



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall - Room 209
7:00 p.m. –Monday, January 28, 2013



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, Chairman, Commissioner Robert DeRubeis, Richard Tucker, Vice- Chairman, Andrew Stern, Peter Johnson, Donald Fishman, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Meeting began at 7:00pm

1. Meeting Minutes –December 17, 2012 – Accepted 6-0
2. Commissioner’s Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance
 - Camp Fair was held at NNHS on Jan 27th. This was a well-attended and successful event. Additional camps have been added this year. Fees are the same as last year.
 - Current programs: Ski & Snowboarding to Nashoba Valley Ski Resort, Indoor Farmers Market, NNHS Indoor Recreation and NSHS Indoor Recreation
 - Commissioner DeRubeis distributed an income & expense report (attached) for Kennard Park as requested at the previous meeting.
 - There is currently no ice skating at the cove. Stephanie Lapham is prepared to open the Cove for ice skating as soon as the ice is safe.
3. Angier School- Presentation- Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor
 - Present: Ouida Young, City Solicitor, Donna & Ken DiNisco, DiNisco Design Partnership Limited, Alex Valcarce, Public Buildings Dept., Melissa Gagnon, Emily Prenner.
 - Angier School is in the preliminary feasibility study phase to be rebuilt to accommodate the student population growth. Ms. Young and Mr. Dinisco made the presentation (attached). The request of the group is the “Newton Parks & Recreation Commission supports the continued close relationship of the Angier Elementary School and the Waban Playground including a shared parking arrangement and emergency access road, and agrees to allow the use of the eastern portion of the playground for temporary construction purposes to facilitate the reconstruction of the Angier Elementary School, provided that the grounds and the playground structure rebuilt following construction.”
 - Mr. DiNisco stated the new school will be 75,000 sq. ft. and 3 stories high. A retaining wall will be built along the edge of the parking lot near the train tracks. Currently the project is in the preliminary phase and hopes to be in the design phase by the end of 2013.
 - Mr. Stern asked what the square footage is of the unclaimed portion of the park. Mr. DiNisco stated ~ 3,000 sq. Mr. Stern stated the area being proposed as a parking area is ~2% of the park area.

- Ms. Charkoudian asked how many trees will be taken down. Mr. DiNisco stated the trees on the slope will be taken down only and they will work with the Urban Forestry Director, Marc Welch to come back with a plan to replace the trees.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the parking area would be available for use in off-school hours. Ms. Young replied, yes.
- Mr. Tucker asked the drop of the slope. Mr. DiNisco stated 2'-16'.
- Chairman Magni asked how many parking spaces are gained by using this piece of park land. Mr. DiNisco stated approximately 18 spaces are added.
- Mr. Stern asked if there will be a shadow issue with the building being three stories high. Mr. DiNisco stated no, a study will be done.
- Chairman Magni & Commissioner DeRubeis commented they are ok with the concept. The fields are used as informal soccer and little league fields.
- Mr. Fishman commented it is premature to vote on the concept; he would like to walk the area.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the Commission has a policy that does not allow open space to be used for parking or permanent structures.
- Mr. Stern commented if there is a loss of open space to parking it would be a shared arrangement.
- Chairman Magni asked the Commission members if this item should be brought to a public hearing. Mr. Stern stated this project is in the preliminary stages and the plan may change. Ms. Young commented the plan will go to the Board of Aldermen in June and if this proposal is a non-starter for the Commission, the group needs to know sooner rather than later.
- Mr. Johnson commented it is premature to make a decision. He would like to see and overlay of the existing site and proposed plan, have some measurements and walk the area.
- Mr. Tucker would like to see all the options; the Commission is sensitive to losing green space.
- Chairman Magni requested the group bring an overlay of the area, measurements of the site and proposed boundaries for the construction site to the February 25th P & R Commission meeting.

4. Relay For Life – Sharon Stout

- Ms. Stout is a representative of the Relay for Life event. This program is a 24-hour event where participants walk the track in sponsored teams honoring those who have been affected by cancer. Participants rest and sleep on the field during the hours of 11pm to 7am. Field lighting will be left on during these hours. The American Cancer Society has agreed to abide by all noise ordinances. The Newton Police will be on site at all times during the program event. For more information go to the Relay for Life website www.cancer.org. The American Cancer Society is requesting permission to use the fields at Forte Park in Newton on June 1 – June 2, 2013 for its Annual Relay for Life fundraiser. A Public Hearing was held at the December P & R Commission meeting. There were no abutters to Forte Park in attendance, but an e-mail was received by an abutter on Rustic St. regarding the noise and parking issues during the event. Ms. Stout commented there will be a Police Officer on site to help with the traffic. At last year's event there was an

orchestra and Chinese festival. There will be no festival or orchestra during this year's event.

Mr. Johnson made the motion to accept the proposal as presented. Mr. Stern seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

5. Poetry in Edmands Park- 3rd Informational Meeting

- Mr. Grey Held was in attendance to provide and update on the proposal for poetry in Edmands Park. The objective of this proposal is to transport nature poetry from the library and the printed page into the living landscape of Newton's Edmands Park. The poems will be secured to existing stone structures within the park. The P & R Commission requested Mr. Held bring the proposal to the Historic Commission and the Conservation Commission for approval before taking a vote.
- Mr. Held stated he appeared before the Historical Commission. Mr. Brian Lever, Sr. Preservation Planner requested the plaques be installed by a skilled mason. Ms. Anne Phelps of the Conservation Commission stated this was an interesting proposal but the signage must be affixed so it does not become litter.
- Mr. Held commented the plaques will be made of 18 gauge brass.
- Mr. Stern asked who will approve the substance of the poetry. Mr. held stated all poetry will be approved by the P & R Commission.
- Mr. Harry Sanders, Resident, asked if a plaque is stolen will it be replaced. Mr. held stated there will be a budget which includes damage and replacement.
- Mr. Stern asked if the money will be managed by the P & R Department. Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes.

Mr. Stern made the motion to move the proposal to a public hearing. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

6. Commission Elections

- Mr. Stern nominated Arthur as P & R Commission Chairman for 2013. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
- Chairman Magni nominated Richard Tucker for P & R Commission Vice-Chairman. Ms. Charkoudian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

7. New Business

- Mr. Tucker asked if there has been any new action regarding the proposal for a kiosk proposal. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the Crystal Lake Working Group is working on the health of the lake. The kiosk proposal is on hold.
- Mr. Stern asked what is being done about the swim at your own risk proposal. Commissioner DeRubeis stated this proposal is also on hold.
- Mr. Tucker asked if there is milfoil in the lake. Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes there is some in the lake. Mr. Tucker stated the milfoil will kill the lake.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42

Kenard Estate Income / Expenses:

FY 12:	
Rental Income	\$ 8,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 3.19
Actual Expenses:	
Natural Gas	\$ (3,357.62)
Electricity	\$ (956.60)
Water	\$ (574.30)
Custodial Services	\$ (3,434.89)
Bldg R & M	\$ (300.27)
Sub Total Expenses	\$ (8,623.68)
Net Income	\$ (620.49)

FY 13:	
Income (through 1/31/2013)	\$ 7,000.00
Interest Income (through 12/31/2013)	\$ 1.27
Actual Expenses (Thru 1/9/13):	
Natural Gas	\$ (2,106.39)
Electricity	\$ (625.42)
Water	\$ (94.53)
Custodial Services	\$ (3,024.89)
Bldg R & M	\$ (354.22)
Sub Total Expenses	\$ (6,205.45)
Net Income to Date	\$ 795.82



Angier
Elementary
School

Newton, MA

Feasibility Study

EXISTING CONDITIONS

0 25 50 N

18 January 2013

DiNisco Design Partnership
architects and planners

Angier - Existing ↑

↓ Proposed



Angier
Elementary
School

Newton, MA

Feasibility Study

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

0 25 50 N

18 January 2013

DiNisco Design Partnership
architects and planners