



Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 211 – City Hall

7:00 p.m. –Monday, October 17, 2016

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

Meeting began 7:00 pm

1. Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2016

- Approved 7-0-1 (Stern absent from September meeting)

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

- **Paddy's Road Race** – Event held on Sunday. A beautiful day and a very successful event that raises money for the Athletes Unlimited program.
- **Waban Common** – meeting with neighbors to beautify the island with planting, etc. The city would pay for the water/irrigation. Last year the cost of the water at the newly renovated island at Otis & Highland was \$9,000.00. The neighborhood pays for the renovation. Mr. Tucker mentioned when driving east on Beacon street past Angier there is a sudden lane shift that is very dangerous.
- **Highland Playground Project** – The project has finally started after 8 years and will be complete by Fall 2017. Mr. Tucker asked what is being done first; Commissioner DeRubeis replied site prep and drainage.
- **Forestry** – Forestry received \$500k for stump removal and the purchase of three new stumpers. 2,500 stumps will be removed.
- **Crystal Lake** – Crystal Lake Working Group will be meeting tomorrow. Mr. Stern mentioned he will be meeting with a couple of the Councilors to discuss docketing enforcing the civil ordinance at Crystal Lake.

3. Lyons Field- Newton Little League – Joe Russo & Rick Dinjian

- Mr. Russo & Mr. Dinjian are proposing two new, permanent chain link batting cages made of black chain link fencing with netting on the top, the size will be 46'x10'. One will be placed near first base and the second will be placed near third base.
- Mr. Dunker asked the size of the existing batting cage, the current cage is 60'.
- Mr. Palmer asked if a pitching machine would be used, Mr. Russo replied, no a coach will be in the cage.

- The question was asked why they chose to install permanent batting cages. Mr. Russo replied the league is run by volunteers and it is difficult taking down, storing and putting up the cages.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented the leagues have merged and the volunteers now have three fields to manage. Lyons field looks great.
- Mr. Stern asked if the cages would be used at night and if the cages could be used for the high school. Mr. Russo responded the cages would not be used at night, there will be no lighting and the cages are too small for high school players.
- Mr. Dinjian stated there are trees that will need to come down and he has spoken to Urban Forestry Director Marc Welch. The trees can come down when the old cages are removed.
- Mr. Stern asked why they chose chain link. Mr. Russo stated the chain link is durable.
- Mr. Dunker asked if any other sports leagues, such as soccer, use the field. Commissioner DeRubeis replied no.
- Mr. Stern stated his concern is the permanent structures the league continues to add to the area.
- Mr. Tucker asked the cost. Mr. Russo stated Village Bank has donated money that will cover the cost of the cages.
- Chairman Magni asked Mr. Kastner (who visited the site with Commissioner DeRubeis, Mr. Russo and Mr. Dinjian last week) his thoughts after the visit. Mr. Kastner responded the entire site looks good, the trailer and outhouse are gone; the concession stand also looks good. The lighting system is fabulous there is no light spillage.

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

4. Committee Reports

- *Community Preservation Committee – no update*
- *Farm Commission – no update*
- *Cabot Redesign Committee – new plan uses less park land for asphalt*
- *Commonwealth Golf Course – no update*
- *Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) –contacted chief about citations rights for off-leash specialist*
- *Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG) – meeting tomorrow*
- *Nahanton Park Committee – setting up meeting to discuss phase II*

5. New Business - no new business

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin