



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
June 20, 2011



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Kathleen Heitman, *Vice-Chair*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Bethel Charkoudian, Peter Johnson, Richard Tucker, Michael Clarke, Fran Rice, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Jack Neville, Walter Bernheimer, Andrew Stern

The Youth Awards were held at 7:00pm in the Aldermanic Chambers. The recipients of the awards are:

Jodi Schaefer –	Judge Franklin N. Flaschner Award
Daryl Choa-	Judge Julian Yesley Young Adult Award
Zoe Smith-	Officer Robert Braceland Award
Olivia Kelly-	Irene Bickelman Junior Youth Award
Barbara Goodenough-	Russell J. Halloran Lifetime Achievement Award

Meeting called to order at 7:40pm

1. Meeting Minutes –May 16, 2011 – accepted 8-0

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

- Department Snapshot (see attached)
- Special Olympics Weekend- June 18 & 19th
- Gath Pool & Crystal Lake - Open
- Camps begin the end of the month
- Preparing for the 4th of July Celebration
- St. Mary of Carmen Festival - July 13-17
- Farmers Market
 - New Spring Market- Tuesdays at the Post 440
 - Friday Market - Post 440
 - Cold Spring Park- begins July 5th

3. Farlow Park – Keith Jones

- Mr. Jones presented the proposal for the Farlow Park Pond restoration to the Commission at the April 25, 2011 meeting. The Commission requested Mr. Jones return to the Commission after the draw down test was completed. The draw down test was done to verify the well will supply enough water to the pond. A summary of the project including the draw down test were submitted (attached). Mr. Jones is requesting approval on the project to move forward for a public hearing in September.

- Commissioner DeRubeis asked for the test results. Mr. Jones stated the test determined the well will supply the pond with 20-25 gallons per minute and will also supply the irrigation system for the season.
- Chairman Magni asked the members if there were any questions.
- Mr. Clarke asked if there was a lot of sediment. Mr. Jones stated there is 18" of soil. Mr. Clarke asked if the depth of the pond is 18". Mr. Jones stated yes the pond is being restored to its original depth of 18". Mr. Clarke asked if a quality test was done on the water. Mr. Jones stated no.
- Mr. Kastner asked if a concrete core sample was taken. Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes the concrete basin is in tact.
- Mr. Clarke commented the summary mentions skating during the winter, who will manage the skating at the pond. Mr. Jones stated the Friends of Farlow Park would try to make it work. Mr. Clarke asked how skating would effect the concrete. Mr. Jones stated that is a good question and will follow-up with Weston & Sampson.

Mr. Rice made the motion to approve the concept of restoring Farlow Park Pond as presented. Ms. Heitman seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

4. Lowell Park – Danielle Bailey

- Ms. Bailey from the Newton Planning Department came before the Commission to present the Master Plan for the restoration of Lowell Park in March of 2011. The Commission approved the plan for Lowell Park but requested she return with the final plans before construction began in the park.
- Ms. Bailey presented the final plans (attached). The final plans include three benches, the signs to be posted, tree & shrub removals and plantings and an adopt-a-space apple orchard. Ms. Bailey introduced Newton resident Michael Dugan who came up with the idea of the apple orchard.
- Mr. Tucker asked if the trees will be ok with all the vehicle exhaust. Mr. Dugan stated yes.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked what type of apples. Mr. Dugan stated Dwarf, organic apples.
- Mr. Clarke asked if the apples are dwarf or the trees. Mr. Dugan replied the trees are dwarf, they will grow to around 12'.
- Mr. Tucker asked what the square footage is for the area. Ms. Bailey commented the park is a half acre.
- Ms. Bailey commented there will also be a community planting bed and a new bike rack. New curb cuts will be installed using CDBG funding by the Department of Public Works.
- Mr. Sanders, Newton resident asked Ms. Bailey if she is aware of the problems buses and trucks have turning the corner of Walnut and Watertown Street. If the curbs are extended it will be even more difficult for large vehicles to turn that corner.

- Mr. Kastner asked how the trees and garden will be watered. Ms. Bailey stated that will need to be determined.
- Chairman Magni asked for the timeline of the construction. Ms. Bailey stated tree work would begin in August, DPW will begin work in September, turf and additional tree work will begin on October.
- Ms. Chairman thanked Ms. Bailey and Mr. Dugan.

5. Half court basketball court- Lincoln Warren Park-

- Stephanie Lapham-P & R Dept. Alderman Rice, Dave Miller, Resident were present.
- Mr. Miller stated he purchased the property across from the Lincoln Warren Park and he is proposing a half court basketball court be added to the park. Money will be raised to build the court.
- Mr. Rice asked if the court would be fenced.
- Mr. Kastner asked if the school sites have been considered.
- Ms. Lapham commented the school does have a basketball court. And other areas have been looked at within the park. The court requires accessibility.
- Chairman Magni asked if the area needs to be paved for accessibility. Ms Lapham stated no, a hard surface is required.
- Mr. Tucker asked if there has been input from all of the neighbors.
- Ms. Lapham said there is a group interested. Chairman Magni asked if the group understands the public process. Ms. Lapham stated yes.
- Mr. Fishman commented the neighborhood should be polled. The sports leagues should be involved. A couple of options should be brought forward.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated this idea needs more research. This is a heavily used area.

6. Off-Leash Area Working Group – Presentation

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated there are 5 open off-leash recreation areas, Cold Spring Park, Newton Centre, Claflin Playground, McGrath Park and Hunnewell Park which is a fenced area. Cabot Park should be opened within the next week. Cabot Park is a fenced area also.
- The City Clerk reported to there have been 606 Resident Medallions Sold.
- Commissioner DeRubeis presented (attached) four areas as proposed off-leash recreation areas:
 - Forte Park
 - Ward 1
 - Open weekdays dawn to noon
 - Goose Mitigation
 - Ample parking
 - Spears Park
 - Ward 1 – Ms. Elizabeth Spears left the gift of land at 89 Walnut Park to the City of Newton in her will. In 1936 the gift was accepted by the City of Newton and named Spears Park.

- Currently an unused space
- Fenced area –currently fenced on two sides - install ornamental fence
- Hours: dawn- dusk
- Small dog area- dogs less than 25 lbs.
- Memorial bench for Ms. Spears to be donated and placed in the park.
- West Newton Common
 - Ward 3
 - Hours of operation
 - March 16th – December 14th
 - Weekdays: dawn-noon
 - December 15th - March 15th
 - Weekdays dawn-dusk
 - Closed on week-ends year round
 - Off-leash dogs must not enter the tot lot swing area
 - Fence the swing area
- Braceland Playground
 - Ward 5
 - Lower tier
 - Ample parking
 - Off-leash area is closed from December 15th - March 15th for sledding
 - Dogs must remain on-leash until they enter the off-leash recreation area
 - Must go before the Conservation Commission
- Chairman Magni stated Mr. Stern, who is not present is concerned about the dog bite that took place in Cold Spring Park a few weeks ago and wants to know what is being done about this issue.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) has developed a procedure. When a resident completes an off-leash area recreation application and checks off yes to the question, “Has your dog been the subject of a complaint or other action as set forth in Section 3-30(a) (11) of the Newton City Ordinances or has ever caused injury to a person or another dog?” The application would be held by the City Clerk and referred to Officer Torres. Officer Torres would evaluate the dog. If the application is denied the applicant would have the opportunity to appeal the decision and appear in front of the Off-Leash Area Working Group.
- Chairman Magni asked if Officer Torres has the ability to cross check the information. Commissioner DeRubeis said yes, Officer Torres is aware of what is going on. Several applications have been forwarded to Officer Torres.

7. New Business

▪ 9/11 Memorial

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated a group has come forward proposing a 9/11 memorial on the City Hall grounds.
- This September will be the 10th anniversary and the group would like to break ground by September 11, 2011.
- There is a competition for the memorial design.
- Commissioner DeRubeis asked if there is a possibility of a summer time Commission meeting to hear this proposal.
- Mr. Kastner commented the Board of Alderman (BOA) has some say over the City Hall grounds, they must be included. Commissioner DeRubeis agreed. Mr. Clarke stated the BOA should be involved but have no say over park land.
- Mr. Kastner stated this project is being rushed. This is an important civic statement and a small group is making the decisions.
- Ms. Schein commented a memorial needs to be thoughtful and takes time.
- Mr. Fishman commented the P & R Commission's purpose is to slow down the process, to gather general opinions and consensus.
- Mr. Tucker commented there will be so much going on for this anniversary this project may be lost in all the activity.
- The P & R Commission members present came to a consensus to endorse the concept but if the memorial is on park land it should not be a rushed process.


Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Department Snapshot (5 pages)

Newton Parks and Recreation Snapshot June 2011 Commission Meeting

Employee Attendance					
	Worker Days	Days Missed		Power Indicator	
		Leave	Vacation		
Administration (5)	115	3	9	90%	
Program (8)	184	3	15.5	90%	
Grounds Maintenance (16)	336	36.5	25	82%	
Urban Forestry (2)	45	1	7	82%	
Totals	680	43.5	56.5	85%	

Customer Service Measures				
	Phone Calls	FAQ's Viewed	Total Inquires	
Administration	520	102	622	622
Program	1026	401	1427	1427
Facilities	234	230	464	464
Grounds Maintenance	103	0	103	103
Urban Forestry	321	1291	1612	1612
Totals	2204	2024	4228	

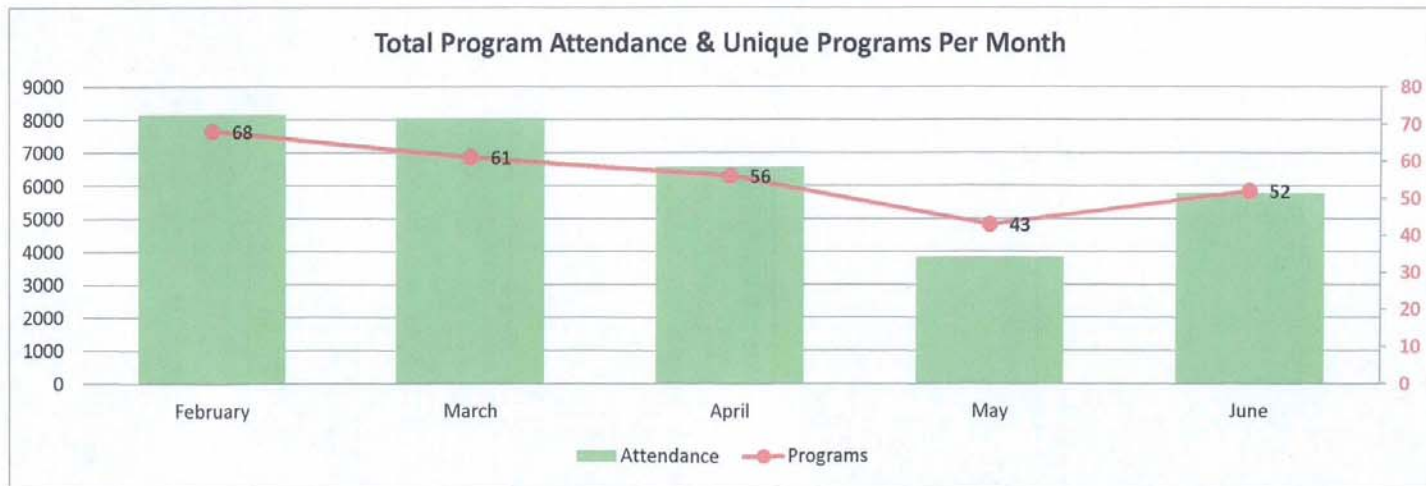
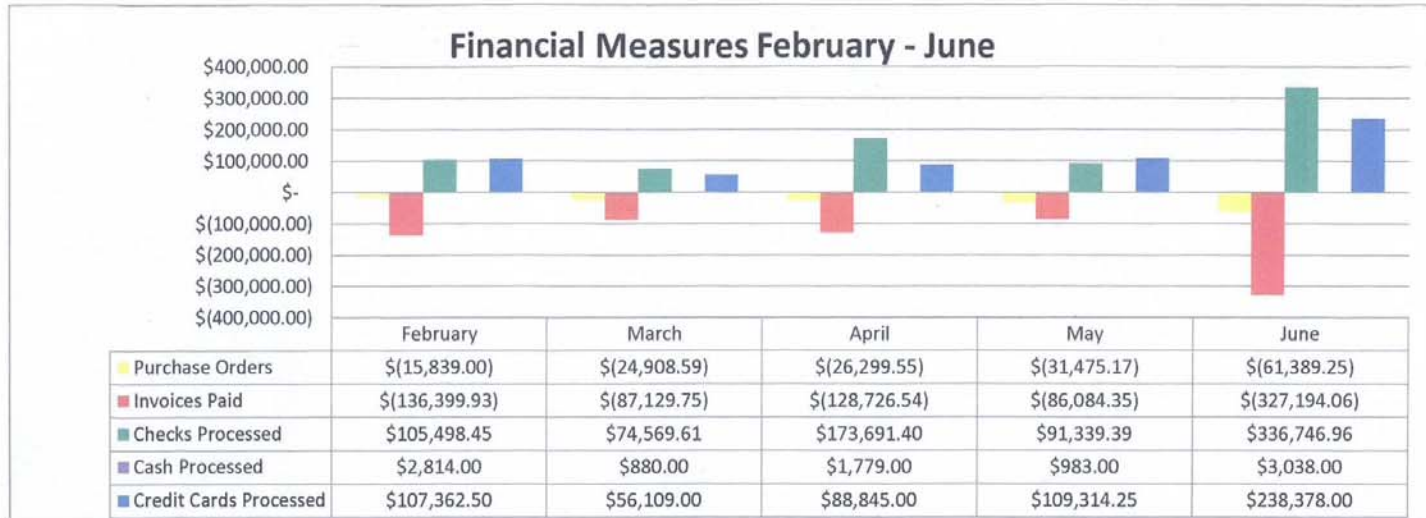
Service Requests							
Grounds Maintenance				Urban Forestry			
	Rcv'd	closed	Avg. Age of Comp. (days)		Rcv'd	Closed	Avg. Age of Comp. (days)
School Dude	34	▲ 16	2.8	Pruning	46	▼ 0	na
				Removals	56	▼ 0	na
WebQA	11	▲ 14	4.4	Dn tr, lb, hngr	94	▲ 104	0
				Removal backlog	Num. 210	Days till Complete 90	
				Prune backlog	589	3577 (9.8 years)	

Financial Measures				
	Quant.	\$ Amount		
Purchase Orders	36	\$ (61,389.25)	-\$61,389	
Invoices Paid	364	\$ (327,194.06)	-\$327,194	
Checks Processed	619	\$ 336,746.96	\$336,747	
Cash Processed	24	\$ 3,038.00	\$3,038	
Credit Cards Processed	732	\$ 238,378.00	\$238,378	
	1775	\$ 189,579.65		

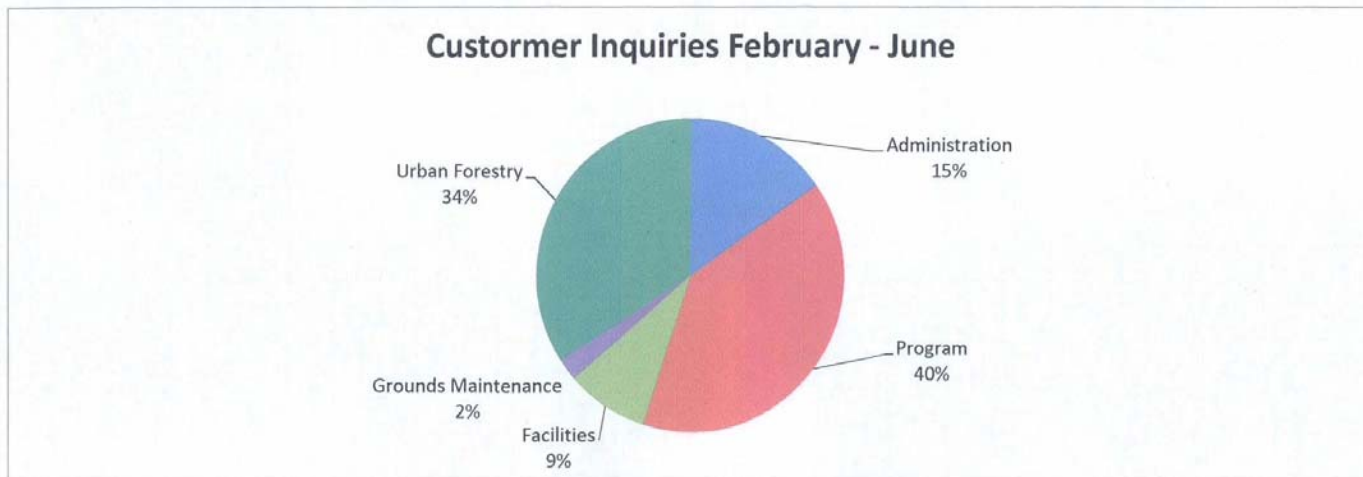
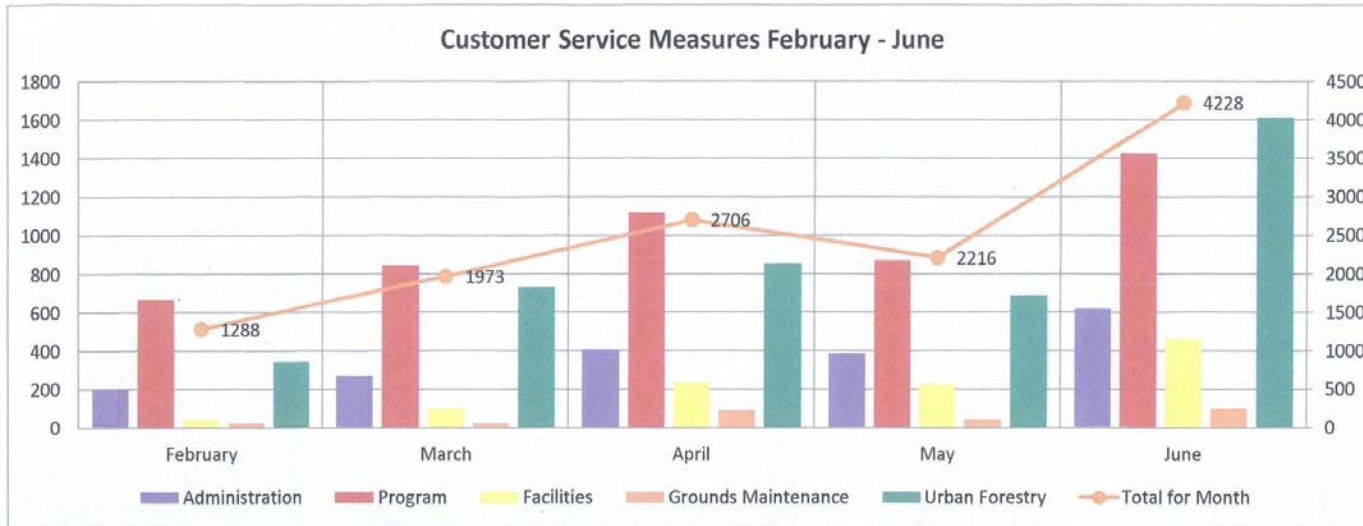
Program Attendance		
Total Program Attendance For Month	5792	
Total Number of Programs For Month	52	

*see reverse for program list and attendance

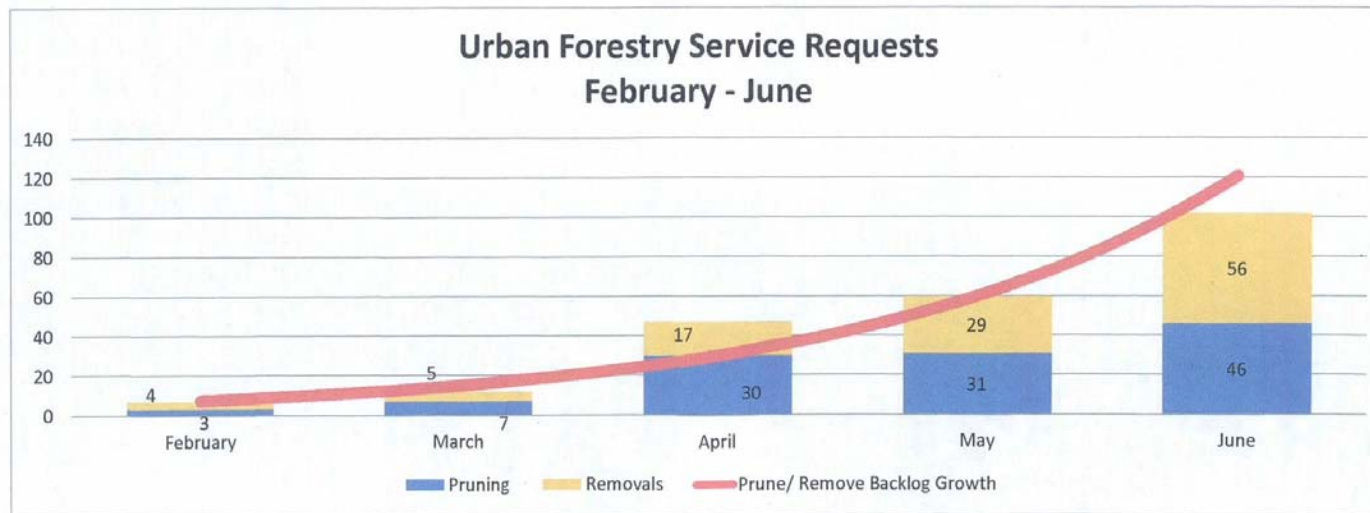
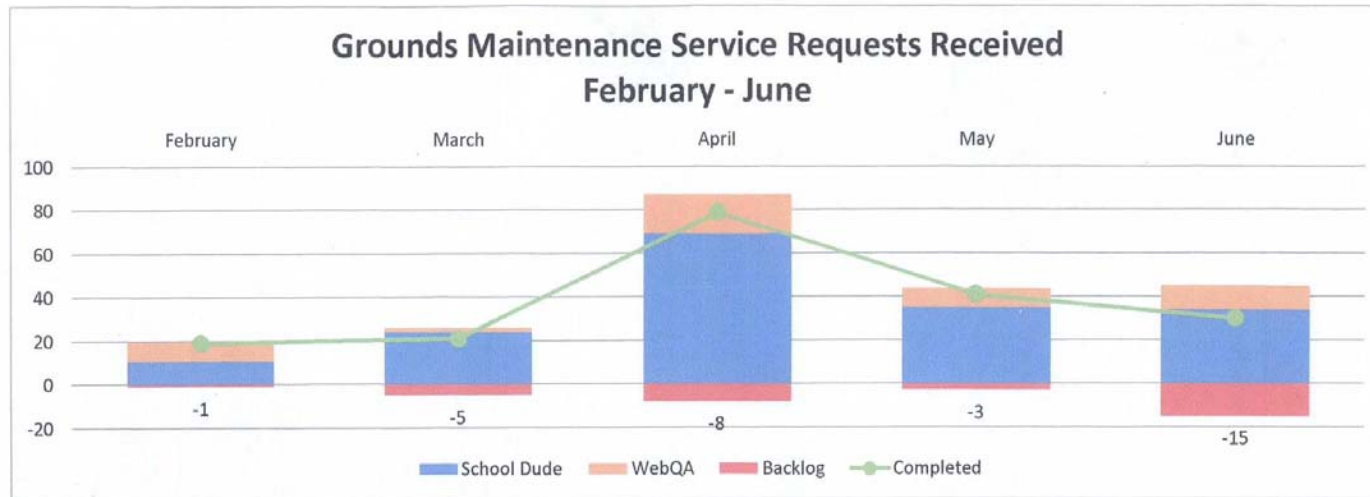
Newton Parks and Recreation Performance Measures February - June



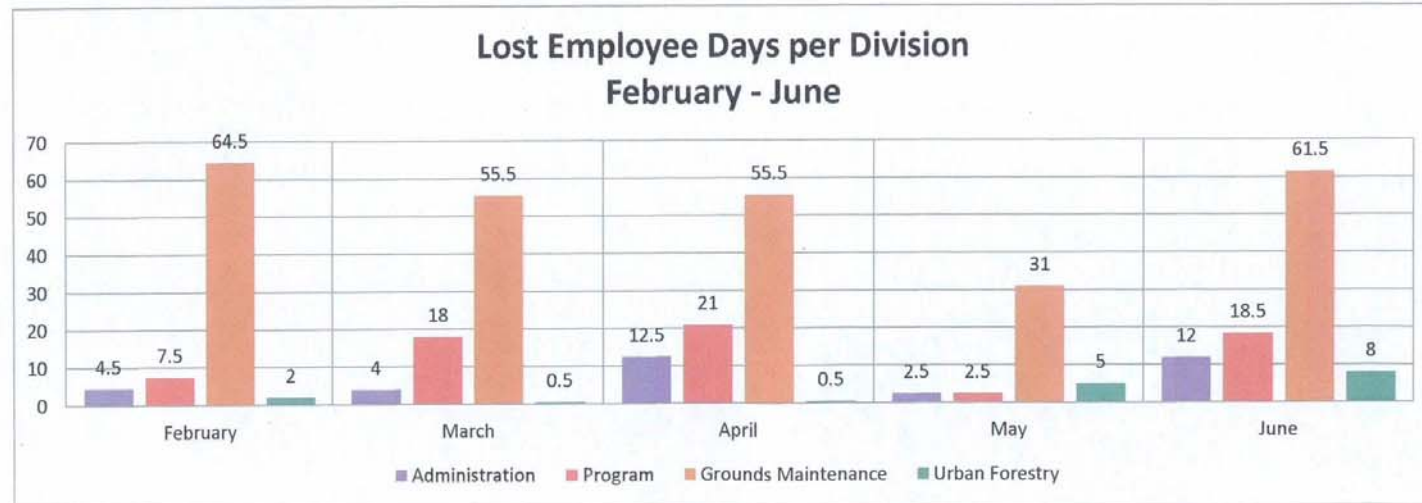
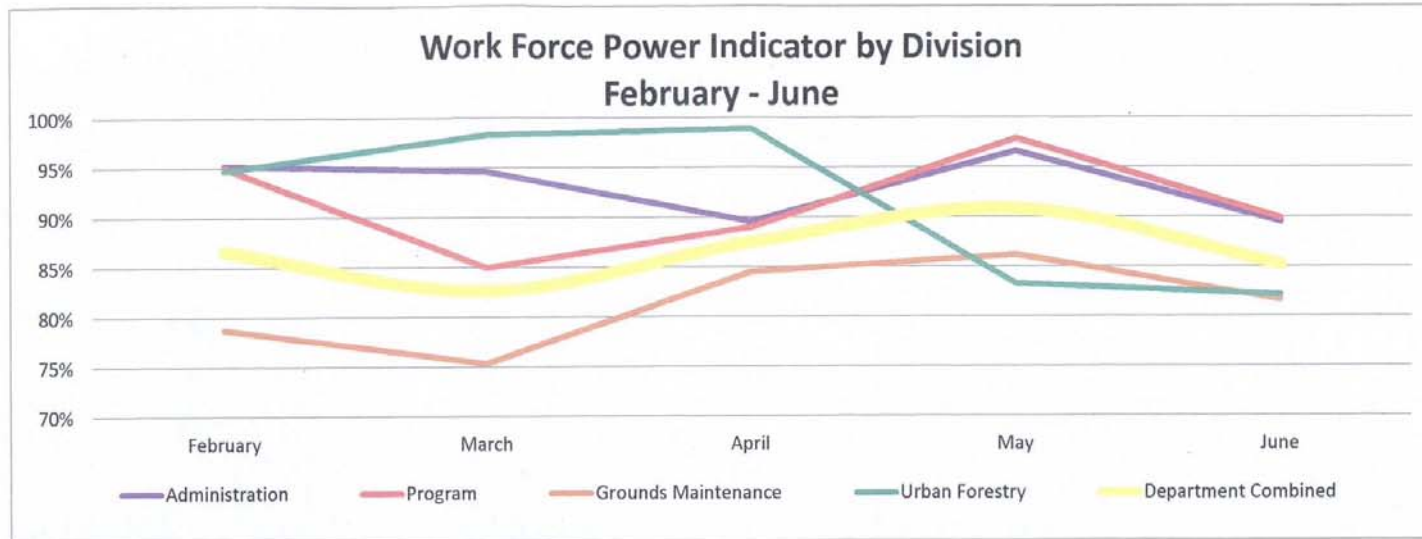
Newton Parks and Recreation Performance Measures February - June



Newton Parks and Recreation Performance Measures February - June



Newton Parks and Recreation Performance Measures February - June



TO: Stephanie Pelkowsky

FROM: Cheri Ruane

DATE: June 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Farlow Park Pond Executive Summary

This memorandum serves to summarize the progress to date on the Farlow Park Pond Restoration Project. Weston & Sampson was hired by the City of Newton to perform a safety and feasibility study on the restoration of the original pond feature at the park. These findings are outlined below. Based on the data gathered in the course of the last year and extensive precedent studies conducted at similar water features in public parks, near schools and playgrounds intended for young children, we have determined that the restoration of the Farlow Park Pond does not pose undue safety concerns. Further, we have established that through use of the existing well, water can be supplied to both the pond and the irrigation system for the adjacent ball field.

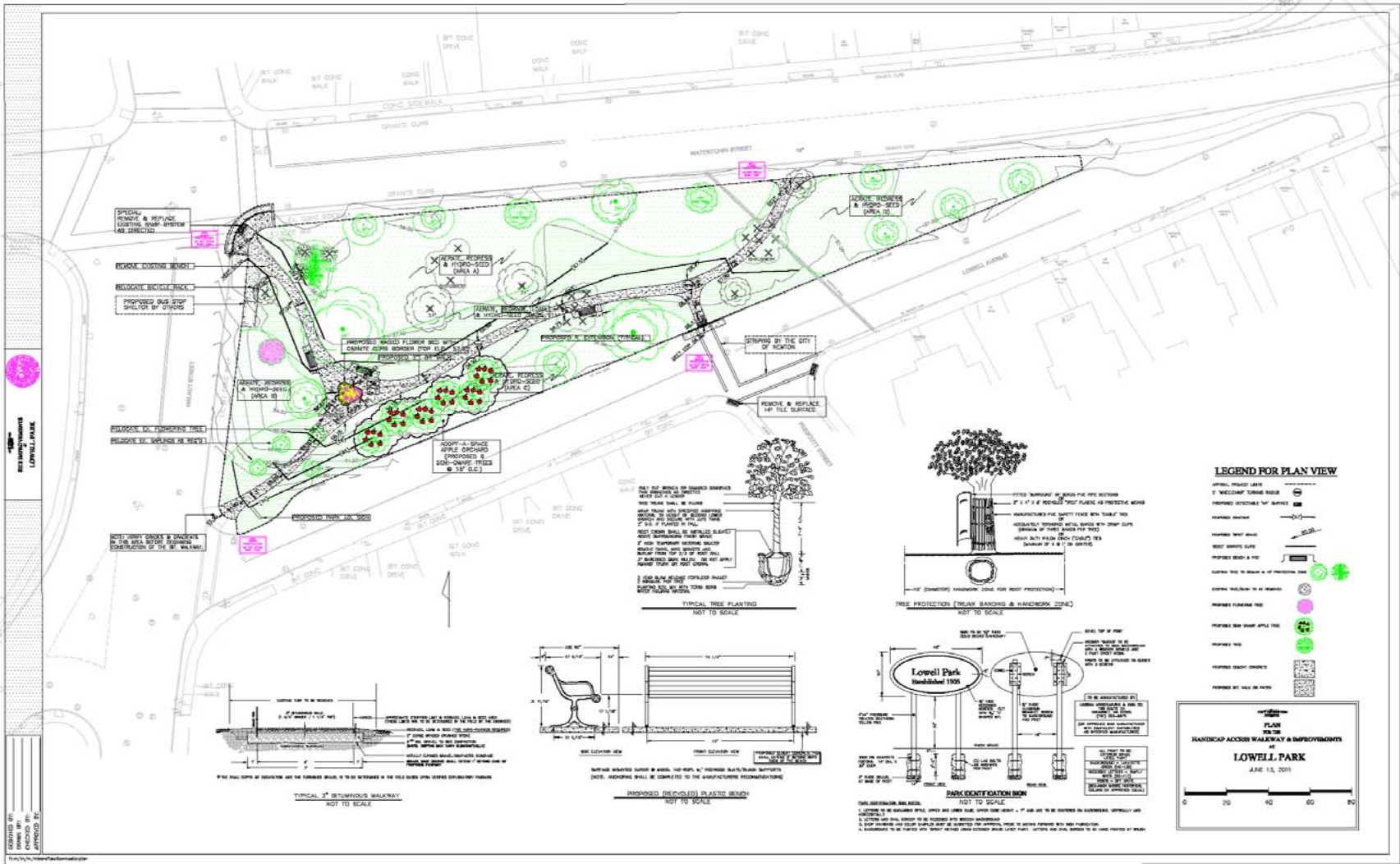
- The Safety Matrix (attached herein) shows that in general there were no safety concerns with open water ponds in public landscapes. Maintenance concerns were mostly related to geese and trash collection on the open water surface. Aeration and some water additives will mitigate mosquito concerns.
- An aeration device will be required to ensure movement of water to discourage stagnation, algae growth and mosquito breeding.
- The existing concrete pond shell was investigated through test pits and borings. Given the results, we have made general assumptions about the condition of the concrete and expect to find minimal to moderate repairs necessary to the existing concrete. An applied liner will be required but will not ensure 100% water tightness, which was deemed acceptable by the City.
- The perception of safety, specifically in regards to the abutting day care center, should be addressed with fencing at the property line, not around the pond. Outreach highlighting the educational benefits of the feature was encouraged.
- The existing well appears to have excellent water quality, although no specific water quality testing was performed, per the direction of the City. Yield was confirmed at 21 gpm with some higher levels given seasonal impacts and draw down times. The resulting report is attached herein.
- The existing irrigation system is one zone supported by the city water supply system. By transferring the source of water to the existing well, the system must be removed and reinstalled to include multiple zones that will make more efficient use of the well yield.

6.16.11_Executive Summary.docx

- The final design (currently at 85% completion) will include water supply from the existing well, a variable frequency drive pump that will pull water from the well and direct it to source the pond (to refill from leakage or evaporation) or the irrigation system depending on time of day. A water level sensor will be installed in the pond to communicate to the pump when additional water is needed. An aerator will be located under the bridge to provide adequate water turnover and oxygenation to discourage algae growth that impacts water clarity and quality. These systems will be powered either from the mechanical room of the school or the closest pole on the street adjacent to the park. Finally, the pond will have an overflow / drain inlet that will allow the pond to be drained down seasonally and accommodate stormwater run-off from rain and snow melt. This drain will either make use of existing drain lines or require new lines to be installed in place of the existing.
- It has been acknowledged that this proposed feature cannot negatively impact park operations and maintenance staff who are already overtaxed. In response to this, the Friends of Farlow Park have verbally committed to organizing seasonal clean ups to remove leaf build up and debris that falls into the pond. In addition, they will manage any winter skating programming for the pond.
- Total construction costs have been estimated at \$265,000 which includes the new irrigation system and a 10% construction contingency.

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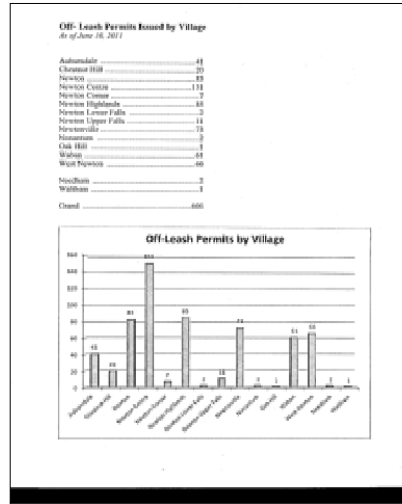
Lowell Park



Off-Leash Area Working Group Presentation

Permits Update

- 606 – Resident medallions purchased
- 4 - Professional Dog Walking Company Permits purchased



24 Green Space Areas for Phase 2 Evaluation

Ward	Area	Ward	Area
1	1 Forte Park	13	4 Norumbega
2	1 Hunnewell Playground - Open (fenced area)	14	5 Old Cold Spring Park -Open
3	1 Spears Park (a.k.a. Walnut Park)	15	5 Braceland Playground
4	2 Halloran Sports Complex	16	5 Richardson Playground
5	2 Clafin Playground - Open	17	6 Newton Centre - Open
6	2 Cabot Park - Approved - awaiting fence install	18	6 Newton Highlands Playground (Whitmore)
7	2 Edmands Park	19	6 Thompsonville Playground
8	3 McGrath Park - Open	20	6 Weeks Park
9	3 West Newton Commons	21	7 Burr Park
10	4 Auburndale Cove	22	8 Brown & Oak Middle School Playground
11	4 Consrv Flowed Meadow	23	8 NSHS - area near tennis courts only
12	4 Hamilton Playground	24	8 Nahanton Park

Forte Park

- Ward 1
- Open weekdays dawn to noon
- Goose Mitigation
- Ample parking



Spears Park

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West Newton Common

- Ward 3
- Hours of operation
- March 16th –
December 14th

Weekdays: dawn-noon

- December 15th -
March 15th

Weekdays dawn-dusk

- Closed on week-ends
year round
- Off-leash dogs must
not enter the tot lot
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Braceland Playground



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- Lower tier
- Ample parking
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from December 15th -
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