



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, War Memorial, 7:00pm
June 18, 2012



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Richard Tucker, *Vice-Chairman*, Commissioner DeRubeis, Andrew Stern, Peter Johnson, Fran Rice, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, Jack Neville, Don Fishman (sitting in for vacant Ward 8 position), Peter Kastner, Michael Clarke (sitting in for Mr. Bernheimer), Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Walter Bernheimer

7:00pm

The Youth Service Awards were presented in the Aldermanic Chambers. The following individuals were recognized with an award:

Judge Franklin N. Flaschner Award

Recipient: Philip S. Levoff

Judge Julian Yesley Young Adult Award

Recipient: Michaela Regehr

Officer Robert Braceland Award

Recipient: Jay Sobel

Irene Bickelman Junior Youth Award

Recipient: Emma Luce

Russell J. Halloran Lifetime Achievement Award

Recipient: Helen Murphy

Certificate of Recognition for Extraordinary Personal Action

Recipient: Kristin Luce

Commission meeting called to order at 7:45pm

1. Meeting Minutes –May 21, 2012- accepted 8-0

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

- Commissioner DeRubeis reported
 - The department is preparing for summer camps. The camps are full and two additional camps have been added this year to meet the needs of the residents.
 - Mr. Stern asked if there is ever an issue with kids not attending camp because they require a scholarship. Commissioner DeRubeis

commented all who apply for a scholarship will receive some scholarship money. Nobody is declined. Mr. Stern asked how the scholarships are affected with the addition of NCSC participants attending P & R camps. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the scholarships are not affected.

- Gath Pool & Crystal Lake are open
- This past weekend 57 of the special athletes participated in the Special Olympics held at BU and Harvard University.
- Commissioner DeRubeis thanked the Commission members for attending the Youth Service Awards. This is the 34th year of the awards.

3. **Off-Leash Area Working Group-Informational (OLAWG)** (presentation attached)

- Commissioner DeRubeis reported the group has been working with Newton Youth Soccer to locate additional off-leash areas. Weeks Park was presented previously, a representative from Newton Youth Soccer offered assistance in locating other areas. Weeks Park has the premier soccer fields for Newton Youth Soccer. Neighbors of the area also met with OLAWG. The meetings have been very productive meetings.
- Mr. Stern asked how the open off-leash areas are running. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the areas are running well. Currently over 900 off-leash permits have been purchased.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked the status of the dog licensing. Commissioner DeRubeis commented dog licensing has increased since the implementation of the off-leash permits. An off-leash permit is not given out without a current dog license.
- The following areas are under consideration as off-leash recreation areas. There will be meetings with neighbors of each of these areas over the summer and then possible public hearings with the Commission in the Fall.
 - **Thompsonville (upper level)**
 - **NSHS –area near tennis courts**
 - **Forte park – area near tennis courts**
 - **Edmands Park**

4. **New Business**

- a. Mr. Stern requested Commissioner DeRubeis to explain the process of acknowledging landscape vendors who provide service to P & R green space. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the Adopt-A-Space program has a standardized sign for vendors who adopt and care for an area. Occasionally when a vendor is working at the site they may post a larger sign, but they would not be allowed to leave the larger sign at the site.
- b. **Docks in Crystal Lake**- Mr. Clarke would like the Commission to create a plan to standardize docks permitted on Crystal Lake. According to *“An Act Relative To The Control of Crystal Lake in the City of Newton, Massachusetts Legislature chapter 243, Acts of 1924”* the Parks & Recreation Commission,

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Newton, through its playground commission, may from time to time make rules and regulations as to the erection, maintenance and control of all public bath houses on the shores of Crystal Lake in said city.

SECTION 2. The playground commission of said city may from time to time make rules and regulations governing fishing, boating, bathing, skating and other recreational activities in or on Crystal Lake in said city. Such rules and regulations shall be subject to the approval of the division of waterways and public lands of the department of public works of the commonwealth and when approved by said division shall have the force of law.

SECTION 3. Any police officer of said city may patrol any part of the waters of said lake and shall have authority to arrest any person violating any law of the commonwealth in, on or adjacent to the waters of said lake or violating any rule or regulation established under this act.

SECTION 4. The violation of any rule or regulation established under this act shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars.

SECTION 5. Nothing in this act shall be construed to abridge the powers and duties of said division under chapter ninety-one of the General Laws.

Approved April 12, 1924

- A consensus was reached to establish a sub-committee to create a policy for docks on Crystal Lake. The members of the committee are Michael Clarke, Richard Tucker and Carol Stapleton, Recreation Manager.
- c. **Crystal Lake- illegal swimming**
 - Mr. Stern commented that after reviewing *An Act Relative To The Control of Crystal Lake in the City of Newton, Massachusetts Legislature chapter 243, Acts of 1924* he believes the Commission has the authority to request the \$20.00 fine be enforced for illegal swimming at Crystal Lake. Mr. Stern asked the members if the “No Swimming” rule should be enforced.
 - Mr. Tucker commented there is no reason we should not give it a try but asked if the Commission should check with the City’s Law Department.
 - Mr. Fishman commented this is a political process; we should have representatives of the different groups around a table to talk through the issues. This is a simmering issue and the group should handle what comes up from a discussion. Similar to the off-leash issue.
 - Mr. Stern commented this should be removed from the political process.
 - Chairman Magni commented the off-leash issue is a little different. Swimming at your own risk is a life or death debate, there is more at stake. Chairman Magni believes having a fine will help.
 - Mr. Clarke agreed but will the police sign on to enforce the fine without an ordinance. Mr. Stern stated the ordinance is not required, there is a law.

Mr. Stern made the following motion: For Furtherance of public safety for the City of Newton, the Parks & Recreation Commission requests the Newton Police Chief promptly enforce the 1924 Control of Crystal Lake Statute, Chapter 243. Motion passed 7-0-1(Rice)

- Commissioner DeRubeis recommended the Commission send a letter to the Police Chief.
- d. **Nahanton Park-** Mr. Kastner commented the Community Gardens are in great shape. Commissioner DeRubeis stated Judy Dore, Carol Schein and Robin McLaughlin have worked together on the improvements at the Community Gardens.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm

Respectfully Submitted, Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Thompsonville Playground



- Ward 6
- Upper level of Bowen School
- Has a dedicated entrance
- Ample parking
- Fenced
- Closed Mon-Fri
 - 7:30am-9:00am
 - 2:30pm-4:00pm

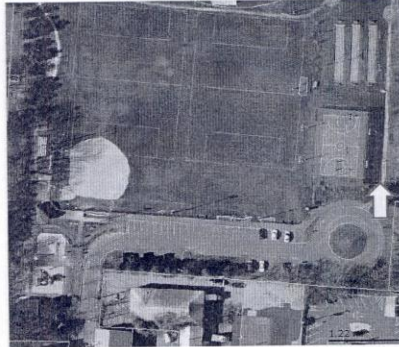
Edmands Park

- Ward 2
- Heavily used by dog owners as an off leash recreation area
- Almost completely fenced
- Work toward shared usage
- Possible hours restriction
- Possible Seasonal usage



Forte Park

- Ward 1- 229R California St
- Area on the right side of the basketball court
- Fenced



NSHS – Tennis Court Area

- Ward 8
- Area by south side of tennis courts, unused green space area.
- Fenced

