



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
City Hall, Room 209, 7:00pm
November 21, 2011



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Attending: Arthur Magni, *Chairman*, Bob DeRubeis, *Commissioner*, Walter Bernheimer, Fran Rice, Andrew Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Peter Johnson, Richard Tucker, Michael Clarke, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner, Robin McLaughlin, *Secretary*

Absent: Kathleen Heitman, Jack Neville

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

1. Meeting Minutes –October 17, 2011- accepted 8-0

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

- **Gath Pool & Crystal Lake Reports (attached)**
 - The numbers were down compared to last year at Gath Pool & Crystal Lake due to weather conditions.
- **Programs & Services Resolution (attached)**
 - The Programs & Service Committee received a petition to allow swim at your own risk at Crystal Lake and are requesting the Commission review the policy. Commissioner DeRubeis has spoken with Deborah Fogel who submitted the petition. Ms. Fogel is putting together a proposal to appear before the Commission.
- **Department Snapshot (attached)**
 - Mr. Tucker commented on the 18 year back log to prune trees and asked what the back log was last year. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the backlog increases exponentially each year. Tree pruning is contracted and the budget allows for 20 days of pruning each year.
 - Mr. Tucker stated trees are a safety issue.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis and Marc Welch, *Director of Forestry* have met with the Executive Office and presented a proposal to bring crews in-house.
- **Budget**
 - The current Administration has maintained a dynamic budget rather than a static budget. Commissioner DeRubeis will provide a copy of the budget at the next meeting.
- **Camp Scholarship Report (attached)**
 - This summer the Parks & Recreation Department is partnering with the Newton Community Service Center to provide NCSC participants a specific number of spots in the P & R Summer Camps.
- **Newton Corner Move**
 - The former old Boys & Girls Library (124 Vernon St) is just about ready for the move. Public Buildings is doing a great job.
- **Newton Highlands Project**

- Gale Associates has almost completed the feasibility study at Newton Highlands Playground.

3. Public Hearing Venues

- Ms. Charkoudian requested a discussion on alternate meeting locations for Public Hearings. The War Memorial is the usual location where Public Hearings are held for the P & R Commission and the acoustics are horrible. If the Commission is going to have a public hearing, it needs to be heard.
- Chairman Magni asked if Ms. Charkoudian could do some research as to what other locations are available. Ms. Charkoudian requested the group discuss the options.
- Linda Plaut suggested the auditorium at the Cultural Center, 225 Nevada St.
- Carol Stapleton recommended the Aldermanic Chambers on a night besides a Monday night.
- Mr. Bernheimer commented the need to use of the Aldermanic Chambers would depend on the Public Hearing Agenda.
- Chairman Magni asked the members present if they agreed to use the Aldermanic Chambers for Public Hearings. All members present agreed.

4. Poetry in Edmands Park (proposal attached)

- Mr. Grey Held and Ms. Wendy Drexler presented the proposal. Mr. Held stated the idea is to take poetry out of the books and put it in Edmands Park, which is a natural park setting. The nature-oriented poetry would be visible but not “in your face”. There are existing structures that would make great places to install the poetry. The installation would include engraved stainless steel plaques that would last 50 years. There will be a public contest for the poetry selection. Funding will come from the entry fee and a grant from the Newton Cultural Council.
- Chairman Magni requested the proposal be vetted through the P & R Department to check the deed of Edmands Park.
- Commissioner DeRubeis will check with the Law Department
- Ms. Charkoudian stated she has been to Tacoma Park in Maryland which has poetry scattered throughout the City along the public sidewalks, it is beautiful. Ms. Charkoudian asked if the Commission would have final say on the design and the wording of the poetry. The Commission wants to be sure nobody would be offended by the wording.
- Mr. Stern asked what the parameters will be for the contest. Mr. Held replied the poems should relate to nature, dog walking, etc.
- Mr. Clarke suggested Mr. Held forward a history of the park to the contestants to integrate into the poems. Ms. Drexler commented it would be helpful to know the tree and plant species in the park.
- Mr. Tucker asked if they will be selecting new poems or existing poems. Mr. Held would encourage the contestants to submit new poems.

- Mr. Kastner stated Forest Lawn Cemetery has a rotating exhibit of public art. Once the art is in place it would be hard to change. Mr. Kastner suggested putting a life term on the project or install the poems on wooden plaques that are meant to deteriorate; the poems would become part of the history of the park.
- Mr. Stern asked if the slabs for mounting would be raised. Mr. Held stated no, they would remain as they are.
- Chairman Magni asked if a public hearing is required. Mr. Bernheimer stated yes. There is a Friends of Edmands Park group that should be contacted first.
- Mr. Bernheimer stated Mr. Held is going about this proposal the correct way. Contacting the Commission for input, having a public hearing and then having a public contest with the Commission having the final approval.
- Ms. Schein requested a sample of the plaque.
- Chairman Magni stated Mr. Held should talk with the “Friends” group and then come back to the Commission with more detailed information:
 - contest parameters
 - locations of where the poems will be installed
 - a maintenance plan
 - a sample of the plaque
- Once the additional information is presented and approved a public hearing will be scheduled.

5. Policy Sub-Committee-update

- **Historical Perspective City Hall Grounds**

- Chairman Magni requested an update from the sub-committee
- The sub-Committee has reviewed a memorial guidelines draft sent by Ms. Schein the P & R Open Space Coordinator.
- Mr. Stern asked if the group was looking at the historical perspective. Mr. Bernheimer stated no they were to create a general memorial policy. Mr. Stern stated the sub-committee was to determine if the 911 memorial and other memorials are appropriate for City Hall grounds.
- Mr. Clarke stated there is already a policy for City Hall Grounds.
- Ms. Schein stated there is no policy for City Hall grounds. There is an approved **Master Plan for Newton City Hall and War Memorial Grounds completed in 2006 by Pressley Associates**. In the report Pressley Associates recommends the Commission declare a moratorium on future installations on the City Hall and War Memorial Grounds.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated currently there is no moratorium.
- Mr. Clarke stated there should be a moratorium until there is a policy in place.
- Mr. Clarke recommended making a motion for a moratorium to be put in place. Chairman Magni stated Mr. Clarke is an alternate member of the Commission and is sitting in for Vice-Chair K. Heitman. This allows Mr. Clarke to make motions and vote at tonight’s meeting.
- Chairman Magni stated the Commission will be required to provide a reason for the moratorium. And if a moratorium is voted on and passed

it would be in good faith for the Commission to expedite creating the policy.

- Mr. Bernheimer commented other government agencies should be involved in creating the policy.
- Mr. Stern commented the Historic Commission (Co-caretaker) said no to the 911 Memorial on City Hall Grounds. The sub-committee needs to acquire more information.
- Mr. Fishman stated one policy may not be a one size fits all policy. It seems that City Hall is sacred ground.
- Mr. Stern stated he is not sure of the legality of memorials if another government agency is involved, for example is the State Highway Department involved with decisions regarding the Commonwealth Ave median strip. The Design Review Committee should be involved. Mr. Bernheimer suggested Mr. Stern work on organizing a meeting with the other City agencies. Mr. Stern agreed to do so.
- Mr. Tucker commented it would be a mistake to allow anything on City Hall Grounds before a policy is created.
- Mr. Clarke stated he was under the impression the 911 Memorial Committee was aware of the Pressley Master Plan. Commissioner DeRubeis stated he and Ms. Schein have made the committee aware of the Master Plan.

Mr. Clarke made the following motion: Newton Parks and Recreation Commission declares a moratorium on future installations of commemorative markers, monuments, or other non-historic additions on the City Hall and War Memorial Grounds, until guidelines specific to this historic landscape can be established. Mr. Bernheimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Stern made the following motion: The Commission will diligently proceed on the creation of a policy and procedure regarding public art, monuments and the like on real property under the jurisdiction of the P & R Commission. Mr. Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-1.

6. New Business

- **Natural Resources Inventory and Management Plan for Nahanton Park**

- A copy of the final plan was distributed to the Commission members. Commissioner DeRubeis stated Ms. Schein is working with the Group to make recommendations to the Commission.
- Mr. Stern commented this report is a result of the proposal submitted by Newton Community Farm to expand farming into Nahanton Park. Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes.
- Mr. Clarke commented that recommendations should be made based on the report. The Community Gardens has a waiting list of people for garden plots. This is an existing use and should be considered.
- Mr. Clarke stated the report's recommendations for the building used by Public Buildings at the Winchester Street entrance should be reviewed. Most people would like to see the building demolished and the area go back to its natural state. Ms. Schein agreed most people would like to see the building demolished but she will check into the

history of the building as it was recently assessed to be “mediocre” historical significance.

- **CIP Steering Committee**

- Two Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Projects were approved by the Board of Alderman
 1. Gath Pool – 100K – Mechanical & Electrical Repairs. A broken pipe, which is unrelated to CIP, must be taken care of at Gath Pool
 2. Braceland Playground – 150K – Formal entrance and Tennis Court renovations
- Commissioner DeRubeis will provide to the Commission a list of P & R Capital Improvement Projects

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary

Gath Memorial Pool Swim Report 2010 Season			Gath Memorial Pool Swim Report 2011 Season		
Permit Sales 2010			Permit Sales 2011		
Permit Type \$\$ Value	# sold	Rate	Permit Type \$\$ Value	# sold	Rate
Adult \$31,764.00	711	\$45.00	Adult \$28,935.00	643	\$45.00
Senior Citizen \$1,380.00	70	\$20.00	Senior Citizen \$1,800.00	90	\$20.00
Student \$27,960.00	1421	\$20.00	Student \$27,400.00	1370	\$20.00
Space Camp \$2,400.00	120	\$20.00	Space Camp \$2,060.00	103	\$20.00
Ed Center \$400.00	20	\$20.00	Ed Center \$610.00	31	\$20.00
Scholarship 0	274	0	Scholarship 0	258	0
Adult Daily \$6,642.00	1,107	\$6.00	Adult Daily \$6,071.00	1,012	\$6.00
Student Daily \$8,132.00	2,033	\$4.00	Student Daily \$6,280.00	1,570	\$4.00
Non-Res Daily \$880.00	88	\$10.00	Non-Res Daily \$670.00	67	\$10.00
Permit Totals for 2010 Season \$ 79,558.00			Permit Totals for 2010 Season \$ 73,826.00		
Swimming Lessons 2010			Swimming Lessons 2011		
Permit Type \$\$ Value	# sold	Rate	Permit Type \$\$ Value	# sold	Rate

Session 1	114	\$35.00	Session 1	116	\$35.00
\$4,485.00			\$4,060.00		
Session 2	149	\$45.00	Session 2	154	\$45.00
\$6,405.00			\$6,930.00		
Session 3	118	\$45.00	Session 3	125	\$45.00
\$4,642.50			\$5,625.00		
Session 4	150	\$45.00	Session 4	159	\$45.00
\$5,705.00			\$7,155.00		
Private Lessons	4	\$30.00	Junior Bluefish	5	\$75.00
\$120.00			\$ 350.00		
Scholarships	64	\$45.00	Private Lessons	2	\$30.00
(\$2,385.00)			\$60.00		
A-Regional Rental Fee			Scholarships	47	\$45.00
\$2,000.00			(\$2,115.00)		
			A-Regional Rental Fee		
			\$2,000.00		
Lesson Totals for 2010 Season			Lesson Totals for 2011 Season		
\$ 20,657.50			\$ 26,180.00		
Attendance Totals for 2010 Season			Attendance Totals for 2011 Season		
38,790			44,218		
City of Newton General Fund (Permits)			City of Newton General Fund (Permits)		
\$79,558.00			\$73,801.00		
Refunds			Refunds		
-\$510.00			-\$994.00		
City of Newton Parks & Recreation			City of Newton Parks & Recreation		
Swim Revolving Account			Swim Revolving Account		
\$23,357..50			\$25,120.00		
Total Revenues 2010 Season			Total Revenues 2011 Season		
\$102,405.50			\$100,006.00		

Crystal Lake Report

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total Revenue	\$74,262	\$92,071	\$81,973	\$113,375	\$98,848
Total Attendance	21,201	25,334	23,288*(includes additional week Aug 17 th -23 rd)	35,808*(includes additional week August 16-22)	34,648
Adult Permits @ \$45 each	\$40,786 (906 sold)	\$52,065 (1157 sold)	\$38,205 (849 sold)	\$55,670 (1237 sold)	\$47,345 (1052 sold)
Student Permits @ \$20 each	\$13,270 (663 sold)	\$16,700 (835 sold)	\$13,940 (697 sold)	\$19,900 (995 Sold)	\$14,385 (719 sold)
Swim Lessons @ \$45 each	\$15,300 (340 students)	\$16,650 (370 students) (not including online registrations)	\$11,520 (452 students) (not including on line registrations and 18 scholarships)	\$13,380 (305 students (not including on line registrations and 9 scholarships)	\$15,075 (335 students not including on line registration)
Day Pass Adult @ \$6 each	\$2,520 (420 sold)	\$2,502 (417 sold)	\$5,538 (923 sold)	\$7,842 (1307 sold)	\$6,972 (1162 sold)
Day Pass Student @ \$4 each	\$2,000 (500 sold)	\$2,244 (561 sold)	\$4,580 (1145 sold)	\$5248 (1312 sold)	\$4,056 (1014 sold)
Day Pass Non-Res @ \$10 each	\$1,600 (160 sold)	\$1,870 (187 sold)	\$2,470 (247 sold)	\$3240 (324 sold)	\$1,990 (199 sold)
Senior Citizens-Free	451	492	\$5,720 (286 sold) first year of \$20 charge	\$8,350 (417 sold) second year of \$20 charge	\$8,980 (449 sold)
Scholarships	92	65	27 Seniors, 18 Swim lessons and 15 adults/students	102 44 hardship, 49 seniors, 9 swim lessons	90- 42 hardship-48 seniors)

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

October 3, 2011

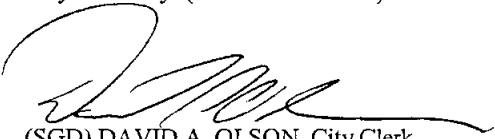
WHEREAS: Deborah Fogel, et al. filed with the City Clerk on July 26, 2011 a Group Petition with 52 qualified voter signatures, pursuant to Sec. 10-2 of the City Charter, requesting the Board of Aldermen hold a public hearing "to allow regulated but unsupervised swimming at Cronin's Cove on Crystal Lake;"

WHEREAS: Section 10-2 of the Charter requires the Board of Aldermen to hold a public hearing and act within three months of such filing;

WHEREAS: the Programs and Services Committee held a public hearing on September 21, 2011 and, while recognizing that the Parks and Recreation Commission has sole authority to regulate swimming at Crystal Lake, voted to approve a *Resolution* to the Commission asking it to explore the possibility of allowing swimming opportunities at Cronin's Cove and/or other location on Crystal Lake;

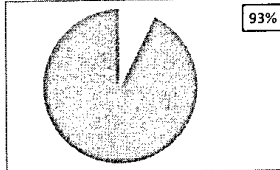
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That, the Board of Aldermen in accordance with the recommendation of the Programs and Services Committee through its Chairman Amy Mah Sangiolo, requests the Parks and Recreation Commission explore the possibility of allowing swimming at Cronin's Cove and/or other locations on Crystal Lake as expressed at the public hearing on September 21, 2011.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and RESOLUTION Approved
23 yeas 1 nay (Alderman Gentile)

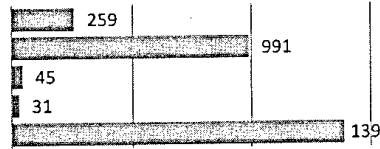

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, City Clerk

Parks and Recreation Department Snapshot October 2011

Employee Attendance				
	Worker Days	Days Missed		Power Indicator
		Leave	Vacation	
Administration (5)	95	6	4	89%
Program (8)	152	3	7	93%
Grounds Maintenance (15)	285	27.5	24	82%
Urban Forestry (2)	38	0	1	97%
Totals	570	21.5	22	93%



Customer Service Measures			
	Phone Calls	FAQ's Viewed	Total Inquires
Administration	161	98	259
Program	206	785	991
Facilities	45	0	45
Grounds Maintenance	31	0	31
Urban Forestry	181	1210	1391
Totals	624	2093	2717



Service Requests			
Grounds Maintenance			Urban Forestry
	Rcv'd	closed	Avg. Age of Comp. (days)
School Dude	17	13	
WebQA	8	8	
			Urban Forestry
	Rcv'd	Closed	Avg. Age of Comp. (days)
Pruning	38	0	na
Removals	31	0	na
Dn tr, lb, hngr	422	134	2.18
		Num.	Days till Complete
Removal back	192	300	
Prune backlog	700	6587 (18 years)	

Financial Measures					
	Quant.	\$ Amount			
			-\$24,778	-\$284,839	\$64,977
Purchase Orders	16	\$ (24,777.72)			\$928
Invoices Paid	198	\$ (284,838.50)			\$20,946
Checks Processed	270	\$ 64,977.31			
Cash Processed	6	\$ 928.00			
Credit Cards Processed	248	\$ 20,946.00			
	738	\$ (198,930.87)			

Program Attendance	
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	19846
UNIQUE PROGRAM PART'S	682



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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ROBERT J. DERUBEIS
COMMISSIONER

November 2011

To: Commissioner DeRubeis and Kathy

From: Stephanie Lapham, Recreation Manager

Newton Parks and Recreation Department Scholarship – 2011 Final Report

Money available for the summer of 2011 was \$51,782.00. The number of applicants decreased from 2010 to 2011 by 6 with a total of 62 in 2011. Of the 62, 58 applicants accepted the scholarship at a total of \$33,185.00 and attended camp some going to two or more of our camps. The remaining 4 applicants did not qualify or declined our offering and did not attend. The amount awarded to each participant was based on need and number of weeks attending camp. Every applicant whom applied was awarded approximately 80% in scholarship per week toward their tuition. Below please note the list of camp offerings, scholarships awarded to each with the amount, and the amount of money raised by each camp for the scholarship program.

Camp	#of scholarship awarded	Amount awarded	Amount raised	Difference
Acres in the Falls	8	\$ 5,435.00	\$ 1,230.00	\$ 4,205.00
Albemarle Acres	12	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 4,665.00	\$ (890.00)
Camp Echo Bridge	6	\$ 4,075.00	\$ 2,985.00	\$ 1,090.00
Centre Acres	25	\$12,365.00	\$ 4,220.00	\$ 8,145.00
CIT Echo Bridge	1	\$ 280.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 105.00
CIT Albemarle	1	\$ 560.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 380.00
Kids Komer	4	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,155.00	\$ 745.00
Extreme Outdoor Adventure	2	\$ 860.00	\$ 515.00	\$ 345.00
Thundercats	1	\$ 115.00	\$ 595.00	\$ (480.00)
Auburndale Station	10	\$ 2,955.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 855.00
T-Ville Trails	2	\$ 745.00	\$ 1,355.00	\$ (610.00)
Fantastic Summer	2	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
Vacation Camp at Burr Park	2	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 200.00
Totals	76	\$33,185.00	\$19,175.00	\$ 14,290.00

Please note that the money in the difference line should be awarded to the individual camps or the scholarship fund as noted. A positive number means that the amount of scholarship awarded exceeds the amount the camp made with the \$5.00 per person, therefore the dollar amount as indicated should be put into the camp account. Any amount with a negative dollar amount means the amount raised exceeds the amount awarded for scholarship and this money should be taken from the camp account and put into the scholarship account.

WWW.CITNEWTON.MA.US/PARKS

Proposal

Poetry in Edmands Park, Newton, MA

Grey Held, Program Director (gheld@alum.mit.edu)

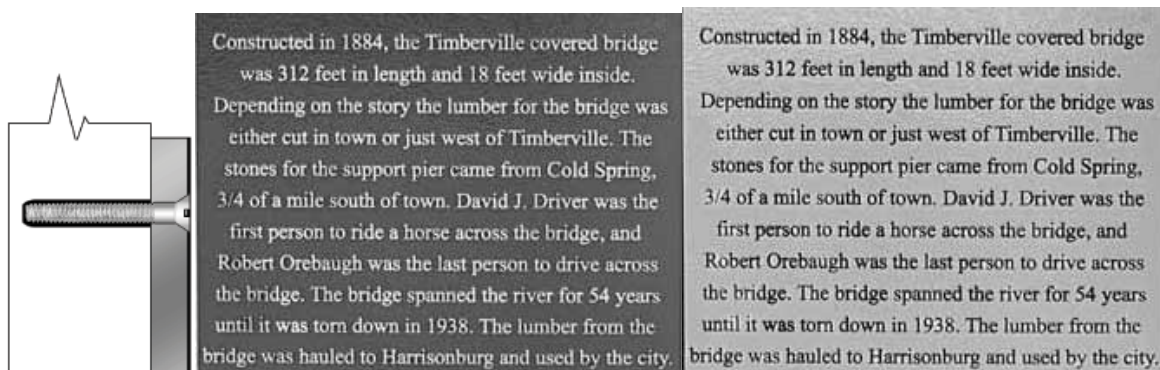
Committee Members: Wendy Drexler, Barbara Helfgott-Hyett, Wendy Mnookin

Summary: 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. Strolling park-goers who serendipitously come upon 20 nature poems inscribed on stone pilasters and granite slabs in the park will directly encounter the way poetry enhances the beauty of the natural landscape and enriches the park experience. The 20 poems will be etched into 1/8-inch stainless steel plates (each plate approximately 6 x 8 inches) and secured to existing stone structures within the park.

Vision: Edmands Park's beautiful oak forest, interspersed with beeches, locusts, maples, birches, and pines, is enjoyed by Newton's hikers, cross-country skiers, and nature lovers. If the Poetry in the Park proposal is implemented, Edmands Park would become a destination for poetry lovers from Newton and beyond, as well as a model for other communities seeking to bring poetry to a wider audience. It is our belief that park founder John Wiley Edmands would smile on this proposal: in addition to gifting the 33-acre park to the city of Newton, Edmands gave \$15,000 toward the establishment of the first public library in Newton and \$5,000 toward the purchase of books. He also paid for the library's architectural plans and laid the cornerstone. Given these gifts to the city, we believe that Mr. Edmands would support this project to intertwine verse and nature at Edmands Park as outlined in our Poetry in the Park proposal.

Precedent: As part of the Newton 2000 celebration, plaques with poetry by Robert Pinsky, Newton resident and Poet Laureate of the United States, were placed in the grounds around Newton City Hall. There has been no vandalism of these plaques and no further maintenance required. There are also several "Poetry Walks" in the United States, notably in Berkeley, CA.

Fabrication: The selected poems will be etched in 1/8-inch stainless steel by New England Etching for a cost of \$60 to \$80 per poem. The steel plaques will be predrilled with holes so that the plaques can be flush-mounted to the pilasters and slabs. The plaques can either be etched with dark text on a light metal background, or with light text on a darkened background. See below for examples of these two modes, light on dark on the left, and dark on light on the right.



Installation:

The poem plaques will be professionally installed under supervision from the Poems in the Park Committee and with the approval of City of Newton personnel. To install each plaque, four 1/8-inch diameter holes will be drilled to a depth of 1 inch into each stone pilaster or slab. The plaques will be screwed in/mounted.

Longevity and maintenance:

The edged metal technology is well suited for exterior use and has longevity in excess of 50 years.

Placement of the poems: The old stone pilasters in the park, which look like they once formed part of a fencing system, will provide the pre-existing support for the poems (see photos: the white sheets of paper represent the approximate size of the poem plaques). There are also several strewn granite slabs that seem well adapted for securing the plaques.

Committee members will submit a plan/map for where the poems are to be installed, and final approval for placement will be made by the Parks and Recreation Department.



Poetry selection process: We will select approximately 20 poems by conducting a poetry contest open to all Massachusetts residents. The first step will be to place a “call for entrants” in *Poets & Writers* magazine (national circulation), Grub Street News (circulation in the Massachusetts area), Winning Writers email newsletter (national circulation), email listings to the Concord Poetry Center and other local poetry groups, and word of mouth at various Boston-area poetry venues. There will be a nominal entry fee of \$15 for up to 3 poems. Judging will be anonymous. Wendy Drexler (Belmont resident), Grey Held (Newton resident), and Barbara Helfgott-Hyett (Brookline resident) will do the initial screening of poems. Wendy Mnookin (Newton resident) will select 20 poems from the finalists. The Director of Newton Parks and Recreation will give final approval. Please see below for the credentials of the four committee members.

The selected poems will be of the highest caliber. Nature will be the theme or undercurrent of the selected poems. Poems will be no more than 30 lines. In addition to having a “nature theme” poems selected will have some connection to the New England landscape. Here are three examples:

Sleeping in the Forest

I thought the earth remembered me,
she took me back so tenderly,
arranging her dark skirts, her pockets
full of lichens and seeds.

I slept as never before, a stone on the river bed,
nothing between me and the white fire of the stars
but my thoughts, and they floated light as moths
among the branches of the perfect trees.

All night I heard the small kingdoms
breathing around me, the insects,
and the birds who do their work in the darkness.

All night I rose and fell, as if in water,
grappling with a luminous doom. By morning
I had vanished at least a dozen times
into something better.

--by Mary Oliver

At the Pond

I want the geese to stand beside me,
softly speaking, stroking my hair.
One might lay his blazoned head
on my lap. I'd pet the wild thing
and he would let me, the others
cooing ungoosably in their joy.
We of kindly natures would stay
there, the water bounding in
the narrowest of wavelets, every
small stone seeming smooth, and all
the world - the dirt I sit in, the dust
insinuating itself into the leather laces
of my shoes, would be preening, graceful
and open: the many males, the females
in their pale brown abstraction, the goslings
swimming simply on their own.

--by *Barbara Helfgott-Hyett*

PRAYER WITH FUR

A hollow holds the trickle
that licks Temple Ridge to life,
seeps through sun-cracked days
and cricket-pulsing nights,
draws out green stems, drops
from a ledge of granite
catching moonlight. Mud recalls
a wet slither, and snarled roots
touch a coolness in the air
spilling past my skin.
When I press my hands into a bowl
and stoop to fill it, the water
is a frigid amazement
as the first night out
of the Garden must have been,
two people lying on their backs
under the unlocked sky, silenced
by the glittering fruits of stars. Ginger
lowers her face, looks to mine, and laps
until my hands hold nothing
but the strokes of her warm, slick tongue.

--by Derek Sheffield

Budget

Project Budget				
	Quantity	Cost/Per	Total	
Expenses				
Posting the "call for entries" in Poets & Writers magazine			\$140	
Honorarium for the contest judge			\$100	
Plaque Fabrication	20	\$80	\$1,600	
Installation	20	\$50	\$1,000	
Total Expenses				\$2,840
Income				
Contest submission fee (per poet)	120	\$15	\$1,800	
Personal or Corporate Check and/or Grant			\$1,040	
Total Income				\$2,840

Support needed from Newton Parks and Recreation Department

1. Project Approval
2. Approval of 20 selected poems
3. Approval of installation locations in the park

Contact information:

Grey Held

658 Watertown St.

Newtonville, MA 02460

617-584-0648

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Brief Bios of Committee Members

Wendy Drexler is a poet and an editor with over fifteen years' of publishing experience, most recently as Senior Editor at Educators Publishing Service in Cambridge. Her poems have appeared in *Barrow Street*, *Big Ugly Review*, *Brooklyn Review*, *Cider Press Review*, *The Comstock Review*, *Nimrod* (semi-finalist, 2006 Nimrod/Hardman Pablo Neruda Prize), *Peregrine*, *Poetry East*, *Off the Coast*, *POIESIS*, *RHINO*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Verse Daily*, and other journals, and the anthology *Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*. Her chapbook, "Drive-Ins, Gas Stations, the Bright Motels" (Pudding House, 2007), was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. *Western Motel*, Wendy's first book-length collection, will be published in April 2012 by WordTech Communications. Wendy is also the founder of a monthly poetry series at Porter Square Books in Cambridge, which hosts members of the Workshop for Publishing Poets, where she is a longtime member. She is a poetry editor for *Sanctuary*, the magazine of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Grey Held, a Newton resident, is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Creative Writing and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. He has had poems included in numerous anthologies including *O Taste and See* and *My Heart's First Steps*, and magazines including *Potomac Review* and *Slipstream*. His poem "Vending Machine" was set to music by Paul Carey and has been performed by a *cappella* groups all over the country. Grey's book of poems, *Two-Star General*, is being published by Brick Road Poetry Press and is currently available for pre-purchase from their website. When he's not writing or reading poetry (which is most of the time), Grey is the Director of Client Services at a consumer market research firm in Cambridge. In the 1980's, as co-chair of the Boston Visual Artists' Union and Chair of the Visual Arts Committee of Boston's Midtown Cultural District Taskforce, Grey was active in bringing the Arts into Public Places

Poet, professor and public lecturer **Barbara Helfgott-Hyett** has published four collections of poetry: *In Evidence: Poems of the Liberation of Nazi Concentration Camps* (University of Pittsburgh Press: 1986), based on her interviews with U.S. GI's, was selected Booklist's "Editor's Choice." Her second collection, *Natural Law* (Northland Press, 1989) includes poems about the history of Atlantic City, and was the first in the Salt River poetry series. *The Double Reckoning of Christopher Columbus* (University of Illinois Press: 1992), an epic poem on the 1492 voyage of the Columbian expedition, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. *The Tracks We Leave: Poems on Endangered Wildlife of North America*, (University of Illinois Press: 1996). Her new collection, *Rift*, was recently published by University of Arkansas Press. Her poems and essays have appeared in dozens of magazines including *The New Republic*, *The Nation*, *Hudson Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *The Women's Review of Books*, and in twenty-five anthologies. Recipient of two Massachusetts Artists Fellowships in Poetry, the New England Poetry Club's Gertrude Warren Prize, the Herman Melville Commemorative Poetry Prize, Fellowships at Yaddo, the Wurlitzer Foundation, and Virginia Center for Creative Arts, and other grants and awards, she has taught English at Harvard, MIT, and Boston University where she won the Sproat Award For Excellence in Teaching. She is a co-founder of The Writer's Room of Boston, Inc, and Directs POEMWORKS: The Workshop for Publishing Poets, in Brookline, MA.

Wendy Mnookin is a poet living in Newton, Massachusetts. She received her BA from Radcliffe College and her MFA in Writing from Vermont College. Her latest book, *The Moon Makes Its Own Plea*, was published by BOA Editions in 2008. Her other collections are *What He Took, To Get Here*, and *Guenever Speaks*. Mnookin teaches poetry in the Writing Literature and Publishing Department at Emerson College and at Grub Street, a nonprofit Boston writing center. Previously she has taught poetry at Boston College, to children in schools throughout the Boston area, and in workshops around the country. Mnookin's poems have been published in journals, online publications, and anthologies. She received an NEA Fellowship in Poetry, and *What He Took, To Get Here* won the 2002 Sheila Motton Award from the New England Poetry Club.