



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

[Room 204 - City Hall](#)

7:00 p.m. – Monday, April 23, 2018

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

Meeting began 7:05 pm

1. **Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2018- Approved 7-0**
2. **Commissioner’s Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
 - The Budget presentation is on Wednesday. No major changes. The only changes were in personnel. Elaine Gentiles position was eliminated, and a Deputy Commissioner position was put back into the budget. The Assistant Superintendent of Beautification will now report to the Maintenance Superintendent.
 - Allison Crosbie has been hired as the Open Space Coordinator. Mike Antonellis transferred from DPW to fill the Working Foreman Carpenter Position.
 - The Marathon clean-up was minimal due to the weather. Mark Kelly, Director of Special Needs ran and completed the Marathon!
 - Currently preparing for summer camps and aquatics.
 - Current Projects:
 - Newton Highlands should be finishing up this Spring
 - Chairman Magni asked if the flooding issue has been resolved. The Commissioner responded yes; the pipe was repaired.
 - Farlow Park has started back up
 - McGrath tennis court and off-leash area renovation will be starting soon
 - Norumbega Park off-leash area proposal is being prepared to go to the Conservation Commission for approval.
3. **St. Mary of Carmen Festival – Public Hearing**
 - 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.
 - Abutters were notified of the event. The P & R Department received no comments, complaints, questions.

Mr. Tucker made the motion to approve the proposal as submitted. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Chairman Magni recused himself. He is a member of St. Mary Carmen Society. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Newton Highlands Greenway Art Display – Informational

- Chuck Tanowitz of the Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce and Wendy Wolfe from Studios without Walls, presented the proposal.
- The proposal is to have an outdoor sculpture show along the Greenway from June – August. The theme of the show is “Beyond Boundaries”.
 - The group is doing fundraising for this event.
 - A walk-thru with the P & R Department would take place before event
 - Vehicle access would be required for set-up and removal of sculpture pieces.
- Mr. Tucker stated there are no lights on the Greenway. Will this be a problem at night? Mr. Tanowitz stated there is some residual light from Needham Street. There is some foot traffic, but generally people do not walk alone on the Greenway at night.
- Mr. Neville asked if there were ideas for the area around the Depot Restaurant. Ms. Wolfe replied yes, near the seating area and fence. Mr. Neville suggested they speak with The Depot Restaurant; the seating area is a highly used area.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the local businesses are supporting this event. Mr. Tanowitz replied yes.
- Mr. Clarke asked the Commissioner what the P & R role is regarding the Greenway. Commissioner DeRubeis replied the Greenway falls under the P&R Department; the department is responsible for the maintenance.
- Commissioner DeRubeis asked what the art pieces are. Wendy will have the artist’s proposals once the project is approved.

Mr. Neville made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Levingston Cove Plan – Weston & Sampson- Brandon Riley & Gene Bolinger

- Weston & Sampson presented the designs. They were contracted by the City to develop designs to prevent with the erosion of Levingston Cove, improve accessibility and passive recreation. Tonight’s presentation is an update for the Commission.
- Weston & Sampson have met several times with the stakeholders and City departments, who are members of the Crystal Lake Working Group. May 30th there is the first, of several, public meetings.
- Mr. Dunker asked if there will be a change to the shoreline. Mr. Riley stated yes, and they will be presenting the designs to the Conservation Commission.
- Mr. Clarke commented this area is the only place for a person with balance issues to load into a canoe safely. The canoe is stable on the beach and then once safely loaded can be pushed into the water.
- Mr. Tucker asked if there is a design to make the cove inaccessible. Mr. Riley commented that would be tricky because the cove is there, people will try to access it no matter what is in the path. There must be a safe passageway. Ms. Stapleton commented Crystal Lake is a great pond and the City cannot deny access. Mr. Clarke stated the Great Pond Act does not address swimming.

- Mr. Neville commented he was surprised option three had stairs. Mr. Riley stated the area is steep and there is ADA access on the other side of the path.
- Chairman Magni asked how the project is funded. Commissioner DeRubeis replied the City received a State grant of \$88k for design. The construction is in the CIP.
- Mr. Clarke commented behind 230 Lake Ave the homeowners had furniture and a shed on the lake and requested the city ask them to remove these items, along with the moorings in the water. Moorings are not allowed. The Commissioner will contact the Law Department.

6. Farlow Park Project –Keith Jones

- Mr. Jones is proposing to install three plaques on the bridge:
 - The year the bridge was completed: 2018
 - A plaque with the donors' names
 - A plaque for the Friends of Farlow Park and the City Departments
- The two plaques with the list of names would be located on the inside at the end of the bridge. The date would be placed on a cornerstone.
- Mr. Tucker asked what the plaques would be made of and the cost of the plaques. Mr. Jones, they have three choices, stone, bronze or aluminum. The price is estimated at \$3,000.00.
- Mr. Jones requested the Commission vote on the date plaque tonight because the bridge is about to be clad.

Mr. Neville made the motion to approve the date plaque being placed on the corner stone. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

Ms. Charkoudian made the motion to move the proposal for the two plaques, with the list of names, to a public hearing. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee – no report
- Farm Commission – no report
- Cabot Redesign Committee –
 - Last steel beam went up last week with the mayor and kids in attendance
 - Little league has begun
 - Softball field is functional
- Commonwealth Golf Course
 - Last two meetings were cancelled
 - Committee being formed to discuss Management RFP. To meet in May.
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
 - Meeting scheduled April 27
 - Issues with professional dog walkers at both Hunnewell Park and Cabot park

- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG) – update above in Item #5
- Athletic Fields Committee – no report
- Policy & Procedure Review
 - **Recurring Special Event Application - vote**
 1. Department receives application. Commissioner reviews application.
 2. 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 do not need to attend.
 3. After review and vote by the Commission, the application will be scheduled for a public hearing. Applicants will need to attend the public hearing.
 4. 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.

Mr. Tucker made the motion to accept the Recurring Special Event Application Policy as written above with the one amendment. Mr. Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

- Field Naming- no report
- Sign Policy Committee: Mr. Stern, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Dunker –no report

8. New Business

- Mr. Tucker asked if the stone sculpture is being removed from City Hall grounds as requested. The artist will be contacted

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary