

## **NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes

Room 204 – Newton City Hall

7:00 PM – Monday March 16, 2020

**Attending in person:** Chairman Magni, Commissioner Banks, Al Cecchinelli and Sam Figler, Carol Stapleton, Manager

**Attending via conference call:** Andy Stern, Byron Dunker, Melissa Sommer, Patty Kerwin Derrick, Midge Connolly, Jack Neville, Mark Feldhusen, Michael Clarke

1. **Meeting Minutes** – February 2020 minutes were approved.
  
2. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
  - Commissioner Banks reported on her first 3 weeks and the many projects and site visits she has been able to do with Staff as well as working with the Administration on Covid 19 preparations and long-range plans.
  - Sadly, two major events The Kevin Clancy Basketball Tournament and the Upper Falls Soup social as well as many other Department programs have been canceled. She also noted that the Boston Marathon has been postponed until September of 2020.
  - The Newton South Lighting Project is moving along with a request to the City Council to accept the donation of lighting equipment valued at \$270,000 and additional fundraising toward installation will be on the Program and Services and Public Facilities Agenda on Wednesday evening. She is working to set up a call with the neighbors to discuss their concerns such as sound, trash removal and parking.
  - Midge Connolly asked what the City is doing in terms of field access with respect to the COVID 19 response. Commissioner Banks responded that the permit cancellation policy is in full operation and that Newton is not ready to close playgrounds and parks but hopefully residents make their own decisions on the use of parks and playgrounds city wide. If this were to change, social messaging and the posting of signage would become necessary.
  
3. **Caribbean Festival- Informational**
  - No representative in attendance- rescheduled to April
  
4. **Nonantum Village Day- Informational**
  - No representative in attendance- rescheduled to April

## 5. The Feast of the Falls 2020

- Jerry Reilly presented the proposal and after a brief discussion the Commission voted to move this item to a Public Hearing at the next meeting which would be April 27th.

## 6. Committee Reports

- *Community Preservation Committee* – Buzz Dunker – Nothing new to report.
- *Open Space & Recreation Plan* – Al Cecchinelli informed the group that all the drafts and reports have been submitted and another meeting has been scheduled for Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9am which would probably be held using the zoom technology.
- *Farm Commission* – Patty Kerwin Derrick reported that there was no new business.
- *Commonwealth Golf Course* – Jack Neville did not have anything new to report
- *Off-Leash Area Working Group* – The meeting that was scheduled by Animal Control Officer Lisa Mikolette to review the City Ordinances on Dog Walkers and Off Leash Sites had to be rescheduled to a later date. The Department's Off Leash Specialist, Peter Mazzapica continues to visit and monitor each of the Off-Leash Parks.
- *Crystal Lake Working Group* – Luis Perez Demorizi continues to work with Weston Sampson on the contract amendment proposal draft and strategy to move the Levingston Cove project forward.
- *Athletic Fields Committee* – Sam Figler reported that there was no new or additional information to report. Chairman Magni added that the entire committee will need to catch Commissioner Banks up on the fields in the coming months.

### New Business

- No new business

Meeting adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Stapleton