



## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

#### Room 204 – City Hall

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, February 22, 2016**

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Byron Dunker, Peter Kastner

Meeting began 7:00 pm

1. Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2016
  - Approved 8-0
  
2. Commissioner’s Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
  - February school vacation camps were held last week and they were well attended. There is high demand for school vacation camps.
  - The ski and snowboard program concluded last week. The program is a six week program for elementary and middle school aged kids.
  - Camp Fair- there were over 1,000 residents in attendance. Camp registration opened Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> in three hours there were over 10,000 registrations.
  - Today was the first Marathon meeting with city staff.
  - Farlow Park project: the basin may be compromised when taking the bridge down which would increase the cost of the project.
  - NNHS backstop is in process, the contractor was waiting for the ground to freeze, but that may not happen. They may have to drive onto the field, unfrozen, which would create extensive field repair.
  - Forestry- due to the recent storms there were over 500 work orders in WebQA. There was extensive damage, Marc Welch and crew did a great job.
  
3. Nahanton Park – Woodcock Meadow
  - Katherine Howard, John Regosian, Beth Wilkinson members of the Newton Conservators requested approval to move forward with the recommendation, of the Audubon’s 2011 Nahanton Park Management Plan, of restoration of the Woodcock Meadow.
  - Mr. Regosian explained there will be three phases to the plan:
    1. Remove 13 Black Locust Trees
    2. Remove an additional 40 trees
    3. Maintenance phase
  - Chairman Magni asked how the work would be done. Mr. Regosian stated the work would be done through fundraising, volunteers and

city support. Commissioner DeRubeis confirmed the Forestry Division will help with the removal of the trees.

- Chairman Magni asked if the trees fall under the tree ordinance. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no, as the trees are on park land.
- Mr. Tucker asked the square footage of the area. Mr. Regosian stated currently the area is 1.3 acres and should be 2.5 acres.
- Chairman Magni asked if a Public Hearing is required. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the plan was approved during the Public Hearing for the 2011 Management Plan. Commissioner DeRubeis has worked with this group previously and has respect for the group managing the project.

*Mr. Fishman made the motion to accept the proposal to enhance the Nahanton Park Woodcock Meadow. Ms. Charkoudian seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.*

*(Mr. Kastner is a member of the Newton Conservators and recused himself from the vote)*

#### 4. Kennard Park Art Exhibit – Update

- Carolyn Kraft, Friends of Kennard Park and Allison Newsome, Artist, Project Manager provided an update to the Commission reviewing the art to be exhibited fall 2016 on the trails of Kennard Park. The art pieces will be temporary and cause no harm to the natural environment. A website will be available for the event with details and a page to monitor the artist's progress.
- Mr. Stern asked if an admission fee would be charged. Ms. Kraft stated no, but a donation box may be available for contributions to the Friends of Kennard Park.
- Ms. Schein asked if help would be needed from the Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. Newsome stated some assistance may be needed. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the department will provide assistance; the department would require some notice.

*Mr. Fishman made the motion to endorse the concept sketches of the artists for the Kennard Park Trail art show. Mr. Stern seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

#### 5. Nonantum Village Day - Informational

- Lois Dominique presented the proposal for the Nonantum Village Day event to be held on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. The event will be similar to last year. Village Bank is sponsoring the event so the Association is able to extend the event to a three hour event. This event is being held in honor of the Newton Police Department. There are no mechanical rides; the event is set up like an old fashioned village day. This year the Nonantum Neighborhood Association will be offering a scholarship to a Newton senior.

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

## 6. Jerusalem Day- Informational – Larry Koplan

- Mr. Koplan is on the Executive Board of Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI), 501 (c) 3 IRS classified, non-profit organizations. Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI) is located at Temple Emeth, 194 Grove Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Mr. Koplan is requesting to hold their annual Jerusalem Day event. The plan is to have a two day event, beginning on Saturday June 4th, and winding down in the afternoon on Sunday, June 5th, on the two grassed parks in Newton Center, known as the Newton Centre Green. Mr. Koplan is requesting the two day event to make it financially attractive for Cushing Entertainment, last year their bottom line suffered due to the event being held for one day.
- Mr. Stern is concerned on setting a precedent of allowing two day events every weekend in the same area, Harvest Fair is held in the same location. **Mr. Stern raised an objection to the second day of the Jerusalem Day event because it was only requested to satisfy the amusement ride vendor's demand for greater revenue.**
- Chairman Magni asked if the identical amusement equipment would be used this year. Mr. Koplan responded yes, Cushing Entertainment will be managing the rides and food service. Cushing managed the event last year and there were no issues.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented Cushing Entertainment also runs the Harvest Fair and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration.
- Mr. Stern stated last year an excessive amount of signage was put up around the area and hopes that will not happen this year. Mr. Koplan replied no and last year when they were asked to remove the signs it was done immediately.
- Mr. Kastner asked which parking area will be closed. Mr Koplan replied a portion of the lot in the Centre.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the schedule for the two days would be identical. Mr. Koplan replied no. Saturday would be amusements and food only and Sunday would include speakers and the parade.

*Mr. Johnson made the motion to move the proposal to a Public Hearing. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

## 7. Committee Reports

- Cabot Redesign Committee – Mr. Tucker stated the house next to Cabot School has been purchased by the City and asked if the purchase will create a new design for the renovation of the school. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the working group will be discussing the options.
- Commonwealth Golf Course – no report
- Community Preservation Committee – no report
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG) – no report
- Farm Commission – no report

- Nahanton Park Working Group – no report
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – no report

8. New Business

- Commissioner DeRubeis informed the Commission of an issue between neighbors on Chaske Ave in Auburndale. The residents of 61 Chaske Ave have put up a fence on city property and the fence must be moved. The Commissioner will be sending a letter later in the week requesting the fence be relocated.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robin McLaughlin*