



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
124 Vernon St**

7:00 p.m. –Monday, September 22, 2014



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Richard Tucker, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Peter Johnson, Don Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Jack Neville, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:50 pm

1. Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2014 - Approved 6-0 (Fishman & Charkoudian were not present during vote)

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

- **Sub-committee for building at Nahanton Park-** rescheduled to October Meeting
- We had a successful swim season this year.
- Crystal Lake Working Group continues to meet. The groups' goal is to have a management plan by 2015.
- There are two Farmers Markets this summer. The Cold Spring Park market and the new market on Elm Street which is doing very well.
- **Projects:**
 - Moved the play equipment from Angier School to Carr School. The playground was relocated closer to the school. This caused the baseball field to be relocated.
 - There are several playground builds in process.
 - A Common Backyard Grant was received by the City. The new playground is being installed at Emerson Playground.
 - Cabot Park has several projects going on; the off-leash area is being renovated, the bocce courts have been renovated and the tennis courts have been resurfaced.
 - The half court at Bowen School is almost complete. Parks & Recreation and Public Works have completed their portion of the project the PTO has some work that need to be done.
 - Farlow Park Project is in front of the Finance Committee tonight.
 - Newton Highlands Project: the sports leagues are concerned about using 100K for the construction documents and then having to come up with additional money for the project.
 - Mr. Tucker asked if the City is taking the houses near Zervas via eminent domain. Commissioner DeRubeis responded yes it is in process but has nothing to do with Parks & Recreation.
- CIP- additional money for parks, playgrounds and trees has been added to the budget.
- The Off-Leash Area Working Group has put the proposal for NSHS on hold. Currently the group is researching areas for small dogs. Mr. Roberts has been assaulted twice by dog owners. The Commissioner is still in talks for Mr. Roberts to have citation rights.

3. Auburndale Cove Picnic Area – alcohol

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated a new manager has been at the Cove this year and a lot of issues have come to light. Commissioner DeRubeis is proposing to eliminate alcohol from the Auburndale Cove Picnic Area. Eliminating alcohol would allow for better enforcement in the area. Additional information will be provided at a later Commission meeting.

4. New Business

- Chairman Magni stated he has met with Donnalyn Kahn, City Solicitor regarding the Crystal Lake enforcement issues. The issue is not with the Clerk Magistrate, the issue is with the tickets and rules and regulations not being written properly. Abutters can swim in the lake and it is difficult for the Police to determine who is an abutter and who is not.

- Mr. Tucker asked if the Police can ask to see an ID. Chairman Magni stated if the Police ask to see an ID and the person refuses the person could be cuffed, but does not believe that would happen.
- Mr. Fishman stated Crystal Lake enforcement is a difficult situation.
- Chairman Magni stated the SAYOR group has proposed a swim club; there would be ID's for members. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group has hit a roadblock with the insurance company.

Meeting Adjourned 8:06 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin