



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
January 25, 2010



Robert J. DeRubeis
Interim
Commissioner

Attending: Fran Rice, *Chairman*, Walter Bernheimer, *Vice Chairman*, Arthur Magni, Kathleen Heitman, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Robert DeRubeis, *Interim Commissioner*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes from the December 21, 2009 meeting accepted 6-0

2. Lee Mottard presentation

- The presentation of a gift was scheduled. The gift is for Mr. Lee Mottard. Mr. Mottard is being recognized for his service to the Commission. Mr. Mottard was a Commission member who resigned in October 2009. Mr. Mottard could not attend the meeting. The gift was sent via U.S.P.S.

3. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis distributed a new report that will be presented at the Commission meetings (see Attachment A). The report is a monthly snapshot of the Parks & Recreation Department. The snapshot follows the Recstat model which is a performance measurement based management system. The snapshot includes performance, financial, and attendance statistics.
- Mr. Bernheimer recommends adding year to date information.
- Mr. Rice inquired where the attendance numbers come from for the NNHS Indoor Recreation attendance. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the information comes from the Sportsmen computer program used to record the number of people going through the different programs.
- The Auburndale Cove has been open for ice skating. Approximately 900 people have been in attendance over the last two weekends. The expense to plow and plane the ice for skating is \$600.00/day.
- The Lower Falls Community Center has been awarded \$500,000.00 dollars for renovations. Mr. Neville inquired where the money came from. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the money came from a State Capital Bond. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis has met with State Representative Kay Khan, Mayor Warren and members of the Lower Falls Community to discuss the project. The Parks & Recreation Department and the Public Buildings Department will be working together on this project.

4. Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – Update

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated OLAWG has met three times during the month of January. Weekly meetings are scheduled on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. in room 222 at City Hall. The meetings are open to the public. The meeting is a working session but the last five minutes are open to the public.
- OLAWG has a web page on the City web site, <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm>
- Most of the City's current information for dog owners can be found on this web page. Other information on the website includes a list of the OLAWG members and their biography's. The agenda and meeting minutes are posted on the web page. A dog owner survey has been posted to the web site and OLAWG members are working on getting the word out to dog owners about the survey.
- The group is currently working on the language for Phase 1 criteria. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis defined the Phase 1 & Phase 2 criteria:
 - Phase 1 = Criteria for what makes a green space acceptable for use as an off leash area
 - Phase 2 = Criteria for off leash area
- Mr. Bernheimer stated there are two types of recreation, passive and active. Conditions for success of an OLA are different for each of these areas.
- Mr. Neville asked if there should be an OLA in each Ward of the City.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated at least 30 OLA should be proposed, though it is unrealistic, if there is no enforcement.
- Mr. Magni stated he hoped one of the criteria is enforcement. Mr. Bernheimer agreed with Mr. Magni.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated enforcement is a phase 1 criteria.
- Mr. Magni commented the website is a good idea.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group will never meet 100% compliance with the public but the idea is to be transparent with the information.
- Chairman Rice stated OLAWG is a diverse group and they are doing great work.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated playgrounds are obvious sites for fenced in areas. Most communities Mr. Bernheimer has spoken with have fenced in off leash areas. Where is the money going to come from for fencing? Funding would be the City's responsibility.
- Chairman Rice commented people create the issues. Chairman Rice attends the YMCA and people ignore the sign requiring members to shower before using the sauna. There is no enforcement. Without enforcement some people will not follow the rules.
- Mr. Neville stated having signs allows the rules to be enforced.
- Mr. Bernheimer commented we need Officers that will enforce the rules.
- Mr. Johnson asked Interim Commissioner DeRubeis if cost is a phase 1 criteria. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated cost is a phase 2 criteria.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated the OLAWG is going about it the right way, the City is in charge.

5. Election

- Chairman Rice asked for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to nominate Arthur Magni for Chairman. Ms. Heitman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

- Mr. Magni thanked the Commission for the vote of confidence.

Chairman Rice made the motion to nominate Kathleen Heitman for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Magni seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

- Ms. Heitman thanked the Commission for the vote of confidence.

6. New Business

- No new business

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
February 22, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Interim
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Fran Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Michael Clarke, *Alternate*, Robert DeRubeis, *Interim Commissioner*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Peter Johnson

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes from the January 25, 2010 meeting accepted 6-0

2. Lee Mottard

- Mr. Mottard requested a moment to address the Commission. Mr. Mottard received the gift sent to him by the Commission in recognition for his service to the Commission. Mr. Mottard thanked former Chairman Rice for bringing him on board and guiding him. Mr. Mottard thanked Interim Commissioner DeRubeis the Commission members and the Commission Secretary for their support and the gift.

3. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the Parks & Recreation Department monthly "Snapshot" (See attachment A). A fiscal year to date column was added per Mr. Bernheimer's recommendation. Mr. Bernheimer recommended including the previous fiscal year to date information.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the presentation given to the Programs & Services Committee on February 17, 2010. All departments who report to the Programs & Services Committee have been asked to present a department overview to the committee. The overview for Parks & Recreation focuses on the performance management system previously adopted by the dept.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated two of the oldest Commission meeting minute books have been sent out and gone through the preservation process. The books are being stored in the City Clerk vault. Mr. Bernheimer inquired how many minute books need to be preserved. The Commission Secretary stated there are seven meeting books remaining to be preserved. Mr. Bernheimer recommended the secretary contact the Community Preservation

Committee to see if there is available funding to preserve the remaining books.

4. Reorganization

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated as all members are aware there has been discussion on moving the Parks & Recreation maintenance division over to the Public Works department. The programs portion of the department will stay where it is, and the maintenance division would be under the responsibility of the Public Works Department. Currently there is discussion with the Law Department. This move would change some of the ordinances already in place.
- Mr. Kastner stated the Mayor mentioned that programs would fall under the Recreation Commission, where would park development and control of the park lands fall. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated park development and control of park lands would stay with Recreation.
- Mr. Bernheimer inquired how much money would be saved from this move. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated they are not sure yet. Mr. Bernheimer stated the only money savings would be in reducing personnel. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis responded yes and with the sharing of equipment, this will be an on-going process.

5. Off Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) Update

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the groups progress:

Meetings

Every Friday at 9:00 a.m. in Room 222 at City Hall
Weekly Meetings began on January 7, 2010

Progress

- Created Web Page
 - Posted Dog Owner Survey to webpage
 - Reviewed preliminary results of Survey
 - Contacted School PTO – sending notification of survey in e-newsletters (21 PTO groups)
 - Established preliminary criteria for evaluating a green space
 - Currently evaluating criteria by performing preliminary green space ratings
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group has gone back to step 1 and have looked at green space in each ward and have eliminated some green space as off leash area (OLA) options. The group is performing evaluations on green space to evaluate the criteria. Once the criteria are finalized the list will be posted on-line.
 - Interim Commissioner DeRubeis will be meeting with Dan Atkinson from the Newton TAB to provide an update on OLAWG progress.
 - Mr. Kastner stated in reviewing the survey results, it is interesting 83% of those that took the survey would be willing to pay a one time fee for funding OLA's.
 - Interim Commissioner DeRubeis commented the survey is taken by dog owners only.

- Mr. Bernheimer stated conclusions should not be drawn from the current survey results. Mr. Rice agreed and commented non-dog owners and abutters should be included.
- Mr. Magni inquired if there has been any discussion at the OLAWG meeting regarding the Cold Spring Park OLA.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated no, the group is looking at the City objectively.
- Mr. Magni commented March 31 is the sunset date for Cold Spring Park OLA. Mr. Bernheimer stated that is a matter of policy.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated OLAWG was tasked with creating criteria and the group has met this task and are making steady progress.
- Mr. Bernheimer agrees, stating he made the motion at the December 2009 meeting requesting Interim Commissioner DeRubeis meet this task and the group is making good progress and will come up with a process for OLA's.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Mayor requested the process be transparent to the public. The group has created the website where the meeting minutes are posted and the criteria will be posted. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis wanted to recognize Commission Secretary Robin McLaughlin who is also the recording secretary for OLAWG and the LFCC Renovations group. Ms. McLaughlin has been doing a great job of recording and posting the minutes to the website.
- Mr. Bernheimer asked Mr. Lee McIntyre, member of OLAWG if he had any comments. Mr. McIntyre had no comments.
- Ms. Heitman inquired if the survey will be posted into the Newton Tab. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated no, when he has the interview with Dan Atkinson, reporter from the TAB, he will request a reference to the survey be included in the article.

6. Relay for Life

- Kate Glynn of the American Cancer Society requested permission for the Relay for Life event on May 22 & 23 2010 at Forte Park. Ms. Glynn presented the event details (See Attachment B). Letters will be sent to the abutters of Forte Park and the abutters will have the chance to ask questions, make comments and express concerns about the event during the March 15, 2010 Commission meeting.

7. Crystal Lake- Task Force & Conservancy – Janice Bourque

- Ms. Bourque stated the Crystal Lake Task Force report is almost finalized and will be posted on-line.
- The Crystal Lake Conservancy was formed to determine the health and well being of Crystal Lake. Working with Beal Associates the Conservancy will conduct a water quality study. The group has pulled together the new logo and a future membership campaign.
- The Task Force has revised their vision by adding a circular driveway and a new drop off area.

- Ms. Bourque stated one idea to raise funds for the project is utilizing the Commemoration Policy on items in the area, such as benches, trees, etc.
- Mr. Rice inquired if the current name of the bath house is Gil Champagne. Ms. Bourque stated yes.
- Mr. Rice commented the beach is eroding away. Ms. Bourque stated beach erosion is one of the reasons the group would like to conduct an environmental impact study.
- Mr. Kastner inquired what the budget is for the new building project. Ms. Bourque stated 4.5 million dollars. Mr. Kastner inquired if the project is eligible for federal stimulus money.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated he agrees with the concept but does not believe the project would be eligible for CPC funding if the new house will be put up in the existing space.
- Mr. Magni inquired if the Conservancy was appointed by the Mayor Cohen administration. Ms. Bourque stated no, the Conservancy came about from questions by the Board of Alderman.

8. Clay Court Tennis Fees – Mike Lewitt

- Mr. Lewitt reviewed the 2010 Clay Court rules, regulations and fees.
- Fees are the same as 2009. The only new rules are the following:
 1. Players must wear a shirt
 2. Profanity is unacceptable
 3. Decision by the court manager are law
- Mr. Magni inquired if the court managers are college students. Mr. Lewitt replied typically yes they are college students.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated the non-resident hourly rate is not high enough; it should be the same ratio as the resident rates.
- Mr. Rice inquired what the overall gross income is for all lessons. Mr. Lewitt replied ~\$280 thousand dollars.
- Mr. Rice asked if Mr. Lewitt ran any special camps. Mr. Lewitt replied yes camps for children 9-12 years old.
- Mr. Magni stated the program has been successful. Mr. Lewitt stated the program has grown each year since he has taken over.
- Mr. Magni inquired if there is activity on all courts. Mr. Lewitt replied yes.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis commented Mr. Lewitt has taken the tennis program to a new level. He has done a great job.
- Mr. Kastner inquired how much income is there form non-residents. Mr. Lewitt stated not a lot of money; he can submit figures at a later date. Mr. Kastner inquired if there are many doubles matches. Mr. Lewitt stated doubles matches are usually booked by members. The guest fee and non-resident fees are the same.

Fran Rice made the motion to accept the 2010 Clay Court Tennis rules, regulations and fees as submitted. Ms. Heitman seconded the motion. Motion defeated in a 3-4 vote.

- Mr. Bernheimer suggested increasing the non resident hourly rate to \$14.00 or lowering the season pass rate to \$175.00 so the ratio between the two rates is the same as resident fees.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to accept the 2010 Clay Court Tennis rules, regulations and fees as submitted with the exception of the non resident season pass fee which will be reduced to \$175.00. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1.

9. New Business

- Ms. Heitman commented the Commission has four vacant seats, Ward 1, 6, 7 and one Alternate position. Should the Commission fill these vacancies?
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated Andrew Warner in the Mayor's Office is working on Commissions and Committees for Mayor Warren.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Attachment A
SNAPSHOT

Key Performance Indicators

	Jan-09	Jan-10	Fiscal Y-T-D	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	38	30	908	
Forestry Requests Completed	52	26	904	
Maintenance Requests Received	13	8	151	
Maintenance Requests Completed	13	8	142	
Camp Fair Attendance	342	475	475	2009- low attendance due to snowstorm
Ice Skating- Auburndale Cove	0	1,270	1,270	\$2,507.21 Maintenance Cost- \$1,307.82 Staff Expense
Administration-Calls Received	383	553	4,776	Incoming Calls to 617-796-1500

Financial Indicators

	Jan-09	Jan-10	Fiscal Y-T-D	Comments
REVENUE				
Operating	\$7,702.00	\$2,100.00	\$105,030.00	Annual building rental rec'vd in '09 but not in '10
Revolving				
Classes/Activities	\$34,589.00	\$56,859.00	\$409,740.00	Skating lessons & NSHS Indoor Recreation
Camps	\$145.00	\$9,709.00	\$451,776.00	Kids Korner, Clinic (NGBA)- NGBA \$7,600.00 deposit. Timing of deposits- last year rec'vd deposit Feb 09
Arts in the Parks	\$21,726.00	\$17,043.00	\$131,060.00	
Senior Citizens	\$3,677.00	\$1,027.00	\$22,354.00	
Landscape Maint	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$27,491.00	Newton Commonwealth Golf payment
Tree Ordinance	\$4,640.00	\$0.00	\$17,030.00	
Revolving Total	\$64,777.00	\$109,638.00	\$1,059,451.00	

	Jan-09	Jan-10	Fiscal Y-T-D	Comments
EXPENSES				
Operating	\$514,008.00	\$430,588.00	\$2,679,457.00	Less: snow & tree emergencies, tree removal & prunings. Heating oil during Jan '10
Revolving				
Classes/Activities	\$90,010.00	\$67,017.00	\$504,220.00	Tennis instructor paid in Jan'09 but not in Jan '10
Camps	\$11,565.00	\$2,499.00	\$383,634.00	Less: expenses in Kids Korner, Echo Bridge & clinics-ngba
Arts in the Parks	\$28,957.00	\$10,879.00	\$113,552.00	Open Studio Prgm transferred to Newton Pride Jan '09
Senior Citizens	\$503.00	\$2,804.00	\$20,756.00	Payments made Jan '10 to restaurants for upcoming senior bus trip
Landscape Maint	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,679.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$52,663.00	\$0.00	\$16,586.00	
Revolving Total	\$183,698.00	\$83,199.00	\$1,053,427.00	
Emergency				
Snow/Ice Control				
Regular Overtime	\$ 21,484.00	\$ 19,725.00	\$ 37,887.00	
Rental - Vehicles	\$ 202,718.00	\$ 150,990.00	\$ 150,990.00	

Departmental Attendance

	Jan-09			Jan-10		
	Total = 20	Days	Manpower	Total = 19	Days	Manpower
	Workdays	Missed	Indicator	Workdays	Missed	Indicator
Administration	280	32.50	88.4%	266	70.50	73.5%
Maintenance	360	104.82	70.9%	342	82.00	76.0%
Forestry	40	5.00	87.5%	38	5.50	85.5%
Total Dept Attendance	680	142.32	79.1%	646	158.00	75.5%

Jan 10: includes Fran T. & Judy Anderson,
Judy Dore vacation. 2 Maint-WC

Narrative

General

Funtastic Friday for 5th graders @ Hyde Community Center
 Vacation Camp @ the Hut, LFCC and Burr Park
 Camp Registration has begun and camps are filling up fast
 Ice Skating Lessons provided for children and adults
 Spring & Summer Tennis registration

Highlights

Mayor Warren visit to P&R Office
 LFCC Renovation Project
 Presentation to Board of Alderman-Programs & Services Committee
 Began process of preserving Commission meeting minutes books -1912 -1954 are available in the Clerks office

Coming Events

Kids Funfest & Spelling Bee with 350 children through the Cultural Center with Linda Plaut
 Special Athletes playing at Harvard during game halftime on Friday 2-26-10
 Special Athletes Kevin Clancey Basketball tournament
 Seniors trip to Foxwoods 2-24-10 and to see Celtic Women in March
 C. Ames & S. Pelkowsky attending Playground Safety Inspector recertification course
 NNHS & NSHS Indoor Recreation Programs
 Camp Managers preparing for summer camp staff interview day



Relay For Life of Newton/Brookline

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing, fun-filled overnight event that brings together 3.5 million people across the country to raise cancer awareness and funds for cancer research, advocacy efforts, education, and patient service programs. It serves as a celebration for cancer survivors, a memorial for loved ones lost, and a community rally to fight cancer.

Here's how it works: A team captain gets together some of their closest friends, co-workers, family members, etc. and forms a team. Families, businesses, clubs, hospitals, religious organizations, and schools all organize Relay teams. The team members go out and collect contributions prior to the event.

The day of Relay, participants grab their tents and lawn chairs and head to pitch their tents on the field and take turns walking around the track for the duration of the Relay. Relay For Life has a festive atmosphere created by music, food, and camaraderie to celebrate survivors and the teams' successful fundraising efforts.

The first lap at the Relay For Life is dedicated to cancer survivors, who officially start the event by walking the first lap. It's very emotional and hopeful to see so many people who DO survive cancer! Following this lap, survivors are honored with a reception!

In the evening, there is a Luminaria Ceremony. White bags with a candle are placed around the track. Each one is dedicated in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of someone who has lost the fight with cancer. The candles surround the track and light the way as Relay For Life participants walk throughout the night.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 22, 2010

By noon – Tents, tables, chairs, portable toilets (if necessary), and other event materials set up

4 p.m. – Participants arrive and begin to set up campsites

6 p.m. – Opening Ceremony: Speakers and Survivor Lap

6:30 p.m. (approximately) – Survivor Reception

9 p.m. – Luminaria Ceremony

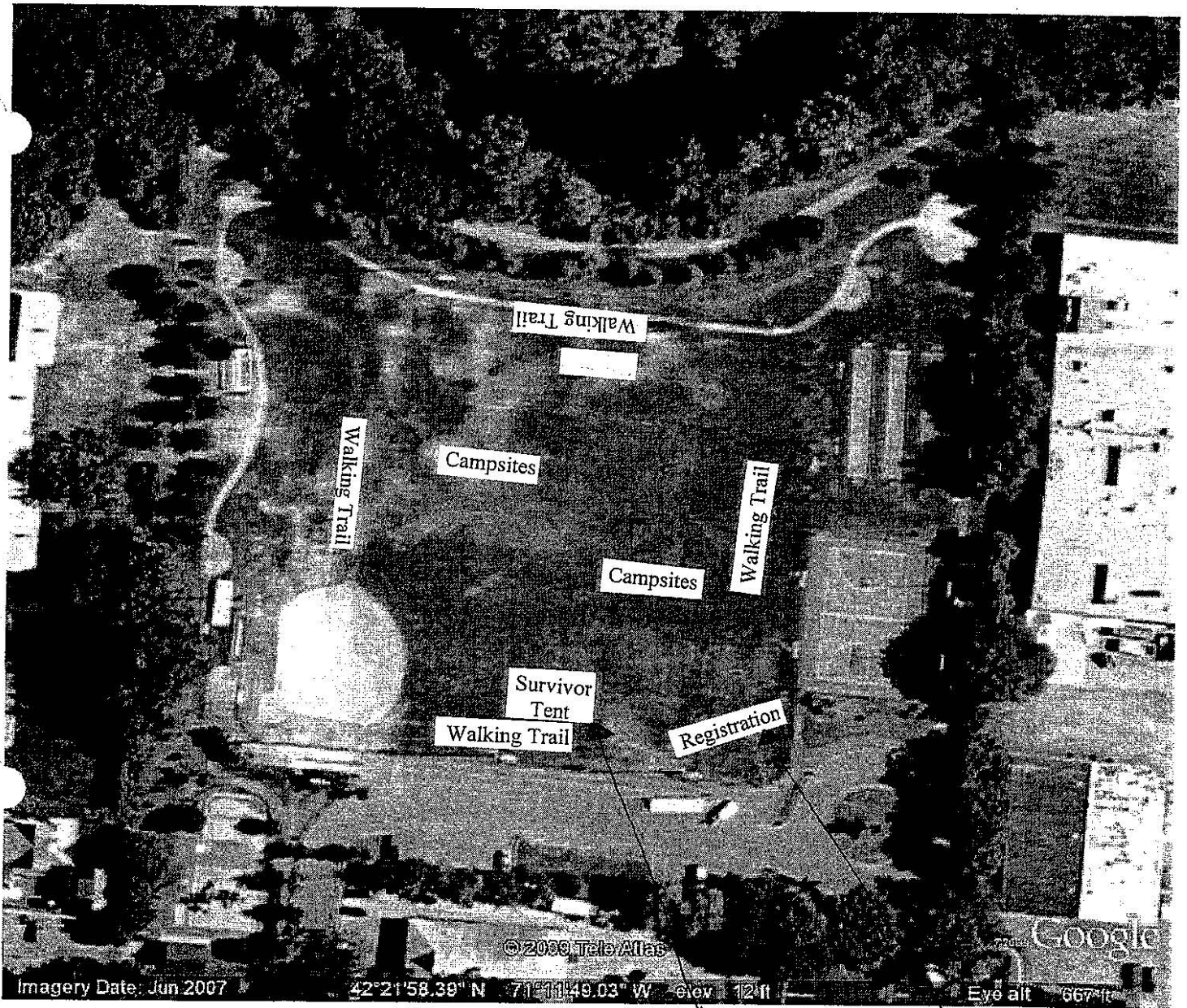
TBD – Fight Back Ceremony

Sunday, May 23, 2010

10 a.m. Closing Ceremony

By noon – Site cleaned up

Questions: Kate Glynn – kate.glynn@cancer.org or 781.314.2670



← California Street →

10' x 20'

20' x 30'

**NEWTON CENTRE CLAY TENNIS COURTS
RULES AND REGULATIONS
2010**

RESERVE COURT PLAY:

- ALL PLAYERS MUST PURCHASE A SEASON PERMIT OR PAY THE HOURLY FEE TO PLAY ON THE NEWTON CENTRE CLAY COURTS. Permits may be obtained at the courts.
- PERMIT HOLDERS WHO BRING A GUEST, (NON-PERMIT HOLDER) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE HOURLY FEE IS PAID TO ATTENDANT BEFORE STEPPING ON COURT.
- ALL PLAYERS MUST CHECK IN WITH COURT ATTENDANT PRIOR TO ENTERING THE COURTS. PERMIT AND DRIVERS LICENSE MUST BE SHOWN AT THIS TIME, OR GUEST FEE MUST BE PAID.
- PERMIT HOLDERS MAY RESERVE A COURT UP TO SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE. NON PERMIT HOLDERS MAY NOT RESERVE A COURT.
- A PERMIT HOLDER MAY HAVE ONLY ONE COURT RESERVATION ON THE BOOKS AT A TIME. PERMIT HOLDERS MUST FINISH USING THAT TIME BEFORE THEY MAY BOOK ANOTHER COURT.
- A MAXIMUM OF ONE (1) HOUR MAY BE BOOKED FOR SINGLES. ONE PERMIT HOLDERS NAME IS REQUIRED TO BOOK THIS COURT. A MAXIMUM OF 1.5 HOURS MAY BE BOOKED FOR DOUBLES PLAY. TWO PERMIT HOLDERS NAMES ARE REQUIRED TO BOOK THIS COURT.
- PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE A 2 HOUR DOUBLES BOOKING FOR SINGLES PLAY. IF ONLY 2 PLAYERS SHOW UP FOR A DOUBLES BOOKING, THEY FORFIT THE 2ND HOUR.

ANY PLAYER WHO INTENTIONALLY OR REPEATEDLY MAKES A 1.5 HOUR DOUBLES BOOKING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLAYING SINGLES WILL HAVE BOOKING PRIVILAGES TERMINATED WITHOUT A REFUND.

- IF AT LEAST ONE PLAYER IS NOT PRESENT AT THE START OF THE HOUR FOR WHICH A COURT IS BOOKED, COURT IS IMMEDIATELY GIVEN TO WAITING PLAYERS. BY FIVE MINUTES PAST THE HOUR TWO PLAYERS MUST BE ON THE COURT, OR BOOKING IS FORFIETED AND COURT IS GIVEN TO WAITING PLAYERS.

ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO SWEEP THE COURT AFTER USE IN A MANNER THAT IS APPROVED BY COURT ATTENDANT.

WHEN GATES ARE LOCKED, NO PLAY IS PERMITTED AND NO PLAYER IS ALLOWED ENTRY INTO THE COURTS.

- ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A SHIRT ON THE COURT.
- ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO INTERACT WITH OTHER PLAYERS IN A COURTEOUS AND CONSIDERATE MANNER. YELLING AND USE OF PROFANITY ARE PROHIBITED.
- ALL PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO ABIDE BY ANY DECISION TAKEN OR DIRECTION GIVEN BY THE COURT MONITOR

**NEWTON CENTRE CLAY COURTS
DATES & TIMES OF OPERATION
2010**

All hours are subject to change. Permit holders reserve times:

Pre-season: May 3 – May 31	Mon. – Fri. 9:00 – Noon 4:00 – 8:00PM
	Sat. & Sun. 9:00 – 1:00 4:00 – 6:00PM
Regular season: June 1 – September 6	Mon. – Fri. 9:00 – Noon 3:00 – 8:00PM
	Sat. & Sun. 9:00– 1:00 3:00 – 6:00PM
Post season: September 7 – October 15	Mon. – Fri. 9:00 – Noon 3:00 – 6:00PM
	Sat. & Sun. 9:00– 1:00 3:00 – 6:00PM

Closed for maintenance daily during regular season Mon – Fri. Noon to 3:00; Sat&Sun. 1:00 – 3:00PM. Regular Maintenance times may change or additional maintenance times will be required occasionally and courts will be closed. SPECIAL EVENTS AND CLINIC TIMES WILL BE POSTED AT THE COURTS
Pre-bookings for Clinics and special events will be posted.

NON-RESERVED COURT PLAY: is on a strict first come first serve basis. Court changeover will be on the hour except where a doubles booking produces and open court at the half hour.

**NEWTON CENTRE CLAY TENNIS COURTS
FEE STRUCTURE – 2010**

**SEASON PERMIT RATES
SEASON PERMIT FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE**

Resident Adult	\$140.00
Resident Student (under 18)	\$75.00
Non-Resident Adult	\$190.00
Non-Resident Student	\$125.00

HOURLY RATES*

Resident Adult	\$10.00
Resident Student (under 18)	\$7.00
Non-Resident Adult	\$12.00

* Non-permit holders, if courts are available – reservations are not permitted



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, War Memorial, 7:00pm
March 15, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Interim
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Fran Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Robert DeRubeis, *Interim Commissioner*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Michael Clarke, *Alternate*

Also Attending: Officer Ralph Torres, Animal Control Officer

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes from the February 22, 2010 meeting accepted 6-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the departments "snapshot" (see Attachment A).
 - Forestry requests are up
 - Attendance is up after the holidays

3. Relay for Life -2nd meeting

- Kate Glynn of the American Cancer Society was in attendance to answer any concerns or questions regarding the Relay for Life event at Forte Park on May 22 & May 23, 2010.
- Abutters of Forte Park were sent notification on February 23 of the Relay for Life event along with an invitation to attend tonight's Commission meeting to ask questions and address any concerns they may have.
- No abutters of Forte Park were in attendance.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to allow the Relay for Life event at Forte Park as submitted. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

4. St. Mary Carmen Festival – Chuck Proia

5. Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – Update

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis updated the Commission on the groups' progress. At the December 2009 Commission Meeting a motion was made:

Extend Cold Spring Off-Leash Dog Park through March 31, 2010. Interim Commissioner to define a committee to create, analyze, and define specifications of the ordinance for opening additional dog parks. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kastner. The motion passed 5-3.

- January 2010 the OLAWG group was formed including 12 members from various City departments, DOLAC, and citizen representatives. The group established a webpage on the City's web site which includes the minutes from each meeting and the criteria developed by the group. The criteria are used by the group to evaluate green space. Phase 1 is to determine available green space. Phase 2 will determine what is required to make a green space a viable off leash area.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated he is comfortable the group will come back with recommendations for OLA's at the April Commission meeting. And coming into tonight's vote on Old Cold Spring Park off leash area, the group has met the task assigned to them by the Commission in December 2009.
- Mr. Kastner asked if the Commission will review the criteria being used to evaluate green space. The Commission should review and approve the criteria; it should not be the responsibility of the OLAWG. Interim Commissioner stated the group will accept feedback; the criteria are already posted on the website.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated Mr. Kastner has misunderstood Interim Commissioner DeRubeis. OLAWG is evaluating all green space utilizing the criteria to determine if the space is a viable OLA. The criteria are general, logical and based on what we have learned from the OLA at Old Cold Spring Park.
- Mr. Kastner stated the first thing the group would want to do is to be sure of the criteria. It seems, as the legislative body, the Commission would want to review and approve the criteria. Mr. Kastner stated he has not even seen the criteria. Mr. Bernheimer stated the criteria are on line. Mr. Kastner does not want the criteria to be reviewed as individuals but as a group.
- Chairman Magni stated the Commission will ultimately vote on the off leash areas. Mr. Kastner does not believe a sub-committee should decide on the criteria to be used in the process. Mr. Bernheimer stated the group is not a sub committee; Mr. DeRubeis is the Interim Commissioner of the Parks & Recreation Dept. Mr. Kastner stated the information should be brought before the Commission. The further along the group gets into this process, the harder it will be to reverse any decisions made by the group.
- Chairman Magni requested Mr. Kastner make a motion.

Mr. Kastner made the motion that Interim Commissioner DeRubeis will present the criteria established by OLAWG to the Commission. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion failed with a vote of 1-2-3.

- Ms. Diane Cotting of Waban St commented she has been involved with the off leash dog park meetings since the beginning and she is dumbfounded the Commission has not approved the criteria being used by the Off Leash Area Working Group.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated this is a silly discussion. The Commission established a process like congress. Congress creates a committee and the committee establishes the criteria and then makes a proposal to congress. The Off Leash Area Working group has been totally transparent there has been nothing subjective; this has been an open and honest process. OLAWG will come back to the Commission with recommendations.
- Mr. Kastner stated the Commission continues to put the responsibility outside the Commission. Mr. Bernheimer stated OLAWG was appointed by the Commission. The group includes Commission members, an Alderman and the Parks & Recreation Interim Commissioner is the group leader. This is has been a terrific process, the group is working well together even with the differences of opinion within the group. There have been many thorny issues discussed by the group, such as; funding, enforcement, rules and regulations for each park, and how this process should be implemented into law. The ordinance will have to be amended. The Off Leash Area Working Group is doing what the Commission, the Cold Spring Park opponents and the dog proponents have requested.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Off Leash Area Working Group has met the task assigned to them.

6. Cold Spring Park - Off Leash Area

▪ The following motion was made by Mr. Bernheimer in December 2009: *Extend Cold Spring Off-Leash Dog Park through March 31, 2010. Interim Commissioner to define a committee to create, analyze, and define specifications of the ordinance for opening additional dog parks. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kastner. The motion passed 5-3.*

- Chairman Magni stated tonight the Commission is required to vote to either extend or close the off leash area (ola) in Old Cold Spring Park (OCSP).
- Mr. Bernheimer inquired when the ordinance expires. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the ordinance expires on June 30, 2010.
- Chairman Magni stated questions and comments from the audience are going to be accepted and asked that the members walk to the podium to ask their questions or make their comments. Personal attacks are not acceptable.
- Newton Resident commended the Commission for the job they have been doing and commented the goal is to have the job done and done well, sometimes additional discussion, may prevent the job from getting done. A lot of residents use Cold Spring Park and enjoy the off leash area. The residents are enforcing the rules and things are improving.
- Resident Lilly Berg stated she walks her dogs in Weston at the Fresh Pond Park. Parks are part of the community. People can find away to co-exist in unfenced off leash area.

- Allan Noguee of 48 Kingston Road stated he is an abutter of Cold Spring Park (CSP) and has spoken at previous meetings. Mr. Noguee and his neighbors are in favor of keeping the Old Colds Spring Park off leash area open. Half of his neighbors own dogs and use the off leash area every day. Old Cold Spring off leash area is the best place for a dog park because it has been a dog park for 25 years. More than 400 people, including his neighbors, have signed a petition submitted to the Commission to keep the area open; this is in contrast to the handful of people that complain about the dog park. CSP should not be jeopardized because the Commission does not believe other parks have been opened fast enough.
- Jeff Stern of Woodcliff Rd commented he uses the off leash area in OCSO occasionally and values the use. The decision before the Commission is short term. To determine the permanent fate of CSP OLA. A lot of work and time has gone into this process. It is an irony if the CSP OLA is closed and there are no dog parks.
- Bob Stock of Beverly Rd stated he is an abutter of CSP. Nobody else experiences the 50-100 cars in a busy season at CSP. He appreciates and agrees having other parks would be great, but the old process is flawed, CSP should be entered into the pool of parks to be evaluated by the new committee based on the criteria they have developed. The neighborhood has been adversely affected.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated the OLAWG is evaluating Old Cold Spring Park and New Cold Spring Park. Mr. Stock stated he believes there is a bias objectivity because it is already open. Mr. Kastner stated he trusts the group would look at CSP objectively.
- Diane Cotting commented she is jealous of Mr. Stock, she wishes CSP was in her neighborhood. Ms. Cotting stated she understands the issues at CSP due to CSP being the only off leash area. Today we are dealing with the three month extension, the group must band together create a timeline and extend CSP for three months with the caveat of other OLA being opened within that time period.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated we want to deal with this the correct way. The Commission cannot make the timeline, it is out of our hands, and this process also involves the Aldermen, the legislative body. The current ordinance would need to be revised.
- Ms. Eve Cohen of Beverley Rd. stated she has lived with this flawed experiment for 17 months and wishes she could paint a picture of what she has gone through. Ms. Cohen is in favor of dog parks, but a flawed experiment was put in place by the Commission with no representation from Ward 6. There is still no representation for Ward 6 on the new committee. The Commission does not care what it is like to live there and are asking us to live with this for another three months. Ms. Cohen does not believe there has been any improvement especially in the last three months, why should they have to live with it. The City has shown disregard, there is no improvement. How has this new process been transparent, the neighborhood still has no voice. The Commission has already made up its mind; the Commission owes the neighborhood an apology, why would a failed experiment remain open.

- Claudia Morris, Resident requested the Commission vote to extend CSP. Good progress has been made, she has been to the OLAWG website, and this is and has been a long process. Closing the OLA at CSP would be a step backwards. The residents need a legal dog park while completing the process.
- Chairman Magni asked if anyone had questions for Animal Control Officer Torres.

Q. Have there been any parking issues?

A. A few people have been parking on Plymouth Rd., but overall there has been improvement.

Q. How can you effectively monitor 65 acres of land?

A. Officer Torres patrols the length of the park on foot. Officer Torres sees violations but the majority of people are in compliance of the law.

Q. Is there an animal control officer on duty on Sundays?

A. No, currently Officer Torres is the only animal control officer; hopefully a second officer will be hired soon.

Mr. Kastner made the motion to extend Cold Spring off Leash Dog Park through June 30, 2010. Mr. Rice seconded the motion.

- Vice Chairman Heitman stated she sees two issues here:
 1. To vote to close or keep the Cold Spring Park off leash area open
 2. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis and the OLAWG project future OLA.
- Vice Chairman Heitman stated CSP OLA was due to close in December 2009 and the Commission deferred to give the OLAWG time to establish criteria and investigate other areas. Specific time was given. From a legal point of view this has not happened, to take a vote with this in place is not feasible, Vice Chairman Heitman cannot vote to keep CSP open.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated there is confusion on the motion he made in December. The Commission did not create a deadline for the OLAWG. Vice Chairman Heitman stated the system will be fine to utilize in the future. Mr. Kastner stated we did not expect to have a timeline, but a checklist or a contingency plan should be reviewed.
- Mr. Johnson stated when Mr. Bernheimer made the December 2009 motion he stated the group would show progress not have something in place.
- The members voted on the motion:

Mr. Kastner made the motion to extend Cold Spring off Leash Dog Park through June 30, 2010. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-3.

- Mr. Bernheimer suggested the Commission extend CSP for one month. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis will present progress the progress made by OLAWG.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis asked what the expectations are of the Commission for the presentation in April. Mr. Bernheimer stated the Board of Alderman will have to be involved.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to extend Cold Spring off Leash Dog for one month pending a report from the Off Leash Area Working Group. Mr. Kastner seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-2.

7. New Business

- Interim Commissioner stated the budget is in process. The Parks & Recreation Department was asked to submit ~\$380K in budget cuts. There has been no confirmation from the Executive Office on the suggested cuts. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis will have another update on the budget at the next Commission meeting.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated Seniors Director Nancy Scammon has included in tonight's packets, information on the Commission Youth Awards that will take place in May. Ms. Scammon is requesting assistance in locating nominees for the awards.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reminded the members to complete the on-line ethics test by April 1, 2010.
- Vice -Chairman Heitman stated that e-mails are public record. And is requesting the Commission members defer in responding to any public e-mails. Take them in, absorb the information but do not respond. Any response could become a legal issue.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Attachment A

Key Performance Indicators

	Feb-09	Feb-10	Fiscal Y-T-D	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	13	81	989	
Forestry Requests Completed	45	54	958	
Maintenance Requests Received	10	10	166	
Maintenance Requests Completed	10	9	156	
Administration-Calls Received	488	753	5,529	

Financial Indicators

	Feb-09	Feb-10	Fiscal Y-T-D	Comments
REVENUE				
Operating	\$852.00	\$670.00	\$85,074.00	
Revolving				
Classes/Activities	\$56,003.00	\$82,527.00	\$503,767.00	NNHS Indoor recreation & vacation camps
Camps	\$18,025.00	\$47,030.00	\$196,725.00	Camp registrations, clinic (NGBA) Fiscal Y-T-D total corrected- last snapshot total of 451,776.00 included June of FY09.
Arts in the Parks	\$21,263.00	\$17,387.00	\$154,129.00	Children's classes
Senior Citizens	\$4,660.00	\$2,926.00	\$25,989.00	Senior Trips
Landscape Maint	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$27,608.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$17,030.00	
Revolving Total	\$125,001.00	\$174,870.00	\$925,248.00	

	Feb-09	Feb-10	Fiscal Y-T-D	Comments
EXPENSES				
Operating	\$553,806.00	\$356,083.00	\$3,035,540.00	
Revolving				
Classes/Activities	\$27,801.00	\$110,787.00	\$615,007.00	Tennis court repairs, NNHS Indoor, building leadership, youth (skating) skiing
Camps	\$7,762.00	\$14,412.00	\$398,046.00	Clinic (NGBA)
Arts in the Parks	\$16,267.00	\$16,645.00	\$130,197.00	
Senior Citizens	\$3,412.00	\$519.00	\$21,275.00	Senior trips
Landscape Maint	\$1,060.00	\$0.00	\$14,679.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,586.00	
Revolving Total	\$56,302.00	\$142,363.00	\$1,195,790.00	
Emergency				
Snow/Ice Control				
Regular Overtime	\$ 12,400.00	\$ 18,718.00	\$ 56,605.00	
Rental - Vehicles	\$ 295,229.00	\$ 96,407.00	\$ 247,397.00	

Departmental Attendance

		Feb-09			Feb-10			
		Workdays	Days	Manpower	Workdays	Days	Manpower	
2009	2010	19	Missed	Indicator	19	Missed	Indicator	
Administration -	14	13	266	26.00	90.2%	247	15.50	93.7%
Maintenance -	18	18	342	71.50	79.1%	342	80.00	76.6%
Forestry -	2	2	38	1.00	97.4%	38	0.50	98.7%
Total Dept Attendance			646	98.50	84.8%	627	96.00	84.7%

J. Anderson, F. Towle not included

Narrative

General

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Burr Park Vacation Camp	100	98
Emerson Countryside After School	xx	80
Begin layout for field marking, prep ball fields, replace tennis court & basketball nets , paint basket ball backboards		
Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament- Mark Kelly		

Highlights

Mayor Community Meeting -2-28 at Emerson Community Center - 91 people attending
Mayor Community Meeting - 2-21 at Lower Falls Community Center - 80 people attending
Mayor Community Meeting - 2-28 at Pelligrini Community Center
Women's Twilight Volleyball League finals 3/8/10 & 3/15/10

Coming Events

April Vacation Camps
Marathon (April 19) - Heartbreak Hill Youth Road Race (April 18)
New summer camp programs scheduled the last two weeks of August
Spring Ice Skating lessons
March 21 - Mass Senior Olympics - Lasell College
March 25 - Judy Dore to attend Farmers Market Manager Workshop
April 25- Newton Serves



Relay For Life of Newton/Brookline

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing, fun-filled overnight event that brings together 3.5 million people across the country to raise cancer awareness and funds for cancer research, advocacy efforts, education, and patient service programs. It serves as a celebration for cancer survivors, a memorial for loved ones lost, and a community rally to fight cancer.

Here's how it works: A team captain gets together some of their closest friends, co-workers, family members, etc. and forms a team. Families, businesses, clubs, hospitals, religious organizations, and schools all organize Relay teams. The team members go out and collect contributions prior to the event.

The day of Relay, participants grab their tents and lawn chairs and head to pitch their tents on the field and take turns walking around the track for the duration of the Relay. Relay For Life has a festive atmosphere created by music, food, and camaraderie to celebrate survivors and the teams' successful fundraising efforts.

The first lap at the Relay For Life is dedicated to cancer survivors, who officially start the event by walking the first lap. It's very emotional and hopeful to see so many people who DO survive cancer! Following this lap, survivors are honored with a reception!

In the evening, there is a Luminaria Ceremony. White bags with a candle are placed around the track. Each one is dedicated in honor of a cancer survivor or in memory of someone who has lost the fight with cancer. The candles surround the track and light the way as Relay For Life participants walk throughout the night.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 22, 2010

By noon – Tents, tables, chairs, portable toilets (if necessary), and other event materials set up

4 p.m. – Participants arrive and begin to set up campsites

6 p.m. – Opening Ceremony: Speakers and Survivor Lap

6:30 p.m. (approximately) – Survivor Reception

9 p.m. – Luminaria Ceremony

TBD – Fight Back Ceremony

Sunday, May 23, 2010

10 a.m. Closing Ceremony

By noon – Site cleaned up

Questions: Kate Glynn – kate.glynn@cancer.org or 781.314.2670



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, War Memorial, 7:00pm
April 26, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Interim
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Walter Bernheimer, Richard Tucker, Bethel Charkoudian, Donald Fishman, *Alternate*, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Michael Clarke, *Alternate*, Robert DeRubeis, *Interim Commissioner*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Fran Rice, Peter Johnson

Also Attending: Officer Ralph Torres, Animal Control Officer

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Magni introduced and welcomed the newly appointed Commission members:

Bethel Charkoudian- Ward1 Richard Tucker – Ward 7
Andrew Stern - Ward 6 (not present) Donald Fishman - Alternate

1. Meeting Minutes from the March 15, 2010 meeting accepted 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the departments "snapshot" (see Attachment).
- Newton Serves – Sunday, April 25 was a success. There were 45 projects run throughout the city.

3. Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – Presentation

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis presented the Off Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) presentation. The presentation will be posted on-line: <http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm>
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed how OLAWG was created by the Commission and listed the members of OLAWG:
 - Robert J. DeRubeis, Interim Parks & Recreation Commissioner
 - Susan Albright, Alderman
 - Walter Bernheimer, Parks & Recreation Commission
 - Ann Dorfman, Citizen Representative
 - Candace Havens. Interim Planning Director
 - Amy Koel, DOLAC Chairman
 - Ted Kuklinski, Citizen Representative
 - Lee McIntyre, Citizen Representative
 - Francis Rice, Parks & Recreation Commission

- Carol Schein, Parks & Recreation Open Space Coordinator
 - Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager
 - Officer Ralph Torres, Animal Control Officer
- The presentation included a summary of OLAWG's progress to date:
 - Transparency: established OLAWG web page on City Website to post information:
<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm>
 - OLAWG Meetings - weekly in Room 222 at City Hall at 9:00 a.m.
 - Posted Dog Owner Survey on web page
 - Developed process:
 - Phase 1- Determine potential green space areas for use as off leash recreation areas.
 - Phase 2 – Determine what is required to make the green space area viable as an off leash recreation area
 - Established 13 criteria to evaluate green space areas (based on national standards)
 - Identified 76 green space areas throughout the city
 - Using the criteria, 34 green space areas eliminated from the initial site evaluations
 - Group members conducted site visits of the 42 remaining green space areas using the criteria
 - Recommending 24 green space areas for Phase 2 review
 - Interim Commissioner DeRubeis then presented the 24 Phase 1 green space areas. The group has determined these 24 green space areas may be viable as off leash areas. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated these 24 green space areas will be evaluated in Phase 2 before any areas are presented to the Commission. The group will then present 3-4 areas to the Commission in May. The Commission will have community meetings for each area and may have to schedule special meetings for each area.
 - A member in the audience who identified herself a Planner for another municipality stated the process takes a certain amount of time and presenting 3 areas in May is a lot of work and inquired if it was possible.
 - Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group will review the 24 areas and present 3-4 of the sites in May. The Community meetings would be held in June. The group will look at areas that are ready to open as is, with no expenses, such as fencing.
 - Mr. Kastner suggested scheduling special meetings for June and July. Chairman Magni stated we can discuss that at the next meeting.

4. Cold Spring Park - Off Leash Area

- Chairman Magni stated tonight is the vote to extend or cancel the use of the off leash area in Old Cold Spring Park.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated it makes no sense closing the off leash area (OLA) in Old Cold Spring Park (OCSP) with the progress that is being made. Three to four sites could open once the ordinance is revised. Mr. Bernheimer is not sure of the Aldermen's timeline regarding the ordinance, but it makes

no sense to close the OCSP off leash area when three or four sites may be opening July 1.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to keep Old Cold Spring Park off leash area operational as an existing, legal off leash area under the original ordinance until June 30, 2010 when the original ordinance expires. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

- Chairman Magni stated the Commission will take comments from the audience before a vote is taken. Please keep comments brief and respectful.
- Mr. Bob Stock of Beverly Road stated there are four things he would like to address:
 1. Linkage between the Off Leash Area Working Group and keeping Cold Spring Park open.
 2. The new criteria
 3. The potential sites
 4. Accountability
- Mr. Stock stated at the March 19 OLAWG meeting Amy Koel commented that at the December 2009 Commission meeting the P & R Commission linked the success of the OLAWG with keeping Cold Spring Park open and Mr. Bernheimer agreed with Ms. Koel. Mr. Stock stated he has read and re-read those notes and he does not see the link except in Mr. Bernheimer's motion to extend Cold Spring Park off leash area for three months. One issue is to assess if OCSP should be kept open with the same problems while evaluating other areas. Another issue is a working committee trying to establish a process for off leash areas in Newton. Mr. Stock sees no connection. Mr. Bernheimer has said he has changed his mind about OCSP being a failure, but nothing has changed it has the same problems. Again he links the progress of the group with OCSP remaining open. The neighborhood is being held hostage.
- Mr. Stock commented OLAWG has identified criteria for off leash areas. Almost every criteria begins with "due consideration given to..." Mr. Stock does not know the meaning of this statement and the statement leaves the criteria vague and open for different interpretation on a case by case basis. Mr. Stock appreciates the work the OLAWG is doing. Mr. Stock stated, in a previous e-mail Mr. Bernheimer has wrote specification requirements are needed, Mr. Stock does not consider these criteria as specifications, specifications would be things like a fence or hours required. There is no instruction on how to address problems. The criteria require more definition.
- Mr. Stock commented it has taken 4 months for OLAWG to identify additional sites and by the time the group follows the process and has other parks opened it could be up to nine months. The process for establishing other OLA in other Newton communities should be applied to the Old Cold Spring Park community.
- Mr. Stock commented dog parks in Newton are a good idea. It is not a good idea for just one Dog Park in Newton.
- Mr. Stock requested the new Commission members refrain from voting on the CSP extension, they are new to the Commission and the issue. If the

new members vote, then unfortunately the lack of transparency and integrity that has permeated this process over the last 18 months will continue.

- Mr. Stock commented he finds the timing of these new commission appointments by the Mayor ironic, it does not seem very transparent and transparency is his calling card. It is finally time to do the right thing; define a program for dog parks in this city, create standards and evaluate each area using these standards and include CSP in this evaluation. Until this happens it is not right to keep Old Cold Spring Park open.
- Mr. Lee McIntyre of 607 Commonwealth Ave commented over the past year since the legal off leash area has been opened there have been no major incidents, it would be a good idea to have Animal Control Officer Torres comment on the off leash area tonight. All the dire predictions that were predicted when the off leash area was made legal have failed to come to pass, in fact it works as it always has worked because it has been a defacto off leash area for 25 years. It has not been overrun with visitors, the parking issues on Beverly Rd and Duncklee St has dissipated, the field remains clean. To close the park now does not make sense. We are on the cusp, as we have seen tonight new off leash areas are being presented. The Mayor is not just in favor of opening other off leash areas throughout the City but also in keeping Old Cold Spring Park open. The City is making good progress in opening new areas and that was a criteria proposed at the last meeting as a condition in keeping Old Cold Spring Park open and the City has met this criteria. The only thing that would be accomplished by closing Old Cold Spring Park tonight would be confusion. The City would be going backwards by not having any legal off leash areas in Newton. We are close to opening new off leash areas and this is what the neighbors of Old Cold Spring Park have been requesting. Please do not close Old Cold Spring off leash area.
- Ms. Lynn Lieberman of Brewster Rd commented there have been dogs off leash in Cold Spring Park for over 20 years. Ms. Lieberman takes her dogs there sometimes twice a day every day. Since the off leash area has been legal she has been there every day and yes the park is different now, the park is cleaner, the off leash dog owners who use the park believe so strongly in this park the users "police" each other and watch out for each others dogs. If the off leash area were to close there would be mass confusion and people will not stop going to the park. Ms. Lieberman loves the off leash area and the City needs the legal off leash area.
- Ms. Alla Mantsur of Jaconnet Rd commented another change is the parking restrictions on Beverly and Duncklee St. The parking issues on these streets have been less; she has been around these streets and has not seen cars or buses on the access road. And this is because of the legal off leash areas. Ms. Mantsur is a teacher and using an education comparison, before only wealthy people could attend private schools, now middle class and low income people have access to private schools. More people have access to better life. Change is hard for some people and giving access to "jewels" of Newton is difficult for some neighbors but this access allows everyone for a chance at a better quality of life. Please do not close Old Cold Spring Park.

- Mr. Rick Dyer of Terrace Ave commented the problem at Cold Spring Park is the off leash dogs on the 18 station exertrail. The trail is also used by the track team. Last year the track team sent bikes ahead to clear the trail for the team. The off leash area has created more dogs on the trail; there were dogs before it was legal but it is different now. This has discouraged runners from running in the park. Parking is still an issue; there is no access to this park.
- June Goodman of Woodward St. commented she takes her dog to Old Cold Spring Park, her dog is not doing well and will not benefit from the use of Old Cold Spring Park. Ms. Goodman stated she is here to support the other dog owners who use the off leash area. If other communities can have off leash areas, Newton can too.
- Kim Vanamen commented she has taken her dog to Old Cold Spring Park off leash area and has used the Braceland Park. Ms. Vanamen stated because the off leash area was made legal it brought up issues that needed to be addressed, it opened a dialogue and the issues are being addressed. Ms. Vanamen would be sorry to see Old Cold Spring Park close. Other areas should be opened to minimize the burden on Old Cold Spring Park.
- Chairman Magni requested Officer Ralph Torres give a report on the off leash area at Old Cold Spring Park. Officer Torres stated he takes all complaints seriously. Since March 15th 2010 the weather has been good. Compliance has been good, the park is clean. Officer Torres stated overall he has seen steady improvement in the off leash area at Old Cold Spring Park. Chairman Magni asked for questions of Officer Torres.
 - Q. Has Officer Torres noticed a decrease in dog aggression since the park was made into a legal off leash area?
 - A. There have been no issues in Cold Spring Park
 - Q. Has aggression decreased throughout the city?
 - A. Officer Torres responded he believes aggression has decreased.
- Chairman Magni asked for final comments from the Commission Members.
- Mr. Kastner stated the motion should be amended to read the hours may be set in the off leash area at the discretion of the P & R Commissioner. And dogs off leash on the trail should be illegal and the number of dogs allowed may be limited by the P & R Commissioner. Mr. Bernheimer stated there is already a rule limiting the number of dogs per person and dogs off leash on the trails is already illegal, but he sees no problem with allowing the commissioner the discretion to set hours as required.
- Mr. Fishman stated clarity of the motion is good. There motion is for two months; we should proceed with the motion as seconded. No harm will come in the two months.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to keep Old Cold Spring Park off leash area operational as an existing, legal off leash area under the original ordinance until June 30, 2010 when the original ordinance expires. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

Mr. Kastner amended the motion to include the P & R Commissioner has authority to restrict hours in the off leash area as required. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.

The motion and amendment passed with a vote of 7-1

5. St. Mary Carmen Festival – 2nd Meeting

- Mr. Chuck Proia the festival chairman gave an overview of the festival. The dates of the festival are July 14 through July 18, 2010. Mr. Proia stated there are no changes to the festival from last year. This is the 75th year of the festival and the Cardinal will be part of the festival. Mr. Proia introduced Mr. John Flynn, the Manager/Owner of Fiesta Shows and asked if the Commission had any questions for Mr. Flynn.
- Ms. Heitman stated the festival is a wonderful event for everyone and thanked all involved with the festival.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis commented that since Mr. Flynn has taken over management of the festival six years ago, the festival has run smoothly, the quality of the rides is good and his workmanship in handling the group is excellent.
- An abutter of Pelligrini playground stated he has faith in Mr. Proia. Each year the issues, such as noise, at the festival have improved.
- No other abutters were present or had any comments.

Ms. Heitman made the motion to approve the St. Mary of Carmen Festival as submitted. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

6. Nahanton Park – Farm Proposal

- Peter J. Barrer, Board President, Newton Community Farm, Inc. stated Angino Farm has an overflow of interest but is limited by space Mr. Barrer has submitted a proposal (attached) for the Newton Community Farm (NCF) to partner with Newton Parks and Recreation to expand programming and usage of Nahanton Park.
- Mr. Barrer stated they are aware of the concerns of the birding community, the Friends of Nahanton Park and the Newton Conservators. The area is being lost to the forest. Farm land is better for the birds; farmed land gives the birds places to hide.
- Mr. Barrer is proposing 4 possible areas. The first is the "Lower Brush Area" (#1). Ms. Heitman asked if this was off Winchester Street. Mr. Barrer replied no. Chairman Magni asked if this area Parks & Recreation Land. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes. The second area is the "Overgrown Community Garden Area" (#2), the third is the meadow of "mowed area" (#3), and the fourth area is a wooded area (?). The soil in the meadow would have to be tested to be made farmable.
- Mr. Bernheimer asked if site #3 is across from the proposed off leash area. Interim Commissioner stated yes and site #3 is a snow dump.
- Mr. Kastner asked if there was interest in farming up hill. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated site #1 was where the group looked at during a site visit with Mr. Barrer. This is a scrub area that would have to be cleaned up and trees would have to be taken down. Site #3 was a proposed as an off leash area and there was considerable objection from the birders. The birders did not want the meadow disturbed.
- Mr. Bernheimer asked if the Community Gardens usage has declined. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes, site #2 is unused.

- Mr. Tucker inquired about the area marked with a (?). Mr. Barrer stated this area has large, evasive trees that would be expensive to remove. Mr. Kastner stated this area is currently used as an illegal dump site. If the area is being used maybe people will be discouraged from using the site as an illegal dump.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Tree Warden checked the area and was not concerned with trees being taken down in area #1.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis area #2 is the existing gardens, the fee details would have to be worked out otherwise the farm could use the area right away. But the other three areas would require public meetings.
- Mr. Barrer stated the cost to restore the soil will be between \$15,000.00 and \$20,000.00 dollars. Angino Farm could pay for water use but could not afford to pay a fee to use the land. Mr. Bernheimer asked if there could be any co-ventures or in-kind service in place of fees. Mr. Barrer stated yes, educational programs could be provided.
- Mr. Clarke inquired what type of legal agreement would be required, would it be a lease agreement. Mr. Barrer stated Angino Farms has a License Agreement to use the land; the same type of agreement could be used for Nahanton Park.
- Ms. Charkoudian inquired if the farm requires two of the 4 sites. Mr. Clarke stated site #3 is the unused community gardens and are available to the public. A resident in the audience stated he heard there was a waiting list for the unused community gardens. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated he will check with Ms. Dore the Recreation Manager in charge of the gardens.
- Mr. Barrer stated Newton Community Farm, Inc. would require a long term commitment; they would be using private donations to prepare and maintain the areas for farming.

Mr. Tucker made the motion to move the proposal to a public meeting. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

7. Taiwan Garden- Hyde Community Centre Playground

- Ward 5 Alderman John Rice and Jack Wang of the Taipei Economic Culture Center of Boston presented a proposal (attached) for a Taiwan Garden at the Hyde Community Center. Alderman Rice commented the process began with Carol Schein, the Open Space Coordinator, in the Parks & Recreation Department. The proposal is to design a garden located adjacent to the former Hyde School in the Hyde Playground on Lincoln Street, this garden will be dedicated to the Hyde Community Center and Taipei Economic Culture office in Boston (located at 90 Lincoln Street Newton Highlands). Creation of an authentic Chinese garden is to be effected by use of plant material indigenous to China and the embellishment of the plantings with architectural elements singularly Chinese.
- Alderman Rice stated the group would like this garden to be the center point for the Newton Highlands. The community has invested approximately \$4-\$5 thousand dollars on this project to date.

- Alderman Rice is requesting permission to move the fence back 20 feet from the street. Alderman Rice has spoken with representatives from Newton South Little League and they have no issues with the fence being moved.
- Mr. Clarke asked if there will be benches on the street side of the fence. Alderman Rice stated yes, there is currently one bench and the group would like three more.
- Mr. Clarke asked if the plants selected are non invasive. Alderman Rice stated yes and there will be a team to maintain the project.
- Mr. Kastner inquired why a Taiwan Garden. Alderman Rice stated the Hyde Community Center has a 60 year lease with the City and the office has been subleased to the Taiwan Cultural Office. The Taiwan Cultural Office would like to give back to Newton. Mr. Kastner stated the group should check with the Chinese exchange program. A guest from Taiwan saw a flag from Taiwan hanging in the schools and became very upset.
- Ms. Charkoudian inquired if bamboo was going to be planted. Alderman Rice stated no, but there will be rock formations and bushes planted along the fence line for privacy.
- Ms. Charkoudian commented the proposal states there will be no roots penetrating below five feet in depth. Ms. Charkoudian inquired why this statement would be included if it was not a concern. Alderman Rice stated Rich Abrams who is assisting with the proposal knows what should be noted in a report. Ms. Charkoudian asked if this was noted because the plants will become invasive. Alderman Rice stated Mr. Abrams has done his research. Ms. Charkoudian asked how Mr. Abrams will prevent the roots from growing past the 5 foot depth. Alderman Rice commented they could come up with a plan. Ms. Charkoudian stated she would like to see a report.
- Chairman Magni requested Alderman Rice bring Mr. Abrams to the second meeting.
- Mr. Tucker inquired if the proposal includes maintenance. Alderman Rice stated yes. Mr. Bernheimer requested to see the maintenance plan in writing. Alderman Rice agreed to provide a written maintenance plan.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to move the proposal to a public meeting. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

8. Mike Pinta- NELL – Jay Gordon Field

- Mr. Pinta stated he is the general counsel for Newton East Little League (NELL). This past weekend NELL held the opening day parade and Mayor Warren threw out the first pitch.
- Mr. Pinta stated he is requesting permission from the Commission to make improvements to the little league bench area at Jay Gordon Field. Each year the water puddles under the benches and is getting worse. NELL has added bluestone to build up the area, but the blue stone is not working.
- NELL would like to hire Tom Forte to fix the problem and is requesting permission to add concrete slabs and new benches in the area. First a layer of crushed stone would be added to the area then the concrete

- would be poured at an angle so the water will run off the back end of the concrete slab. The new benches would be cemented into the concrete.
- Chairman Magni asked if the concrete slab would create a tripping hazard. Mr. Pinta stated no, the area would be filled. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated Mike Baldi in the Engineering Department recommended feathering the edges of the concrete slab to the grass line.
 - Mr. Pinta stated NELL would be paying for the concrete slabs and benches.
 - Mr. Kastner inquired if additional fencing would be required. Mr. Pinta stated no. The National Little League Association has ruled that it is unsafe to have an on deck circle; when the on deck area was removed the fence area was reduced.
 - Mr. Clarke inquired if the slab goes in front of the dugout. Mr. Pinta stated there is no structure. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated there is no dugout structure, there is only fencing.
 - Mr. Bernheimer stated this is a field and may not always be used as a little league field. An agreement should be made with NELL stating NELL will remove the concrete slabs and restore the field to it's original condition if they are no longer using the little league field.
 - Mr. Clarke agreed with Mr. Bernheimer and asked why bluestone has not been tried to stop the build up of water. Mr. Pinta stated NELL has tried blue stone and it does not work. They have checked into drains, but the blue stone would clog the drains.
 - Ms. Charkoudian asked if NELL researched portable/removable decking. Mr. Pinta asked where the water would drain from on the portable decking. Ms. Charkoudian stated the water would drain the same way as the concrete pads.
 - Mr. Pinta stated NELL maintains the field and could agree to remove the concrete slabs in the future.
 - Mr. Clarke stated he would like to see other options. Mr. Pinta stated NELL is just trying to make the area more usable.
 - Mr. Bernheimer asked when the concrete pads would be completed if approved. Mr. Pinta stated if the proposal is approved at the May 17 Commission meeting, the work would be completed in June.

Mr. Kastner made the motion to move the NELL proposal to a public hearing.

Mr. Fishman seconded the Motion.

Ms. Charkoudian amended the motion to include non-concrete suggestions be presented at the public hearing. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion

The motion passed 4-2-1. (Mr. Tucker left the meeting)

9. Crystal Lake & Gath Pool Swim Fees

- Fees Submitted:

Crystal Lake

Opens- Monday - June 14, 3 PM

Closes Sunday - to be determined

Gath Pool

Opens- Monday - June 14, 3 PM

Closes Labor Day - Monday - September 6, 2010 5PM

Summer Swim Permit:

Permits are issued to RESIDENTS ONLY for the summer season.

Fees are nonrefundable.

Adults (18 years of age and older) cost \$45.00 for the season

Students are considered (any person age 6 through 18 years of age) \$20.00 per person.

Seniors (age 62 and over) \$20.00 per person

Resident Adult Daily fee \$6.00

Resident Student Daily Fee: \$4.00

Resident Senior Daily: \$4.00

Non-Resident Daily Fee \$10.00 each.

Residents with financial hardship may apply to the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation for a scholarship/fee waiver.

Summer swim permits are valid at both Crystal Lake and Gath Pool

- Mr. Bernheimer asked if the fees were the same as last year. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes and this will be addressed in the budget update.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis referenced the P & R Budget book included in the Commission member packets. The back page of the budget book lists the proposed 2011 budget cuts presented to the Mayor and the Board of Alderman. The cuts are approximately \$367K dollars.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated one of the cuts was to seasonal wages. How do the swim areas remain open with a reduction in seasonal wages?
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the department is pulling together to get things done. Two positions have been cut. There have been no cuts to service. Fees will be re-evaluated next year.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to accept the swim fees as submitted. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:29 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary



Financial Indicators

	Mar-09	FY09- Y-T-D	Mar-10	FY10 Y-T-D	Comments
REVENUE					
Operating	\$2,862.00	\$69,422.00	\$1,802.00	\$86,876.00	
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$73,691.00	\$503,834.00	\$73,773.00	\$577,540.00	
Camps	\$41,954.00	\$214,449.00	\$38,570.00	\$235,295.00	
Arts in the Parks	\$20,359.00	\$157,712.00	\$5,256.00	\$159,385.00	
Senior Citizens	\$7,505.00	\$42,132.00	\$6,960.00	\$32,949.00	
Landscape Maint.	\$1,060.00	\$2,120.00	\$3,805.00	\$31,413.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$200.00	\$74,430.00	\$650.00	\$17,680.00	
Revolving Total	\$144,769.00	\$994,677.00	\$129,014.00	\$1,054,262.00	

	Mar-09	FY09- Y-T-D	Mar-10	FY10 Y-T-D	Comments
EXPENSES					
Operating	\$377,839.00	\$3,453,473.00	\$399,843.00	\$3,435,383.00	
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$43,266.00	\$426,776.00	\$100,720.00	\$715,727.00	
Camps	\$9,499.00	\$374,669.00	\$18,843.00	\$416,889.00	
Arts in the Parks	\$18,249.00	\$170,418.00	\$10,342.00	\$140,539.00	
Senior Citizens	\$4,202.00	\$32,808.00	\$4,975.00	\$26,250.00	
Landscape Maint	\$0.00	\$27,275.00	\$0.00	\$14,679.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$10,800.00	\$74,940.00	\$12,381.00	\$28,967.00	
Revolving Total	\$86,016.00	\$1,106,886.00	\$147,261.00	\$1,343,051.00	
Emergency					
Snow/Ice Control					
Regular Overtime	\$ 8,963.00	\$ 62,350.00	\$ 1,043.00	\$ 57,648.00	
Rental - Vehicles	\$ 70,339.00	\$ 568,286.00	\$ 92,922.00	\$ 340,319.00	



Key Performance Indicators

	Mar-09	FY09- Y-T-D	Mar-10	FY10 Y-T-D	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	57	872	119	1108	
Forestry Requests Completed	24	843	94	1052	
Maintenance Requests Received	0	0	11	50	
Maintenance Requests Completed	0	0	10	45	
Maintenance Schooliude Received	18	206	24	176	
Maintenance Schooliude Completed	17	203	22	168	
Administration-Calls Received	267	1625	939	6,468	FY09 Y-T-D includes Dec, Jan, Feb, March only

Departmental Attendance

	Mar-09			Mar-10			Comments
	Workdays	Days Missed	Manpower Indicator	Workdays	Days Missed	Manpower Indicator	
2009	22	34.00	89.0%	23	12.50	95.8%	
Administration - 14	308	63.00	84.1%	299	71.00	82.9%	
Maintenance - 18	396	2.50	94.3%	414	2.00	95.7%	
Forestry - 2	44	99.50	86.7%	46	85.50	88.7%	
Total Dept Attendance	748			759			

Narrative

March 14 - Staff interview day

Interviewed over 45 seasonal employees for summer camp positions

April Events

April 19 - Boston Marathon

April 25 - Newton Serves

Springfest in Waban

Irrigation Start -ups

Turf Work begins, field marking on-going, ball field prep on-going

April Vacation Camps

Inclusive vacation camp for kids with and with out disabilities

Newton Special Athletes visited Patriot's Place

April 20 & 21 - Family Movie Days and Night at the West Newton Cinema

(approximately 350 people per event)

May Highlights- Upcoming...

Newton Special Athletes Awards Ceremony - May 5th Post 440 (7-10pm)

Tennis, Golf & Rowing Starting

New Tandem Biking Program starting this month

Special Olympic Swim Meet (May 2), Track Meet (May 16)

**Proposal for Involvement of Newton Community Farm in Nahanton Park
April 26, 2010**

Parks and Recreation Commission, City of Newton

Peter J. Barrer, Board President, Newton Community Farm, Inc. (617-630-0923)

Proposal Summary

Newton Community Farm (NCF) proposes to partner with Newton Parks and Recreation to expand programming and usage of Nahanton Park. Key features of the partnership would include designation of limited areas for farming and related education/volunteer/recreation uses, long term agreement, investment by NCF to prepare land for farming, creation and maintenance of birding habitat, and payment for use of city water.

NCF requests that the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission find that such a partnership, as generally outlined in this proposal, is in the best interests of the City and Nahanton Park. NCF asks that the Commission guide City staff in the broad details of how it wishes the partnership be established, and direct City staff to work with NCF to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

Introduction

Newton Community Farm, Inc. (NCF), which operates Newton Angino Community Farm, a City owned property, for the benefit of the Newton community, is now seeking off-site locations to facilitate planning for future farm needs.

We believe that a potential partnership with Parks and Recreation using portions of Nahanton Park will assist Parks and Recreation's accomplishment of its goals to expand public/private partnerships, continue development of new and innovative programs, and build a rich cultural life in Newton.

We believe that such a partnership can be formulated in a way that is practical and financially viable for NCF. If the city is interested, NCF would like to open discussions about such a partnership at Nahanton Park while NCF works out the practical considerations.

We are specifically interested in exploring the potential to use spaces totaling between 0.5 and 1 acre for expanding our farm operation, educational, and volunteer programming. Nahanton Park is ideally suited to this purpose as it is currently underutilized and is less than a mile from the farm's site. This close proximity would allow staff, volunteers, and students to walk between the two locations. If approval by the City could be obtained in 2010, we could begin preliminary cultivation activities this growing season.

Purpose

Parks and Recreation's mission is to provide traditional and innovative recreation, leisure and cultural activities in a quality environment for all residents of Newton. NCF's mandate is to educate the Newton community about the importance of local, sustainably grown food. The proposed use of part of Nahanton Park provides an opportunity for both organizations to expand their activities and effectiveness.

Paralleling Parks and Recreation's activities, NCF pursues its mission through classes, hands-on work experiences, and by making the produce we grow available to the community through a

variety of markets. An example of what we do is the Farmer-in-Training (FiT) program. This program works with middle school students primarily, but not exclusively, from Newton. During one-week sessions students learn firsthand how to grow organic vegetables. In addition, they learn about the role of fresh produce in a healthy diet, harvesting and preparing vegetables as part of their daily lunch. Finally, through discussions, activities and contributions of the produce they grow to the Newton Food Pantry, the students examine issues of social justice and food security. Much of the produce these students grow is grown in four garden plots in Nahanton Park's "upper garden."

Permitting NCF to use additional land in Nahanton Park would enable Parks and Recreation to offer residents of Newton more opportunities to enjoy the space in a variety of ways. Allocating the land to farming would accommodate growing interest in NCF educational programs (like the FiT program), as well as our community volunteer days. Three days a week we are open to anyone who would like to come and work with us, learning firsthand about growing food. We have high school students coming to do their community service hours; college students who are interested in sustainability; parents who bring their young children because they want them to learn that carrots come from the ground not a plastic bag. Expanded farming use at Nahanton Park would make meaningful the incredible amount of interest in these community work days; NCF has been limited in this regard by our small acreage at Angino Farm. NCF programming might open other opportunities for youth engagement at Nahanton Park, such as forestry or trail maintenance.

Encouraging home gardening is another activity that aligns Parks and Recreation's mission in providing cultural, recreational and leisure activities, and NCF's goal to demonstrate food sustainability. Use of this second growing site would allow NCF better crop rotation, increasing the sustainability of our agricultural effort and its usefulness as a model for Newton home gardeners.

Benefits to the Park and to the City

The presence of NCF volunteers and farm workers will have a positive impact on the social environment of Nahanton Park. NCF already has strong relationships with many of the gardeners in the community garden plots, who buy seedlings from the farm and come to ask for advice. The community garden plots unfortunately have had some problems in the past with, among other things, theft. The increased people presence (volunteers and farm staff) that would accompany NCF's activities in the park would, in the opinion of Judy Dore (Parks and Rec) and Duane Hillis (President, Friends of Nahanton Park) help make it a more secure area for all. In addition, NCF has a strong record of maintaining its field not only as a productive agricultural site, but also as a very beautiful one. Our methods of growing show an attention to detail and reflect an aesthetic sensibility. Our presence in Nahanton Park would add to the beauty of this open space.

Farming in Nahanton Park would allow NCF to increase the educational programming and volunteer opportunities we provide to the Newton community. The increased production would also make more fresh, sustainably-grown produce available to residents.

Areas of Interest

There are three locations in the Park that are of interest. These include the "lower brush area" next to the "lower" community gardens, and the "mowed area" located between the two community garden sites. We have also been encouraged by Friends of Nahanton Park and Newton Conservators to consider the "overgrown community garden area" nearby. The

accompanying map shows the locations of the sites. There is also some interest in a fourth area nearby that has more mature trees and brush and would be more costly to prepare for farming.

Land Preparation

The effort to convert non-cultivated land to cultivated land will require from one to three years after clearing. Land preparation is expected to cost NCF in the range of \$15,000 to \$20,000.

In the case of the *Mowed Area*, soil would be plowed and seeded with a cover crop such as clover or other nitrogen-fixing crop. The area would be left in a cover crop for several seasons in order to increase the soil organic matter, loosen the subsoil, and add nitrogen. The "meadow" would be cultivated for vegetable production once the soil is of acceptable quality; probably between two and three years. NCF has conducted initial soil tests on the area and has found it generally suitable for growing crops, but in need of improvement.

The *Lower Brush Area* will require a greater effort to prepare since it is currently partially covered with early succession brush, shrubs and small trees; this once clear space has been allowed to start reverting back to forest. The land would have to be cleared, stumps removed, and a cover crop planted. Much of the clearing might be done by community volunteers and through NewtonServes. Preparing the soil for agricultural production would take a minimum of two years after the land has been cleared. NCF has not yet tested the soil here.

The "*Overgrown Community Garden Area*" will need brush and small trees removed but may be ready for farming after a year of preparation. NCF has not yet tested the soil, but we expect it to be in better shape than the other areas being considered.

To encourage continued wildlife activity we would like to place habitat plantings in part of the designated areas, with the support and advice of the Newton birding community. Such plantings, if carefully designed, might reduce the need for fencing to keep out humans and animals that are detrimental to crops.

Impacts on the Environment

The proposed use will add a pastoral quality to the Park and would increase its beauty as currently some of the proposed area is overgrown and littered with debris.

Clearing the land adjacent to the "lower" gardens would change its current aspect of early succession forest. The land would be restored to what it was like perhaps as little as 15 years ago. Much of this land was actively farmed in the first half 20th century when this was the site of the City's "poor" farm.

Changing the use of a portion of Nahanton Park may have other environmental impacts. In one case, farming the "mowed area" will increase the attractiveness to birds. We propose to work closely with organizations like Newton Conservators and Friends of Nahanton Park, to ensure that the change is congruent with other uses of the park. NCF has strong relationships with both organizations, and a history of working with them. Although neither organization has had a formal vote, the leadership of both organizations have indicated general support of a proposal to have NCF farm in Nahanton Park.

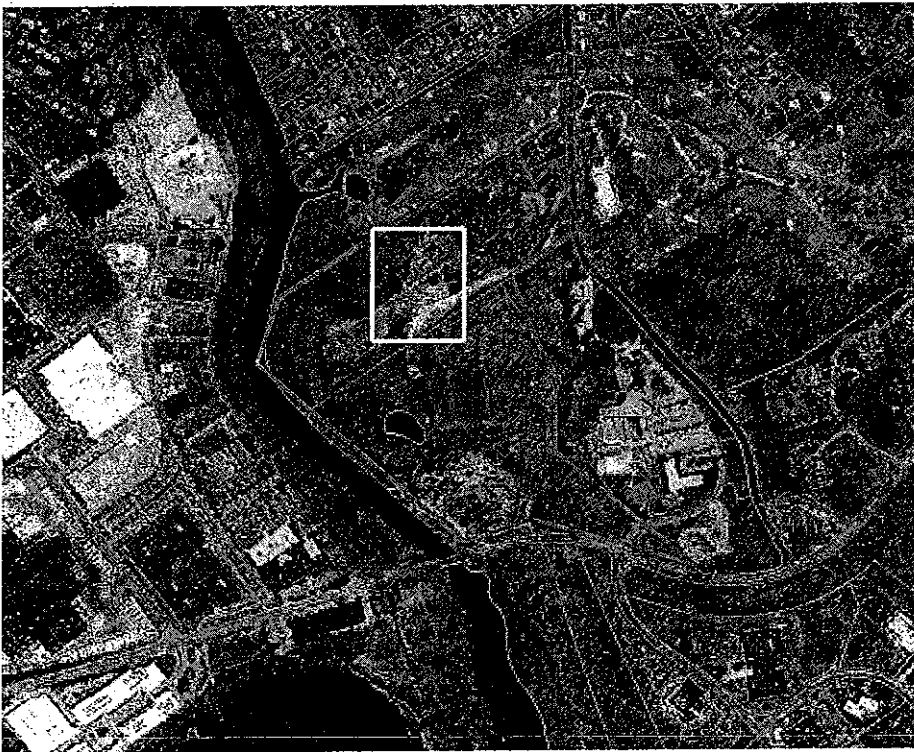
Friends of Nahanton Park held a valuable information/discussion session on April 18 to learn how other stakeholders and the neighborhood view this proposal.

Partnership Details

If Parks and Recreation sees the mutual benefit of partnering with Newton Community Farm, we will need to come to agreement on activities programming, defining the space and planned changes, how to bear the costs of making the changes, fencing to protect crops, how many years the land will be committed initially to agricultural use, possible renewal arrangements, modification of snow-dumping use of the "Mowed Area" and other issues that will arise. NCF would use city water for irrigation and will pay for its cost. NCF expects to direct net income from additional produce sales from Nahanton Park land towards funding Educational and Community Outreach programming, in a manner consistent with Parks and Recreation goals. Our preliminary budget analysis indicates there will be very little net income from the Nahanton Park sites, so that NCF cannot afford significant rent commitments.

Conclusion

NCF's proposed use of land in Nahanton Park would have significant positive impacts on both the park itself and the broader Newton community. NCF's engagement at Nahanton Park is supported by members of the Parks and Recreation staff, the Friends of Nahanton Park, and many of the gardeners who utilize the community garden plots. Over the past five years NCF has demonstrated its ability to manage City property effectively, making Newton Angino Community Farm a treasure for all of Newton. We would very much like to work with The Parks and Recreation Commission and other stake holders to make this proposal a success.



Key plan of possible farming areas. See separate detail.

Taiwan Garden at Hyde Playground Newton Highlands MA

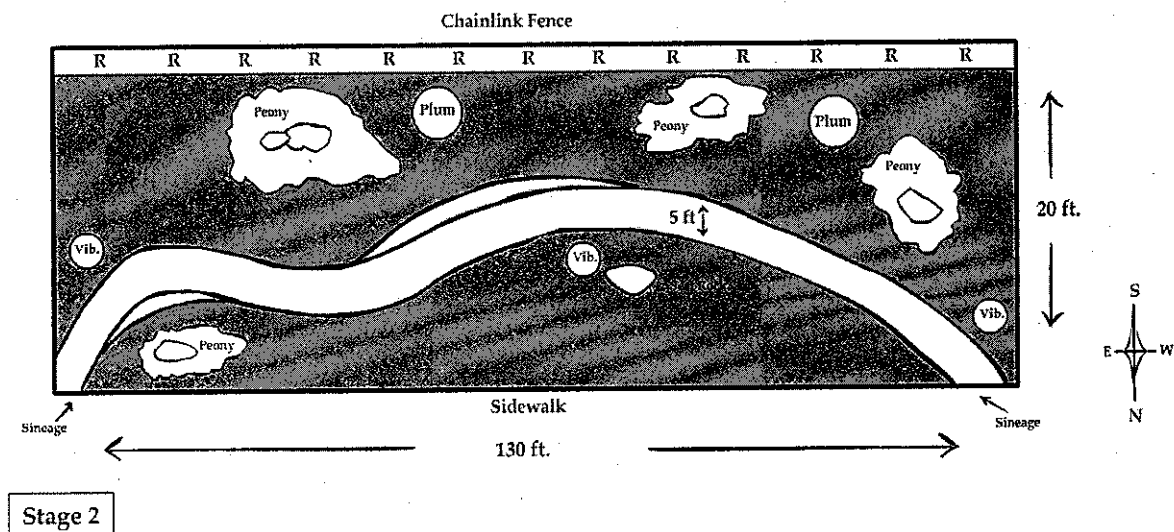
The requirement is to design a garden located adjacent to the former Hyde School in the Hyde Playground on Lincoln Street, this garden will be dedicated to the Hyde Community Center and Taipei Economic Culture office in Boston (located at 90 Lincoln Street Newton Highlands). Creation of an authentic Chinese garden is to be effected by use of plant material indigenous to China and the embellishment of the plantings with architectural elements singularly Chinese.

The Taiwan Garden design would contain Chinese Tree Peonies, Herbaceous Peonies, Intersectional Peonies (6/segment) and different large ornamental rocks. Each section would grow out to 10 feet in length and 7-feet in width. The area between segments could be left bare for future plantings or filled with a field of Azaleas, grass, such as Sapphire or Dwarf Fountain or bark mulch material.

The raised bed with rocks forming the perimeter and placed on top of the section and massed Peonies would be planted in the bed. The bed should be 20 feet in depth. This design because of the raised bed and rocky perimeter will hopefully preclude sidewalk salt from damaging the plant material.

In this design we would suggest clump bamboo be employed to define the bed's perimeter. The plantings will bloom in series and thus sustain color for 3-6 weeks depending on the weather.

Proposed new Hyde Playground fence line



In 2009 The Hyde Community Center and Taipei Economic Culture office applied and was accepted for a City of Newton adopt a space of a ten foot deep by 130 wide section of land in the Hyde Playground along the fence line of Lincoln Street to create the Taiwan Garden.

The Hyde Community Center spent \$1,000 to run an irrigation water pipe from the community center to the corner of the Taiwan Garden. The Hyde Center will pay for all water to irrigate the garden.

While developing the final plan for the Taiwan Garden it was decided the best plan for the garden would need a depth of 20 feet instead of 10 feet and the fence line at the Hyde Playground would move from Lincoln Street to behind the Taiwan Garden. The Hyde playground TBall field would be 30 feet from the fence line instead of 50 feet from the fence line. Newton South Little league which runs the Tball games in the Hyde Playground agrees that this is more than sufficient space to play their games and have proposed that the league raise funds to install benches facing into the Hyde Playground. The garden committee and Parks and Rec have agreed (if approved by the Commission) that Parks and Rec would take down the current fence and install the fence 20 feet from its original location. The Taiwan Garden Committee would pay for all the materials to rebuild the fence.

Using the extra ten feet the Taiwan Garden would have a stone path way that intersects the entire 130 feet garden and allows people to have flowers and plants on both sides while walking down the pathway. The pathway is five feet wide to accommodate wheel chairs and even adds two feet at corners to make wheel chair access easier.

We do not foresee any aggressive root propagation in the plant material used in the garden. Further we do not see roots penetrating below five feet in depth. The only large material five Chinese Apricot Trees, which will grow twenty feet in height and will be planted toward the center of the bed and thus not grow out of the garden.

No intuitional spraying is required for the plants.

Richard Abrams the garden designer and has volunteered all his labor on this project has donated six large ornamental rocks that are being transported to the garden.

The Taiwan Garden will be maintained by the Hyde Community Center and The Taipei Culture Center for weeding, future plantings and all maintenance. Both organizations have volunteers and a paid gardener to maintain the Taiwan Garden. The Hyde Community Center owns the adjacent property for twenty seven years and has sufficient reserves to provide long term maintenance for this garden. The Hyde Community Center is operated by a non profit the

Newton Highlands Community Development Corporation. Future fundraising between the Hyde and the Taiwan Center will enable future bulbs, plants and flowers for the garden; however, the Hyde Community Center has sufficient reserves to fund future plants and flowers.

Initial Garden budget

Irrigation from Hyde Community Center \$1,000 (already paid)

5 Chinese tree Peony \$450 (already paid)

15 Herbaceous Peony \$525 (already paid)

5 Intersectional Peony \$400 (already paid)

3 Viburnum \$150 (already paid)

2 Apricot trees \$600 (already paid)

Compost \$30

Fishmeal/Azomite \$50

$\frac{3}{4}$ Stone \$450

Stone Dust \$380

Mulch \$600

Truck, laborer, compactor \$450

Initial total \$5,085

The Taiwan Embassy in Washington DC which at one time was the Chinese Embassy had Chinese Apricot trees planted in the 1920's and five of those trees will be shipped to Newton for planting in the Taiwan Garden.

For additional information please contact John Rice 617-201-7088

Richard Abrams - Garden Designer

John Rice – Executive Director Hyde Community Center – Ward 5 Alderman



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
May 17, 2010



Robert J. DeRubeis
Interim
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Walter Bernheimer, Fran Rice, Peter Johnson, Richard Tucker, Bethel Charkoudian, Donald Fishman, *Alternate*, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Michael Clarke, *Alternate*, Robert DeRubeis, *Interim Commissioner*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Magni introduced and welcomed newly appointed Commission member, Andrew Stern - Ward 6

1. Meeting Minutes from the April 26, 2010 meeting accepted 7-0-1
(Stern, no vote)

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the departments "snapshot" (see Attachment).
- Maintenance continues to clean up after Newton Serves.

3. Birthday Wishes – Diane Greer

- Ms. Greer of 136 Oliver Rd., works with the non-profit organization Birthday Wishes a Newton-based, non-profit organization that provides birthday parties to children at homeless shelters. Birthday Wishes has serviced over 500 children over the past nine years.
- Ms. Greer stated Birthday Wishes is requesting a permit for a one day event on July 17 at Newton Centre Playground. The event will be free and open to the public. Booths will be set up with birthday party type games. The fee for the games will be one dollar. No prizes will be given out. Prepared foods, such as cupcakes, ice cream and drinks will be available.
- Ms. Greer stated the Birthday Wishes organizations goal is to give back to the community and make the community aware of their mission and to gather support from the Community businesses.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated the date requested (July 11, 2010) in the original request is different than the July 17th date. Ms. Greer stated yes, the group had scheduling conflicts on July 11th and are requesting the event take place on July 17th.
- Chairman Magni inquired if a second meeting is required for this event. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated, no. This event is handled

through the Special Event Permit process. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis wanted the Commission to be aware of the event.

- Mr. Tucker inquired if there would be a volunteer recruiting table at the event. Ms. Greer stated yes, all ages may participate.
- Mr. Stern asked his fellow Commission members if they were concerned a precedent would be set if no permit fee is charged for a non-profit organization.
- Ms. Greer stated she is not asking for a fee waiver. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the department is not deferring the fee. Birthday Wishes will be charged the normal fee.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis requested Ms. Greer review the type of activities at the event; this event will not have a carnival atmosphere. Ms. Greer stated there may be a dunk tank, otherwise only the booths with the birthday party games will be set up.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated there will be no mechanical rides. If there were mechanical rides the State overview would be required.
- Chairman Magni asked Interim Commissioner DeRubeis if there were extra event items, Birthday Wishes would be charged. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes.
- Ms. Greer stated Birthday Wishes will be advertising the event in the local newspapers, posting banners and distributing fliers.

Ms. Heitman made the motion to approve the request by the Birthday Wishes organization for a Special Event Permit on July 17, 2010 for the one day event in Newton Centre Playground. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis wanted to remind the Commission the Relay for Life event is taking place this coming weekend in Forte Park.

4. 5K Foot Race – Adele Levine

- Ms. Levine stated she is a Newton North High School Senior and for her senior project she is organizing a 5K road race on July 10th, 9 AM – 12 PM at Cold Spring Park in Newton Centre to raise donations for the Shoes for Africa charity. Ms. Levine stated she chose Cold Spring Park because she is familiar with the course. Ms. Levine is on the indoor, outdoor and cross country track teams. Ms. Levine stated she would use the same course the track teams uses and has a hefty volunteer base. An athletic trainer will be on site, and there will be water stations along the course. Ms. Levine stated she is gathering sponsors in the Newton Centre area to minimize costs so most of the proceeds will be donated to the Shoes for Africa charity. Prizes will be given to the first three runners, male and female.
- Chairman Magni stated he is an alumni of NNHS track team. Chairman Magni asked for any questions from the Commission.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated a second meeting is not required. We just have to be sure people would be kept off the trails. Ms. Levine stated the volunteers would assist in keeping the trail clear and people notified of the runners coming down the trail. Ms. Levine

stated the softball field would need to be clear for the event. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated there is not usually any softball games in the morning, but he will check with Tom Cahill the Permit Manager.

- Mr. Bernheimer asked if Ms. Levine had any concerns with the dogs in Old Cold Spring Park during the event, and would a restriction be required. Ms. Levine stated the dogs are not usually a problem, there are enough people volunteering and they will run ahead and request the dogs get out of the way of the runners.
- Mr. Rick Dyer stated what the school does is send a bike ahead of the track team to get the dogs off the course. The runners run at a pretty good clip so they could not stop short if there was a 12-14 foot leash in front of them.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated he will verify the softball fields are not scheduled to be used during the time of the event.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to approve the 5k road race in Cold Spring Park as proposed. Ms. Heitman seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

5. Off-Leash Area Working Group

- Chairman Magni stated Commissioner DeRubeis will make the presentation for the Off Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG). There will be no public comments. Tonight is the presentation only, community meetings will be scheduled for public comments.
- Interim Commissioner presented four parks to be considered as off leash areas:

Clafin Playground- Ward 2

- Currently used by dog owners as an off leash recreation area
- Fence already in place
- Possible seasonal limitations (during sledding)

McGrath Park – Ward 3

- Ward 3
- Area between Washington St. and the west side tennis courts
- Almost fully enclosed
- Other areas possible for limited hours
- Ample parking

Old Cold Spring Park – Ward 6

- Off leash area is currently legal
- Heavily used by dog owners as an off leash recreation area
- No programmed usage
- Possible restricted use during baseball games on adjacent field and during track meets on surrounding trails

Norumbega – Ward 7

- Conservation Land – a proposal will have to go before the Conservation Commission
- Heavily used by dog owners as an off leash recreation area
- Self-policed
- Almost fully enclosed

- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed other local communities with designated off leash areas:
 - Arlington – 13 OLRA with hours
 - Boston – 4 designated OLRA
 - Brookline -14 shared use OLRA's with off leash hours
 - Cambridge – 4 shared use OLRA's, fenced & non fenced areas
 - Lowell – 1 designated fenced OLRA
 - Medway – 1 designated fenced OLRA
 - Provincetown - 1 designated OLRA and off leash beach hours
 - Salem – 1 designated fenced OLRA
 - Sharon - 1 designated fenced OLRA, privately funded
 - Somerville – 2 designated OLRA's
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed future considerations of the OLAWG:
 - Open 20 of the 24 initial green space areas from Dawn – 9:00am daily.
 - Limited morning hours allow for off leash sites in mixed used areas when other organized activities are not taking place.
 - Gives OLAWG the opportunity to review a number of sites, while operating in a limited time frame
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis directed the Commission members to the handout that lists the current off leash ordinance, the proposed updated to the ordinance and the rationale for the changes. The biggest change is that the City has the authority and responsibility for the off leash areas. The Programs & Services Committee voted to extend the existing ordinance through September 2010. Tonight the full board is voting on the extension.
- Mr. Bernheimer inquired if the Law Department is involved with the ordinance. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes.
- Mr. Tucker inquired of the ordinance -if section a (4) -all dogs require a collar, had been removed. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis no, section a (4) is now section a (5) in the revised ordinance.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Board of Alderman (BOA) will discuss and vote on the revised ordinance. The current ordinance has been extended through September 30, 2010.
- Mr. Stern inquired if OLAWG determined no more than three dogs in an off leash area per person. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated OLWAG recommended the new proposed ordinance of no more than three off leash dogs per person.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated if the BOA does not pass the proposed ordinance the Commission cannot pass any additional off leash areas without the new ordinance. Could the BOA have a special meeting?
- Mr. Rice commented the Commission should wait until after the BOA meeting tonight. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the BOA would not be voting on the proposed ordinance tonight.
- Ms. Heitman asked if the four parks proposed by OLAWG would have limited hours. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated no, they would not have limited hours. Ms. Heitman stated parking may be an issue.

- Ms. Charkoudian agreed and stated at the Claflin site there is restricted parking on one side of the road for NNHS and limited one hour parking for residents on the other side of the road.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis agreed parking is a difficult issue. The street side of Claflin Park is fenced on the street side.
- Ms. Charkoudian stated speed enforcement is required on Lowell Ave.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated enforcement is an issue for everybody.
- Mr. Rice asked if there is parking on the playground side of the street. Ms. Charkoudian stated no NNHS parking is on the playground side of the street. Mr. Bernheimer agreed the concern is valid there needs to be adequate parking.
- Chairman Magni stated the discussion is valid but should be saved for the community meeting.
- Mr. Kastner inquired about the process for the proposed ordinance.
 1. The ordinance is presented to the BOA
 2. OLAWG sends a letter to the BOA
- Mr. Stern stated the proposed ordinance is handled by the BOA.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis commented the ordinance changes were addressed by the Law Department and Alderman Albright. OLAWG had very little input into the proposed ordinance.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated Alderman Albright took the lead on revising the ordinance. Alderman Albright researched what other local communities have done and proposed a general amendment to the existing ordinance. The biggest change in the amendment gives the Parks & Recreation Department the jurisdiction over the off leash areas. The OLAWG did give some input and the BOA may amend the submitted ordinance.
- Mr. Kastner stated the concern of the Commission was a third party selecting the criteria. The Commission/City should be responsible.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated in a letter to the BOA he recommended OLAWG remain intact to address the issues and evolution of the off leash areas in Newton.
- Mr. Stern stated he has been out of the loop, but is ok if flexibility with the broader ordinance goes along with the P&R Commission having rule making authority.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the BOA has the rule making authority.
- Chairman Magni stated at the end of the meeting dates would be decided on for the community meetings.

6. Nahanton Park – Farm Proposal

- Mr. Barrer introduced Newton Community Farm Manager Greg Maslow.
- Mr. Maslow stated the reasons why the proposal for expanding the Newton Community Farm into Nahanton Park.
 1. Currently the farm is in its' 5th growing season and has started from nothing and has grown to a successful program. One acre of land cannot grow any more crops and that is one of the reasons the farm would like to expand to Nahanton Park.

2. The farm has many volunteers throughout the growing season and there is not much for them to do on the one acre of land. Mr. Maslow would like to engage the volunteers in other activities.
 3. Stewarding land owned by the City of Newton – rotating the crops would be best for agricultural health.
 4. Expanding the financial base of the community farm depending on fund raising.
- Mr. Maslow stated the proposal identifies three area options. The farm would like to have access to two of the areas.
 - Mr. Maslow stated there was a meeting this past week with the Friends of Nahanton Park. This was a good meeting. Farming in Nahanton Park will change the wildlife population, but the farm will work closely with the Newton Conservators to maintain bird habitats.
 - Mr. Maslow stated the farm is an organic farm which creates a healthy environment; a healthy environment comes full circle.
 - Mr. Maslow introduced two middle school students, Michael and Jared who participated in the farmer-in-training program.
 - Michael commented he participated in the farmer-in-training last summer. He had a nice experience. Michael stated he enjoyed the experience so much he went back as a volunteer it is rewarding to plant something and see it grow.
 - Jared stated he participated in the farmer-in-training program last summer and met great kids and instructors and learned a lot. Jared stated after the farmer-in-training program he went back to volunteer at the farm. The farm produced great results and great crops and believes giving this extra land is a good idea and will expose more people to the program.
 - Mr. Maslow stated, in closing he would like to share what the farm does that relates to the P & R Commission. The P & R Commission is interested in “providing traditional and innovative recreation, leisure and cultural activities”, the farm does this by teaching people how to garden and giving them the opportunity to volunteer if they do not have a garden. As a demonstration to this, yesterday the farm had a seedling sale with vegetable starts from gardeners in Newton and the farm sold 16,000 vegetable seedlings in four hours, there is a huge interest in what the farm is doing.
 - Chairman Magni stated there are three parcels proposed- what are the specifics to be voted on by the Commission. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated there are three parcels, there is a fourth indicated by a question mark in the proposal, but this parcel has been removed as an option.
 - Mr. Bernheimer asked Mr. Maslow to prioritize the three sites. Mr. Maslow stated that is difficult because of the competing interests in the park. The best option would be site #2, the former garden plots. The garden plots have good soil but the farm does not want to step in if Parks & Recreation is going to allow the garden plots to be rented. Site # 3 is the meadow. The birders are split 50/50 on this proposal. The meadow is a failure as a garden it would be a huge effort by the farm to prepare the soil for farming. Site #1 has received the most positive feedback from the park

- users. The soil has been tested and is preferable to site #3. Mr. Maslow stated if he had to choose he would choose site #1 & site #2.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated there would be a definite impact on the birds and asked Mr. Maslow if he could be more specific.
 - Mr. Maslow stated brush and trees would be cut down which removes food and cover for the birds. But the farming would bring different birds to the area.
 - Mr. Rice asked Mr. Maslow where the water would come from for the crops. Mr. Maslow stated the City water would be used and paid for by the farm.
 - Mr. Stern asked if expansion is necessary for the sustainability of the farm, and asked Mr. Maslow on the projected revenue. Mr. Maslow stated financially this is not necessary for the farms viability, the farm has maxed out in sales for what can be done on one acre. Over the next few years the farm is focused on growing the farm in the direction of public service and education and the farm requires more land to do this effectively. It would be very helpful to have more space.
 - Mr. Kastner inquired if the additional land is required for crop rotation. Mr. Maslow stated crop rotation is an important aspect of this to the city and the farm. They have a vested interest in the health of the land.
 - Mr. Stern inquired on the money intake from acquiring sites 1 & 2. Mr. Barrer stated the farm would break even with the costs. Mr. Stern asked if the farm would be selling any CSA shares. Mr. Barrer stated the farm might sell CSA shares.
 - Mr. Kastner inquired if there is a backlog for the gardens. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated not currently, but there is potential to rent the garden plots. Mr. Tucker inquired if area #2 is the only other area to rent garden plots. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes.
 - Mr. Stern inquired if hazmat testing has been done on the soil for viability. Mr. Maslow stated no hazmat testing has been done on the soil. The proposal would be pending a hazmat test so the farm would not be growing crops in toxic soil.
 - Mr. Stern stated he was previously on the Community Preservation Committee and could not remember if there was any covenant confining the farm operations to specific locations. The Commission may want to check into this.
 - The Farm Commission limited the farm to Angino Farm. The Farm Commission turned over the management of the farm to Newton Community Farm, Inc. a non profit organization. Mr. Stern stated there may be real estate issues and farm boundary issues- there was the boundary of the historic preservation of the building. Mr. Maslow stated that would have more to do with the Farm Commission, they would not have jurisdiction over the farm in Nahanton Park. Newton Community Farm Inc is an independent non-profit from the City, the only way this proposal would impact the covenant for Angino Farm is if it negatively impacted the finances of Angino Farm because the farm is required by the covenant to be financially viable.
 - Mr. Kastner stated he has divided loyalties on this issue. There seems to be two issues; increasing the size of the farm and decreasing the wildlife habitat at Nahanton Park. The Commission cannot comprehend the trade

off at this point. A non vested third party should provide input/recommendations. Mr. Magni inquired if public input may help in the decision.

- Mr. Tucker stated if the Commission voted yes on area #2 and voted no on area #1 and #3, nothing stops us from going back and revisiting this in a year. Mr. Bernheimer stated the Commission may rescind the decision at any time.
- Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated he met with Mr. Barrer at Nahanton Park previously to review the space available. Areas #1 & #3 were discussed; area #2 was not included in the discussion. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis was not opposed to area #1 but is opposed to area #2. Area #3 was the location proposed as an off leash site and the group were told to stay away from area #3 due to the birds. It appears disingenuous that area #3 is now being proposed for farming.
- Mr. Stern inquired if the Commission is expected to determine the lease. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated no, Newton Community Farm, Inc. would work with the Law Department on a lease similar to Angino Farm.
- Mr. Rice asked if there would be any affect on area #3 if the farm uses area #2. Mr. Neville asked why the gardens should be given up. Mr. Bernheimer inquired when the gardens were farmed last. Mr. DeRubeis stated the gardens were rented out last two years ago, but there is one gardener currently in area #2.
- Chairman Magni requested input from the audience.
- Mr. Bill Fenstemacher stated he has been a gardener in plot #7 for 33 years and he does not want to relocate. He has worked the soil it is clean and in optimal condition. Mr. Fenstemacher has no objection to farming, but has spoken with Judy Dore the garden manger and there is a waiting list for garden plots. The gardens could be opened to determine demand by the public. And the long range farm needs should be determine. Maybe the first three rows could go to the public and the rest could go to the Farm.
- Ms. Leah Bird of Newton Centre stated she is a birder and a gardener in the upper gardens and we should all think of the greater good for all, over what is good for a few. Newton Community Farm wants to educate and that is important for the city. If area #1 is ok to farm then can everyone coexist? Ms. Bird commented more planning would be required, the farmers and birders could work together.
- Mr. Richard Heck inquired if other locations have been considered by the farm, such as the area across Nahanton Street by the apartments. Mr. Maslow stated yes but that area is under Conservation restriction.
- Mr. Mark Rosen of Oak Hill Park stated he has two small children and the Newton Community Farm education program is a positive education experience.
- Mr. Haynes Miller of Newton Centre stated he has been birding in Nahanton Park for 20 years. There are over 160 species of birds in the park. Mr. Haynes stated he appreciates what the farm does but farming is not the same as gardening in the garden plots, also Mr. Maslow will not be onsite to oversee the area. Barriers would be required to protect the crops; this is not a good idea. No quick decisions should be made. The Mass Audubon should be contacted for suggestions on management plans.

- Mr. Duane Hillis, abutter of Nahanton Park, thanked all the birders, gardeners and the farm for doing a great job. The community needs to figure out how to have both farming & habitats. People require food to eat and this is an excellent opportunity to enhance the farm and the park. There needs to be compromise.
- Mr. Vasilis of Hartman Rd. stated this is not a competition of individuals. Food produced in the gardens is shared with family and friends. The park has other environmental consideration besides birds; there are also deer, fox, rabbit and coyotes in the park. The plots in area #2 have been cultivated. These plots can be repopulated.
- Ms. Beth Schroeder stated she and Mr. Hillis tried to get the meadow taken care of but the City does not have the resources to maintain the meadow. Mr. Maslow has seed and volunteers and the time to improve the meadow. Ms. Schroeder also stated the city has used the meadow as a snow and debris dump.
- Mr. Ian Reed a Conservator and a birder agrees with farming, but Nahanton Park is a precious resource. The Commission should solicit a third opinion on this proposal. There should also be community gardens in different neighborhoods around the city. Currently the farm has garden plots with fencing around the area. Mr. Maslow stated the fence has been taken down. Mr. Reed stated a long term perspective is required.
- Ms. Jane Sender, the President of the Newton Conservators and resident of Kingswood Road stated the Conservators have not taken a side on this proposal. There are competing interests in Nahanton Park and Ms. Sender is offering assistance.
- Mr. Rice asked Interim Commissioner DeRubeis how the Commission should proceed. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated he is hearing the need for more research on this proposal and its impact on Nahanton Park.
- Mr. Tucker asked if it is conceivable to have more input from someone like the Audubon Society. Ms. Sender stated the Conservators are currently utilizing the Audubon Society, she will ask them. Mr. Tucker stated it would be a good idea to have the birders and farmers work together on a compromise.
- Mr. Bernheimer recommended a working group be formed to develop a plan. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis (the City) should take the lead. Mr. Kastner stated a landscape architect and tree warden are city employees and should be tapped into as a resource for this group.
- Chairman Magni agreed and requested Interim Commissioner DeRubeis form a working group to determine a plan for the farm's proposal.

7. Mike Pinta – NELL- Jay Gordon Field -2nd Meeting

- Mr. Pinta stated when he appeared before the Commission on April 26, 2010 to request permission to install concrete slabs under the players benches, the Commission requested he look for other alternatives to concrete. Mr. Pinta requested assistance from Mr. Tom Forte who has installed concrete slabs in other basified dugouts. Mr. Pinta and Mr. Forte have asked around for other options. The response they have received was unanimous that concrete slabs are the best option. Mr. Pinta could not

- find anyone who has installed wooden planks in baseball dugouts; the tongue and groove plank system is a tripping hazard when the players are wearing cleats. Mr. Pinta and Mr. Forte went to Brookline, Wellesley and other Newton baseball fields and all dugouts had concrete slabs. In Brookline, concrete slabs are mandatory due to aesthetics and cleanliness.
- Mr. Stern inquired if there is any colored concrete. Mr. Pinta stated no, the color is natural so it blends in with the environment.
 - Mr. Bernheimer stated he was the person who requested alternatives to concrete but he is convinced concrete is the best option.
 - Mr. Stern inquired if the Engineering Department had been asked for their input. Ms. Schein stated yes, the Engineering Dept approved the plans.
 - Alderman Freedman commented he was previously a coach for NELL and supports this proposal. The proposal increases safety for the kids. NELL contributions in-kind have been exemplary.

Mr. Bernheimer made a motion to approve the proposal by NELL for the concrete slabs with the condition the slabs will be maintained by NELL and if NELL no longer uses the field the concrete slabs will be removed at the expense of NELL. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

8. Taiwan Garden- Hyde Playground – 2nd Meeting

- Alderman Rice stated Mr. Rich Abrams could not attend the meeting to answer the Commissions questions and requested Mr. Abrams be added to next months agenda.
- Mr. Magni allowed the abutter in attendance to comment.
- Ms. Sara Daly of Lincoln St. stated the garden is a good idea but is concerned the garden will take up the playground space. And is also concerned with the WWII monument that is in the location and asked if it will be removed and stated the statue has been damaged when a car hit the monument.
- Alderman Rice stated the monument is an important component of the park. The monument will be integrated into the garden. On another note, the monument has been hit by a car and the city is replacing the monument. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the city has received a check from the insurance company for \$25K.
- Mr. Stern inquired if a maintenance plan is included. Alderman Rice stated yes the maintenance will be the responsibility of the Hyde Community Center and the Taiwan Cultural Center. Mr. Stern inquired if the community could support the maintenance of the garden on its own if the Taiwan Cultural Center left the building. Alderman Rice stated yes, the community is adopting this space.
- Ms. Charkoudian inquired about the invasive plants in the garden. Alderman Rice stated Mr. Abrams the designer will answer the questions at the next meeting. Mr. Stern asked if Mr. Abrams would speak to any signage proposed. Alderman Rice stated yes. Mr. Stern inquired of the cost to the Parks & Recreation Department for labor. Interim Commissioner DeRubeis stated the cost is minimal.

9. New Business

- Ms. Heitman thanked Interim Commissioner DeRubeis for replacing the sign on the Johnny Kelly statue before the marathon. The plaque on the statue had been stolen a month before the marathon.
- Mr. Stern recommended the Commission's Informational Manual be updated. Interim Commissioner stated we can take a look at the manual.
- Chairman Magni requested the group set the dates for the Community Meetings for Claflin Park, McGrath Park and Old Cold Spring Park off leash areas. The group came to a consensus:
 - One meeting for Claflin Park & McGrath Park on June 14, 7pm in the War Memorial at City Hall.
 - One Meeting for Old Cold Spring Park –date to be determined

The Next Regular Meeting is on Monday, June 21, 2010, in room 209 of City Hall. The meeting will begin promptly after the P & R Commission Youth Awards. The Youth Awards will take place at 7pm in the Aldermanic Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:16 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Parks & Recreation Department

5/17/2010 Commission Meeting

Financial Indicators

	Apr-09	FY09- Y-T-D	Apr-10	FY10 Y-T-D
REVENUE				
Operating	\$6,291.00	\$75,713.00	\$6,233.00	\$93,109.00
Revolving				
Classes/Activities	\$36,999.00	\$540,833.00	\$82,295.00	\$659,835.00
Camps	\$41,879.00	\$256,328.00	\$42,291.00	\$277,586.00
Arts in the Parks	\$13,473.00	\$171,185.00	\$9,183.00	\$168,568.00
Senior Citizens	\$1,925.00	\$44,057.00	\$2,552.00	\$35,501.00
Landscape Maint	\$26,060.00	\$28,180.00	\$0.00	\$31,413.00
Tree Ordinance	\$0.00	\$74,430.00	\$0.00	\$17,680.00
Revolving Total	\$120,336.00	\$1,115,013.00	\$136,321.00	\$1,190,583.00

	Apr-09	FY09- Y-T-D	Apr-10	FY10 Y-T-D
EXPENSES				
Operating	\$333,079.00	\$3,786,552.00	\$250,063.00	\$3,685,446.00
Revolving				

Classes/Activities	\$67,697.00	\$494,473.00	\$41,899.00	\$757,626.00
Camps	\$27,004.00	\$401,673.00	\$15,899.00	\$432,788.00
Arts in the Parks	\$12,251.00	\$182,669.00	\$10,767.00	\$151,306.00
Senior Citizens	\$5,400.00	\$38,208.00	\$2,059.00	\$28,309.00
Landscape Maint	\$19,363.00	\$46,638.00	\$2,810.00	\$17,489.00
Tree Ordinance	\$33,000.00	\$107,940.00	\$3,574.00	\$32,541.00
Revolving Total	\$164,715.00	\$1,271,601.00	\$77,008.00	\$1,420,059.00
Emergency				
Snow/Ice Control				
Regular Overtime	\$ 834.00	\$ 63,184.00	\$ 834.00	\$ 58,482.00
Rental - Vehicles	\$ 69,088.00	\$ 637,374.00	\$ -	\$ 340,319.00

Key Performance Indicators

	Apr-09	FY09- Y-T-D	Apr-10	FY10 Y-T-D	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	63	935	155	1263	
Forestry Requests Completed	115	958	75	1127	
Maintenance Requests Received	0	0	19	69	
Maintenance Requests Completed	0	0	17	64	
Maintenance Schooldude Received	30	236	47	223	Field Marking request open thru August
Maintenance Schooldude Completed	29	232	25	194	Playground repairs begin 5-24-10 thru August
Administration-Calls Received	517	2142	851	7,319	FY09 YTD only includes Dec Thru Apr

Departmental Attendance

		Apr-09			Apr-10			
		Workdays	Days	Manpower	Workdays	Days	Manpower	
2009	2010	21	Missed	Indicator	21	Missed	Indicator	
Administration -	14	13	294	11.50	96.1%	273	14.00	94.9%
Maintenance -	18	18	378	73.50	80.6%	378	57.00	84.9%
Forestry -	2	2	42	3.00	92.9%	42	0.00	100.0%
Total Dept Attendance			714	88.00	87.7%	693	71.00	89.8%
Narrative								

Arts in the Park Events :

May 1, 2 KidsFEST at Newton City Hall 10am-5pm

May 8 Newton Plant Sale at Newton City Hall 9am-4pm

May 15,16 Newton Open Studios

Over 55

Senior Tap Dance Team has two performances

Red Hat Society will be featured in Memorial Day Parade

Summer Programs: Golf League, Bocce, Tennis, summer dance, kayak

Trips: JFK Museum, Ten Lighthouse Boat Cruise-Newport harbor

Dimello's Floating Restaurant in Maine, Tiny trips

Maintenance

City Series for Little Leagues

Other Highlights:

4/9/10 Funtastic Fridays

4/10/, 4/11 Spring Clean up Community Gardens Nahanton Park

5/26 Mayors Breakfast

5/27 Open House Nahanton Park Puddlestompers

June

Eagle Scout Project exer trail at the Cove replace exercise signs

Eagle Scout Project Spruce up Farmers Market site

6/21 Commission Youth Awards

Memorial Day

Parade



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
City Hall, War Memorial, 7:00 pm
June 14, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Fran Rice, Richard Tucker, Bethel Charkoudian, Andrew Stern, Donald Fishman, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Also Attending: Carol Schein, *P & R Open Space Coordinator and OLAWG Member*, Amy Koel, *DOLAC Chairman and OLAWG member*

Absent: Robert DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Michael Clarke, *Alternate*

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. OLAWG Proposal-McGrath Park

- Chairman Magni summarized Claflin Park & McGrath Park were proposed as Off Leash Recreation Areas by the Off Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG). Tonight's meeting gives the communities of Claflin Park and McGrath Park the opportunity to share comments, concerns or issues they may have with these proposals. Chairman Magni introduced Ms. Schein who will provide an update on the proposals for Claflin Park and McGrath Park.
- Ms. Schein reviewed the members of OLAWG:
 - Robert J. DeRubeis, Parks & Recreation Commissioner
 - Susan Albright, Alderman
 - Walter Bernheimer, Parks & Recreation Commission
 - Ann Dorfman, Citizen Representative
 - Candace Havens, Interim Planning Director
 - Amy Koel, DOLAC Chairman
 - Ted Kuklinski, Citizen Representative
 - Lee McIntyre, Citizen Representative
 - Francis Rice, Parks & Recreation Commission
 - Carol Schein, Parks & Recreation Open Space Coordinator
 - Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager
 - Officer Ralph Torres, Animal Control Officer
- Ms. Schein reviewed the process followed by OLAWG:
 - Transparency: established OLAWG web page on City Website to post information:
<http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm>
 - OLAWG Meetings - weekly in Room 222 at City Hall at 9:00 a.m.
 - Posted Dog Owner Survey on web page
 - Developed process:
 - Phase 1- Determine potential green space areas for use as off leash recreation areas.

- Phase 2 – Determine what is required to make the green space area viable as an off leash recreation area
- Established 13 criteria to evaluate green space areas (based on national standards)
- Identified 76 green space areas throughout the city
- Using the criteria, 34 green space areas eliminated from the initial site evaluations
- Group members conducted site visits of the 42 remaining green space areas using the criteria
- Recommending 24 green space areas for Phase 2 review
- Claflin Park and McGrath Park were selected because the areas are ready to open as an off leash recreation area without many physical changes to the park.
- Ms Schein reviewed each area; displaying maps of each of the areas including OLAWG suggestion and comments (See attachment A).
- Chairman Magni requested comments from the audience for McGrath Park.
- Ms. Rosemary Larkin of the Warren House submitted a petition signed by the residents of the Warren House (attachment B). The residents who signed the petition are opposed to the off leash area at McGrath Park for the following reasons:
 1. Rules are unenforceable
 2. Dog waste will be everywhere
 3. Dogs fighting may cause injurious situations
 4. Inadequate parking
 5. Sports groups, soccer and lacrosse, use the field and currently there are arguments about parking with the people attending the sports activities.
- Ms. Larkin stated McGrath Park was dedicated to the memory of Richard McGrath for passive recreation.

{Secretary's Note: The acoustics in the War Memorial made it difficult to capture all the names of the audience members who spoke during the meeting. Not all speakers identified themselves. A microphone was used and the meeting was recorded, but the recording of the meeting was still unclear due to the acoustics in the War Memorial}

- Audience question: Are you intending to have the area fenced, the area for dogs must be fenced. Ms. Schein replied the area proposed is currently fenced except on one end by the wooded area and 15' on the Washington Street side. Chairman Magni stated Commissioner DeRubeis spoke with him and is open to fencing in certain areas.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked how far the parking lot is from the proposed area and would dogs be required to be on leash until they reach the off leash area. Ms. Schein stated the parking lot is on the opposite side of the tennis courts and yes owners would have to have their dogs leashed from the parking lot to the off leash area.
- Audience question: Will owners be required to bring their own waste removal bags. Ms Schein stated yes the dog owners are responsible for removing their dogs waste.
- Audience question: What is the law regarding picking up dog waste. Ms. Koel stated it is illegal not to pick up your dog's waste. This is an issue all

over the city. The Old Cold Spring Park off leash area is clean because dog owners pick up after their dogs. Dog owners know if they do not pick up after the dogs then the off leash areas will be closed down.

- Audience statement/question: This is a curious selection process. Both of these parks are in congested areas, why wasn't a larger open space selected. The Auburndale Cove and Burr Park are larger and have no direct abutters. Ms. Koel stated there is not one area in the city that is not going to be objectionable.
- Audience question: Will people park on Washington Street to use the off leash area. Ms. Schein stated no there is no parking on Washington Street.
- Audience statement: When there are sports events people are forced to park down the side streets.
- Chairman Magni stated the audience comments are finished and the members will now have a discussion.
- Mr. Stern stated pointing out the reserved parking for residents may help. Ms. Schein stated there are parking signs posted.
- Mr. Kastner stated the only busy time for parking is during soccer games.
- Ms. Heitman stated she used to live across the street from McGrath Park and currently attends her grandchildren's soccer games at McGrath Park. There is no parking available during the soccer games.
- Sue Tresca, the property manager of Warren House stated she is opposed to the off leash area proposal for the following reasons:
 1. Parking is ridiculous. She is constantly having cars towed that are parked in the residents parking spaces.
 2. Washington Street is treacherous. The proposed area is too close to traffic for dogs.
 3. The flow of traffic is already difficult during sports events.
 4. This will have a negative impact on the 59 units in Warren House
- Mr. Stern inquired if any studies have been done by OLAWG of dog use at McGrath Park. Ms. Schein stated no.
- Mr. Fishman recommended restricting hours during permitted events.
- Ms. Heitman stated people abuse the leash law, they do not pick up after their dogs. Children and the elderly will be in harms way.
- Audience question: How will the area be operated?
- Audience comment: A resident from Warren House stated he does not want the off leash area in McGrath Park.
- Audience suggestion: Look at the expected usage and the parking usage. It is important to know when and how the area is used.
- Mr. Stern stated the Commission is making decisions in a vacuum.
- Mr. Rice stated there has been no discussion on fees or enforcement.
- Mr. Kastner suggested specific hours.
- Ms. Charkoudian stated she would need more specific regulations.
- Mr. Stern asked how specific the Alderman will be with the ordinance. Mr. Rice stated the Commission has jurisdiction over the parks.
- Mr. Fishman stated McGrath is a good site; no site will be perfect.

- Audience question: Is the group planning on opening a certain number of off leash areas. Mr. Rice stated the group is investigating areas in each ward.
- Mr. Stern asked if there were representatives from the Commission and Board of Alderman on the OLAWG committee. Ms. Schein stated yes, Commissioner DeRubeis is leading the group; Mr. Bernheimer and Alderman Albright are also members of the OLAWG committee.

Mr. Rice made a motion to table the proposal for the McGrath Park off leash recreation area until more information is provided by OLAWG. The Commission will provide a list of required information to OLAWG. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Commission Secretary received a hand written list from Mr. Stern of information he is requesting from OLAWG:

1. OLAWG: provide a summary of anticipated intensity for various portions of day and week vs. arbitrary size of park
2. Aldermanic issues:
 - Off street parking criteria/parking space ratio/dog park to lot size
 - Enforcement of traffic & unregistered dog use of park
 - User registration fees
 - Health
 - Limitations of Hours
 - Fencing and other improvement costs

An e-mail received by the Commission Secretary from Chairman Magni on 06-15-10 listed the following information requested by Commission of the OLAWG:

1. Fees for professional dog walkers
2. Restricted Hours for permitted activities
3. Specific information from the Board of Aldermen in the new Dog Ordinance.

2. OLAWG Proposal-Claflin Park

- Audience question: The Cabot school bus stop was moved to its current location for safety, how safe will the bus stop be with dogs in the park? Dogs' running up and down the hill is also unsafe for the children.
- Mr. Kastner inquired if there is sledding at Claflin Park. Chairman Magni stated yes.
- Audience comment: Are under utilized areas considered, Claflin Park is always used.
- Ms. Koel stated Commissioner DeRubeis did suggest putting a sign at Claflin Park during the winter, if there is snowfall the park would be closed to off leash dogs between 3pm to dusk.
- A neighbor of Claflin Park stated an off leash area would be a health hazard. The area is used for sledding. During the winter, parking is even more of an issue because other residents park in front of his house and refuse to move and the city plows cannot plow in front of his home.
- Audience comment: Lowell Ave and Commonwealth Ave are busy roads. Claflin Park is the neighborhoods prize feature. Having an off leash area in the park, eventually a child will get bit. An off leash area will change the tenor of the neighborhood.

- Walden Street resident commented she has a small dog and feels like a second class citizen because she owns a dog. She picks up after her dog and other dogs and it would be nice to have a place in the neighborhood to take her dog.
- Mr. Kastner inquired how much land is required for an off leash area. Ms. Koel stated half an acre.
- A resident of Arden Rd. stated there was an alternate use committee established when Claflin School was sold and a condition of the sale of the school is that Claflin Park would be used for sledding and for the kids.
- Three children presented a petition (see attached) signed by one hundred people opposed to the OLAWG proposal.
- Audience comments:
 - There is a woody area on the hill; the dogs would be running wild in this area.
 - Dogs could run into the street and frighten kids at the bus stop.
 - Claflin Park is a small space for dogs
 - There are safety and containment issues
 - Heavily used space
 - The character of the park will be changed
 - There will be parking issues
- Ms. Morris of Newton Centre stated the idea is to have more than one off leash area in the city so any one area is not overwhelmed. The green space needs to be shared, it belongs to all citizens. The health issue of dog parks is overblown. The American Journal of Medicine states dog parks have been proven to boost immune systems. Old Cold Spring Park (OCSP) off leash area is clean and the rules & regulations are followed. The users of OCSP do not want to lose the privilege of the off leash area and are respectfully requesting to give the off leash areas a chance.
- Oak Hill Road resident stated the parking at the top of the sledding area will be an issue. The area must be fenced for safety there are no other playgrounds in the area.
- Mr. Sanders of Whittier Rd commented there are unofficial rules in defacto dog parks, the kids stay at one end and the dogs at the other end. Mr. Sanders thanked all dog owners who clean up after their dogs.
- Ms. Catherin Farrell commented a hearing was held when the school was sold and she believes it was decided the park was for the dedicated use of the kids, there cannot be combined usage.
- Ms. Koel stated she has no comment regarding Claflin Park. There is a long history of the off leash area process in Newton. Dogs are everywhere in Newton. Places are being created for dogs to go so the dogs are not all over Newton. This proposal is not for the dogs it is for the dog owners. In addressing the issue of dog bites, most dog bites occur within families or from a friend's dog. In NYC a study was done and a report published showing the number of dog bite incidents went down because the dogs had a place to go. There are many types of dog park models to follow, each area would be different. Ms. Koel agrees we

could all do better with the dog waste issue, it is everywhere and it is disgusting.

- Audience comment: the audience member stated he used to live in NYC and the green space for off leash areas became brown space. And there is waste residue left in the grass even if you pick up the dog waste.
- Audience comment: They agree to establishing dedicated spaces for dogs but not in Claflin Park.
- Audience comment: The spaces should be closed. Segregated places in larger areas, not in Claflin Park.
- Audience comment: This process has not been transparent, the selection process has not been clearly investigated, and a search for other areas should be done. Mr. Kastner stated the process has been very transparent. There have been weekly meetings and the public is invited. Not everyone will be happy. The Board of Alderman tasked the Commission to establish additional areas with no money.
- Mr. Fishman stated the dog owners could pay for fencing and are willing to contribute.
- Mr. Tucker commented the Youth Leagues contribute for the care of the fields; dog owners should do the same.
- Mr. Stern stated the Board of Alderman's decision on the ordinance will greatly impact the Commissions decision.

Ms. Heitman made a motion to table the proposal for the Claflin Park off leash recreation area until more information is provided by OLAWG. The Commission will provide a list of required information to OLAWG. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Commission Secretary received a hand written list from Mr. Stern of information he is requesting from OLAWG:

1. OLAWG: provide a summary of anticipated intensity for various portions of day and week vs. arbitrary size of park
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 - Health
 - Limitations of Hours
 - Fencing and other improvement costs

An e-mail received by the Commission Secretary from Chairman Magni on 06-15-10 listed the following information requested by Commission of the OLAWG:

1. Fees for professional dog walkers
2. Restricted Hours for permitted activities
3. Specific information from the Board of Aldermen in the new Dog Ordinance

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Clafin Playground

Ward 2

1.13 acres

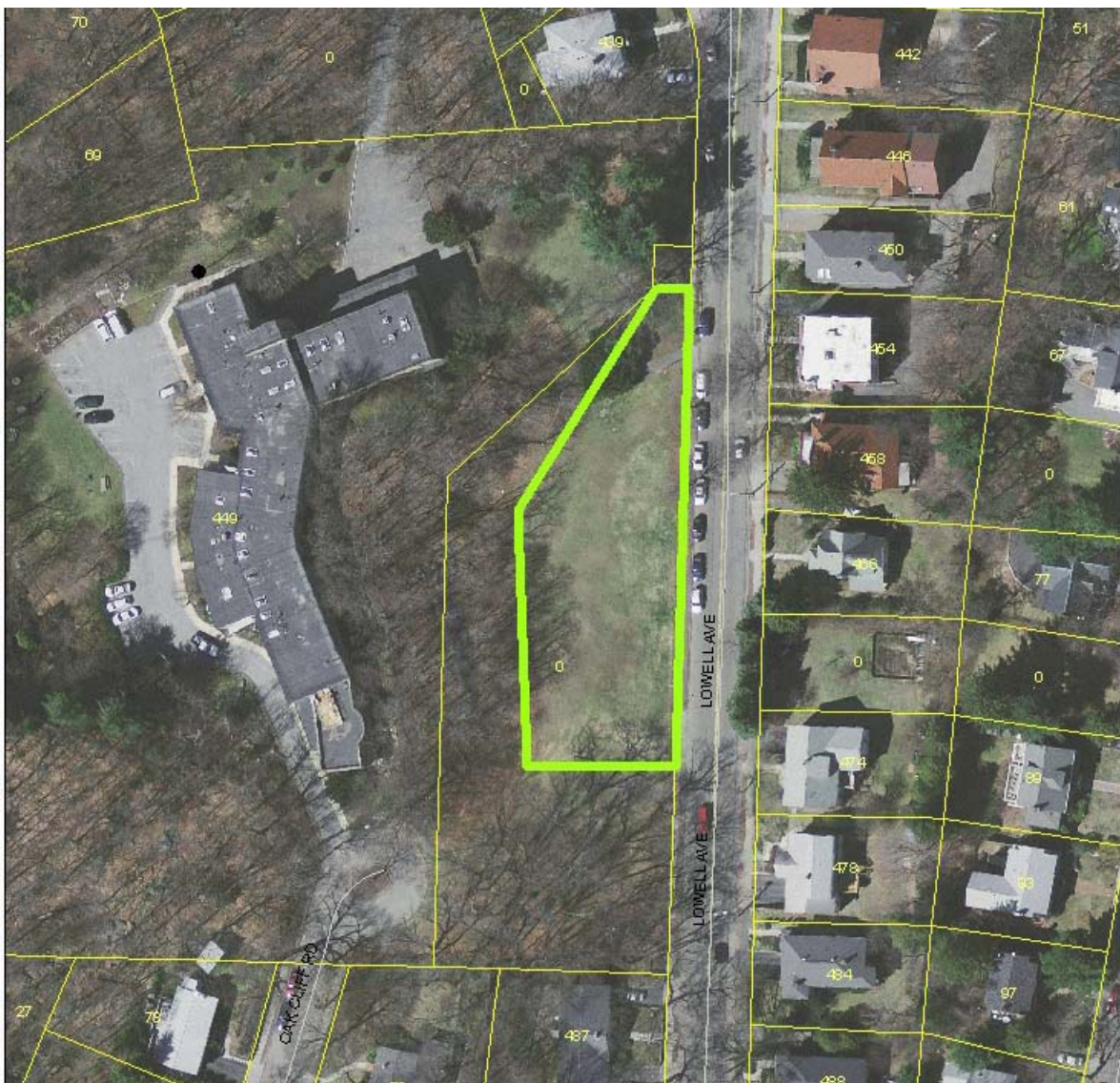
Currently used by dog owners as an off leash recreation area

Extend fencing for protection during winter sledding

Possible limited hours

Seasonal usage

Restrictions during permitted NNHS Sports events



McGrath Park

Ward 3

.44 acres

Almost fully enclosed

Possible area between Washington St. and the west side tennis courts

Other possible areas for winter use

Ample parking



Please sign and return to apt.117

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, RESIDENTS OF WARREN HOUSE, OPPOSE A DOG PARK AT MCGRATH PARK. Rules are unenforceable, dogs fighting will create an injurious situation and there is inadequate parking to meet the needs of visitors to the DOG PARK:

NAME	APT.
Rosemary Larkin	# 117
Francis Zelin	# 210
Carol Roberto	# 212
Sandra Daber	# 204
Hensetta M. Setton	# 306
SANDRA AMADO	# 115

Please sign and return to apt.117

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NAME

APT.

Rosemary Larkins
Marl Foster

117
121

June 5 & 6, 2010

Dear neighbor,



Newton officials are thinking about making the Lowell Ave Claflin Playground & sledding hill into an off-leash dog park. This would make it legal for dogs to run off-leash on the playing field (right now it's illegal). Many children in the surrounding area believe this is a bad idea. We will attend the city's public hearing on June 14 to petition against the change.

Some of our reasons:

- Many children use it to play & walk to the school bus
- Newton North athletics needs to use this space to practice
- Too much dog poop there already, despite no-poop laws
- Lots of kids from all over use it for sledding in the winter
- Dog runs drive down local property values
- "Drive-in poopers" will make local traffic & parking problems even worse
- Unleashed dogs are already a problem for small children

If you agree that Claflin Playground should not be a dog park, please add your name to our petition:

Name	Address
MATT BRAND	449 LOWELL #11
Sonja Jampel	215 Valentine St
Jacob Jampel	" " "
Serena Jampel	" " "
James Jampel	" " "
Sandy Marwill	422 Ward St
Einat Garish	449 Lowell Ave #11
Izzy Brand	67 Oak Cliff Rd
Catherine Farrell	67 Oak Cliff Rd
Stevencle Fay	62 Oak cliff Rd 11
Julia Kyeitskayn	58 Oak Cliff Rd "
Dorre Cherry	11 Arden Road
Matthew Swain	507 Lowell Ave. # 2
JOSEPH LIU	11 Whittier Rd Newton 02460
Robert Lakomski	11 Whittier Rd. Newton 02460
Julianng Lakomski	20 Whittier road
MAY REISNER	541 Lowell Ave, Newton MA, 02460
Simon Stuedel	23 Whittier Rd, Newton, MA 02460
Nick Reisner	12 Whittier Rd.
Leah Lakomski	10 Tombarcl St.
Forrest K.	

Lowell Ave Claflin Playground is for people, not dogs!

Name	Address
Jonah Samuels	74 whitaker RD
Andy Samuels	" "
Simon Shilo	78 OAK CLIFF RD NEWTON
Adrianna Batista	510 Lowell Avenue
Olivia Gomez	449 Lowell Avenue
Danny Whalen	4 rebecca road
Joseph Arcuri	13 newland Street
Vincent Amatucci	42 Eddy Street
Hailey Corbett	62 RIVER ST
Bill Steh	231 Webster St.
Arjun Bhatt	1692 Commonwealth Ave.
John Doolin	109 Fairway Drive
Stephanie Mckrill	50 noble st.
Simon Bishop	69 kaposia St.
Merts Sagan	3 Claflin place
Steven Cantt	14 Exeter St
Perry Miller	167 Melrose st.
Libby Smith	222 Prince Street
Daniela Hameln	26 James street.
Alex Klavens	287 Walnutman St.
Scott Kelly	98 Fairway Dr
Rebecca Horvitz	145 Harvard St.
Kavish Gundli	31 Leotic Rd.
Liraz Brand	449 Lowell Ave
Orenna Brand	" "
Victoria Thurston	448 Lowell Ave.
Katherine Best	26 Rochester RD
Elinor Graham	17 Langdon st
Josephine Graham	17 Langdon st
Caroline Fitzgerald	36 Salisbury RD.
Caroline Sofran	10 Laudholm RD
Konstandina T.	304 newtonville Av
Anna Porter	7 Holland St.
David Quekquezian	1to Mt vernon st.
Pavlos Valdes	17 dexter road
Amnon Stone	88 Madison Ave.
Stephanie Lam	17 Bridges Ave.
TAHLIA ROBINSON	38 Davison St. Hyde Park MA 02136
Natalie Ferry	184 Kirkstall RD
Emily Echer	68 Prostpect park
Olivia PERRY	184 Kirkstall RD
Elizabeth Dragstino	359 Cabot sr.

Lowell Ave Claflin Playground is for people, not dogs!

85
1

Name	Address
Megan Cam	110 Jean st.
Maya Manektala	67 Beaumont Ave
Maya Seckler	31 Clyde St.
Christopher Yue	7 Bonwood St. Newton MA U.S.A
Devin Perlo	17 Gibson Rd.
Alli Salwen	151 Newtonville Ave.
Katy Fallon	10 Worth Circle Newton MA
Nancy McCarty	940 Walnut St. 02461
ISINSU BASTAPE	12 Clarendon St 02460
Ed Johnston	69 Withington Rd.
Mary Johnston	69 Withington Road
TOM NIELSEN	151 Harvard St.
Isabella Nielsen	151 Harvard St.
Avery Rosenzweig	35 Otis St.
Lauren Goble	19 Elmwood Park Newtonville MA
Lily Winton	51 Beaumont Ave.
Samuel Kane-Gerard	150 Newtonville Ave.
Ari Stonehill	299 Mill St.
Shira Stonehill	"
Karin Lally	206 High St Waltham MA
Scattergood Moore	449 Lowell Ave #13 Newtonville MA
Anney Brack	449 Lowell Ave #11 Newtonville
Andrea Jaciregui	460 Lowell Ave Newton MA
Seamus Bark	456 Lowell
Karen Lumino	11 Arden Road
Ken Hauge	27 Whittier Rd Newton
Dan Ball	22 Whittier Rd Newton
Howard Samuels	34 Whittier Rd Newton
Vladimir Reikins	62 Oak Cliff Rd
Yulia Lyatskaya	62 Oak Cliff Rd
Krista Buckland Reischer	28 Whittier Rd Newton
ANDREW REISNER	28 WHITTIER RD NEWTON

Lowell Ave Claflin Playground is for people, not dogs!

Name

Rachel + Michael Ganz
WENDY SOLER

JUDY HABERL

Address

52 Oak Cliff Rd, Newton MA 0246
449 LOWELL #1

449 LOWELL #4.



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
August 23, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Fran Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Bethel Charkoudian, Andrew Stern, Donald Fishman, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Richard Tucker, Jack Neville, Michael Clarke

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Meeting Minutes- June 14, 2010 & June 21, 2010

- June minutes accepted with a vote of 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Report to be given at the September 20, 2010 Commission meeting

3. OLAWG Update

- Commissioner DeRubeis thanked the Off Leash Working Group for their hard work.
- Commissioner DeRubeis presented an update from the Off Leash Area Working Group. The complete presentation is attached to these minutes.
- Highlights reviewed in the presentation:
 - Ordinance Z-70, Section 3-30 was passed by the Board of Alderman on August 9.
 - Information requested by the Commission at the June 14, 2010 meeting was addressed; fees, fencing, data collection, signage, feces, complaints and revocation.
 - Follow-up presentation for Claflin Playground and McGrath Park.
 - Claflin Playground
 - Off leash Area open 9am-3pm, Mon-Fri
 - Saturday 1pm-dusk, Sunday dawn-dusk
 - Closed December 15-March 15 for sledding
 - McGrath Park
 - Open dawn – dusk
 - Parking in P & R spaces only
 - Initial Presentation for Old Cold Spring Park and Hunnewell Park
 - Update for Norumbega Park- Conservation Land
 - Proposal to be presented to the Conservation Commission by Interim Planning Director Candace Havens on September 23, 2010.

- Chairman Magni requested comments and questions from the commission members.
- Ms. Charkoudian recommended a speed restriction on Lowell Avenue; she is concerned about people and dogs crossing the road.
- Ms. Heitman stated fees for the use of off leash areas (OLA) and for professional dog walkers has been discussed, but nothing has been mentioned of fines for violators who do not pay for the use of the OLA. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there is a \$50.00 fine in the ordinance.
- Mr. Stern inquired if the license fee should be increased; the fee has not been raised since at least 1984. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the licensing fees should be taken up with the City Clerk; dog licensing is not within his purview.
- Mr. Stern commented this process will only work with viable enforcement and inquired of the maximum number of animal control officers on the city's police force at one time. Officer Torres stated there were three animal control officers in the '70's. Officer Torres stated, due to the budget cuts, no additional animal control officers will be hired in the near future. Mr. Stern stated the Commission has the authority to establish enforcement and inquired if the group could raise money to hire additional officers.
- Ms. Charkoudian agreed the licensing fee should be higher.
- Mr. Bernheimer commented he has always considered enforcement a priority. The City does not need to hire more animal control officers; the existing patrol officers need to assist in enforcing the leash law, and making that happen is the responsibility of Mayor Warren and Chief Cummings.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked Commissioner DeRubeis his thoughts on the subject. Commissioner DeRubeis agreed hiring additional officers is tough due to the budget cuts and he is against "deputizing" his staff.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated in the beginning he was against off leash areas. He has learned off leash areas can work and is a member of the Off Leash Area Working Group. One issue is the types of users of the ola's. There are dog owners who always follow the rules and are happy to do so, but there are others who willfully disobey the rules and cannot be reasoned with.
- Ms. Heitman asked Officer Torres how many people have been fined in the last two years at Old Cold Spring Park (OCSP). Officer Torres stated he has only been the animal control officer for a year, and within that year approximately 50 people have been fined.
- Mr. Fishman stated Newton is doing better with compliance and creating off leash areas creates an incentive for compliance. Moving forward is the way to go.
- Mr. Stern stated the only entrances to the McGrath Park site is through the tennis courts, the woods, or through the Warren House Parking area to the Washington Street entrance. Mr. Rice recommended a gate.
- Mr. Stern requested information on the number of dogs in each ward. All users of ola's should show an id. If indemnity is an issue then an insurance certificate should be required.

- Mr. Stern asked if a motion will be made to accept or reject the proposal, and asked if the Commission should make recommendations to suggest tweaking the ordinance, rules and regulations. Commissioner DeRubeis does not believe the ordinance can be tweaked it has been approved by the Board of Alderman.
- Mr. Bernheimer recommended the privilege of walking a dog off leash should be added to the Revocation section for violators of the rules. Mr. Bernheimer asked the timeframe of having rules, regulations and fees in place. Commissioner DeRubeis stated fees will have to go before the Board of Alderman, but the rules and regulations can be done in a couple of weeks.
- Mr. Johnson asked if the group could approve or reject the proposal without having the fees in place. Mr. Rice stated the idea can be approved and then the rules and regulations and fees can be put in place.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked who approves the rules. Commissioner DeRubeis stated OLAWG will make the recommendations and the Commission will have input and approval of the rules, regulation and fees.

Mr. Rice made the motion to accept the proposal for McGrath Park & Claflin Playground submitted OLAWG, conditionally upon the Commission approving the rules, regulations and fee structure. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion.

Chairman Magni held the vote on the motion to accept public comment:

- ***Matt Brand, 449 Lowell Ave.***
- Mr. Brand requested the Commission not let the horse out of the barn. The meeting results will be in the TAB and Globe. Mr. Brand stated he and his children have been driven out of Cold Spring Park because of the dogs. There has been an influx of young families in the Claflin neighborhood that utilize the Claflin Playground. Since the Claflin Playground appeared in the TAB as an option for an off leash area there has been a surge of dogs and lots of conflicts, dogs run into his house and continuously bark. Mr. Brand stated the Commissioner has made accommodations to meet the neighbors concerns but has provided no money for enforcement.
- ***Mark Poster, Warren House***
- The biggest issue at McGrath Park is parking. Parking is impossible during athletic events.
- ***Catherine Farrell, 67 Oak Cliff Rd.***
- Ms. Farrell stated she has been a resident for 26 years. Claflin Playground is used by children, for athletic team practice and sledding. Ms. Farrell is opposed to opening an off leash area. The area is too small to be shared. The children have signed a petition against the off leash area. Parking will be an issue. Claflin Playground does not meet the criteria; an off leash area will negatively affect the abutters, enforcement is an issue, parking during school hours will be impossible and the size of the area is too small to share. Parks are treasures of the neighborhood and the city. An off leash area would change Claflin Playground.

- ***Resident of 441 Lowell Ave.***
- The Resident stated she has two small children, 2 & 4 years old, who use Claflin Playground. There are not many playgrounds with in walking distance of her home. Tons of children use the park so it would not be a good idea to have dogs running loose and barking. There are also raccoons in the area; owners should be concerned about rabies.
- ***Liz Chinian, Walden St.***
- Ms. Chinian stated, with all due respect, there is a new playground at the 200 million dollar high school across the street from Claflin Playground. Ms. Chinian submitted a park usage report she completed in June and July. There was very little usage of the park and believes all groups can coexist.
- ***Don Heiman, 449 Lowell Ave.***
- Mr. Heiman stated Ms. Farrell covered the issues; he is opposed to an Ola at Claflin Playground but also agrees there is a need for Ola's. Claflin Playground's primary use is for the children and a shared space will not work. Only 90% of solid dog waste is actually picked up the other 10% and urine remain in the grass. Mr. Heiman reviewed the evaluation of Claflin Playground and believes the location was chosen solely because of criteria #5, cost, the area can be opened with little or no cost.
- ***Skaterood Moore, 449 Lowell Ave.***
- Mr. Moore supports the issues brought forward by Ms. Farrell. There will be issues with parking and Mr. Moore is not interested in sharing the park, anyone can use the park.
- ***Lee McIntyre, Commonwealth Ave & OLAWG member***
- Mr. McIntyre stated many surrounding communities have successful off leash programs. With change, there is fear of what might happen. There has been significant improvement in the Old Cold Spring Park off leash area. The area is clean and the users self police each other. This is not about the choice to have dogs or not have dogs in the park, dogs are already in all of the parks and off leash dogs are also in most of the parks. Mr. McIntyre asked Officer Torres to comment on his observation of the Old Cold Spring Park off leash area. Officer Torres commented there has been improvement in the area month by month. Officer Torres sees less dogs off leash on the trails, the off leash area seems to be working.
- ***Jeanne Strickland, Newton Community Development, Property Manager***
- Ms Strickland commented she has not seen many dogs at McGrath Park and parking will be an issue, but she has seen an informal off leash area at Weekes House. The group usually congregates in the morning and early evening and the group is respectful of the surrounding fields and people. The group effectively manages themselves.
- ***Marilyn Santiestabon, Oak Cliff Rd***
- Ms. Santiestabon stated this is not about fear, the neighbors are concerned. This is a bad idea, what should the abutters expect with no enforcement. This area cannot be used as shared usage. Ms. Santiestabon introduced her daughter Alexa. Alexa stated she was

attacked by a dog when she was little and is now afraid of dogs and she used to walk through Claflin Playground but she cannot anymore because there are dogs in the park.

- **Judy Haberl, 449 Lowell Ave**
- Ms. Haberl stated she has intimate knowledge of Claflin Playground because her apartment window overlooks the park. Do not confuse Old Cold Spring Park and Claflin Playground there can be no mixed usage at Claflin Playground.
- **Alla Mantsur, 20 Jaconnet St.**
- Ms. Mantsur is a user of the Old Cold Spring Park (OCSP) off leash area and would not use the Claflin Playground because her dog is too big for the area. Dog owners know what their dogs require. If it is inconvenient to park, people will not go to the area. When an off leash area becomes legal for those already using the area, the users become self policing. OCSP off leash area is clean. The users respect where they walk and clean up after themselves. Children from families without dogs come to the off leash area to socialize with the dogs.
- **Resident of 458 Lowell Ave.**
- The one issue not discussed is the wooded area. Dogs will run into the woods and the owners will not pick up after the dogs. Children go to the wooded area to climb the rock structures.
- **Dan Cuphone, Auburn St.**
- Mr. Cuphone stated he has been involved with this process for a few years now and there is a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) mentality throughout the city. Mr. Cuphone believes there are solutions and compromises to the issues. The parks belong to all taxpayers in the city, and should be shared space. Mr. Cuphone uses the off leash area with his 1 & 3 year old children, OCSP is working well. The focus should be making it work for all users.
- Chairman Magni concluded public comment.
- Mr. Kastner agreed with shared usage but recommended the committee review the issue of a fence at Claflin Playground.
- Mr. Bernheimer suggested placing a size restriction on the size of dog using the off leash area at Claflin Playground.
- Alderman Albright stated the idea is to have neighborhood parks for the people to walk to. To Mr. Stern regarding his earlier comments, this Committee continues to raise the bar, at first they requested OLAWG come up with recommendations for additional off leash areas or Old Cold Spring Park would be closed, the group has done that, next the Commission would not move forward until the Board of Alderman passed the ordinance, the Board of Alderman has passed the ordinance and now the Commission will not move forward until fees are in place. Fees will be required to go before the Board of Alderman, which could take a few months. Alderman Albright is concerned this will not work until a bunch of parks are open all over the city. Eight to ten parks need to be opened to take pressure off any one park and hopes this committee will not delay opening additional parks waiting for the fees to be passed by the Board of Alderman.

- Commissioner DeRubeis had a discussion with Sara Ecker this week regarding Claflin Playground and suggested limiting the number of dogs in the park. Mr. Bernheimer asked what the right number of dogs is. Mr. Rice commented not many people will go up to Claflin because people with off leash dogs are in all areas of the city.
- Mr. Stern responded to Alderman Albright. Mr. Stern was re-appointed to the Commission in June and wants to be sure this is done right.
- Ms. Heitman inquired if McGrath will be open dawn to dusk every day. Commissioner DeRubeis responded yes. Ms. Heitman is concerned about the parking issues.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated there are two issues; the fee structure will take a few months to be implemented, and the rules and regulations for each park, which can be implemented by September.
- Ms. Charkoudian stated she is in agreement with Mr. Kastner that mixed usage is ok with a fence in place. A fence could address issue previously discussed. Commissioner DeRubeis stated fences are appropriate in certain places, for example Hunnewell would require a fence by the little league field, but in Claflin Playground a fence would ruin the usage of the park for the children.
- Chairman Magni moved to take a vote on the motion for the OLAWG proposal. Mr. Stern inquired if the group should give their public stance now or wait until the next meeting awaiting additional information. Mr. Fishman recommended accepting parks now and filling in the blanks down the road, the vote is provisional on the approval of the rules and regulations.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked if she should vote because she owns property near Claflin Playground.
- Mr. Rice stated the off leash areas will not be open after this vote, we would be accepting the idea of the off leash area awaiting approval of the rules and regulations.

Mr. Rice made the motion to accept the proposal for Claflin Playground as submitted by the Off Leash Area Working Group, conditionally upon the Commission approving the rules, regulations and fee structure. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3-1.

Mr. Rice made the motion to accept the proposal for McGrath Park as submitted by the Off Leash Area Working Group, conditionally upon the Commission approving the rules, regulations and fee structure. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1-1.

4. New Business

- No new business

Meeting Adjourned at 8:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary



Off Leash Area Working Group

August 23, 2010
Parks & Recreation Commission Presentation



August 23, 2010 Parks & Recreation Commission Presentation Outline

- Ordinance Update
- June 2010 P & R Commission Information Request
- General Information
 - 24 Green Space – Phase 2
 - Fencing & Fees surrounding communities
- Follow-Up Presentations
 - Clafin
 - McGrath
- Initial Presentations
 - Hunnewell Park
 - Old Cold Spring
- Update
 - Norumbega Park

Ordinance Update

- **July 14, 2010** - the ordinance was passed by the Programs & Services Committee, 5-0-2.
- **August 9, 2010** - the ordinance was passed by the Full Board of Alderman, 17-6-(1 absent).
 - **Highlights**
 - Commissioner of P&R and Planning Director identify sites.
 - Commissioner of P&R designates sites. Shall obtain permission of agency or commission prior to implementation.
 - Commissioner of P&R has oversight of off-leash areas when they are functional.

June 2010 P & R Commission Information Request:

- **Fees**
 - Working in conjunction w/ City Clerk, propose to have off-leash fees be tied into Licensing fee. Off-leash fees to go into revolving account. \$40.00-\$50.00 fee per dog, for off-leash users, in conjunction with \$10.00 licensing fee. Administered through City Clerk in hopes of getting more individuals licensed.
 - Professional dog walkers would pay a proposed fee that is in the \$250.00 - \$300.00 range.
 - Non Newton residents would pay a proposed \$100.00 fee per dog
 - The institution of fees could negate protection under the Recreational Use Statute. (Chapter 21, Section 17C(b)).
- **Donations**
 - A contribution or other voluntary payment that is not required would not negate the Recreational Use Statute.
 - In lieu of or in conjunction with fees, donations will be accepted to be placed into a revolving account to help defray the cost of administering off leash sites.

June 2010 P & R Commission Information Request:



- Identification
 - Off-leash users to receive medallion that is shaped differently than licensing & rabies medallion. Will have to be renewed on a yearly basis through the clerks office. Professional dog walkers will have identification placards that will have to be worn around their neck so that they can be easily identified at an off-leash site. Must carry picture ID to confirm identity if necessary at site. Placards to be renewed on a yearly basis.
- Indemnification
 - All Off-Leash users shall sign indemnification forms at the same time that they are registering for an off leash site.

June 2010 P & R Commission Information Request:



- Fencing
 - It has been the intention of the Off-Leash Advisory Working Group (OLAWG) to approach the Off-Leash sites as a mixed-use model. As part of the mixed-use model, there will be sites that are fenced and those that are not. The criteria for determining fencing will be as follows:
 1. Are there any other uses on the site that we are proposing? Will the off-leash site interfere with that usage?
 2. Traffic Safety
 3. Avoidance of eliminating another use through erection of fence.
 - Propose to use natural barriers and perimeter fencing as much as possible.



June 2010 P & R Commission Information Request:



- Signage
 - Signs will have language that is specific to the precepts of the ordinance. After such language, it will then be additional language that is particular to the off-leash site in question.
- Feces Receptacles
 - Mutt Mitt dispensers to be placed in the parks along with trash receptacles. It is our hope that dog owners will bring their own implements to remove feces and place it in the barrel. For those individuals that do not, we will supply dispensers to ensure that feces are removed. Work toward educating the off leash users to remove feces from site and dispose of at their own residence.

June 2010 P & R Commission Information Request:



Complaints

- There has been discussion in committee on the issue of complaints. However, at this point our ideas are conceptual in nature. It is thought that there will be one or two point persons designated at each off-leash site that is placed on line. This would be a person who is a consistent user of the site. They would signify themselves as such to other users and this person would have direct contact to the Parks & Recreation Department for the conveyance of complaints. We would also have a dedicated e-mail address on the Off-Leash website to deal with complaints as well as a complaint form that could be filled in on-line. There is also an expectation that will work with the Newton Police Department in terms of both complaints and revocations.

June 2010 P & R Commission Information Request:



Revocation

- Rules will be posted at each off-leash site and there is an expectation that these rules will be adhered to. A violation of such rules will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. I have had strong feelings since the inception of OLAWG that it needs to be an ongoing committee to convene for instances such as this. Therefore, I will use OLAWG as the tribunal to deal with such matters as warranted. If it is an issue that I can deal with independently, then I will deal with it as such. If a matter is egregious enough to warrant the closing of an off leash site, it will most likely be a group decision.

Green Space Areas-Phase 2



	Ward	Area		Ward	Area
1	1	Forte Park	13	5	Old Cold Spring Park
2	1	Hunnewell Playground	14	5	Bracefield Playground
3	1	Walnut Park	15	5	Richardson Playground
4	2	Hakoran Sports Complex	16	6	Newton Centre
5	2	Cliffin Playground	17	6	Newton Highlands Playground (Whitmore)
6	2	Cabot Park	18	6	Thompsonville Playground
7	2	Edwards Park	19	6	Weeks Park
8	3	McGrath Park	20	7	Burr Park
9	3	West Newton Commons	21	8	Brown & Oak Middle School Playground
10	4	The Cove	22	8	NSHS - area near tennis courts only
11	4	Flower Meadow	23	8	Nahanton Park
12	4	Hamilton Playground	24	4	Conservation Norumbega

Fencing & Fees

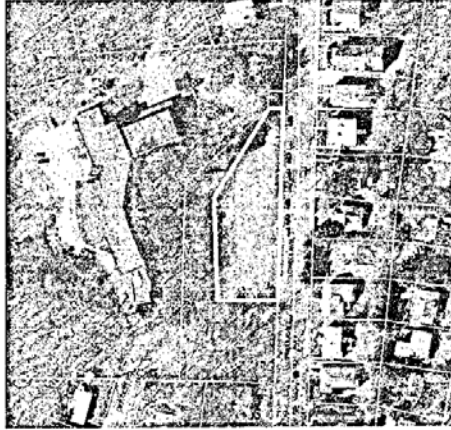
Location	Fencing	License Fees returned/spayed	License Fees not returned/spayed	Life Fees	Fees - Professional Dog walkers	Comments
Arlington	case by case evaluation, shared use (program under review)	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00	No Fee	Green Dog program voted on at town meeting June 2010. Going before the AG's office in September 2010.
Boston	not required, case by case evaluation, shared use	\$ 6.00	\$ 17.00	\$ -	No Fee	Donations accepted: \$25/household \$50.00/business
Brookline	not required, no fences, shared use	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	No Fee	
Cambridge	not required, case by case evaluation, shared use	\$ 8.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -	No Fee	
Needham	Fenced (proposed)	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	No Fee	No OLRA have been opened to date
Provincetown	not required, case by case evaluation, shared use	\$ 6.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	No Fee	OLRA include beaches
Sharon	Fenced-Privately funded	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	No Fee	No fee-Donations accepted
Somerville	not required, case by case evaluation, shared use	\$ 12.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	No Fee	
Weston	not required, case by case evaluation, shared use	\$ 10.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$100-one walker \$50.00-addl. walker \$150/dog up to 5 dogs	
Newton	not required, case by case evaluation, shared use	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00	\$ -	TBD	

Fencing & Fees

- Fencing is not required in surrounding communities
- Newton's licensing fee is similar to the surrounding communities
- Professional dog walking fees not required in most communities, Newton to establish fees for professional dog walkers.
- Fees would be required to go before the Board of Alderman to be included in the ordinance.

Claflin Playground

- Ward 2
- Off Leash Area open 9am-3pm- Monday through Friday
 - 8:20 am bus pick up of Cabot school students
 - 3:20pm bus drop off
 - NNHS afternoon athletic practice after 3pm
- Saturday 1pm- dusk
- Sunday dawn - dusk
- Off Leash Area closed
 - December 15 - March 15 for winter sledding
- Deed Restrictions-None
- Parking
 - Neighborhood Park
 - Do not anticipate increased vehicle usage.
- Not just for off leash dog use- multi use- for everyone- coexist
- 51,000 sq. ft. (site)
- 23,000 sq. ft. (off-leash)



Claflin Playground-Data Collection

Claflin Playground		With dog?				Weather	Observer
Date	Time	People	Leashed	Unleashed	Cars		
8/10/2010	10:00 AM	0			0	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/10/2010	1:00 PM	0			0	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/11/2010	10:00 AM	1		1	1	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/11/2010	2:00 PM	0			0	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/14/2010	4:15 PM	0			1	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/15/2010	5:40 PM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/16/2010	9:00 AM	0			0	Overcast	Officer Torres
8/16/2010	9:15 AM	0			0	Overcast	Commissioner
8/16/2010	11:30 AM	1		1	0	Overcast	Officer Torres
8/16/2010	1:00 PM	0			0	Overcast	Officer Torres
8/16/2010	3:00 PM	0			0	Overcast	Commissioner
8/17/2010	9:05 AM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/17/2010	10:00 AM	0			0	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/17/2010	12:10 PM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/17/2010	12:45 PM	0			0	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/17/2010	4:00 PM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/18/2010	9:00 AM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/18/2010	10:15 AM	3	1	3	0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/18/2010	1:00 PM	0			0	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/18/2010	2:00 PM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/18/2010	4:30 PM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/19/2010	9:00 AM	2	1	1	1	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/19/2010	10:30 AM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner
8/20/2010	11:15 AM	0			0	Sunny	Commissioner

McGrath Park



- Ward 3
- No time restrictions
- Parking restricted to the P & R Department parking spaces
- 460,000 sq. ft. (10.5 acres)
- 7,200 sq. ft. (.17 acres)

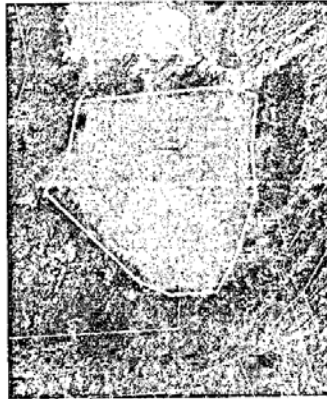
McGrath Park – Data Collection



McGrath Park			With dog?		Parking Area	Weather	Observer
Date	Time	People	Leashed	Unleashed			
8/11/2010	1:30 PM	0			Plenty of available spots	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/14/2010	4:30 PM	0			Plenty of available spots	Sunny	Officer Torres
8/16/2010	8:00 AM	0			Plenty of available spots	Overcast	Officer Torres
8/17/2010	11:00 AM	0			Plenty of available spots	Sunny	Officer Torres

Old Cold Spring Park

- Off-leash area currently legal
- Awaiting community meeting to be scheduled by the Commission
- Parking restrictions already in place
- Possible restrictions during permitted athletic activities in Old Cold Spring Park



Hunnewell Park

- Ward 1
- Ample parking authorized by *New Balance*
- Fencing required
- Off leash area closed during permitted athletic activities



Norumbega Park - Update



- Conservation Land
- Proposal to be presented to the Conservation Commission on September 23, 2010 by Interim Planning Director Candace Havens



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
City Hall, War Memorial, 7:00pm
September 20, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Fran Rice, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Bethel Charkoudian, Richard Tucker, Donald Fishman, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Andrew Stern, Jack Neville, Michael Clarke

Meeting called to order at 7:08pm

1. Off-Leash Area Working Group

- Presentation (see attached) – Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the presentation.
Items presented:
- **Fees**
 - People who walk their own dog:
 - Must buy a medallion at City Hall for each off-leash dog, but it is the person who wears it (this allows it to be transferrable within a household, depending on who walks the dog that day).
 - NO picture is required on the medallion, but the person is required to carry ID with them.
 - Resident fee: \$50.00 per dog
 - Non-Newton resident fee: \$100 per dog
 - Professional dog walkers:
 - Must buy a medallion for the business and others as needed --these medallions are registered to the business, not the individual employee, given high turnover and part-time schedules (so no picture on the medallion here either, but must carry ID with them)
 - Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$50 each additional medallion.
 - Non-Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$350.00 for the first medallion and \$100.00 each additional medallion
 - Fees must be approved by the Board of Alderman
 - Process of collecting the fees will be handled by the City Clerk
 - The Commission recommended:
 - Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$75.00 each additional medallion.
- **Signs**
 - Signs will include:
 - Rules & regulations from the city ordinance
 - Site specific rules
- **Old Cold Spring Park**

- Ward 5
- Off-leash area is 139,000 sq. ft. (3.1 acres)
- Off-leash area currently legal
- Parking restrictions already in place
- Hours of Operation: dawn to dusk
- Propose closing during permitted athletic games/meets in Old Cold Spring Park
- Current permitted users
 - Newton Youth Soccer
 - Newton South Little League
 - Mt. Alvernia girls softball
- **Hunnewell Park**
 - Ward 1
 - Off-leash area is 22,000 sq. ft. of 4.5 acres
 - Ample parking authorized by New Balance
 - Recommending off leash area users enter from the New Balance side
 - Hours of Operation: dawn to dusk
 - Fencing required (280 linear feet)
 - 4' black fence
 - 1 double gate for maintenance
 - 1-2 pedestrian gates
 - Estimated cost \$5,900.00
- **Possible rollout of all approved off leash areas in spring 2011.**
 - Commissioner DeRubeis stated OLAWG will bring additional sites forward in October for an informational meeting. There has been discussion of a roll out of all areas approved by the commission on the same day in the spring.
 - Mr. Bernheimer inquired if the fence at Hunnewell Park was installed in a month would the Commissioner open the off leash area? Commissioner DeRubeis stated this would be open for discussion. Mr. Bernheimer stated this would leave Old Cold Spring Park the only off leash area open in the city until the spring.
- **Public Hearing**
 - Chairman Magni opened the floor for public comment. A two minute time limit was given for each speaker.
 - Diane Cotting inquired if a resident pays \$50.00 for their dog does this cover the professional dog walker who walks their dog. Commissioner DeRubeis stated no, the professional dog walking business has a fee to pay.
 - A Resident asked who will be responsible to enforce the medallions. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the city has only one animal control officer and he cannot be in every park every day. Commissioner DeRubeis stated his goal is for self policing by the off leash area users, but we will not know how this will work until the off leash areas are open.
 - A resident inquired if it is ok for an area to have 30 dogs off leash in an area at the same time. Commissioner DeRubeis stated it is ok if the medallion is being used in an off leash area, but the impact to an area

will not be known until the area is open and then a decision can be made to add restrictions.

- A Resident stated Weston, Wellesley and Cambridge do not charge money for use of their off leash areas, why is Newton charging for use of the areas. Commissioner DeRubeis stated we need to charge money to support the maintenance of the areas. The maintenance cannot be handled by the budget alone. An example is Hunnewell Park. The fenced in area will become compacted from use, the area will have to be aerated.
- **Old Cold Spring Park**
 - Chairman Magni requested Officer Torres, the Animal Control Officer provide an update of the Old Cold Spring Park (OCSP) off leash area (OLA).
 - Officer Torres commented the off-leash area at OCSP has been quiet over the summer. The trails have been empty. There is continued improvement and compliance. There were a few parking issues and those people were cited.
 - Mr. Robert Gault of 106 Berkeley St commented he supports the OLA. It is perfect for exercising his dog. Some observations:
 - The parking issues are better than before
 - The area is cleaner than it used to be
 - The issues are on the trails due to scofflaws
 - Joan Rosenberg of 77 Montvale Rd commented policing each other to do the right thing will work. At her place of business if someone is using her dumpster and they should not, she will say something to them, the police do not have to be called. We have to hold each other accountable for our actions. Ms. Rosenberg is confident the off leash areas can work.
 - Attorney Peter Harrington, representing some of the neighbors of OCSP, stated this experiment has been a failure. It has failed to recognize the neighbors concerns, failed in being impartial, from the start the park has been pushed through. There has been a failure to adopt reasonable standards in OCSP.
 - Dr. Jeffrey Kinnis of 47 Beverly Rd read a statement from a resident on Cochituate Rd. There should be hourly restrictions for the off leash area. Children should be safe in the park, in the past there were two instances on the ball field between dogs and children. Dr. Kinnis made his own comments:
 - Most off-leash areas have hours of operations, such as Cambridge and Brookline.
 - Cold Spring park is a multi-use park and should have hours of operation for the off-leash area.
 - Ms. Alla Mantsur of Jaconnet Rd commented as a working mother, restrictions on the off-leash area would make it difficult for her to use the area. OCSP is a perfect example of how self policing does work. The area is cleaner and people who do not own dogs bring their children to the off-leash area to interact with the dogs.

- Mr. Rick Dyer, Terrace Ave. commented he agrees there is a need for off leash areas in Newton but opening an area with out enforcement is not the answer. There is dog waste everywhere in the park; the excer-trail cannot be used because of the off-leash dogs on the trail. Mr. Dyer is requesting the Commission suspend the off-leash experiment.
- Mr. Ethan Bolker of 10 Chester Street commented because of the OCSP off-leash area he has learned to police himself. Mr. Bolker used to run on the CSP trails off-leash with his dog, he does not do that anymore. Mr. Bolker stated what is happening on the trails, will not change, no matter what happens with the off-leash area.
- Ms. Lyn Lieberman, resident, commented very rarely are there children playing in OCSP. The off-leash area users avoid other users in the areas, such as the winter sledder's. Everyone is respectful of one another. There will always be off-leash users on the trails.
- Ms. Anne Li of Beverly Rd. stated the parking issues were taken up by the neighbors who went to the traffic council and had the restrictions put in place. The criteria were sadly missing when OCSP was opened. The P & R Commission are at risk of making the same mistake.
- Mr. Alan Noguee of 48 Kingston Road submitted a petition signed by 9 of the 13 direct abutters of OCSP in support of the off-leash area. Two of the four who did not sign use the trails off leash and do not want to compromise; the remaining two do not have dogs. Mr. Noguee is tired of hearing that the neighbors of OCSP are against the off-leash area when in truth many support the off-leash area. Please do not take away the off-leash area.
- Ms. Eve Cohen of Beverly Rd stated there are continued issues with parking and enforcement. Visitors at OCSP should not have to worry about dogs off-leash or dogs feces. Ms. Cohen stated there should be restricted hours and fencing. Ms. Cohen submitted a statement form Mr. Bob Stock stated there are enforcement issues in OCSP. The experiment should not continue.
- A resident stated the vast majority of OCSP users comply with the law.
- Mr. Jeff Bornstein stated he is a scientist and the issues must be factual not just emotional. Mr. Bornstein took his son to OCSP and parked in the neighborhood and he and his son were approached by the neighbors telling him he could not park in the neighborhood, it was not a friendly environment.
- Ms. Rebecca Cohen of 1317 Beacon Street stated she has lived a half mile from CSP for 30 years and uses the excer-trail. She has counted the dogs on the trail over the years and she would count 7-10 dogs at one time. Over the last year she has counted maybe one and usually no dogs on the trail and believes this is due to the presence of the dog officer and the citizen policing.
- A resident commented she is a dog owner and enjoys the use of the OLA, it is good socialization and compliance is excellent.
- Ms. Pricilla Meriot of 55 Dunklee St stated parking became an issue in front of her house once the other neighbors had no parking signs placed in front of their homes. Ms. Meriot is a dog owner but does not

use OCSP because of the off-leash dogs; fifteen years ago she was attacked and cannot get passed the experience. Ms. Meriot supports the concept of the dog parks but restrictions would be helpful.

- Ms. Catherine Finegan-Dollak of 44 Hartford Street commented the OCSP OLA has been helpful in training her puppy. Her puppy learned to socialize with other dogs as well as people. The off-leash area is a valuable resource.
- A Waban resident stated he uses the OLA in OCSP frequently. The people are well mannered and it is a pleasure to be there. There is a mud hole between the OLA and the field that needs to be fixed.

○ **Hunnewell Park**

- Brighton Resident #1 stated he lived in Newton for 8 years. He supports the dog park but is concerned the area is too small and should not be fenced in. The enclosed area may cause more fights and without the fence the compaction issue would be eliminated.
- Mr. Roy Kisliuk of 65 Grasmere Street stated people do not obey the laws. There are off-leash dogs in the tot lot and the neighbors cannot get them to obey.
- Ms. Heather Alker of 70 Hunnewell Ave is concerned about the parking issues that will be created on Grasmere St. One of her children is intimidated by dogs and most dog owners will leash their dogs if requested but some do not.
- Resident of 77 Grasmere Street has lived in this location her entire life. At first she was upset about the idea of an OLA in Hunnewell Park. But she is relieved to hear the area will be fenced. The resident requested parking signs on Grasmere Street.
- Ms. Betty Powell of 20 Walker Street commented she is a supporter of OCSP. She will not use the OLA at Hunnewell Park; the area is too small. Hunnewell Park is a nice neighborhood OLA.
- Ms. Diane Cotting of Newton Centre commented she supports the Hunnewell proposal for the OLA. Hunnewell Park has been a waste land. Last year the dog owners who use the park cleaned up the park. Ms. Cotting believes there should be parks in all the neighborhoods. The OLA is a resource for people to get to know one another.
- Resident of Hunnewell Hills stated she uses Hunnewell Park with her off-leash dog. She is against fencing in the area. A fenced area can be dangerous. She has been in the park with dogs and children and witnessed the two groups co-existing. A lot of times children run up to the dogs without warning. Respect should go both ways.
- Brighton Resident #2 stated he uses the park a couple of times per day. Most people use the New Balance parking entrance. Does not agree with fenced area. Currently the area is self-policed. Kids and dogs do coexist. The area should remain status quo.
- Resident Grasmere Street commented the professional dog walkers use the park. If the park is opened as an OLA more people will use the area and this will create problems.
- A professional dog walker based in Newton commented she is opposed to the fence. People have dogs and dogs require exercise. The need

outweighs the available resources. Most people assume all dog owners are irresponsible. Most dog owners and the professional dog walkers are responsible.

- Mr. Harry Meade of 62 Grasmere commented one issue at the park is the smell of the trash barrel and simple solution would be to put a cover on the barrel.
- Chairman Magni closed the public comments and requested comments from the Commission members.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated it is a mistake to wait 6 months or more to open approved OLA and recommends opening the approved areas so the group can learn more about the areas.
- Mr. Johnson inquired when the fee structure will be put in place. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the fees are on a separate track with the Board of Alderman (BOA).
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated he is concerned about opening Clafin now and have it close on December 15 for the winter sledding. McGrath could be opened now.
- Mr. Johnson asked about the signs. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the signs will not take much time to put up. The verbiage for fees would be left out of any sign put up before fees approved by the BOA then added when the fees are approved.
- Mr. Bernheimer asked if the group should pursue the restriction of parking on Hunnewell Ave. Ms. Charkoudian responded yes. Mr. Fishman stated parking is not within the Commissions authority.
- Mr. Bernheimer requested Commissioner DeRubeis address the public comments regarding the fencing issue at Hunnewell Park. Commissioner DeRubeis stated he has spoken with Diane Cotting and other off-leash users of the area and they have agreed with the fencing. The area being fenced is where the dogs currently congregate.

Motion for Hunnewell Park off-leash area proposal:

Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Hunnewell Park subject to the fence being installed and the authority of Parks & Recreation Commissioner. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1 (Heitman).

Motion for the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area proposal:

Motion made by Mr. Bernheimer to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Old Cold Spring Park subject to the rules and regulations proposed. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-2 (Heitman, Charkoudian).

- A few of the residents who spoke during the public hearing submitted their comments in writing.

2. Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2010 - Special Meeting

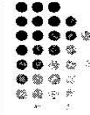
- 08-23-10 Minutes approved 8-0

Chairman Magni made a motion to suspend the remaining items (item # 3 & #4) on the agenda until the October meeting. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

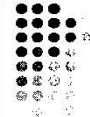
Robin McLaughlin, Secretary



Off Leash Area Working Group

September 20, 2010
Parks & Recreation Commission Presentation

August 2010 P & R Commission Information Request: Fees



People who walk their own dog:

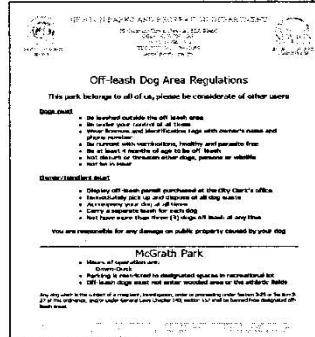
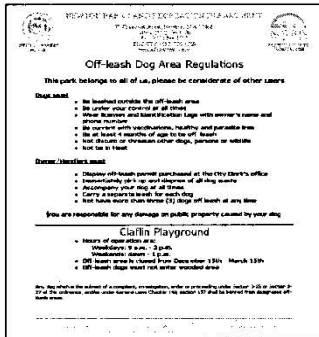
- Must buy a medallion at City Hall for each off-leash dog, but it is the person who wears it (this allows it to be transferrable within a household, depending on who walks the dog that day).
- NO picture is required on the medallion, but the person is required to carry ID with them.
- Resident fee: \$50.00 per dog
- Non-Newton resident fee: \$100 per dog

Professional dog walkers:

- Must buy a medallion for the business and others as needed --these medallions are registered to the business, not the individual employee, given high turnover and part-time schedules (so no picture on the medallion here either, but must carry ID with them)
- Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$50 each additional medallion
- Non-Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$350.00 for the first medallion and \$100.00 each additional medallion

- Fees must be approved by the Board of Alderman
- Process of collecting the fees will be handled by the City Clerk

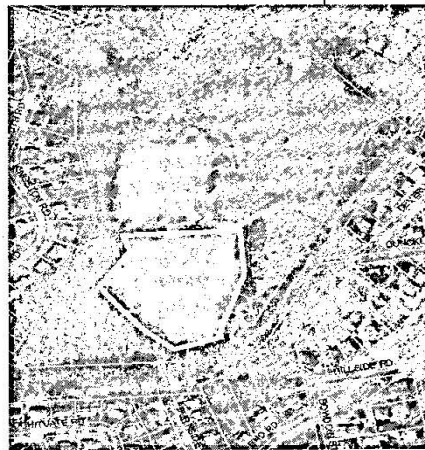
August 2010 P & R Commission Information Request: Signs



- Signs will include a map of the off-leash area

Old Cold Spring Park

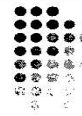
- Ward 5
- Off-leash area is 139,000 sq. ft. (3.1 acres)
- Off-leash area currently legal
- Parking restrictions already in place
- Hours of Operation: dawn to dusk
- Propose closing during permitted athletic games/meets in Old Cold Spring Park
- Current permitted users
 - Newton Youth Soccer
 - Newton South Little League
 - Mt. Alvernia girls softball



Hunnewell Park



- Ward 1
- Off-leash area is 22,000 sq. ft. of 4.5 acres
- Ample parking authorized by *New Balance*
- Recommending off leash area users enter from the New Balance side
- Hours of Operation: dawn to dusk
- Fencing required (280 linear feet)
 - 4' black fence
 - 1 double gate for maintenance
 - 1-2 pedestrian gates
 - Estimated cost \$5,900.00





Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
October 18, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Andrew Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Richard Tucker, Donald Fishman, *Alternate*, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Fran Rice, Michael Clarke, Peter Kastner

Also Attending: Claudia Morris, representative for the Newton Centre off-leash dog area, Keith Jones, Friends of Farlow Park, Cheri Ruane, Weston & Sampson, Stephanie Lapham, P & R Manager, Carol Schein, P & R Open Space Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

1. Meeting Minutes –September 20, 2010

- Accepted 7-0 (Stern arrived after the vote)

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed:
 - Department "Snapshot" (attached)
 - Includes revenue & expenses, attendance, forestry and maintenance and program information.
 - Nahanton Park Working Group Update
 - The Mass Audubon has been awarded the Natural Resources Inventory and Management Study for Nahanton Park. The contract paperwork has been sent to Mass Audubon for signatures. The paperwork will then be completed by the City. The schedule is as follows,
 - Project Kickoff complete: 10/10
 - Review Existing Documents complete: 11/10
 - Field Inventory complete: 5/11
 - Public Meeting complete: 2/11
 - Public Walk complete: 2/11
 - Draft Vision complete: 6/11
 - Review Comments complete: 7/11
 - Final Vision complete: 8/11
 - Nahanton Park- Canoe & Kayak Report (attached)
 - Camp Scholarship report (attached)
 - Gath Pool & Crystal Lake Report (attached)

3. Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) Proposal (attached)

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated the fees proposed by the OLAWG were presented to the Programs & Services Committee on October 6. The item was held by the committee for further discussion. Donations are acceptable. A revolving account has been set up to accept donations and is going before the Board of Aldermen for approval. The Law department is investigating the following issues involved with charging fees for use of the off-leash areas in the parks.
 1. Charging fees and the recreational use statute
 2. Charging fees in parks that have received federal funding
 3. Charging professional dog walkers a fee
- Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the areas being proposed by OLAWG as off leash dog areas.
 - Newton Centre
 - Hours of operation
 - Dawn – noon-7 days/week
 - No fence
 - Carrying capacity - No more than 20 off-leash dogs in the area at one time
 - Neighborhood park
 - Currently a self policed off-leash area
 - Commissioner DeRubeis introduced Claudia Morris, representative for the Newton Centre off-leash dog area. Ms. Morris had a booth at the Harvest Fair, providing information on safe dog/human interaction and collecting donations for the off-leash areas.
 - Forte Park
 - No fence
 - Off-leash areas is green space from parking lot fence to river walk
 - Hours of operation -Dawn – 1pm, weekdays, year round
 - Closed week-ends March 15 – December 14
 - Open week-ends December 15 - March 14, Dawn – Dusk
 - Cabot Park
 - Hours of operation -Open dawn – dusk, year round
 - Fenced area -Fencing provided through donations and/or fees
 - Questions from Commission members:
 - Mr. Stern inquired about available parking for Newton Center. Ms. Morris replied most of the users walk to the park. But there is parking available on Tyler Terrace and Centre Street.
 - Ms. Charkoudian asked Commissioner DeRubeis how OLAWG decides an area should be fenced.

Commissioner DeRubeis replied it depends on the proximity to the street such as the Cabot Park location. The fence at Hunnewell Park is to separate the off-leash area from the little league activity. Other spaces such as Forte cannot be fenced because there are too many different activities in the park and the field needs to be left open.

- Mr. Stern suggested people be required to add the City of Newton to their home owners insurance if they would like to use the off-leash areas. There is no additional charge from the insurance company.
- Mr. Tucker stated after the last meeting there was a discussion with some of the Beverly Road neighbors. If OLAWG is going to restrict hours in other parks, could restricted hours be granted at the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated the area is secluded and there are several access points. Restricted hours would be unenforceable. Also there are 200 abutters to the park and the same seven abutters complain and those abutters have been accommodated on some of the issues, such as the parking issue.
- Ms. Charkoudian inquired if Beverly Road could be turned into residential parking area only. Mr. Bernheimer stated parking restrictions are beyond the control of the Commission.
- Mr. Stern stated there is an enforcement and parking issue because Old Cold Spring Park is the only off-leash area open.
- Mr. Bernheimer agrees and stated other off-leash areas need to be opened.
- Chairman Magni asked the members for input on scheduling the public hearings for the three areas. The group consensus was one public hearing for Newton Centre and Cabot Park and a second public hearing for Forte Park.

4. Farlow Park Project

- Keith Jones, representative of the Friends of Farlow Park and Cheri Ruane, Weston & Sampson presented an update on the proposal at Farlow Park to restore the lawn to a pond.
- Ms Ruane stated the project began with the Friends of Farlow Park. The proposal went to the Community Preservation Commission and the Parks and Recreations Commission and was approved for the design portion of the project. Weston & Sampson (W&S) was hired. W&S researched 12 other community ponds including the Frog Pond in Boston. Safety was a major concern. After reviewing the ponds W&S found that safety was not a major concern in the other communities. No lifeguards are posted at the ponds and Swim/Skate at your own risk signs are posted.
- Ms. Ruane stated it was understood that no additional maintenance could be added to the P & R Department due to this project. The school department will be paying for the water and electricity to run the pumps. W&S located a well at the pond location. The well water will fill the pond so there will be no cost for the water except for the electricity.
- Ms. Ruane stated restoring the pond will be a historic gain. Mr. Jones stated Farlow Park is the oldest park in Newton.
- Ms Ruane stated the water quality and quantity of the well would have to be confirmed. The existing cement basin from the previous pond is in good shape, but will need minor repairs.

- The current irrigation system is a one zone system, which means the entire area is irrigated. The well will allow for the irrigation system to be rezoned which will allow for certain areas to be irrigated at different times.
- Mr. Stern inquired if the existing concrete shell is historical. Ms. Ruane replied yes. Mr. Stern asked why the pond was covered up. Mr. Jones has tried to find out why the pond was covered up but there is no information, but he has heard it was a maintenance issue. Mr. Stern asked how they will prevent maintenance from becoming an issue again. Ms. Ruane stated the technology of today helps to maintain the pond. A circulator and proper drainage will help to maintain the pond. A timer will be used for the circulator and the irrigation system. Geese were another concern. There are many dogs walked in this area which will keep the geese away.
- Mr. Stern asked Commissioner DeRubeis if there is a restriction on the amount of well water allowed to be used in an area. Commissioner DeRubeis replied yes. Mr. Stern asked if there are any other irrigation projects scheduled that could be in conflict with the Farlow Park well. Commissioner DeRubeis stated not at this time.
- Mr. Stern inquired if the Friends of Farlow Park would control the timer switch. Mr. Ruane stated there would be a control clock operating the switch.
- Mr. Stern inquired if the project has gone before the Historic Commission. Mr. Jones replied yes.

~~5. Petition filed by Adolph Thomas~~

Postponed by Mr. Thomas prior to the meeting

- Dedication for Raoul Walenberg

6. New Business

- No new business

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Judy Dore- Parks & Recreation Manager

Charles River Canoe & Kayak

- ⊗ July 9– October 11, 2010
- ⊗ Hours Thursday and Friday 12 – 8pm Saturday and Sunday 10-8pm
- ⊗ 4 to 6 staff on site daily
- ⊗ 30 boats including; Canoes, kayak's and stand up paddle boards were stored on temporary racks in the cement foundation
- ⊗ Renters parked in the lower level (20 cars) or overfill into the upper level
- ⊗ Parks & Recreation received \$3,000 rental fee
- ⊗ Outdoor Adventure and Centre Acres Camp saved \$1,350 on canoe rentals as canoes were on site and not trailer in.

Recommendations:

Put out RFQ for program.

Notes:

Dave Jacques is sending a detailed report including financials.

Attachment – Gath Pool Report

Gath Memorial Pool Swim Report 2009 Season				Gath Memorial Pool Swim Report 2010 Season				
Permit Sales 2009				Permit Sales 2010				
Permit Type	# sold	Rate	\$\$ Value	Permit Type	# sold	Rate	\$\$ Value	
Adult	492.5	\$45.00	\$22,270.00	Adult	711	\$45.00	\$31,764.00	
Senior Citizen	56	\$20.00	\$1,120.00	Senior Citizen	70	\$20.00	\$1,380.00	
Student	1084.5	\$20.00	\$21,690.00	Student	1421	\$20.00	\$27,960.00	
Space Camp	111	\$20.00	\$ 2,220.00	Space Camp	120	\$20.00	\$2,400.00	
Ed Center	20	\$20.00	\$ 400.00	Ed Center	20	\$20.00	\$400.00	
Scholarship	138	0	0	Scholarship	274	0	0	
Adult Daily	1,256	\$6.00	\$7531.00	Adult Daily	1,107	\$6.00	\$6,642.00	
Student Daily	2,135	\$4.00	\$8536.00	Student Daily	2,033	\$4.00	\$8,132.00	
Non-Res Daily	82	\$10.00	\$820.00	Non-Res Daily	88	\$10.00	\$880.00	
Permit Totals for 2009 Season			\$ 64,587.00	Permit Totals for 2010 Season			\$ 79,558.00	
Swimming Lessons 2009				Swimming Lessons 2010				
Permit Type	# sold	Rate	\$\$ Value	Permit Type	# sold	Rate	\$\$ Value	
Session 1	79.5	\$35.00	\$2,782.50	Session 1	114	\$35.00	\$4,485.00	
Session 2	105	\$45.00	\$4,725.00	Session 2	149	\$45.00	\$6,405.00	
Session 3	133	\$45.00	\$5,985.00	Session 3	118	\$45.00	\$4,642.50	
Session 4	135	\$45.00	\$6,075.00	Session 4	150	\$45.00	\$5,705.00	
Private Lessons	3	\$30.00	\$90.00	Private Lessons	4	\$30.00	\$120.00	
Scholarships	53	\$45.00	(\$2,385.00)	Scholarships	64	\$45.00	(\$2,385.00)	
A-Regional Rental Fee			\$1,000.00	A-Regional Rental Fee			\$2,000.00	
Lesson Totals for 2009 Season			\$ 20,657.50	Lesson Totals for 2010 Season			\$ 20,657.50	
Attendance Totals for 2009 Season			31,530	Attendance Totals for 2010 Season			38,790	
City of Newton General Fund (Permits)			\$64,587.00	City of Newton General Fund (Permits)			\$79,558.00	
City of Newton Parks & Recreation				City of Newton Parks & Recreation			Refunds	-\$510.00
Swim Revolving Account			\$20,657.50	Swim Revolving Account			\$23,357.50	
Total Revenues 2009 Season			\$85,244.50	Total Revenues 2010 Season			\$102,405.50	

Attachment – Crystal Lake Report

Newton Parks & Recreation Department Crystal Lake

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Revenue	\$63,791	\$74,262	\$92,071	\$81,973	\$113,375
Total Attendance	16,508	21,201	25,334	23,288* (includes additional week Aug 17 th -23 rd)	35,808* (includes additional week August 16-22)
Adult Permits @ \$45 each	\$37,039 (823 sold)	\$40,786 (906 sold)	\$52,065 (1157 sold)	\$38,205 (849 sold)	\$55,670 (1237 sold)
Student Permits @ \$20 each	\$12,286 (614 sold)	\$13,270 (663 sold)	\$16,700 (835 sold)	\$13,940 (697 sold)	\$19,900 (995 Sold)
Swim Lessons @ \$45 each	\$12,870 (285 students)	\$15,300 (340 students)	\$16,650 (370 students) (not including online registrations)	\$11,520 (452 students) (not including on line registrations and 18 scholarships)	\$13,380 (305 students (not including on line registrations and 9 scholarships)
Day Pass Adult @ \$6 each	\$1,584 (264 sold)	\$2,520 (420 sold)	\$2,502 (417 sold)	\$5,538 (923 sold)	\$7,842 (1307)
Day Pass Student @ \$4 each	\$1,152 (288 Sold)	\$2,000 (500 sold)	\$2,244 (561 sold)	\$4,580 (1145 sold)	\$5248 (1312 sold)
Day Pass Non-Res @ \$10 each	\$1,290 (129 sold)	\$1,600 (160 sold)	\$1,870 (187 sold)	\$2,470 (247 sold)	\$3240 (324)
Senior Citizens-Free	450	451	492	\$5,720 (286 sold) first year of 20.00 charge	\$8,350 (417 sold) second year of \$20 charge
Scholarships	137	92	65	27 Seniors, 18 Swim lessons and 15 adults/students	102 44 hardship, 49 seniors, 9 swim lessons

September 2010

To: Commissioner DeRubeis

From: Stephanie Pelkowsky, Recreation Manager

**Newton Parks and Recreation Department
Scholarship – 2010**

Final Report

Money available for the summer of 2010 was \$48,583.00. The number of applicants decreased from 2009 to 2010 by 10 with a total of 68 in 2010. Of the 68, 62 applicants accepted the scholarship at a total of \$31,425.00 and attended camp. The remaining 8 applicants did not qualify or declined our offering and did not attend. The amount awarded to each participant was based on need and number of weeks attending camp. Every applicant whom applied was awarded approximately 80% in scholarship per week toward their tuition. Below please note the list of camp offerings, scholarships awarded to each with the amount, and the amount of money raised by each camp for the scholarship program.

Camp	#of scholarship awarded	Amt awarded	Amt raised	Difference
Acres in the Falls	6	\$ 2,940.00	\$ 910.00	+ \$ 2,030.00
Albemarle Acres	14	\$ 8,905.00	\$ 4,180.00	+ \$ 4,725.00
Camp Echo Bridge	6	\$ 3,795.00	\$ 3,000.00	+ \$ 795.00
Centre Acres	14	\$ 8,410.00	\$ 4,390.00	+ \$ 4,020.00
CIT Program	6	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 230.00	+ \$ 1,570.00
Kids Korner	2	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,110.00	- \$ 660.00
Outdoor Adventure	1	\$ 150.00	\$ 360.00	- \$ 60.00
Thundercats	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,140.00	- \$ 1,140.00
Auburndale Station	6	\$ 3,070.00	\$ 2,080.00	+ \$ 990.00
T-Ville Trails	2	\$ 545.00	\$ 1,510.00	- \$ 965.00
Funtastic Summer	1	\$ 340.00	\$ 360.00	- \$ 20.00
Vacation Camp at Burr Park	4	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 220.00	+\$ 740.00
Extreme Outdoor Adventure	0	\$ 0.00	\$ 345.00	- \$ 345.00
Totals	62	\$31,425.00	\$19,835.00	\$ 11,590.00

Please note that the money in the difference line should be awarded to the individual camps or the scholarship fund as noted. A positive number means that the amount of scholarship awarded exceeds the amount the camp made with the \$5.00 per person, therefore the dollar amount as indicated should be put into the camp account. Any amount with a negative dollar amount means the amount raised exceeds the amount awarded for scholarship and this money should be taken from the camp account and put into the scholarship account.

CITY OF NEWTON
Parks & Recreation Department

10/18/2010 Commission Meeting

September
2010
Snapshot

Financial Indicators

	Sep-09	Sep-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
REVENUE					
Operating	\$5,776.00	\$1,912.00	\$70,744.00	\$59,099.00	Building rentals, field permits-timing of deposits
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$77,155.00	\$71,301.00	\$242,118.00	\$232,041.00	
Camps	\$9,125.00	\$9,420.00	\$121,623.00	\$92,336.00	
Arts in the Parks	\$17,376.00	\$14,738.00	\$43,118.00	\$41,952.00	
Senior Citizens	\$3,565.00	\$5,478.00	\$9,660.00	\$15,182.00	
Landscape Maint	\$1,323.00	\$995.00	\$2,513.00	\$1,999.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$100.00	\$1,500.00	\$8,440.00	\$2,100.00	
Revolving Total	\$108,644.00	\$103,432.00	\$427,472.00	\$385,610.00	

	Sep-09	Sep-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
EXPENSES					
Operating	\$412,802.00	\$288,128.00	\$1,130,043.00	\$1,119,318.00	salaries/benefits, seasonal payrolls, timing of bill pymts
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$46,423.00	\$94,176.00	\$244,579.00	\$265,892.00	seal coating courts, timing of bill pymts
Camps	\$17,394.00	\$40,796.00	\$378,671.00	\$382,269.00	seal coating courts, timing of bill pymts
Arts in the Parks	\$10,254.00	\$5,628.00	\$41,309.00	\$34,554.00	timing of bill pymts
Senior Citizens	\$1,300.00	\$1,647.00	\$9,500.00	\$12,438.00	
Landscape Maint	\$3,512.00	\$0.00	\$3,512.00	\$0.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$275.00	\$936.00	\$3,241.00	\$1,953.00	
Revolving Total	\$79,158.00	\$143,183.00	\$680,812.00	\$697,106.00	
Emergency					
Snow/Ice Control	Transferred to DPW for FY11				
Regular Overtime					
Rental - Vehicles					

Key Performance Indicators

	Sep-09	Sep-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	128	262	418	724	
Forestry Requests Completed	91	202	274	587	
Maintenance Requests Received	0	17	101	42	
Maintenance Requests Completed	0	15	95	38	fy 10 - 7/1/09- 10/13/09
Maintenance Schooldude Received	63	32	107	117	fy 11 - 7/1/10- 10/13/10
Maintenance Schooldude Completed	63	24	106	91	
Administration-Calls Received	344	761	2,068	2,218	

Departmental Attendance

			Sep-09	Sep-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD			Comments
			Workdays	Days	Manpower	Workdays	Days	Manpower	2009-Carrol, Womboldt, Porcena Workers Comp. Laliberte hired 9/21/2009. Norton retired 9/30/09
2009	2010		21	Missed	Indicator	21	Missed	Indicator	
Administration -	6	5	126	15.00	88%	105	11.50	89%	
Programs-	9	8	189	25.00	87%	168	21.00	88%	
Maintenance -	19	17	399	103.00	74%	357	27.75	92%	
Forestry -	2	2	42	3.50	92%	42	2.50	94%	
Total Dept Attendance			756	146.50	81%	672	62.75	91%	

Narrative

<p><u>Events</u> Harvest Fair October 16 & 17 Paddy's Road Race 1,984 registered. 1,727 finished the race 99 kids participated in youth race. First year for youth race Raised over \$30,000 (estimate)</p> <p><u>Summer Recap</u> Summer Camps Additional two weeks added to summer camp schedule Camp Scholarship report (attached) LFCC Project Nahanton Park Natural Resource & Management Study -Contract at Audubon being signed</p>	<p><u>Upcoming Events:</u> NSHS Indoor Recreation begins November 5 NNHS Indoor Recreation registration begins November 1 Oct 22-24 Scarecrow Walk at Nahanton Park Tray Decorating Contest - October 23 & 24 Halloween window painting October 30</p> <p>Canoe & Kayak Program- Nahanton Park (attached) Pellegrini Project Crystal Lake & Gath Pool numbers up from last year (reports attached) Snow Shoveling project</p>
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Off-Leash Area Working Group

October 18, 2010
Parks & Recreation Commission

Newton Centre Playground



Newton Centre Playground

- Hours of operation
 - Dawn – noon
 - 7 days/week
- No fence
- Carrying capacity
 - No more than 20 off-leash dogs in the area at one time
- Neighborhood park
 - Currently a self policed off-leash area

Forte Park

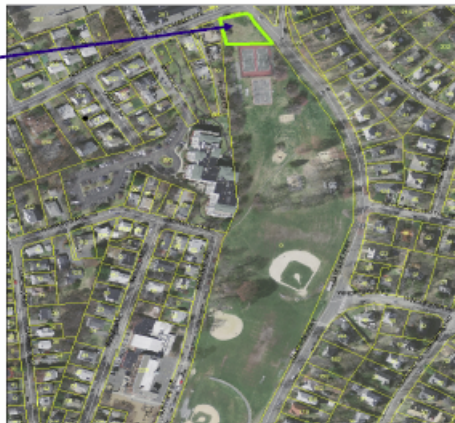


Forte Park

- No fence
- Off-leash areas is green space from parking lot fence to river walk
- Hours of operation
 - Dawn – 1pm, weekdays, year round
 - Closed week-ends March 15 – December 14
 - Open week-ends December 15 - March 14, Dawn – Dusk

Cabot Park

Proposed area



Cabot Park

- Hours of operation
 - Open dawn – dusk, year round
- Fenced area
 - Fencing provided through donations and/or fees

Fees - Update

- On October 6, 2010 the following item went before the Programs & Services Committee:

*#360-09(2) PROGRAM & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting a discussion to explore possible sources of revenue to fund an off leash dog park system in the City.
[11/06/09 @ 10:44 AM] FINANCE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY ON 3/8/10*

- Commissioner DeRubeis submitted, to the P & S Committee, the off-leash area user fees recommended by the Off-Leash Area Working Group (see next slide).
- Item #360-09(2) was held by the P & S Committee.

Fees

- **People who walk their own dog:**

- Must buy a medallion at City Hall for each off-leash dog, but it is the person who wears it (this allows it to be transferrable within a household, depending on who walks the dog that day).

- NO picture is required on the medallion, but the person is required to carry ID with them.

- Resident fee: \$50.00 per dog

- Non-Newton resident fee: \$100 per dog

- **Professional dog walkers:**

- Must buy a medallion for the business and others as needed --these medallions are registered to the business, not the individual employee, given high turnover and part-time schedules (so no picture on the medallion here either, but must carry ID with them)

- Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$75 each additional medallion

- Non-Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$350.00 for the first medallion and \$100.00 each additional medallion

- Fees must be approved by the Board of Aldermen

- Process of collecting the fees will be handled by the City Clerk



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, War Memorial, 7:00pm
November 15, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Andrew Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Richard Tucker, Fran Rice, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Michael Clarke, Don Fishman

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Meeting Minutes –October 18, 2010

- Accepted 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Department Snapshot (attached)

3. Off-Leash Area Working Group Proposal(attached) –Public Hearing

- Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the presentation.
 - Presented a summary of the process followed by the Off-Leash Area Working Group in determining viable off-leash areas and the two proposed areas; Newton Centre Playground and Cabot Park.
 - Newton Centre Playground:
 - Hours of operation
 - Dawn – noon
 - 7 days/week
 - No fence
 - Carrying capacity - No more than 20 off-leash dogs in the area at one time
 - Neighborhood park
 - Commissioner DeRubeis stated the location is the “poster child” for off-leash areas. The area is currently a self policed off-leash area. Claudia Morris and the group using the area do a great job policing the area and keeping it clean. In the past year as Commissioner there have been no complaints from this unofficial off-leash site.
 - Cabot Park:
 - Hours of operation
 - Open dawn – dusk, year round
 - Fenced area

- Fencing provided through donations and/or fees
- Area to be fenced would still allow for access to the bocce courts and would be recessed from the curb around the perimeter to allow for pedestrian passage.
- Neighborhood Off-Leash Site
- Move dogs from the operative portions of Cabot Park and give them a dedicated site in an underutilized area.
- Expected that a number of people would walk to site, parking would be along East Side Parkway.
- Fees Update
 - Currently working with the Law Department on the feasibility of charging fees for off-leash use.
 - Proposed fees would be as follows:
 - Resident fee: \$50.00 per dog
 - Non-Newton resident fee: \$100 per dog
 - Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$75 each additional medallion
 - Non-Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$350.00 for the first medallion and \$100.00 each additional medallion
 - Currently accepting donations that are to be placed in a revolving account that will be specifically dedicated to the maintenance and care of off-leash sites throughout the city.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis stated the issue with the fees is whether fees can be charged under the Recreational Use Statute.
- Chairman Magni began the public comment portion of the public hearing.

{Secretary's Note: The acoustics in the War Memorial made it difficult to capture all the names and addresses of the audience members who spoke during the meeting. The meeting was recorded, but the recording of the meeting was still unclear due to the acoustics in the War Memorial}
- Alderman Linsky commented he was heading into the Board of Aldermen's meeting, but wanted to stop in and give his support for the Cabot Park off-leash area proposal. Commissioner DeRubeis did a good job with the presentation and Alderman Linsky agrees with the Commissioner that the Cabot Park site is a great location.
- Newton Centre Playground Proposal:
 - Chris Hill representing Newton Youth Soccer and Newton Girls Soccer stated the soccer programs are run by volunteers. Many fields in Newton are used by the soccer groups and financial contributions are given to the City for maintenance of those fields. Mr. Hill stated they are not taking a position one way or the other about the off-leash areas but it is critical the off-leash areas do not infringe on the athletic fields. Before each game they inspect the fields for dog feces. Mr. Hill made the following points:
 - All Newton parks are shared use
 - Avoid using the athletic fields
 - Off-Leash areas should be fenced
 - Hours should accommodate the sports leagues

- A sport league representative should be included in the decision of off-leash areas in athletic fields
- Mike Pinta of Newton East Little League stated he reiterated the comments by Chris Hill. Mr. Pinta is a dog lover. The issue is that people violate the no dog rule in the fenced ball field in Newton Centre. Mr. Pinta inquired who is going to repair the fenced in field from the damage done by the dogs. The proposed off-leash area should be fenced.
- William Gode-Von Aesch, abutter, stated he has lived in Newton for nine years and supports the off-leash area in Newton Centre. Owners must control there off-leash dogs and there will always be scofflaws. The off-leash area allows dogs to naturally recreate.
- Tierney Gode-Von Aesch, six year old daughter of William Gode-Von Aesch commented dogs need an open space to run, exercise and be loved.
- Ava Gode-Von Aesch, daughter of William Gode-Von Aesch commented she supports the Newton Centre Park it is fun for dogs and people.
- Jodi Daynard, resident, supports the Newton Centre off-leash proposal. Ms. Daynard has been a member of the unofficial off-leash area community in Newton Centre for six years. The users protect and clean the area. Ms. Daynard has never seen more than 5-6 dogs off-leash in the area at one time.
- Terry Sack, former President of Newton East Little League. Commented there are off-leash dogs in Newton Centre that do hold up games when running through the field.
- Jeff Stern, former Newton Girls Soccer coach endorses the Newton Centre proposal. Mr. Stern is a user of the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area, the only legal off-leash area in Newton. The users of the off-leash area become the enforcers.
- Michael McSherry, Homer St., commented he is a user of the unofficial off-leash area in Newton Centre. The current users are scruples. Mr. McSherry commented he played little league and is sympathetic to the sports leagues, but the uses are not incompatible. The scofflaws should not ruin it for others.
- Claudia Morris, Pleasant St., respectfully requests the Commission approve the proposal. Ms. Morris respects the sports leagues points but all the neighbors are trying to share the park, keep it clean and make it work.
- Nate Johnson, resident, stated irresponsible dog owners are a separate issue. Having off-leash areas will decrease the number of irresponsible owners. Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area is the only legal off-leash area; the Commission cannot continue to say no to other areas.
- Rebecca Katz, resident, stated she is a user of the unofficial Newton Centre off-leash area. Older people cannot run with their dogs, and it is important to have an area where their dogs can run and get some exercise. People will tend to use areas close to their home.
- Chairman Magni closed the public comments for Newton Centre Playground, and opened the discussion for comments on the Cabot Park off-leash proposal.
 - Margaret Cating of the Cabot Park Village apartments submitted a petition (attached) from the residents, against the off-leash area in Cabot Park. Ms. Cating stated the age of the residents who live in Cabot Park Village is 80-90

years old. The residents use the park every day and off-leash dogs could be hazardous to the residents. Two residents have fallen in the park due to off-leash dogs. Many neighbors already disregard the leash law. Ms. Cating recommended moving the location.

- Sylvia, resident of Cabot Park Village stated she is 91 years old and the residents who use the park are already dealing with off-leash dogs in Cabot Park. It is ludicrous to put an off-leash area near people her age. Parking is also a concern. People illegally park at Cabot Park Village.
- Sherry, abutter to Cabot Park stated this is a horrible location for an off-leash area. There are off-leash dogs in the park already. Dog feces are all over the park. There is no adequate parking. The park should be enjoyed by all. Dogs should be on leash in the park.
- An abutter of Cabot Park stated this is the only place she can bring her children and it is not a compatible space for dogs and young children.
- A resident stated in theory this is a good idea but she has not had a good experience with Parks & Recreation fulfilling their obligations, for example the leaves in the park are never picked up as she requests. There are no restrictions on the number of dogs in the off-leash area, there is no enforcement and she is concerned with past experience with off-leash dogs.
- Diane Silver, user of the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area, stated this meeting is like déjà vu of the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash public hearings. Ms. Silver has a 91 year old mother. The area in Cabot Park will be fenced and if people are out of the off-leash area they are breaking the law and the Animal Control Officer should be called.
- Barney Steinbrenner, resident, stated he supports dog parks. Mr. Steinbrenner is an on-leash user at Cabot Park and also has an 84 year old mother and is sympathetic to the issues. The issues will be addressed if maintained and policed. There is a good plan in place. Fee for use is a good idea, though the \$50.00 resident fee is a little high and the professional dog walker fee seems a little low.
- Betsy, resident of Newtonville commented dogs need to run, her dog is becoming a service dog and it is important he gets his exercise. She cannot use the park because it is being used by the kids. Running and biking with the dog is unsafe. She would be happy to have a designated area for her dog.
- Diane Cotting, resident, wanted to recognize the work done by the committee; they have worked from the heart. Ms. Cottings' parents are 86 and 88 years old and have a service dog. The service dog needs his exercise. Everyday people are afraid of being knocked in the head by golf balls, kids running into them at the parks and walking in duck feces. The parks belong to everyone we must work together.
- Burton Elliot of West Newton commented there are lots of parks and a few for dogs. If he was unstable on his feet he would be pretty foolish to go into an area with off-leash dogs. People must change their habits.
- John Ruttenberg, 8 Holly Rd commented he is an abutter of Old Cold Spring Park. The proposal is a solution not a problem. The area proposed in Cabot

Park is a small area it will not attract a lot of out-of-towners and it will help get the dogs under control.

- Richard Grantham, 46 Eastside Parkway stated he uses Cabot Park with this grandson 2 hours every day. There are more off-leash dogs than on-leash dogs in the park. If the off-leash area is legitimized who will police the area. The tennis courts are used for off-leash dogs and parking is impossible.
 - Katherine, Westchester Rd. stated there should be one off-leash area per ward. The hours proposed for Clafin Playground would only allow her to use the area 35 days of the year because she works full time. The Cabot proposal is great because of the fenced area and extended hours.
 - Lynn Weinstein, resident stated we all have to use the park. The designated area will eliminate issues. There are already parking issues with the sports leagues and school. People will walk to the park with their dogs. The penalty for irresponsible owners should be high.
 - Norman Wurtz, a Cabot Park Village resident stated dogs are a problem. To co-exist the area must be fenced. The current law is not enforced. Mr. Wurtz volunteered to go to training and be deputized to enforce the law.
 - Barbara Bix submitted e-mail correspondence to Commission. There document is numbered, there were seven pages, but page number one and six were not submitted to Commission.
- Chairman Magni closed the public comments for the Cabot Park proposal and requested discussion from the Commission members.
 - Mr. Kastner commented he does not understand why it is taking so long to get an answer whether the city may charge fees and until the Commission receives an answer the Commission should not move forward with dog parks.
 - Mr. Stern stated the off-leash areas were approved based on the conditional approval of the fee structure.
 - Mr. Bernheimer stated Newton is not the first city to develop off-leash areas. There can be dog parks with out having a fee. It is really not that complicated.
 - Mr. Kastner stated fees would have an impact on the professionals using the parks.
 - Mr. Rice stated the Commission cannot do anything until the Law Department makes a decision.
 - Chairman Magni asked if the members would like to make a motion.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis commented the McGrath Park off-leash area is just about ready to be opened. The temporary fencing has been put up, the Mutt Mitt has been ordered and the signs are being ordered. The motion for McGrath Park was conditional on the Commission approving the rules, regulations and fee structure.
 - Mr. Johnson asked what the hurry was. The approval was conditional on fees. Mr. Kastner asked if approval should be contingent on fees.
 - Ms. Heitman inquired when the fees would be going to the Board of Aldermen for discussion. Commissioner DeRubeis stated he is working with Marie Lawlor to bring the fees before the Board of Aldermen in December.
 - Mr. Tucker asked the audience how many would be willing to pay a fee. A majority of the audience members raised there hand. Mr. Tucker stated public support is important to the Board of Aldermen.

Motion for the Newton Center Playground off-leash area proposal:

Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Newton Centre Playground subject to the fees being approved by the P & R Commission and the Board of Aldermen Mr. Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

Motion for the Cabot Park off-leash area proposal:

Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Cabot Park subject to the fees being approved by the P & R Commission and the Board of Aldermen Mr. Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

4. Outdoor Ice Skating Rules & Regulations (attached)

- Mr. Stern requested bottom paragraph listing standards be moved to the top of the form. Rules and regulations accepted 8-0.

5. New Business

- Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law- booklets signed by members present
- Committee Appointment –CPC, Farm Commission
 - To be discussed at December 20, 2010 Commission Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Department Snapshot

CITY OF NEWTON
Parks & Recreation Department
 11/15/2010 Commission Meeting

October
2010
Snapshot

Financial Indicators

	Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
REVENUE					
Operating	\$2,542.00	\$1,286.00	\$73,286.00	\$60,385.00	Building rentals, field permits-timing of deposits
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$43,936.00	\$56,985.00	\$286,054.00	\$289,026.00	
Camps	\$10,947.00	\$5,722.00	\$132,570.00	\$98,058.00	
Arts in the Parks	\$30,461.00	\$18,700.00	\$73,579.00	\$60,652.00	
Senior Citizens	\$6,902.00	\$4,624.00	\$16,562.00	\$19,806.00	
Landscape Maint	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$2,558.00	\$1,999.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$50.00	\$31,310.00	\$8,590.00	\$33,410.00	2 large projects-Boston College & Summer Street
Revolving Total	\$92,341.00	\$117,341.00	\$519,913.00	\$502,951.00	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
EXPENSES					
Operating	\$417,943.00	\$336,833.00	\$1,547,986.00	\$1,456,151.00	salaries & seasonal staff
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$51,805.00	\$26,867.00	\$296,384.00	\$292,759.00	Oct 09 - seal coating projects
Camps	(\$1,392.00)	\$11,481.00	\$377,279.00	\$393,750.00	Oct 09-transfers from School dept- camp exp - staff aides,etc
Arts in the Parks	\$27,859.00	\$13,559.00	\$69,168.00	\$48,113.00	salaries & benefits
Senior Citizens	\$5,195.00	\$4,291.00	\$14,695.00	\$16,729.00	
Landscape Maint	\$8,723.00	\$9,186.00	\$12,235.00	\$9,186.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$670.00	\$565.00	\$3,911.00	\$2,518.00	
Revolving Total	\$92,860.00	\$65,949.00	\$773,672.00	\$763,055.00	
Emergency					
Snow/Ice Control	Transferred to DPW for FY11				

Regular Overtime						
Rental - Vehicles						

Key Performance Indicators

	Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	110	335	528	1059	
Forestry Requests Completed	106	327	380	914	
Maintenance Requests Received	na	9	101	51	
Maintenance Requests Completed	na	7	97	47	
Maintenance Schooldude Received	7	42	112	145	
Maintenance Schooldude Completed	7	20	111	114	
Administration-Calls Received	848	794	2,916	3,012	

Departmental Attendance

		Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD			Comments	
		Workdays	Days	Manpower	Workdays	Days	Manpower	10/2009 J. Carroll, J. Porcena, F. Womboldt out workers Comp	
2009	2010	21	Missed	Indicator	20	Missed	Indicator		
Administration -	6	5	126	23.50	81%	100	11.25		89%
Programs-	8	8	168	16.50	90%	160	9.50		94%
Maintenance -	18	17	399	91.00	77%	340	44.50		87%
Forestry -	2	2	42	2.00	95%	40	1.50		96%
Total Dept Attendance			735	133.00	82%	640	66.75	90%	

Narrative

<p><u>Events</u> NNHS Indoor Recreation NSHS Indoor Recreation Mayor's Town Meetings Special Athletes Programs -track, swimming, ice skating Over 55 -trips, and programs on-going -</p>	<p><u>Upcoming Events:</u> Ski & Snowboard Program School Vacation Program Outdoor Ice Skating- Auburndale Cove Co-sponsor camp fair with the School Department this February</p>
--	---

Outdoor Ice Skating Rules & Regulations



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466

Office: (617) 796-1500

Fax: (617) 796-1512

TDD/TTY: (617) 796-1089



OUTDOOR SKATING

2010-2011

RECOMMENDED HOURS OF OPERATION

1. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for **Auburndale Cove**, be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	3:00 – 9:00 PM
Tuesday	2:00 – 9:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays*, Vacations	10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

2. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for **Bullough's Pond and Crystal Lake** be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	3:00 – Dusk
Tuesday	2:00 – Dusk
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays*, Vacations	10:00 AM – Dusk

3. If attendance does not warrant keeping the facility or facilities open during operation hours, it is then recommended that a cutback of program hours be instituted on an as needed basis with Managers approval.

*HOLIDAYS: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day and President's Day. The facilities will open for regular vacation hours only if we are able to procure adequate staff for safe operation. If the facilities will be closed, notification will be made to the Public and Safety Personnel at least 24 hours in advance. Exception: All facilities will close at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Eve.

Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department (2/5/92)

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

Auburndale – Ware's Cove	6" Black Ice,	9" Snow Ice
Newtonville – Bullough's Pond	6" Black Ice,	9" Snow Ice
Newton Centre – Crystal Lake	**6" Black Ice,	9" Snow Ice

Note: Due to the varying water depths, unevenness of freezing, and an inability to contain the skating areas, the entire Lake must be frozen in order for safe skating to occur.

(Black Ice is formed by the freezing of water without a snowcap on it; thus creating a non-porous ice that is strong in consistency. Snow Ice is formed when a snow covers, over a thin layer of black ice melts and re-freezes to form a white porous ice.)

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 – BETHEL CHARKOUTJIAN
WARD 2 – ARTHUR MACNI, CHAIRMAN
WARD 3 – PETER JOHNSON

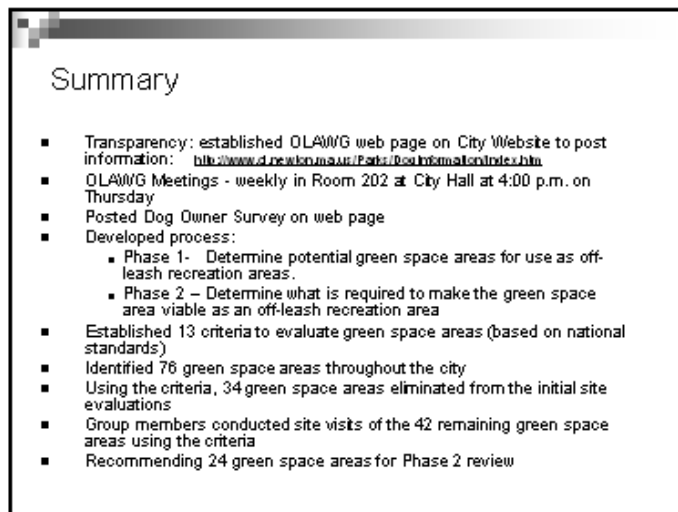
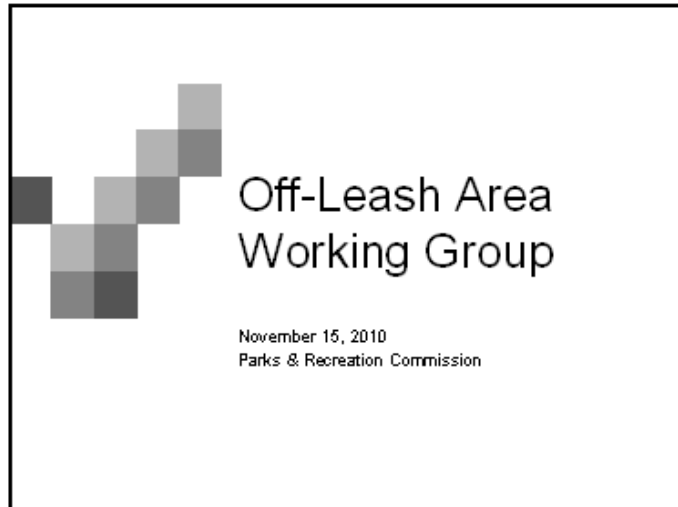
WARD 4 – FRANCIS J. RICE
WARD 5 – WALTER S. HERNHEIMER II
WARD 6 – ANDREW STERN

WARD 7 – RICHARD TUCKER
WARD 8 – KATHLEEN A. HEITMAN, VICE-CHAIR
COMM. SECRETARY-ROBIN MCCLAUGHLIN

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE, DONALD FISHERMAN

WWW.C1NEWTON.MA.US/PARKS

OLAWG Presentation



Newton Centre Playground



Newton Centre Playground

- Hours of operation
 - Dawn – noon
 - 7 days/week
- No fence
- Carrying capacity
 - No more than 20 off-leash dogs in the area at one time
- Neighborhood park
 - Currently a self policed off-leash area

Cabot Park

Proposed area



Cabot Park

- Hours of operation
 - Open dawn – dusk, year round
- Fenced area
 - Fencing provided through donations and/or fees
 - Area to be fenced would still allow for access to the bocce courts and would be recessed from the curb around the perimeter to allow for pedestrian passage.
- Neighborhood Off-Leash Site
 - Move dogs from the operative portions of Cabot Park and give them a dedicated site in an underutilized area.
 - Expected that a number of people would walk to site, parking would be along East Side Parkway.

Fees Update

- Currently working with the Law Department on the feasibility of charging fees for off-leash use.
- Proposed fees would be as follows:
 - Resident fee: \$50.00 per dog
 - Non-Newton resident fee: \$100 per dog
 - Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$75 each additional medallion
 - Non-Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$350.00 for the first medallion and \$100.00 each additional medallion
- Currently accepting donations that are to be placed in a revolving account that will be specifically dedicated to the maintenance and care of off-leash sites throughout the city.

End of presentation

PETITION

We the residents of Cabot park Village object to an off-leash dog park in Cabot Park.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Miriam Segal</u> | <u>Miriam Kaplan</u> |
| <u>Suzanne H.</u> | <u>Rev. Va. M. J. ...</u> |
| <u>Bred ...</u> | <u>Jan ...</u> |
| <u>Evelyn Rogerson</u> | <u>Ruth Segelman</u> |
| <u>Donna ... 24</u> | <u>Charles Segelman</u> |
| <u>Jane ... 24</u> | <u>Doris Hopfinger</u> |
| <u>ELLEN SMALLEY</u> | <u>Stacy ...</u> |
| <u>Jan H. ...</u> | <u>Phyllis Ross</u> |
| <u>Miriam ...</u> | <u>Doris ...</u> |
| <u>Eta ...</u> | <u>Karen A. Shapiro</u> |
| <u>Ellen ...</u> | <u>Steven ...</u> |
| <u>Gene ... 24</u> | <u>Golden ...</u> |
| <u>Henry King</u> | <u>Lauri ...</u> |
| <u>Nathan Kopler</u> | <u>Rob ...</u> |



PETITION

We the residents of Cabot park Village object to an
off-leash dog park in Cabot Park.

<u>Maryanne Lidenfeld</u>	_____
<u>Helen Cummings</u>	<u>Elan Fichten</u>
<u>Rita Weiss</u>	<u>Rita Katz</u>
<u>Brooklynn Family</u>	<u>Paula Zweig</u>
<u>H. Zocher</u>	<u>Rebecca</u>
<u>Ann Paulina</u>	_____
<u>Leah Wilson</u>	_____
<u>Leticia Smith</u>	_____
<u>Bonnie Klein</u>	_____
<u>Elizabeth Wilensky</u>	_____
<u>Lyne Wilensky</u>	_____
<u>Monica Spitzer</u>	_____
<u>93 Long Street</u>	_____
<u>Lyne Wilensky</u>	_____

11-15-10 Commission Secretary Note:

The following document has page numbers at the bottom of each page. The document was submitted without page #1 or #6

In fairness, I have not personally been aware of any serious negative impacts of the off-leash activities that have existed in Edmands for many years. I even suspect that the dog owners have helped to maintain Edmands Park in a cleaner state than it would have been in their absence. **However, that's not a sufficient reason to throw Cabot Park "under the bus", in my opinion. Actually, my quick glance at the April 26, 2010 proposal for Edmands Park doesn't seem very restrictive at all, so I frankly don't know why Harry is that concerned.**

=====

On Nov 5, 2010, at 10:59 PM, John Bliss wrote:

>
> Hello Barbara, et al,
>
> Yes, we received a notice, also. I have a conflicting meeting but
> would like to write a letter to the Recreation Commission, which
> will be holding the hearing since this is City recreation land.
>
> In fact, there should be quite a few direct abutters, because if you
> got a notice, then every property across a street from Cabot Park,
> as well as the direct abutters along the fence on the west side of
> the park should have gotten notices, too. I don't know if "abutters
> to abutters" should also have been notified, as is the case with
> land use petitions. In any case, there should also be abutters in
> Ward Two, and I hope those Aldermen will consider coming, as well.
>
> I should mention that just by chance I was at a meeting last evening
> in which a Recreation Department representative announced that in
> addition to Cabot Park, Edmands Park, Hunnewell Park (an open but
> mostly undeveloped and seldom used area, I think, between Newton
> Corner and Brighton on the south side of the Massachusetts
> Turnpike), and Nahanton Park on Winchester Street near Nahanton
> Street next to the Jewish Community Center would also be subjects of
> the hearing. Therefore, there may be a lot of people coming to the
> hearing, which is why is probably why it is being held in the War
> Memorial Auditorium. The acoustics in that room are quite poor, but
> it's the only space in City Hall that is big enough for the hearing,
> since the Board of Aldermen will be meeting the same evening in the
> Aldermanic Chambers.
>
> Given the number of years that this dog park issue has been active
> in Newton, I think it would be inappropriate for the Commission to
> vote on the issue right after hearing the public comments. However,
> the Commission Chair, who also happens to be the member from Ward
> One, has shown a tendency in the past to be eager to move to a vote,
> so it would be a good idea to get as many people as possible to the
> hearing.
>
> While I sympathize with the need for more natural outdoor recreation
> for dogs, especially large dogs, I have been concerned with the
> process of selecting locations for off-leash areas, because I
> haven't seen any clear development of criteria for where best to put
> the areas. As you may be aware, this process has probably gone well

① Park key
② Fenced
③ Unleashed
④ Access side
⑤ How will they enforce
⑥ Will they limit # of dogs
⑦ In cell how will enforce

> into its third year, and I believe that the only area that has been
> designated and recently re-designated as an off-leash area is in the
> "old" section of Cold Spring Park. I don't think this area was or
> is going to be fenced and, as I understand it, there have been
> problems all along of some owners not being able to control their
> dogs under those circumstances.

>
> So, my first question would be what are the criteria for selecting
> successful off-leash areas for dogs and how does Cabot Park satisfy
> those criteria? I have looked in the past at the Recreation
> Commission web site section on the dog parks and haven't found much
> enlightenment. I will try to look again but if anyone else does
> find some useful information, please let us know.

>
> Additional questions would center on what the Cabot Park area and
> the other proposed areas will actually look like. Fencing seems to
> be an important question because of the proximity of the roadways.
> But it would also be important to leave a generous space between the
> fence and the park boundaries so that joggers and skiers would have
> access to the full boundaries of the park. Barking would seem to be
> another concern, although I don't recall hearing, so to speak â º,
> that it has been a problem at Cold Spring. Ironically, joggers or
> other passers-by might stimulate more barking, although they could
> also provide entertainment for the dogs â º.

>
> Parking is important, because it would be on-street only and could
> make driving down East Side Parkway more hazardous for more hours in
> the day than it now is. Also, I wonder what the policy is toward
> the use of Newton's off-leash areas by non-residents. I don't know
> if the City can legally restrict the use of park facilities to
> Newton residents. It might possibly depend upon whether federal or
> state money has been used to acquire or upgrade the park. Perhaps
> someone else knows more about this. Even if allowable, there would
> still be the practical matter of how to actually enforce any
> restrictions.

>
> Good luck and I will let you know if I have any other ideas.

>
> Regards, John

>
Hello again,

Hmm...I should have looked at the later e-mails before writing some of
what I did a little while ago. Thanks to Scott for providing the
links in an earlier e-mail. They are definitely worth following up.

I do now recall reading the OL(D @)AWG list of criteria a few months
ago, and I think what I found unenlightening was the prolific use of
the expression, "Due consideration", for so many of the criteria.
It's hard to set priorities for particular locations when you don't
try to set priorities in your criteria.

I also didn't find references to Edmands Park and Nonantum Park in the
presentations by OLAWG. But I did hear references to them last night.

Hi Barbara,

I am pretty busy today, so I do give you permission to forward this message to the neighbors with any reasonable comments you think would be helpful. You may want to combine this message with my message I sent to you yesterday at 6:31 p.m. It is important that the neighbors understand the apparent effort to "sacrifice" Cabot Park for some perceived benefit in the off-leash use of Edmands Park.

Don't forget to remind people that the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be in the War Memorial Auditorium at City Hall which can be reached by going up the outside steps at the back of City Hall (assuming the back door is unlocked) or by walking all the way back from the front lobby of City Hall and then up some stairs.

Regarding the off-leash dog park hearing tomorrow:

1. I've already expressed my concern about the lack of priorities among the various criteria that the OLAWG identified as helping them to select the best sites for off-leash dog areas, i.e. almost all of them call for "due consideration" with no indication of their respective relative importance. In addition, I think the **absence of any apparent study of the experience of existing off-leash areas in other communities is a serious weakness** in their process of identifying criteria and applying them to the proposed areas in Newton's parks.

2. **The section of Cabot Park proposed as an off-leash area certainly can't be used for some time without it quickly turning into a mud-hole.** I suspect that the standing water that followed the rather moderate rainfall in the past month (a total of 2 - 2 1/2 inches at most?) was due to both the excess removal of dirt when the contractor cleaned up and also to the compaction of the ground caused by the storage and frequent movement of the heavy equipment and materials over the past several months. **It seems to me that repairing that damage will require a deep tilling of the whole area followed by at least one season of grass planting and cultivation to produce a durable turf that will stand up to off-leash dog activities.**

3. **Harry Sanders**, whom I know and respect for his involvement in community activities and especially for his work in Edmands Park, sent out an e-mail last week (November 9) to his mailing list of Friends of Edmands Park, which I happen to be on. I have copied his letter below, and, as you can tell, he **appears to support the Cabot Park proposal in order to spare Edmands Park from a more restrictive control of off-leash activities than now exists.**

In fairness, I have not personally been aware of any serious negative impacts of the off-leash activities that have existed in Edmands for many years. I even suspect that the dog owners have helped to maintain Edmands Park in a cleaner state than it would have been in their absence. **However, that's not a sufficient reason to throw Cabot Park "under the bus", in my opinion. Actually, my quick glance at the April 26, 2010 proposal for Edmands Park doesn't seem very restrictive at all, so I frankly don't know why Harry is that concerned.**

Hi Barbara,

Another message from Harry. Again, how are, "...Cabot Park and Newton Centre key to the off-leash program in Newton..."? I'm not sure who the "key allies" are, either. I guess he means some of the Commissioners. In any case, it would be worthwhile to ask the Commissioners who are in attendance if they agree and whether the proposal for Edmands Park would significantly curtail the "status quo" off-leash dog use of that park.

Regards, John

=====

From: "friends of Edmands Park" <sheeznotmydog@comcast.net>

Date: November 14, 2010 7:49:52 PM EST

To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:>

Subject: can you please help us Monday nite

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to send one final reminder about the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting tomorrow (Monday) night at the Newton War Memorial at 7:00 p.m. We are the first item on the agenda so it could go quickly.

We need to have bodies in that room! If you are there you need to be prepared to speak out in favor of more dog parks!

There has been some opposition to the off-leash area at Cabot Park so far and more will probably show up for these meetings. They sent out 900 abutter notices! We will need every available dog owner and Edmands parkuser in that room to speak out in favor of these proposals.

Can you come? It shouldn't take more than an hour.

The proposal for Cabot Park and Newton Centre are key to the success of the off-leash program in Newton. Some of our key allies will not be available on Monday so we will need to rely on swing votes. Remember that when we show up, good things happen. And if we don't show up, why will they vote for us???

for *friends* of Edmands Park,

Harry Sanders

--
Barbara Bix, Principal
BB Marketing Plus
617-964-8193

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And, follow [@bbmarketingplus](#) on Twitter

From: Ju Liu [<mailto:juliuyi@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2010 8:51 AM

To: Barbara Bix

Cc: suemarlina710@gmail.com; Alla Smirnova; Claire and Jerry Kashuck; David Shumsky; Dora and Yon Bard; Eric Nathanson and Sabrina Vineberg; Glenna and Charlie Weiss; Janet Funke Berk; Jo Forman; Joel Bard; John Bliss; John Wells; Karen Wasserman; Larry Katz; Lisa and Evan Porter; Liz Hedstrom; Liza Martin; Lori Green; Luellen and Tom Best; Maria and Peter Szabo; Martha Wells; Mary Morganti; Meryl Epstein; Michael Manzella; Nancy Belkov; Nancy Lichter; Rachel Milgroom; Sayuri Miyamoto; Sis Hight; Steffi Katz; Stephanie Gilman; Susan Adams; Susan Fish; Tamara Bliss; Ted

I just let you know my case. I was attacked by an unleashed dog just a couple days before I delivered my baby this summer. I was just walking around the park and the dog was maybe 10 yards away just barking and running toward me and bite me on my left arm. There were several witnesses. Since there were just some minor marks I just didn't sue the dog. Maybe I should do that.

Ju

On Sat, Oct 23, 2010 at 3:00 PM, Barbara Bix <barbara@bbmarketingplus.com> wrote:

Dear neighbors,

I saw a notice on the ground saying that there was a meeting last week to discuss removing the leash law at Cabot Park—although I didn't get any notice of this meeting. Just for the record, I oppose unleashed dogs in Cabot park—unless there is a dedicated fenced-in area.

This is a high-use, densely packed area. There are too many children in the field to put at risk between the sporting events, the tot lot and the swing area—and very little open recreational space (although what there is is probably large enough to set aside for a fenced area. Just as an aside, I dodged three illegally unleashed dogs, circling at high speeds, as I crossed the field to go to Newtonville. That said, they ignored me and I gave them wide berth so all was fine. Thank you.

Please let me know if you see anything about it coming up for a vote.

--

Barbara Bix, Principal

BB Marketing Plus

617-964-8193

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And, follow [@bbmarketingplus](#) on Twitter

End of Minutes



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, War Memorial, 7:00pm
November 15, 2010**



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice Chairman*, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Andrew Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Richard Tucker, Fran Rice, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Peter Kastner, *Alternate*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Michael Clarke, Don Fishman

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

1. Meeting Minutes –October 18, 2010

- Accepted 8-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Department Snapshot (attached)

3. Off-Leash Area Working Group Proposal(attached) –Public Hearing

- Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the presentation.
 - Presented a summary of the process followed by the Off-Leash Area Working Group in determining viable off-leash areas and the two proposed areas; Newton Centre Playground and Cabot Park.
 - Newton Centre Playground:
 - Hours of operation
 - Dawn – noon
 - 7 days/week
 - No fence
 - Carrying capacity - No more than 20 off-leash dogs in the area at one time
 - Neighborhood park
 - Commissioner DeRubeis stated the location is the “poster child” for off-leash areas. The area is currently a self policed off-leash area. Claudia Morris and the group using the area do a great job policing the area and keeping it clean. In the past year as Commissioner there have been no complaints from this unofficial off-leash site.
 - Cabot Park:
 - Hours of operation
 - Open dawn – dusk, year round
 - Fenced area

- Fencing provided through donations and/or fees
- Area to be fenced would still allow for access to the bocce courts and would be recessed from the curb around the perimeter to allow for pedestrian passage.
- Neighborhood Off-Leash Site
- Move dogs from the operative portions of Cabot Park and give them a dedicated site in an underutilized area.
- Expected that a number of people would walk to site, parking would be along East Side Parkway.
- Fees Update
 - Currently working with the Law Department on the feasibility of charging fees for off-leash use.
 - Proposed fees would be as follows:
 - Resident fee: \$50.00 per dog
 - Non-Newton resident fee: \$100 per dog
 - Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$75 each additional medallion
 - Non-Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$350.00 for the first medallion and \$100.00 each additional medallion
 - Currently accepting donations that are to be placed in a revolving account that will be specifically dedicated to the maintenance and care of off-leash sites throughout the city.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis stated the issue with the fees is whether fees can be charged under the Recreational Use Statute.
- Chairman Magni began the public comment portion of the public hearing.

{Secretary's Note: The acoustics in the War Memorial made it difficult to capture all the names and addresses of the audience members who spoke during the meeting. The meeting was recorded, but the recording of the meeting was still unclear due to the acoustics in the War Memorial}
- Alderman Linsky commented he was heading into the Board of Aldermen's meeting, but wanted to stop in and give his support for the Cabot Park off-leash area proposal. Commissioner DeRubeis did a good job with the presentation and Alderman Linsky agrees with the Commissioner that the Cabot Park site is a great location.
- Newton Centre Playground Proposal:
 - Chris Hill representing Newton Youth Soccer and Newton Girls Soccer stated the soccer programs are run by volunteers. Many fields in Newton are used by the soccer groups and financial contributions are given to the City for maintenance of those fields. Mr. Hill stated they are not taking a position one way or the other about the off-leash areas but it is critical the off-leash areas do not infringe on the athletic fields. Before each game they inspect the fields for dog feces. Mr. Hill made the following points:
 - All Newton parks are shared use
 - Avoid using the athletic fields
 - Off-Leash areas should be fenced
 - Hours should accommodate the sports leagues

- A sport league representative should be included in the decision of off-leash areas in athletic fields
- Mike Pinta of Newton East Little League stated he reiterated the comments by Chris Hill. Mr. Pinta is a dog lover. The issue is that people violate the no dog rule in the fenced ball field in Newton Centre. Mr. Pinta inquired who is going to repair the fenced in field from the damage done by the dogs. The proposed off-leash area should be fenced.
- William Gode-Von Aesch, abutter, stated he has lived in Newton for nine years and supports the off-leash area in Newton Centre. Owners must control there off-leash dogs and there will always be scofflaws. The off-leash area allows dogs to naturally recreate.
- Tierney Gode-Von Aesch, six year old daughter of William Gode-Von Aesch commented dogs need an open space to run, exercise and be loved.
- Ava Gode-Von Aesch, daughter of William Gode-Von Aesch commented she supports the Newton Centre Park it is fun for dogs and people.
- Jodi Daynard, resident, supports the Newton Centre off-leash proposal. Ms. Daynard has been a member of the unofficial off-leash area community in Newton Centre for six years. The users protect and clean the area. Ms. Daynard has never seen more than 5-6 dogs off-leash in the area at one time.
- Terry Sack, former President of Newton East Little League. Commented there are off-leash dogs in Newton Centre that do hold up games when running through the field.
- Jeff Stern, former Newton Girls Soccer coach endorses the Newton Centre proposal. Mr. Stern is a user of the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area, the only legal off-leash area in Newton. The users of the off-leash area become the enforcers.
- Michael McSherry, Homer St., commented he is a user of the unofficial off-leash area in Newton Centre. The current users are scruples. Mr. McSherry commented he played little league and is sympathetic to the sports leagues, but the uses are not incompatible. The scofflaws should not ruin it for others.
- Claudia Morris, Pleasant St., respectfully requests the Commission approve the proposal. Ms. Morris respects the sports leagues points but all the neighbors are trying to share the park, keep it clean and make it work.
- Nate Johnson, resident, stated irresponsible dog owners are a separate issue. Having off-leash areas will decrease the number of irresponsible owners. Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area is the only legal off-leash area; the Commission cannot continue to say no to other areas.
- Rebecca Katz, resident, stated she is a user of the unofficial Newton Centre off-leash area. Older people cannot run with their dogs, and it is important to have an area where their dogs can run and get some exercise. People will tend to use areas close to their home.
- Chairman Magni closed the public comments for Newton Centre Playground, and opened the discussion for comments on the Cabot Park off-leash proposal.
 - Margaret Cating of the Cabot Park Village apartments submitted a petition (attached) from the residents, against the off-leash area in Cabot Park. Ms. Cating stated the age of the residents who live in Cabot Park Village is 80-90

years old. The residents use the park every day and off-leash dogs could be hazardous to the residents. Two residents have fallen in the park due to off-leash dogs. Many neighbors already disregard the leash law. Ms. Cating recommended moving the location.

- Sylvia, resident of Cabot Park Village stated she is 91 years old and the residents who use the park are already dealing with off-leash dogs in Cabot Park. It is ludicrous to put an off-leash area near people her age. Parking is also a concern. People illegally park at Cabot Park Village.
- Sherry, abutter to Cabot Park stated this is a horrible location for an off-leash area. There are off-leash dogs in the park already. Dog feces are all over the park. There is no adequate parking. The park should be enjoyed by all. Dogs should be on leash in the park.
- An abutter of Cabot Park stated this is the only place she can bring her children and it is not a compatible space for dogs and young children.
- A resident stated in theory this is a good idea but she has not had a good experience with Parks & Recreation fulfilling their obligations, for example the leaves in the park are never picked up as she requests. There are no restrictions on the number of dogs in the off-leash area, there is no enforcement and she is concerned with past experience with off-leash dogs.
- Diane Silver, user of the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area, stated this meeting is like déjà vu of the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash public hearings. Ms. Silver has a 91 year old mother. The area in Cabot Park will be fenced and if people are out of the off-leash area they are breaking the law and the Animal Control Officer should be called.
- Barney Steinbrenner, resident, stated he supports dog parks. Mr. Steinbrenner is an on-leash user at Cabot Park and also has an 84 year old mother and is sympathetic to the issues. The issues will be addressed if maintained and policed. There is a good plan in place. Fee for use is a good idea, though the \$50.00 resident fee is a little high and the professional dog walker fee seems a little low.
- Betsy, resident of Newtonville commented dogs need to run, her dog is becoming a service dog and it is important he gets his exercise. She cannot use the park because it is being used by the kids. Running and biking with the dog is unsafe. She would be happy to have a designated area for her dog.
- Diane Cotting, resident, wanted to recognize the work done by the committee; they have worked from the heart. Ms. Cottings' parents are 86 and 88 years old and have a service dog. The service dog needs his exercise. Everyday people are afraid of being knocked in the head by golf balls, kids running into them at the parks and walking in duck feces. The parks belong to everyone we must work together.
- Burton Elliot of West Newton commented there are lots of parks and a few for dogs. If he was unstable on his feet he would be pretty foolish to go into an area with off-leash dogs. People must change their habits.
- John Ruttenberg, 8 Holly Rd commented he is an abutter of Old Cold Spring Park. The proposal is a solution not a problem. The area proposed in Cabot

Park is a small area it will not attract a lot of out-of-towners and it will help get the dogs under control.

- Richard Grantham, 46 Eastside Parkway stated he uses Cabot Park with this grandson 2 hours every day. There are more off-leash dogs than on-leash dogs in the park. If the off-leash area is legitimized who will police the area. The tennis courts are used for off-leash dogs and parking is impossible.
 - Katherine, Westchester Rd. stated there should be one off-leash area per ward. The hours proposed for Clafin Playground would only allow her to use the area 35 days of the year because she works full time. The Cabot proposal is great because of the fenced area and extended hours.
 - Lynn Weinstein, resident stated we all have to use the park. The designated area will eliminate issues. There are already parking issues with the sports leagues and school. People will walk to the park with their dogs. The penalty for irresponsible owners should be high.
 - Norman Wurtz, a Cabot Park Village resident stated dogs are a problem. To co-exist the area must be fenced. The current law is not enforced. Mr. Wurtz volunteered to go to training and be deputized to enforce the law.
 - Barbara Bix submitted e-mail correspondence to Commission. There document is numbered, there were seven pages, but page number one and six were not submitted to Commission.
- Chairman Magni closed the public comments for the Cabot Park proposal and requested discussion from the Commission members.
 - Mr. Kastner commented he does not understand why it is taking so long to get an answer whether the city may charge fees and until the Commission receives an answer the Commission should not move forward with dog parks.
 - Mr. Stern stated the off-leash areas were approved based on the conditional approval of the fee structure.
 - Mr. Bernheimer stated Newton is not the first city to develop off-leash areas. There can be dog parks with out having a fee. It is really not that complicated.
 - Mr. Kastner stated fees would have an impact on the professionals using the parks.
 - Mr. Rice stated the Commission cannot do anything until the Law Department makes a decision.
 - Chairman Magni asked if the members would like to make a motion.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis commented the McGrath Park off-leash area is just about ready to be opened. The temporary fencing has been put up, the Mutt Mitt has been ordered and the signs are being ordered. The motion for McGrath Park was conditional on the Commission approving the rules, regulations and fee structure.
 - Mr. Johnson asked what the hurry was. The approval was conditional on fees. Mr. Kastner asked if approval should be contingent on fees.
 - Ms. Heitman inquired when the fees would be going to the Board of Aldermen for discussion. Commissioner DeRubeis stated he is working with Marie Lawlor to bring the fees before the Board of Aldermen in December.
 - Mr. Tucker asked the audience how many would be willing to pay a fee. A majority of the audience members raised there hand. Mr. Tucker stated public support is important to the Board of Aldermen.

Motion for the Newton Center Playground off-leash area proposal:

Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Newton Centre Playground subject to the fees being approved by the P & R Commission and the Board of Aldermen Mr. Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

Motion for the Cabot Park off-leash area proposal:

Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Cabot Park subject to the fees being approved by the P & R Commission and the Board of Aldermen Mr. Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

4. Outdoor Ice Skating Rules & Regulations (attached)

- Mr. Stern requested bottom paragraph listing standards be moved to the top of the form. Rules and regulations accepted 8-0.

5. New Business

- Summary of the Conflict of Interest Law- booklets signed by members present
- Committee Appointment –CPC, Farm Commission
 - To be discussed at December 20, 2010 Commission Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Department Snapshot

CITY OF NEWTON
Parks & Recreation Department
 11/15/2010 Commission Meeting

October
2010
Snapshot

Financial Indicators

	Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
REVENUE					
Operating	\$2,542.00	\$1,286.00	\$73,286.00	\$60,385.00	Building rentals, field permits-timing of deposits
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$43,936.00	\$56,985.00	\$286,054.00	\$289,026.00	
Camps	\$10,947.00	\$5,722.00	\$132,570.00	\$98,058.00	
Arts in the Parks	\$30,461.00	\$18,700.00	\$73,579.00	\$60,652.00	
Senior Citizens	\$6,902.00	\$4,624.00	\$16,562.00	\$19,806.00	
Landscape Maint	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$2,558.00	\$1,999.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$50.00	\$31,310.00	\$8,590.00	\$33,410.00	2 large projects-Boston College & Summer Street
Revolving Total	\$92,341.00	\$117,341.00	\$519,913.00	\$502,951.00	
	Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
EXPENSES					
Operating	\$417,943.00	\$336,833.00	\$1,547,986.00	\$1,456,151.00	salaries & seasonal staff
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$51,805.00	\$26,867.00	\$296,384.00	\$292,759.00	Oct 09 - seal coating projects
Camps	(\$1,392.00)	\$11,481.00	\$377,279.00	\$393,750.00	Oct 09-transfers from School dept- camp exp - staff aides,etc
Arts in the Parks	\$27,859.00	\$13,559.00	\$69,168.00	\$48,113.00	salaries & benefits
Senior Citizens	\$5,195.00	\$4,291.00	\$14,695.00	\$16,729.00	
Landscape Maint	\$8,723.00	\$9,186.00	\$12,235.00	\$9,186.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$670.00	\$565.00	\$3,911.00	\$2,518.00	
Revolving Total	\$92,860.00	\$65,949.00	\$773,672.00	\$763,055.00	
Emergency					
Snow/Ice Control	Transferred to DPW for FY11				

Regular Overtime						
Rental - Vehicles						

Key Performance Indicators

	Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	110	335	528	1059	
Forestry Requests Completed	106	327	380	914	
Maintenance Requests Received	na	9	101	51	
Maintenance Requests Completed	na	7	97	47	
Maintenance Schooldude Received	7	42	112	145	
Maintenance Schooldude Completed	7	20	111	114	
Administration-Calls Received	848	794	2,916	3,012	

Departmental Attendance

		Oct-09	Oct-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD			Comments	
		Workdays	Days	Manpower	Workdays	Days	Manpower	10/2009 J. Carroll, J. Porcena, F. Womboldt out workers Comp	
2009	2010	21	Missed	Indicator	20	Missed	Indicator		
Administration -	6	5	126	23.50	81%	100	11.25		89%
Programs-	8	8	168	16.50	90%	160	9.50		94%
Maintenance -	18	17	399	91.00	77%	340	44.50		87%
Forestry -	2	2	42	2.00	95%	40	1.50		96%
Total Dept Attendance			735	133.00	82%	640	66.75	90%	

Narrative

<p><u>Events</u> NNHS Indoor Recreation NSHS Indoor Recreation Mayor's Town Meetings Special Athletes Programs -track, swimming, ice skating Over 55 -trips, and programs on-going -</p>	<p><u>Upcoming Events:</u> Ski & Snowboard Program School Vacation Program Outdoor Ice Skating- Auburndale Cove Co-sponsor camp fair with the School Department this February</p>
--	---

Outdoor Ice Skating Rules & Regulations



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

70 Crescent Street, Newton, MA 02466

Office: (617) 796-1500

Fax: (617) 796-1512

TDD/TTY: (617) 796-1089



OUTDOOR SKATING

2010-2011

RECOMMENDED HOURS OF OPERATION

1. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for **Auburndale Cove**, be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	3:00 – 9:00 PM
Tuesday	2:00 – 9:00 PM
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays*, Vacations	10:00 AM – 9:00 PM

2. At the outset of the coming skating season, it is recommended that the hours of operation for **Bullough's Pond and Crystal Lake** be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday	3:00 – Dusk
Tuesday	2:00 – Dusk
Saturday, Sunday, Holidays*, Vacations	10:00 AM – Dusk

3. If attendance does not warrant keeping the facility or facilities open during operation hours, it is then recommended that a cutback of program hours be instituted on an as needed basis with Managers approval.

*HOLIDAYS: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day and President's Day. The facilities will open for regular vacation hours only if we are able to procure adequate staff for safe operation. If the facilities will be closed, notification will be made to the Public and Safety Personnel at least 24 hours in advance. Exception: All facilities will close at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Eve.

Fees are no longer charged for outdoor skating as per recommendation of the City's Law Department (2/5/92)

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

Auburndale – Ware's Cove	6" Black Ice,	9" Snow Ice
Newtonville – Bullough's Pond	6" Black Ice,	9" Snow Ice
Newton Centre – Crystal Lake	**6" Black Ice,	9" Snow Ice

Note: Due to the varying water depths, unevenness of freezing, and an inability to contain the skating areas, the entire Lake must be frozen in order for safe skating to occur.

(Black Ice is formed by the freezing of water without a snowcap on it; thus creating a non-porous ice that is strong in consistency. Snow Ice is formed when a snow covers, over a thin layer of black ice melts and re-freezes to form a white porous ice.)

COMMISSION
MEMBERS

WARD 1 – BETHEL CHARKOUTJIAN
WARD 2 – ARTHUR MACHL, CHAIRMAN
WARD 3 – PETER JOHNSON

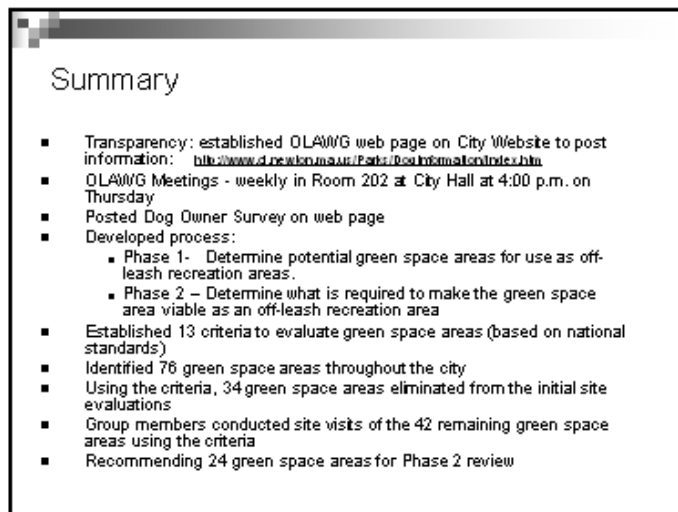
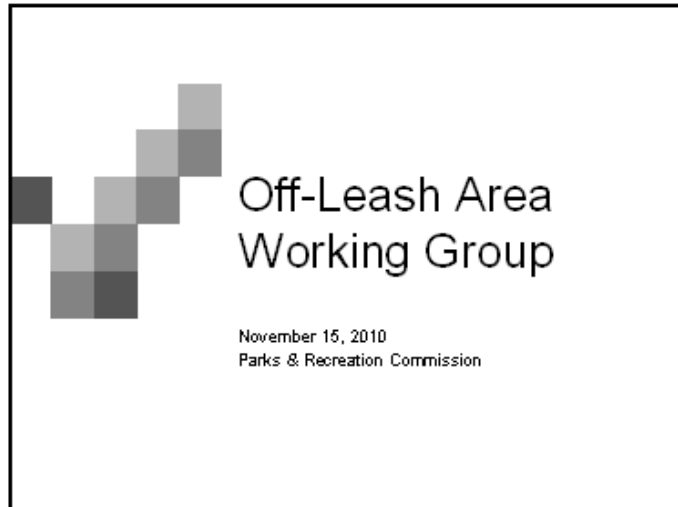
WARD 4 – FRANCIS J. RICE
WARD 5 – WALTER S. HERNHEIMER II
WARD 6 – ANDREW STERN

WARD 7 – RICHARD TUCKER
WARD 8 – KATHLEEN A. HEITMAN, VICE-CHAIR
COMM. SECRETARY-ROBIN MC LAUGHLIN

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE, PETER KASTNER, JACK NEVILLE, DONALD FISHERMAN

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OLAWG Presentation



Newton Centre Playground



Newton Centre Playground

- Hours of operation
 - Dawn – noon
 - 7 days/week
- No fence
- Carrying capacity
 - No more than 20 off-leash dogs in the area at one time
- Neighborhood park
 - Currently a self policed off-leash area

Cabot Park

Proposed area



Cabot Park

- Hours of operation
 - Open dawn – dusk, year round
- Fenced area
 - Fencing provided through donations and/or fees
 - Area to be fenced would still allow for access to the bocce courts and would be recessed from the curb around the perimeter to allow for pedestrian passage.
- Neighborhood Off-Leash Site
 - Move dogs from the operative portions of Cabot Park and give them a dedicated site in an underutilized area.
 - Expected that a number of people would walk to site, parking would be along East Side Parkway.

Fees Update

- Currently working with the Law Department on the feasibility of charging fees for off-leash use.
- Proposed fees would be as follows:
 - Resident fee: \$50.00 per dog
 - Non-Newton resident fee: \$100 per dog
 - Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$250 for first medallion and \$75 each additional medallion
 - Non-Newton professional dog walker company fee: \$350.00 for the first medallion and \$100.00 each additional medallion
- Currently accepting donations that are to be placed in a revolving account that will be specifically dedicated to the maintenance and care of off-leash sites throughout the city.

End of presentation

PETITION

We the residents of Cabot park Village object to an off-leash dog park in Cabot Park.

<u>Miriam Segal</u>	<u>Miriam Popper</u>
<u>Susan H</u>	<u>Rev. V. M. M. M. M.</u>
<u>Bred Spilman</u>	<u>John M. M. M.</u>
<u>Evelyn Rogerson</u>	<u>Ruth Segelman</u>
<u>Donalby Chia 24</u>	<u>Charles Segelman</u>
<u>Jane Montgomerie 24</u>	<u>Doris Hopfinger</u>
<u>ELLEN SMALLEY</u>	<u>Stuart Kay</u>
<u>Jan H. Dyer</u>	<u>Phaei Ross</u>
<u>Miriam Segal</u>	<u>Doris R. Zind</u>
<u>Eta E. E. E.</u>	<u>Renee A. Shapiro</u>
<u>Ellen H. E. E.</u>	<u>Stacy F. F.</u>
<u>Q. Q. Q. 24</u>	<u>Nolan F. F.</u>
<u>Henry King</u>	<u>Lauri Kessel</u>
<u>Nathan Kopler</u>	<u>Rob. R. R.</u>

PLEASE SIGN IN THIS SPACE NOT HERE

PETITION

We the residents of Cabot park Village object to an
off-leash dog park in Cabot Park.

~~Maryanne Lidenfeld~~

~~Helen Cummings~~

~~Ruth Wynn~~

~~Brookline Family~~

~~H. Zacher~~

~~Ann Paulina~~

~~Leah Wynn~~

~~Leticia Smith~~

~~Bonnie Klein~~

~~Elizabeth Wilensky~~

~~Lyne Wilensky~~

~~Kevin Spritzer~~

~~93 Long Street~~

~~Lyne Wilensky~~

~~Elan Fichten~~

~~Rita Katz~~

~~Ruth Zweig~~

~~Ruth~~

11-15-10 Commission Secretary Note:

The following document has page numbers at the bottom of each page. The document was submitted without page #1 or #6

In fairness, I have not personally been aware of any serious negative impacts of the off-leash activities that have existed in Edmands for many years. I even suspect that the dog owners have helped to maintain Edmands Park in a cleaner state than it would have been in their absence. **However, that's not a sufficient reason to throw Cabot Park "under the bus", in my opinion. Actually, my quick glance at the April 26, 2010 proposal for Edmands Park doesn't seem very restrictive at all, so I frankly don't know why Harry is that concerned.**

=====

On Nov 5, 2010, at 10:59 PM, John Bliss wrote:

>
> Hello Barbara, et al,
>
> Yes, we received a notice, also. I have a conflicting meeting but
> would like to write a letter to the Recreation Commission, which
> will be holding the hearing since this is City recreation land.
>
> In fact, there should be quite a few direct abutters, because if you
> got a notice, then every property across a street from Cabot Park,
> as well as the direct abutters along the fence on the west side of
> the park should have gotten notices, too. I don't know if "abutters
> to abutters" should also have been notified, as is the case with
> land use petitions. In any case, there should also be abutters in
> Ward Two, and I hope those Aldermen will consider coming, as well.
>
> I should mention that just by chance I was at a meeting last evening
> in which a Recreation Department representative announced that in
> addition to Cabot Park, Edmands Park, Hunnewell Park (an open but
> mostly undeveloped and seldom used area, I think, between Newton
> Corner and Brighton on the south side of the Massachusetts
> Turnpike), and Nahanton Park on Winchester Street near Nahanton
> Street next to the Jewish Community Center would also be subjects of
> the hearing. Therefore, there may be a lot of people coming to the
> hearing, which is why is probably why it is being held in the War
> Memorial Auditorium. The acoustics in that room are quite poor, but
> it's the only space in City Hall that is big enough for the hearing,
> since the Board of Aldermen will be meeting the same evening in the
> Aldermanic Chambers.
>
> Given the number of years that this dog park issue has been active
> in Newton, I think it would be inappropriate for the Commission to
> vote on the issue right after hearing the public comments. However,
> the Commission Chair, who also happens to be the member from Ward
> One, has shown a tendency in the past to be eager to move to a vote,
> so it would be a good idea to get as many people as possible to the
> hearing.
>
> While I sympathize with the need for more natural outdoor recreation
> for dogs, especially large dogs, I have been concerned with the
> process of selecting locations for off-leash areas, because I
> haven't seen any clear development of criteria for where best to put
> the areas. As you may be aware, this process has probably gone well

① Park key
② Fenced
③ Unleashed
④ Access side
⑤ How will they enforce
⑥ Will they limit # of dogs
⑦ In cell how will enforce

> into its third year, and I believe that the only area that has been
> designated and recently re-designated as an off-leash area is in the
> "old" section of Cold Spring Park. I don't think this area was or
> is going to be fenced and, as I understand it, there have been
> problems all along of some owners not being able to control their
> dogs under those circumstances.

>
> So, my first question would be what are the criteria for selecting
> successful off-leash areas for dogs and how does Cabot Park satisfy
> those criteria? I have looked in the past at the Recreation
> Commission web site section on the dog parks and haven't found much
> enlightenment. I will try to look again but if anyone else does
> find some useful information, please let us know.

>
> Additional questions would center on what the Cabot Park area and
> the other proposed areas will actually look like. Fencing seems to
> be an important question because of the proximity of the roadways.
> But it would also be important to leave a generous space between the
> fence and the park boundaries so that joggers and skiers would have
> access to the full boundaries of the park. Barking would seem to be
> another concern, although I don't recall hearing, so to speak â º,
> that it has been a problem at Cold Spring. Ironically, joggers or
> other passers-by might stimulate more barking, although they could
> also provide entertainment for the dogs â º.

>
> Parking is important, because it would be on-street only and could
> make driving down East Side Parkway more hazardous for more hours in
> the day than it now is. Also, I wonder what the policy is toward
> the use of Newton's off-leash areas by non-residents. I don't know
> if the City can legally restrict the use of park facilities to
> Newton residents. It might possibly depend upon whether federal or
> state money has been used to acquire or upgrade the park. Perhaps
> someone else knows more about this. Even if allowable, there would
> still be the practical matter of how to actually enforce any
> restrictions.

>
> Good luck and I will let you know if I have any other ideas.

>
> Regards, John

>
Hello again,

Hmm...I should have looked at the later e-mails before writing some of
what I did a little while ago. Thanks to Scott for providing the
links in an earlier e-mail. They are definitely worth following up.

I do now recall reading the OL(D @)AWG list of criteria a few months
ago, and I think what I found unenlightening was the prolific use of
the expression, "Due consideration", for so many of the criteria.
It's hard to set priorities for particular locations when you don't
try to set priorities in your criteria.

I also didn't find references to Edmands Park and Nonantum Park in the
presentations by OLAWG. But I did hear references to them last night.

Hi Barbara,

I am pretty busy today, so I do give you permission to forward this message to the neighbors with any reasonable comments you think would be helpful. You may want to combine this message with my message I sent to you yesterday at 6:31 p.m. It is important that the neighbors understand the apparent effort to "sacrifice" Cabot Park for some perceived benefit in the off-leash use of Edmands Park.

Don't forget to remind people that the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be in the War Memorial Auditorium at City Hall which can be reached by going up the outside steps at the back of City Hall (assuming the back door is unlocked) or by walking all the way back from the front lobby of City Hall and then up some stairs.

Regarding the off-leash dog park hearing tomorrow:

1. I've already expressed my concern about the lack of priorities among the various criteria that the OLAWG identified as helping them to select the best sites for off-leash dog areas, i.e. almost all of them call for "due consideration" with no indication of their respective relative importance. In addition, I think the **absence of any apparent study of the experience of existing off-leash areas in other communities is a serious weakness** in their process of identifying criteria and applying them to the proposed areas in Newton's parks.

2. **The section of Cabot Park proposed as an off-leash area certainly can't be used for some time without it quickly turning into a mud-hole.** I suspect that the standing water that followed the rather moderate rainfall in the past month (a total of 2 - 2 1/2 inches at most?) was due to both the excess removal of dirt when the contractor cleaned up and also to the compaction of the ground caused by the storage and frequent movement of the heavy equipment and materials over the past several months. **It seems to me that repairing that damage will require a deep tilling of the whole area followed by at least one season of grass planting and cultivation to produce a durable turf that will stand up to off-leash dog activities.**

3. **Harry Sanders**, whom I know and respect for his involvement in community activities and especially for his work in Edmands Park, sent out an e-mail last week (November 9) to his mailing list of Friends of Edmands Park, which I happen to be on. I have copied his letter below, and, as you can tell, he **appears to support the Cabot Park proposal in order to spare Edmands Park from a more restrictive control of off-leash activities than now exists.**

In fairness, I have not personally been aware of any serious negative impacts of the off-leash activities that have existed in Edmands for many years. I even suspect that the dog owners have helped to maintain Edmands Park in a cleaner state than it would have been in their absence. **However, that's not a sufficient reason to throw Cabot Park "under the bus", in my opinion. Actually, my quick glance at the April 26, 2010 proposal for Edmands Park doesn't seem very restrictive at all, so I frankly don't know why Harry is that concerned.**

Hi Barbara,

Another message from Harry. Again, how are, "...Cabot Park and Newton Centre key to the off-leash program in Newton..."? I'm not sure who the "key allies" are, either. I guess he means some of the Commissioners. In any case, it would be worthwhile to ask the Commissioners who are in attendance if they agree and whether the proposal for Edmands Park would significantly curtail the "status quo" off-leash dog use of that park.

Regards, John

=====

From: "friends of Edmands Park" <sheeznotmydog@comcast.net>

Date: November 14, 2010 7:49:52 PM EST

To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:>

Subject: can you please help us Monday nite

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to send one final reminder about the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting tomorrow (Monday) night at the Newton War Memorial at 7:00 p.m. We are the first item on the agenda so it could go quickly.

We need to have bodies in that room! If you are there you need to be prepared to speak out in favor of more dog parks!

There has been some opposition to the off-leash area at Cabot Park so far and more will probably show up for these meetings. They sent out 900 abutter notices! We will need every available dog owner and Edmands parkuser in that room to speak out in favor of these proposals.

Can you come? It shouldn't take more than an hour.

The proposal for Cabot Park and Newton Centre are key to the success of the off-leash program in Newton. Some of our key allies will not be available on Monday so we will need to rely on swing votes. Remember that when we show up, good things happen. And if we don't show up, why will they vote for us???

for *friends* of Edmands Park,

Harry Sanders

--
Barbara Bix, Principal
BB Marketing Plus
617-964-8193

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From: Ju Liu [<mailto:juliuyi@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, November 15, 2010 8:51 AM

To: Barbara Bix

Cc: suemarlina710@gmail.com; Alla Smirnova; Claire and Jerry Kashuck; David Shumsky; Dora and Yon Bard; Eric Nathanson and Sabrina Vineberg; Glenna and Charlie Weiss; Janet Funke Berk; Jo Forman; Joel Bard; John Bliss; John Wells; Karen Wasserman; Larry Katz; Lisa and Evan Porter; Liz Hedstrom; Liza Martin; Lori Green; Luellen and Tom Best; Maria and Peter Szabo; Martha Wells; Mary Morganti; Meryl Epstein; Michael Manzella; Nancy Belkov; Nancy Lichter; Rachel Milgroom; Sayuri Miyamoto; Sis Hight; Steffi Katz; Stephanie Gilman; Susan Adams; Susan Fish; Tamara Bliss; Ted

I just let you know my case. I was attacked by an unleashed dog just a couple days before I delivered my baby this summer. I was just walking around the park and the dog was maybe 10 yards away just barking and running toward me and bite me on my left arm. There were several witnesses. Since there were just some minor marks I just didn't sue the dog. Maybe I should do that.

Ju

On Sat, Oct 23, 2010 at 3:00 PM, Barbara Bix <barbara@bbmarketingplus.com> wrote:

Dear neighbors,

I saw a notice on the ground saying that there was a meeting last week to discuss removing the leash law at Cabot Park—although I didn't get any notice of this meeting. Just for the record, I oppose unleashed dogs in Cabot park—unless there is a dedicated fenced-in area.

This is a high-use, densely packed area. There are too many children in the field to put at risk between the sporting events, the tot lot and the swing area—and very little open recreational space (although what there is is probably large enough to set aside for a fenced area. Just as an aside, I dodged three illegally unleashed dogs, circling at high speeds, as I crossed the field to go to Newtonville. That said, they ignored me and I gave them wide berth so all was fine. Thank you.

Please let me know if you see anything about it coming up for a vote.

--

Barbara Bix, Principal

BB Marketing Plus

617-964-8193

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End of Minutes



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
December 20, 2010



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Walter Bernheimer, Peter Johnson, Andrew Stern, Richard Tucker, Fran Rice, Jack Neville, *Alternate*, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Kathleen Heitman, Bethel Charkoudian, Michael Clarke, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

1. Meeting Minutes –November 15, 2010

- Accepted 7-0

2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance

- Commissioner DeRubeis reviewed the P & R Department Snapshot (attached)
- The " Snapshot" format will be updated to reflect the RecStat information.
- The web based customer service program *WebQa* has been used by the P & R department for over a year. *WebQa* is now being used city wide.

3. Off-Leash Area Working Group Proposal

- John Bain, Brookline Recreation Commission Chairman was scheduled to appear at the meeting to discuss the dog park fee process that took place in Brookline, but due to inclement weather he was unable to attend.
- Chairman Magni requested the Commission have a discussion regarding the off-leash areas. Chairman Magni stated he spoke with Mr. Bain who commented there is a legal threshold in charging fees. There is some liability to the City. Mr. Bain also recommended if a Park Ranger is hired, the Ranger should be utilized for more than the enforcement of the dog parks, the ranger should also check picnic permits, open fires, etc.
- Mr. Stern asked if there has been any thought of raising the dog license fee, the fee has not been raised since the 1970's. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the City Clerk is comfortable with the current license fee because it is similar to the fees in the surrounding communities and the license fee goes into the general fund, it would not be used for dog parks. Mr. Bernheimer stated the Commission has no jurisdiction over the dog license fee.
- Mr. Stern inquired where the fee discussion is with the Board of Alderman. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Law Department is researching the issue of charging fees, then the recommendation would go to the Programs & Services Committee and then the Full Board of Aldermen.
- Mr. Stern recommended standardizing the previous motions made for the five proposed off-leash areas, Newton Centre Playground, Cabot Park, Hunnewell Park, Claflin Playground, and McGrath Park.

- Commissioner DeRubeis asked if this would bring the group back to square-one. Would there have to be new public meetings? A lot of work would go down the tubes. Mr. Stern commented the proposals have been approved they would not have to go back to square-one.
- Mr. McIntyre, OLAWG member, commented there is a significant amount of money available from donations to pay for fencing, mutt-mitts, etc. even if there is no fee structure in place. Mr. Tucker asked if the donations were for specific parks or the entire off-leash program. Mr. McIntyre stated the donations are for the entire program. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the money would have to be presented to the Board of Alderman as a gift.
- Mr. Johnson asked if the fees are not approved which of the five parks could not be opened. Commissioner DeRubeis stated they all could be opened with the donations received. Mr. Neville commented maintenance expenses will go up in the off-leash areas.
- The following motion will replace the previous motions made and accepted by the Parks & Recreation Commission for the Off-leash dog park proposals for the following areas: Newton Centre Playground, Cabot Park, Hunnewell Park, Claflin Playground, and McGrath Park. (see attached- previous motions made by Commission)

Mr. Tucker made a motion to accept the proposal for (Insert area name here) subject to fees being approved by the P & R commission and the Board of Alderman, and is subject to specific individual requirements for fencing as well as other rules and regulations. Mr. Stern seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- Mr. Bernheimer requested an update on the proposal for Norumbega Park off-leash area that went before the Conservation Commission on December 16.
- Mr. McIntyre commented the majority present were opponents to the proposal. The Conservation Commission's charge seemed unclear regarding the land and recreation use. A lot of the same concerns were brought up as heard from the other proposals, parking, etc. There was no formal vote, the proposal was continued and will reconvene in January.
- Mr. Sanders commented there was a dilemma regarding the definition of active recreation and passive recreation. There were quality of life concerns and an issue with the proposed fence.

4. New Business

- Committee Appointment –CPC, Farm Commission
 - Mr. Bernheimer stated there is an opening for a recreation representative on the Community Preservation Committee, please forward any recommendations.
 - The Commission is required to appoint a member to the Farm Commission. Chairman Magni stated Mr. Kastner is interested in being a Farm Commission member.

Mr. Bernheimer made the motion to appoint Mr. Kastner as the Farm Commission representative. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm
 Respectfully submitted,
 Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Financial Indicators

	Nov-09	Nov-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
REVENUE					
Operating	\$6,253.00	\$11,048.00	\$79,539.00	\$71,433.00	
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$39,749.00	\$65,713.00	\$325,803.00	\$354,739.00	
Camps	\$5,221.00	\$2,648.00	\$137,791.00	\$100,706.00	
Arts in the Parks	\$32,258.00	\$7,079.00	\$105,837.00	\$67,731.00	
Senior Citizens	\$3,419.00	\$3,894.00	\$19,981.00	\$23,700.00	
Landscape Maint	\$50.00	\$994.00	\$2,608.00	\$2,993.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$8,440.00	\$200.00	\$17,030.00	\$33,610.00	
Revolving Total	\$89,137.00	\$80,528.00	\$609,050.00	\$583,479.00	

	Nov-09	Nov-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
EXPENSES					
Operating	\$331,685.00	\$407,651.00	\$1,879,671.00	\$1,863,802.00	
Revolving					
Classes/Activities	\$23,580.00	\$29,953.00	\$319,964.00	\$322,712.00	
Camps	\$4,211.00	\$3,312.00	\$381,490.00	\$397,062.00	
Arts in the Parks	\$17,340.00	\$20,720.00	\$86,508.00	\$68,833.00	
Senior Citizens	\$2,804.00	\$5,193.00	\$17,499.00	\$21,922.00	Timing of payments
Landscape Maint	\$1,180.00	\$995.00	\$13,415.00	\$10,181.00	
Tree Ordinance	\$6,440.00	\$7,767.00	\$10,351.00	\$10,285.00	
Revolving Total	\$55,555.00	\$67,940.00	\$829,227.00	\$830,995.00	
Emergency					
Snow/Ice Control	Transferred to DPW for FY11				
Regular Overtime					
Rental - Vehicles					

Key Performance Indicators					
	Nov-09	Nov-10	FY10-YTD	FY11-YTD	Comments
Forestry Requests Received	105	113	633	1172	
Forestry Requests Completed	42	122	422	1036	
Maintenance Requests Received	na	11	159	58	
Maintenance Requests Completed	na	11	153	55	
Maintenance Schooldude Received	16	13	128	158	
Maintenance Schooldude Completed	16	12	127	129	
Administration-Calls Received	633	608	3,549	3,620	

Departmental Attendance									
		Nov-09			Nov-10			Comments	
		Workdays	Days	Manpower	Workdays	Days	Manpower		
2009	2010	19	Missed	Indicator	20	Missed	Indicator		
Administration -	6	5	114	16.00	86%	100	19.00	81%	10/2009 J. Carroll, J. Porcena, F. womboldt out workers Comp Nov 2010 -P. Forte WC
Programs-	8	8	152	23.50	85%	160	25.50	84%	
Maintenance -	18	17	342	103.75	70%	340	82.50	76%	
Forestry -	2	2	38	5.50	86%	40	2.50	94%	
Total Dept Attendance			646	148.75	77%	640	129.50	80%	

Narrative	
<u>Events & Updates</u> LFCC project update Farlow project update Crystal Lake Master Plan posted on website	<u>Upcoming Events:</u> Ski & Snowboard Program School Vacation Program Outdoor Ice Skating- Auburndale Cove Co-sponsor camp fair with the School Department January 30, 2011 at NNHS

End of "Snapshot"

Off-leash Area Proposals

Parks & Recreation Commission –Motions

December 2010

09-20-10 Motion for the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area proposal:

Motion made by Mr. Bernheimer to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Old Cold Spring Park subject to the rules and regulations proposed. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-2.

The following motion will replace the previous motions made and accepted by the Parks & Recreation Commission for the Off-leash dog park proposals for the following areas: Newton Centre Playground, Cabot Park, Hunnewell Park, Claflin Playground, and McGrath Park.

12-20-10 - Mr. Tucker made a motion to accept the proposal for *(Insert area name here)* subject to fees being approved by the P & R commission and the Board of Alderman, and is subject to specific individual requirements for fencing as well as other rules and regulations. Mr. Stern seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

11-15-10 Motion for the Newton Ctr Playground off-leash area proposal:

~~Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Newton Centre Playground subject to the fees being approved by the P & R Commission and the Board of Aldermen Mr. Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.~~

11-15-10 Motion for the Cabot Park off-leash area proposal:

~~Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Cabot Park subject to the fees being approved by the P & R Commission and the Board of Aldermen Mr. Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.~~

09-20-10 Motion for Hunnewell Park off-leash area proposal:

~~Motion made by Mr. Tucker to approve the proposal for the off-leash area in Hunnewell Park subject to the fence being installed and the authority of Parks & Recreation Commissioner. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.~~

08-23-10 Motion for Claflin Playground off-leash area proposal:

~~Mr. Rice made the motion to accept the proposal for Claflin Playground as submitted by the Off-Leash Area Working Group, conditionally upon the Commission approving the rules, regulations and fee structure. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3-1.~~

08-23-10 Motion for McGrath Park off-leash area proposal:

~~Mr. Rice made the motion to accept the proposal for McGrath Park as submitted by the Off-Leash Area Working Group, conditionally upon the Commission approving the rules, regulations and fee structure. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion~~