

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 - City Hall

7:00 p.m. – Monday, January 27, 2020



Attending: Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Byron Dunker, Al Cecchinelli, Melissa Sommer, Patty Kerwin Derrick, Marguerite Connolly, Jack Neville, Sam Figler, Mark Feldhusen

1. Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2019 – Approved 8-0

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

- January 26, Camp Fair at NNHS Cafeteria, well attended
- The Open Space Coordinator, Luis Perez Demorizi is handling all projects and doing a great job.

**3. Newton Early Childhood Program (NECP)- Playground Relocation
Informational -Alex Valcarce - Public Buildings**

- Mr. Valcarce presented a proposal to install an age appropriate playground behind the Newton Early Childhood Program at 687 Watertown Street, Albemarle Playground. Several options were presented to the Commission (see attached).
- There will be a van entrance from Albemarle Rd going out to Watertown Street. This entrance will be one way and not open to the public.
- Mr. Stern asked if any trees will be removed or planted, the Commission has many requests for shade cover on playgrounds. Mr. Valcarce stated no trees will be removed but there will be trees planted. Ms. Stephanie Lapham, CPSI commented shade is not usually over the playground but near the playground.
- Commissioner DeRubeis commented this area will be used by the public. Currently the area is impacted dirt from frequent use, it is possible to mitigate irrigation for the site. Chairman Magni asked if mitigation will be negotiated or in the budget. Mr. Valcarce stated it will be in the budget.
- Ms. Connolly stated the concern of children having to cross the van entrance to get to the playground. Mr. Valcarce stated this is a structured program with controlled access and awareness of the teachers.
- Mr. Feldhusen asked if a water bubbler should be considered. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there is a water bubbler by the gazebo which is close to the area.

Mr. Stern made the motion to move the proposal for playground option b, with a detailed discussion to a public hearing. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0

4. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee
 - The CPC has finished with the Webster Woods project
 - There is \$4 million available for parks and open space
- Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee
 - Moving along, drafts are due in February
- Farm Commission
 - Reviewing financials
- Commonwealth Golf Course

- Continue to work on Maintenance building rehab, \$1.5 million
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
 - Next meeting is Feb 13
 - New furniture has been delivered to Cabot off-leash area
 - Off-leash Specialist Peter Mazzapica is doing a good job educating and being visible in the off-leash areas.
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
 - Meeting February 11
- Athletic Fields Committee
 - There is a Request for Proposal in the Mayor's office for review
 - Mr. Figler commented the permitting issue is the same, no changes.
 - IPM Committee is discussing the issue but the Council may be required to vote on the IPM use.

5. New Business

- On behalf of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Chairman Magni presented Commissioner DeRubeis with a chair for his retirement with gratitude and thanks. On the chair is the city seal and the Commissioner's name and title. Commissioner DeRubeis thanked the Commission.

Meeting adjourned 8:20pm

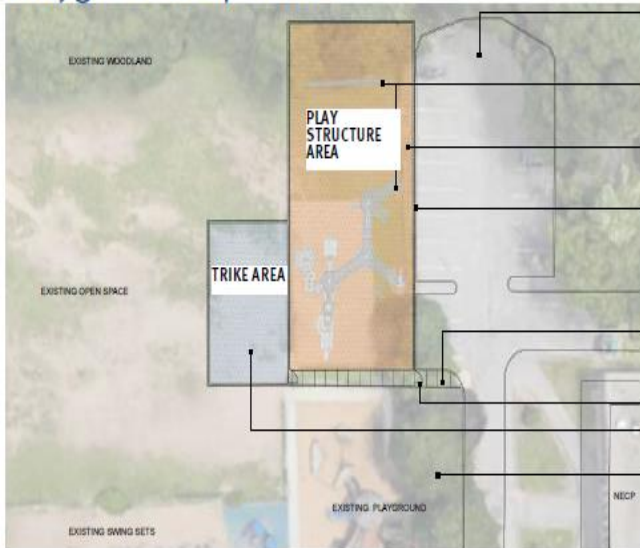
Respectfully Submitted,

Robin McLaughlin

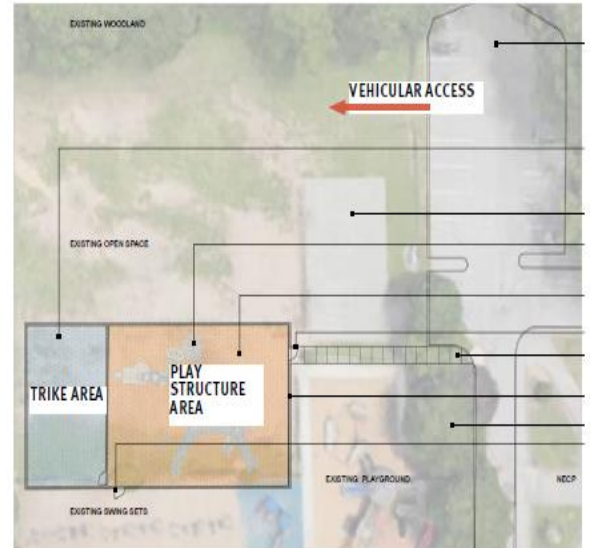
Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary

NECP

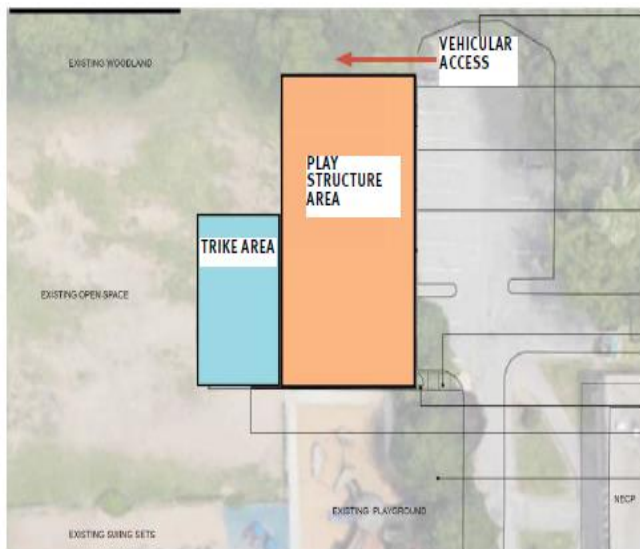
Playground Options



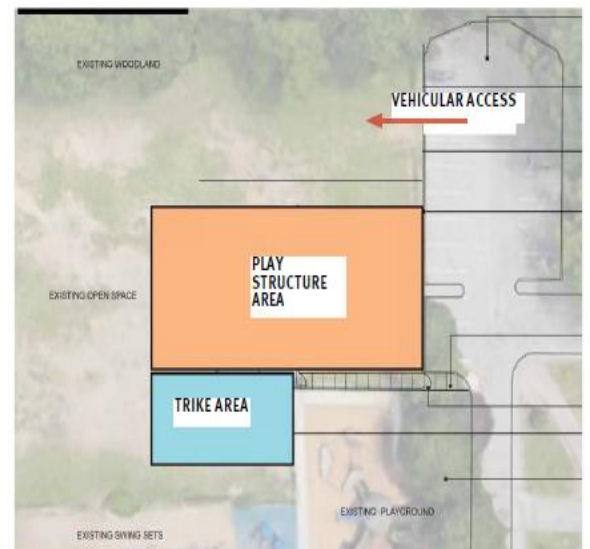
A- Original Concept



C (shared swings)



B (includes new swings)



D (includes new swings)