



Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

[Room 204 205– City Hall](#)

7:00 p.m. –Monday, March 21, 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, Pat Palmer, Michael Clark

Meeting began 7:00 pm

1. Meeting Minutes –February 22, 2016
 - Approved 8-0
2. Commissioner’s Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
 - NNHS backstop has been taken down; the contractor is preparing to erect the 60’ poles for the netting. They are trying to stay off the grass to minimize damage to the field.
 - Budget- meeting with Maureen Lemieux and working with staff on goals and outcomes.
 - Kevin Clancy Basketball tournament was held over the weekend. The event grows every year. Mark Kelly, Karen Peirce and Rich Cass do a great job managing the event.
 - Marathon Meetings with city departments; working with MEMA and NEMLAC
 - Newton Serves is scheduled May 1st. The Maintenance Division has a big role in this event, supplying tools, mulch, etc.
 - April School vacation camps are full. There is high demand for school vacation camps.
 - Newton Highlands Project is in neutral. Working with Weston & Sampson to phase the project, but there is no easy way to phase the project.
 - Farlow Park project: going back to the site with the DPW check the basin condition.
 - Big Belly project: 172 of the solar waste barrels will be placed in the parks and in the village squares by April 15th. Mr. Tucker asked if the barrels will be placed in the dog parks. Commissioner DeRubeis replied they will be near some of the dog parks. Special dog waste barrels will be place in dog parks.
 - Mr. Dunker asked the status of the Pellegrini Park wall. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the electrical box is being repaired and they are getting prices for the wall.
3. Nonantum Village Day – Public Hearing
 - Lois Dominique presented the proposal for the Nonantum Village Day event to be held on Sunday, June 5th. 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.

- Chairman Magni asked if there were any public comments or questions from the Commission. There were none.

Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Fishman seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

4. Jerusalem Day- Public Hearing

- Mr. Koplan is on the Executive Board of Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI), 501 (c) 3 IRS classified, non-profit organization. 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 grass areas 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.
- Chairman Magni asked for any public comments and comments from the Commission members. There were no public comments.
- Mr. Stern stated he is concerned of setting a precedent for holding a two day event to support the vendor's bottom line. Mr. Koplan commented the event lost revenue last year, but the event was successful because of all the people that attended. Mr. Koplan wants loyalty from the vendor. The previous vendor was horrible, but Cushing Entertainment is very efficient.
- Mr. Tucker asked how one makes a judgement of success. Mr. Koplan suggested they come by the event and see the happy people; the event is a nice time for everyone.
- Mr. Stern asked if the relationship with Cushing would be compromised if the event is only held for one day.
- Mr. Kastner asked if the extra day will provide extra money for the event and lower the loss from the event. Mr. Koplan stated no because they still have expenses but does hope the extra day will lower the loss total.
- Mr. Kastner stated other events run for more than a day. Mr. Stern stated those are city sponsored events.
- Mr. Fishman stated the essence of the event takes place on Sunday with the speakers. Mr. Koplan stated yes, and on Saturday there will be music along with the rides. The merchants speak highly of the event.

Ms. Charkoudian made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-2-1

5. St. Mary of Carmen Festival – Informational

- David Annese- Treasurer of the St. Mary of Carmen Society presented the proposal for the annual festival in July. There are no changes to the festival.
- The St. Mary of Carmen Society would like to again sponsor Fiesta Shows to operate a carnival & food vendors at Pellegrini Playground with the following dates & times. Set-up – Carnival will arrive no earlier than 8 AM, July 11th to begin set-up on that day through Wednesday afternoon, July 13th.

The Carnival will operate:

- July 13th - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Wednesday)
- July 14th - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Thursday)
- July 15th - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Friday)
- July 16th - 6PM until 11PM – all lights off by 11:30PM (Saturday)
- July 17th - 1PM until 11pm - all activity ceases at 11:00PM and the carnival operator will be allowed until 1:00AM to begin the process of clean up and equipment removal, all activity to cease by 1:00AM, all carnival personnel to be off the premises by 1:30AM.
- July 18th – Removal will commence no sooner than 8AM and conclude by 10PM
- July 19th – Final cleanup & removal will be finished by 12 Noon.
- Entertainment for the festival will be as follows:
 - Wednesday, July 13th 7:00 PM – 10PM, Vinyl Groove (70 & 80's Disco)
 - Thursday, July 14th 6:30PM – 10:00PM, Smooth Revue Featuring Robin McNamara
 - Friday, July 15th 7:00 PM – 10 PM, The Legit Band (Local Pop Cover Band)
 - Saturday, July 16th 6:30 PM – 7.:30PM, Black Ice (Local Young Adult Classic Rock Band)
 - 8:00 PM – 10:30PM The Reminisants (Oldies Band)
 - Sunday, July 17th 2 PM – 5 PM, Afternoon Procession thru Street of Nonantum
 - 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM, Seabreeze (Italian-American Orchestra)
 - 10:00PM – 10:45 PM, Candlelight Procession to Our Lady's Church (Adams – Watertown – Washington Streets)
- Chairman Magni asked if there have been any complaints regarding the festival. Mr. Annese stated there have been no complaints.

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

6. Committee Reports

- Cabot Redesign Committee – no report
- Commonwealth Golf Course – no report
- Community Preservation Committee – no report
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG) – no report
- Farm Commission – no report

- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – no report
- Nahanton Park Working Group – Mr. Clarke presented a proposal to memorialize the remains of the Alms House grounds once the tool shed is removed from the area. Presentation available upon request.
 - Mr. Stern asked if the type of maintenance would be the same as the Cold Spring Park Trail. Mr. Clarke replied yes.
 - Mr. Tucker asked how many stops would be along the trail. Mr. Clarke replied 10-12.
 - Mr. Stern asked about parking. Mr. Clarke replied there is existing parking available.
 - Chairman Magni asked if the proposal will be run by the stakeholders of the park. Mr. Clarke replied yes.
 - Chairman Magni asked if the Commission would have the final approval. Mr. Clarke replied yes.
 - Mr. Tucker stated he discussed the proposal with the Nahanton Park Working Group and agrees in some respect there is no feel for what is out there by the residents. Mr. Tucker visualizes students taking field trips to the trail.

7. New Business- no new business

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin