

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 - City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, December 17, 2018

Attending: Chairman Magni, Vice-Chairman Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Andy Stern, Byron Dunker, Sam Figler, Pat Palmer, Jack Neville, Michael Clarke

1. Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2018 - Approved 8-0

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

- Phil Arpino has moved in to the Assistant Superintendent position.
- After the new year a plan will be discussed to replace Tom Cahill the Aquatics Director. Tom Cahill will be retiring this spring.
- Summer Camp Fair is a month away.
- Farlow Park is complete. The final payment has been made.
- Bullough's Pond plaque and bench has been installed. The dedication is scheduled for December 19 at 6:30
- Currently working with the Law Department, and other interested parties, on the Nahanton Park and Rogers St conservation restrictions.

3. Auburndale Cove Solar Panel Project – Informational

- Bill Ferguson presented a proposal for a project at Auburndale Cove parking lot to install parking canopies with solar panels on the roof. The number of panels installed would be around 1,014 which, at the present rates, would create \$313,347.00 in savings, over 20 years. The parking canopies with solar panels have been in place at NSHS for two years and have been very successful.
- What will the impact be on the trees at the Cove? Mr. Stern asked if there will be a survey of the trees. Mr. Tucker commented, some of the oak trees are not new trees and trees that old cannot be replaced. Mr. Stern asked what would be the number of solar panels lost if the area with trees is not used. Mr. Jonathan Yeo commented Marc Welch, Tree Warden will be conducting a tree survey at all proposed sights within the next week.
- Mr. Clarke asked if any other park land is being discussed. Mr. Ferguson replied yes, Albemarle Road and property by Mason Rice school.
- Mr. Clarke asked if any trees would be affected at these locations. Mr. Ferguson replied yes, but there is no rendering at this time. Mr. Yeo suggested going to the Phase III info on the website. Mr. Clarke suggested having Mr. Welch inspect all sites. Mr. Ferguson confirmed that is the plan.
- Mr. Ferguson commented the trees on Albemarle Road are on the sidewalk and not on park land.
- Julia Malakie commented the trees on Albemarle Road are on the park side of the fence. Chairman Magni asked who determined the location of the trees. Mr.

Ferguson replied it was the Law Department. Mr. Clarke requested the Law Department provide the rationale regarding the trees at Albemarle Road.

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

4. NSHS- Athletic Field Lights – Informational

- Patricia Gonzalez, NSHS Athletic Director and Doug McCarthy, NSHS Girls Soccer Coach presented a proposal to install lights on NSHS field.
- The technology of the lights has changed drastically over the last 10 years. The lights illuminate the field only. There is no glare or spill over to the area surrounding the field or abutters.
- Currently, temporary lights are used, the lights are run by a diesel generator that is noisy and smells of diesel fuel.
- Having the lights will help in bringing the community together. Parents who work a full time 9-5 job will be able to attend events. The possibility of the High School day starting later will push athletic practice later which will put the athletes at a disadvantage due to less practice time.
- Chairman Magni asked if there is an existing power source to accommodate the lights. Mr. McCarthy stated yes. Chairman Magni asked who would pay the electricity bill. Mr. McCarthy will have to check on that. It is a school event on park land.
- Counselor Rice commented there has been a lot of feedback requesting additional field time. The lights would help in alleviating the need for field time and hopes this proposal will move forward to a public hearing.
- Mr. Figler asked if a dome over the field has been researched. Ms. Gonzalez commented the cost is high but if the Parks & Recreation Department wanted to discuss the possibility, it is an option.
- Mr. Stern asked who is funding the project. Ms. Gonzalez stated the School will be paying for lights.
- Mr. Stern asked the height of the light poles. Mr. McCarthy responded 70'. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the lights at Newton Highlands are 70' and at Albemarle the poles are at 60' and 80'.
- Mr. Stern inquired if there is a time restriction on lights being on. Ms. Gonzalez commented it would be up to the P & R Department, just like the tennis court lights. Those lights remain on until 10PM. Mr. McCarthy commented there would be no need to have the lights on past 10PM.
- Mr. Palmer asked if the field could be leased to outside organizations. Ms. Gonzalez stated that would be up to Parks & Recreation. Commissioner DeRubeis commented City teams need additional field time/use, that would be the priority.
- Mr. Magni asked if a police detail is required during night games and are there any issues with parking. Ms. Gonzalez stated yes there is a police detail, the parking lots have enough space to accommodate parking for the events.

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

5. McGrath Park Lacrosse Wall – Informational- Sam Figler

- Mr. Figler is proposing an 18' tall, approximately 39' in length, concrete Lacrosse practice wall in McGrath Park.
- Mr. Stern asked how many kids could use the wall at one time. Mr. Figler stated ~ 10 kids depending on age.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented the wall would have to be positioned in a way that kids could not hide behind the wall.
- Mr. Stern asked the color of the wall. Mr. Figler stated the wall can be tinted any color. Mr. Stern suggests green, so it blends in with the surroundings.
- Mr Dunker suggested the wall be graffiti proof.
- Chairman Magni recommended the wall be placed close to the tree line to keep the site line clear when looking across the field.
- Mr. Stern asked for view shots for the public hearing.
- Commissioner DeRubeis suggested the public hearing be scheduled for February, two public hearings are scheduled for the January meeting.

Mr. Clarke made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing in February. Mr. Stern seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0-1.

6. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee
- Farm Commission
- Commonwealth Golf Course
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
- Athletic Fields Committee
- NewCAL
- Policy & Procedure Review
 - Field Naming – Paul Pasquarosa
 - Mr. Pasquarosa appeared before the Commission in February 2018, proposing to name the Newton Highlands newly renovated park after his brother Nick Pasquarosa. After Nick Pasquarosa graduated high school, he became an assistant head coach and eventually a head coach for the Pop Warner program. Newton Highlands was the designated home field. Nick Pasquarosa maintained the field before the Parks & Recreation Department took over the maintenance. A second franchise was created for Pop Warner under Nick's leadership, which led to the creation of the Newton Athletic Association, which still flourishes to this day.
 - After the February request the proposal was put on hold and Mr. Pasquarosa is looking for a response to his proposal and the reason the proposal is on hold.
 - Mr. Dunker stated the reason the proposal is on hold is not personal. Mr. Dunker explained it has been difficult to determine the parameters of naming an entire park after one person. There are limited resources for naming rights and many deserving individuals. Mr. Dunker has looked at

other communities to see what they do. Newton has a bench donation program. There has been discussion of possibly requiring a petition signed by the youth league or organization the person was involved in.

- Mr. Figler stated he understands the frustration, but the procedure to decide is complicated and is being discussed.
- Mr. Tucker commented it is difficult to just say yes or no, maybe there is a compromise.
- Chairman Magni stated there are no criteria yet, the committee will continue to work on the policy.
- Mr. Pasquarosa asked if there could be a Public Hearing to discuss the proposal. Mr. Dunker stated that is another issue, who would be considered the public for the proposal, direct abutters, city, leagues?
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented the last naming of a field was around 20 years ago. The criteria and process need to be determined before moving forward.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary