

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 - City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, March 18, 2019



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

Attending: Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Patty Kerwin Derrick, Byron Dunker, Melissa Sommer, Andy Stern, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville

1. Meeting Minutes

- February 25, 2019- approved 8-0

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

- Marathon preparation meetings have begun. Main topic of discussion is the cost of blocking the side streets leading to the Marathon route. The City has requested assistance from the BAA.
- Alan Nogee and the Friends of Cold Spring Park have requested a kiosk be installed at the park. The group is raising funds to renovate the trails. The Commissioner is meeting with Mr. Nogee next week.
- 1294 Centre St, the previous Health Department is being renovated and the department is being asked to run programs at the location.
- Meeting scheduled with neighbors of NSHS to discuss the lights to be installed and the policy regarding use.
- Scheduling a get together for Peter Johnson's retirement from the Commission.
- A resident has requested a playground in Waban, near the aqueduct. The resident and department staff met with Waban Area Council last week. Project is moving forward.
- Meeting with abutter of McGrath Park, Ryan Oldham, to discuss Lacrosse Wall.
- Carol Stapleton commented Paramount will be filming "*Defending Jacob*" in Cold Spring Park April 8,9, 17th. Mr. Neville asked if it states in the contract that the staging area in the park will be left in the same condition or better once, they depart. Ms. Stapleton replied yes; the language is in the contract.

2.a Nonantum Village Day – Informational – Lois Margaret Dominique

- Event is the same as last year except for the Bounce House. Insurance has been increased and group will contact the State as instructed by the city's Licensing Department regarding the bounce house.

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

3. St. Mary of Carmen Festival– Public Hearing

- The St. Mary of Carmen Society will celebrate its Annual Festival on July 17th, 2019 through July 21st, 2019. This is the 84th anniversary celebration with no material changes.
- A letter was received regarding a fence along Pellegrini Park being damaged and needing repair. The fence was checked, it is an older fence but is intact.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented the festival is a lot different than it was 20 years ago thanks to Mr. Proia and Mr. Flynn.
- Chairman Magni asked if there were any public comments. There were no comments.

Mr. Dunker made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Chairman Magni recused himself as he is a member of St. Mary Carmen Society.

4. Sculpture Show on the Greenway -Informational-Chuck Tanowitz

- Mr. Tanowitz commented the 2018 event was a success with \$12,000 in sponsors, 15 artists and positive feedback from the community.
- The event will be the same as last year. The proposed dates are June 10-Sept 12.
- There was some vandalism last year which the artists will consider with placement of artwork.
- Chairman Magni asked if lighting would help deter the vandalism? Mr. Tanowitz replied the area is a large area and the artwork is spread too far apart.
- New additions this year will be dance and yoga.
- Requesting assistance from city to clean up poison ivy along the trail.

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

5. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee
 - Grand Opening of Newton Highlands Playground, as part of Community Development week, is scheduled Friday April 26, 4-7pm
 - Alice Ingerson is leaving the CPC
- Farm Commission
 - Appoint a representative -On Hold.
 - Commission Secretary will forward the link, to members, for the Farm Commission web page.

- Commonwealth Golf Course
 - Meeting next week
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
 - Working on design RFP
 - Animal Control Officer Mikoleit attended the last OLAWG meeting. She needs help, there are scofflaws all around the City.
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
 - Finalizing plan during CLWG meeting next week
- Athletic Fields Committee
- NewCAL
 - Discussing site locations
- Policy & Procedure Review
 - Field Naming
- Mr. Clarke asked Mr. Dunker if any changes have been made to the sign policy. Mr. Dunker replied there has been no discussion. Mr. Clarke stated a uniform policy needs to be discussed. Mr. Dunker commented all leagues would need to be involved.

6. New Business

- No new business

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin McLaughlin
Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary