



Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204, City Hall

7:00 p.m. –Monday, March 20, 2017

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

Meeting began 7:00 pm

1. Meeting Minutes –February 27, 2017

- Approved 7-0

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

- Kevin Clancy Tournament took place on March 18th. 32 teams from various communities participated, the tournament grows each year. Mark Kelly does a terrific job with the event.
- Marathon preparation is on-going. Police Captain Paul Anastasia is the new Incident Commander for the Marathon.
- Continue to work on budget, should have a better idea of final budget by the end of the week. Forestry is a concern in regards to having additional money for hazardous trees. Removal of hazardous trees helps in storms like last week. There are fewer trees falling during storms. Mr. Stern asked who is planting trees, the department or Tree Conservancy. Commissioner DeRubeis responded both groups are planting trees. Mr. Stern asked if there is a correlation with gas leaks and dead trees. Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes, Mr. Welch has the information showing a correlation between gas leaks and dead trees.
- Newton Serves is scheduled April 30th. Linda Plaut and Dave Mandatori do a great job prepping and managing Newton Serves. Janet Razulis also does a great job with the behind the scenes work involved with Newton Serves.
- Newton Highlands Project: Light poles are up
- Crescent Street Project: Moving along
- Commissioner announced the passing of Louie Pellegrini. Louie had a personality bigger than life and will be sorely missed.

3. Newton Girls Softball (NGS) Proposal – Public Hearing- Bill Hartranft

- NGS is requesting approval to install an electronic scoreboard and covered benches as proposed. Mr. Hartranft presented the proposal.
- Mr. Tucker asked if they have found a sponsor. Mr. Hartranft commented he is waiting for Commission approval for proposal.

- Mr. Stern asked how much money NGS will receive from a sponsor. Mr. Hartranft commented NGS should receive approximately \$5k-\$10K.
- Mr. Hartranft stated the scoreboard can also be used by other organizations with the purchase of a wireless remote.
- Two options were presented in the proposal. Mr. Stern asked if there is a preference to the type of bench they would like. Mr. Hartranft commented it depends on the cost. Mr. Stern asked if there is protection in front of the bench. Mr. Hartranft stated the bench would be behind the fence outside the playing field and moved back two feet from where the current bench is located.
- Mr. Tucker asked which ground cover is best for drainage. Mr. Neville stated usually concrete is preferred. Mr. Hartranft agreed. Commissioner DeRubeis stated concrete is not permeable and stone needs to be replaced regularly.
- Mr. Neville asked if the fence will be black. Mr. Hartranft replied yes.
- Mr. Porter of 79 Walnut Street commented he has no issue with the benches proposed, but he is against the scoreboard with advertisement and suggested a portable, table top scoreboard. Mr. Dunker asked if the portable scoreboard is used for basketball, Mr. Porter replied yes but it could work.
- Mr. Johnson asked why the scoreboard is being placed in left center field instead of right center field. Left center field does not face any houses. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the area by right center field is already a congested area from the pool and walkway.
- Mr. Palmer asked if NGS has applied for a permit. Mr. Hartranft replied not yet.
- Mr. Tucker asked if there is flexibility on the height of the scoreboard. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the height is dependent of the height of the fence.
- Mr. Stern stated he would like to compromise and start by enforcing the sign policy to allow one sign for posting sponsors, not have sponsors posted all along the fence. Mr. Tucker stated if leagues are turning to sponsors looking for support to help families involved in the activities and if it is done tactfully, it is ok. Mr. Stern commented that green space is the last refuge where we are not bombarded with corporate sponsorship. Mr. Dunker stated the money usually goes into repairing fields. Mr. Johnson asked if the scoreboard is covered in the off season. Mr. Hartranft replied no.

Mr. Dunker made the motion to approve the proposal as presented, including one sponsor on the scoreboard. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-1

4. Nonantum Village Day – Informational – Lois Margaret Dominique

- Nonantum Village day is scheduled for June 4. The street will be blocked, and there will be a 5K Race in honor of Laura Foley who passed away running a race leaving two children. This year's event will also be honoring the Newton Fire Department. Everything is free except for food. There are two \$1,000.00 scholarships to be awarded to high school students.

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

5. St. Mary of Carmen Festival – Informational – Chuck Proia

- This is the 82nd year of the festival. The dates are July 12-16. The same management company will be managing the festival. All money goes to charity.

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

6. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee – no report
- Farm Commission- no report
- Cabot Redesign Committee- Commissioner DeRubeis met with Alex from Public Buildings, the electrical box, behind little league field, used for irrigation has to be relocated.
- Commonwealth Golf Course – no report
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – no report
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG) – Mr. Tucker asked the bathhouse status. Commissioner DeRubeis commented at the last meeting there was no consensus.
- Nahanton Park Committee – no report

7. New Business

- No new business

Meeting adjourned 8:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin