



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 - City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, March 19, 2018

In Attendance: Chairman Magni, Commissioner DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Byron Dunker, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Michael Clarke, Jack Neville

Meeting began 7:05 pm

1. **Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2018-** Approved 6-0
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
 - An Open Space Coordinator has been hired. She is going through the hiring process this week; hopefully she will start in the next couple of weeks. Interviews were held for the Working Foreman Carpenter position. There is a candidate we will offer the position to. Peter Forte's position will be filled in the next fiscal year.
 - There have been two Marathon meetings there are 80 open areas that the BAA requires to be blocked by trucks for security reasons. The issue is we do not have 80 trucks; the City has reached out to MEMA for assistance.
 - The Kevin Clancy Basketball tournament was held last weekend, managed by Mark Kelly and Karen Peirce. The tournament was a big success and helps raise money for Newton Athletes Unlimited.
 - The Commissioner will be meeting with the Executive Office, two of the Councilors, Jini Fairley and Stephanie Lapham to create a City policy for accessibility for the playgrounds.
 - Crystal Lake Working Group is meeting April 3rd with Weston & Sampson to discuss plan for Levingston Cove. The Commissioner will also be meeting with Melinda Tupper at NNHS to discuss the bio-island project. Mr. Stern requested copies of both projects. The Commissioner will have copies for the April Commission meeting.
 - Initial meetings scheduled to prepare for Newton Serves.
 - Farlow Park Bridge Project- Once the snow melts a temporary fence will be installed and the irrigation will be done.
3. **Nonantum Village Day–June 3, 2018-Public Hearing**
 - Terry Sauro of the Nonantum Neighborhood Association has submitted a proposal for the 7th annual Nonantum Village Day event at Colletti-Magni Park on June 3rd from 11am-3pm.
 - Lois Dominique representing the Nonantum Neighborhood Association commented there has been a change. There will not be a bounce house at the event. There were no calls or emails from the abutters regarding the June 3rd event. There were no abutters present at the meeting.

*Mr. Dunker made the motion to approve the proposal as submitted. Mr. Stern seconded the motion.
The motion passed 6-0.*

4. St. Mary of Carmen Festival- Informational

- Mr. Proia presented the proposal for the 83rd St. Mary of Carmen festival. The dates are July 11-July 15. There have been no changes from last year.
- Chairman Magni asked Commissioner DeRubeis if there were any issues last year. The Commissioner stated there were no issues reported.

Mr. Neville made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

5. Sign Policy- Update

- The Commissioner is requesting the following changes to the "Rules and Regulations for Sponsorship Signs":
 - The names of the Little League groups have changed since the merger the "Rules and Regulations" have been updated to reflect this change. Updated from NELL and NNLL to:
 - South East Little League (SELL) at the Jay Gordon Little League Facility, Newton Centre.
 - Newton Little League at the Murphy Little League Field, at Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex
 - The last change is located in paragraph three, which currently reads: *All signs shall be wooden, be the same size and may not exceed 4' by 8'.*
 - The change to paragraph three reads: *"All signs shall be wooden or on another material approved by Parks and Recreation Commission prior to the erection of the signs, all signs must be the same size and may not exceed 4' by 8'.*
 - Mr. Clarke commented this policy was approved by the Board of Alderman in the early 90's, but actually has been discussed since 1911. There is a difference in Policy's, such as with Lyons Field 5"x20" signs. The Commission created a committee to discuss the sign policy, but nothing was ever submitted by the committee. This is the perfect opportunity to review the sign policy. Mr. Stern agreed. Mr. Dunker commented the leagues receive much need money from these signs. And the money goes back into the fields. Each field is different. A broad based policy would not work.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis agreed with creating a committee. Chairman Magni agreed and asked for volunteers. Mr. Clarke, Mr. Stern and Mr. Dunker volunteered for the sign policy committee.

6. Committee Reports

- *Community Preservation Committee – no report*
- *Farm Commission – no report*
- *Cabot Redesign Committee –*
 - The softball field will not be available this spring because the staging from the construction is too close to the field. The little league field will be available.
- *Commonwealth Golf Course-*
 - The maintenance building proposal is on hold. The estimated cost was 2.2 million dollars. The proposal needs to be reviewed and cost lowered.
 - The management RFP is also on hold. A sub-committee needs to review the RFP page by page. The management company creates the

RFP. A lot of the requirements have not been updated to meet inflation.

- *Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)*
 - Ms. Charkoudian commented she was at Cabot Park with her grandson. When she asked a person with their dog off-leash outside of the Off-leash area, the person was very nasty, so much that her grandson asked to leave the park. What should she do in a situation like that? Commissioner Derubeis instructed Ms. Charkoudian to call the Police.
- *Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)*
 - *Reported in Commissioner's reports in agenda item #2 above*
- *Athletic Fields Committee*
 - There was a very productive meeting with the group at the beginning of March. There is no easy solution. We need more fields and it will take time to create a solution. Mr. Dunker agreed there is a great need for additional fields. There is no open space available we need to figure out how to get more use out of the existing fields, such as lights at the high schools. There has also been discussion about adding artificial turf. Mr. Stern stated his concern that once you add artificial turf to additional locations, there will be artificial turf everywhere.
- *Policy & Procedures Review*
 - Field Naming policy
 - Mr. Dunker commented a more detailed process is required. Maybe require a petition with a certain amount of signatures. It should not just be a request made at one meeting and then granted. All in attendance agreed additional discussion is required.

7. New Business

- Chairman Magni suggested revisiting the procedure for recurring special events. The recommendation made to revise the process for recurring special event permit applications submitted to the Parks & Recreation Commission is as follows:
 - Department receives application. Commissioner reviews application.
 - After review, if there are no material changes or complaints/issues from the previous year's event, the Commissioner will present the application to the Commission at the Commission meeting. Applicants will not need to attend.
 - After review and vote by the Commission, the application will be scheduled for a public hearing. Applicants will need to attend the public hearing.
 - If the application does contain material changes, or if complaints/issues were received from the previous year's event, an informational meeting will be scheduled and applicants will be required to attend.
- A vote on this recommendation will be held at the April 23rd Commission meeting.
- Mr. Clarke made two requests, that were approved:
 - Add Nahanton Park to the Committee Reports next month to discuss the Conservation Restriction.
 - Add his "100 Years of History" presentation to the April agenda.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary