecting all data and reporting back to the Commission.

Alderman Albright reported that they had been in contact with a sign company and that the projected cost for each sign would be approximately \$125.00 for each sign. The group has raised enough money to cover the cost of the signs.

Michael Clarke wanted to make sure that the trial would not begin until the signs were in place and that the trial would last for 9 months only.

Paul Camilli offered a motion that a trial for an off leash dog area be instituted and that before the trial was to commence, proper signage must be installed at the 6 designated entrances, The Newton Police Department commitment to random enforcement efforts must be in place, a formal announcement to the media i.e. Newton Tab and also on the City's Web Site. A formal review and evaluation process would also be submitted by

the Task Force to the Parks & Recreation Commission on a weekly basis at the beginning of the trial for one month and then a review on a monthly basis by the Task Force to the Commission. Commission Members also felt that it was important to define the specific area where the trial is officially allowed by whatever means is available to the Parks & Recreation Department to accomplish this before the trial is to officially begin.

The motion was seconded and voted 5-3 (Magni, Heitman and Neville opposed) to allow a trial for an off leash area at the Old Cold Spring Park, old ball field area, according to the stipulations as noted above for a 9 month period.

3. Charlesbank & Lowell Park Master Plans – Danielle Bailey from the Newton Planning Department reported to the Commission that the report for each of the two sites, summarizes the design process leading to the accepted Master Plans for both sites. The design process included meetings with City Planners, Parks & Recreation Department Managers and the Community. The Community for each site participated in the design process by providing their input in a series of three public meetings for each area. The goal of each Master Plan is to provide recommendations that can be used for improvements to the parks. Each component of the Master Plan is presented in two parts, issues and recommendations. The issues were compiled from observations taken from the site, the City of Newton's input and the Communities comments. Commission Members were supplied copies of each of the Master Plans as well as community recommendations and ideas. Funding for the Plans was from the CDBG Block Grant allocations for each neighborhood site.

Danielle pointed out the concepts for each site noting that there is an ongoing traffic study at the Lowell Park site. Danielle introduced Landscape Architect Ray Dunetz who explained various points of the traffic issues at the Lowell park site.

A discussion on funding for each project ensued and Danielle noted that their funding pool was not as strong as it had been in previous years and it was hoped earlier on in the process, that an application for CPA funding may strengthen the funding sources but this is not possible at this time. Commissioner Towle pointed out that the Department would be experimenting with a new type of grass that did not require weekly cuttings which could drastically reduce maintenance costs.

Paul Camilli asked how much of the required site work for each site could be done by the City Work Force thereby reducing some of the costs. Daneille felt that a considerable amount of work could be done by the City, however, the availability of in house crews to accomplish the work would be the issue. She also spoke about types of fundraising efforts by each community that could be researched.

Kathy Heitman noted that there are many Newton based contractors in these areas that may contribute in kind services to these projects as well.

Danielle also pointed out that at the Charlesbank site, significant grading issues exist and it was the hope of the neighborhood to re-grade this entire area and leave as much open space available for the neighborhood children to use. Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager, pointed out that there is \$12,500 from the Marathon Receipt

Account designated for this play area so the total monies available for the site were approximately \$75,000. Once again, this site would not be eligible for any CPA funding sources at this time.

Chairman Rice thanked Danielle and Stephanie for their presentation. According to Commission policy, the abutters for each site would be notified of a vote that would be taken up at the next meeting and they would be invited to attend the December meeting for any additional comments or concerns.

4. 2008-2009 Skating Rules and Regulations for outdoor skating: Stephanie Pelkowsky reviewed the recommended rules for skating noting that there were no changes from previous years. Wally Bernheimer offered a motion to accept the rules & regulations and Paul Camilli seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.
5. Crystal Lake Task Force update: Carol Stapleton reported that Task Force has been meeting monthly. The Executive Department submitted a request for an additional \$25,000 for design fees and this amount was voted on by the Board of Alderman. Carol also reported that she had met with a structural engineer with Amy Yuhaz from the Planning Department at the site. This meeting was requested by the Task Force so that the Engineer could make a recommendation concerning the stability of the back porch/veranda area. The Task Force is looking into applying for CPA funds for this portion of the existing bathhouse as it is the oldest section of the building. The Task Force will meet again on Wednesday November 19th.
6. Senior Fee Policy Survey: Commission Members received the results of a survey completed by Nancy Scammon, Senior Program Director. Cities and Towns served were: Wellesley, Weston, Watertown, Brookline, Waltham, Needham, Natick, Worcester, Framingham, Attleboro and Brockton. The General finding was that the City or Towns Council on Aging and/or the Senior Centers coordinate programming for seniors at a low cost. Discounting through Parks & Recreation Departments varies from town to town as does the age that a senior is defined. Wally Bernheimer spoke again that it is his belief that seniors should be charged for programs. Commissioner Towle pointed out that various cities and towns offer a reduced rate for senior activities. At our swim facilities, the Department has determined a senior to be aged 62 and these residents are not charged a fee. This past summer at Crystal Lake we issued 491 senior passes at no charge. She also pointed out that at the Newton Centre Clay Tennis courts program, if the Department were to allow seniors to participate at no fee, the program would not exist. Wally Bernheimer offered a motion that when the Department returns to the Commission in the spring with a recommendation on fees for swimming for the 2009 Season, that a proposed fee for senior citizens which is a percentage of a full adult fee that is reasonable be incorporated in the recommendation. Arthur Magni suggested that the senior fee match the fee charged for students for the summer swim fees. Paul Camilli seconded the motion and it was passed 8-0.
7. Gath Pool and Crystal Lake Statistics: at a previous meeting, the Commission requested that Commissioner Towle submit a report showing the operating costs for each facility. Commission Members received a detailed report prepared by Bob DeRubeis with a breakdown of costs for each site. Gath Pool's costs for chemicals was noted at \$13,100 alone for chlorine and other related pool chemicals and controller

maintenance costs as well as \$40,340 for water costs. At Crystal Lake, because of the running of the Aqualator 24/7 for the entire summer program was \$4,795.00.

8. Report on the Upper Falls Neighborhood Meeting on the plans for the Braceland/Chestnut Street Playground. It was hoped that a possible request for CPA Funds for the Historic Component of this Park could be submitted. Alice Ingerson, CPA Program Manager was in attendance at this meeting in addition to Alderman Yates and Brandel and NUF CDC Chairman and Commission Member Jack Neville. Jack reported that neighborhood feels that the Playground does have many historic components to it and that the CDC will look into hiring someone to research any and all data into a report that could be used to submit a proposal to CPA for funding in the near future. He noted that an application for the December 2nd deadline would not be completed and that they would take some time to really define what components of the Park are Historic and submit the report for consideration for future deadlines. Jack praised Alice Ingerson for her knowledge and helpfulness with this meeting and project.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm. It was agreed upon by all Members that future meetings of the Commission would begin at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol Stapleton, Acting Secretary