

Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

On-Line Meeting

6:00 p.m. – Monday, July 20, 2020



Attending: Chairman Magni, Commissioner Banks, Byron Dunker, Al Cecchinelli, Andy Stern, Patty Kerwin
Derrick, Melisa Sommer, Jack Neville, Sam Figler

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

- Fields policy/field fees
 - Held an internal meeting. Reconvening the fields working group with the objective to bring projects to the CPC and discuss fields fees supporting field improvements. Mr. Stern asked if plan presented to CPC will be brought to Commission for review. Commissioner Banks replied yes.
 - Due to Covid, leagues are required to operate outside as much as possible. Tents are being allowed and language is being added to the field permit application. Chairman Magni asked who will enforce the regulations. Commissioner Banks replied there will be signs on site, staff will follow-up and police could be called. Mr. Stern asked if the tents are permanent or temporary. Commissioner Banks commented this can be added to the application; tents must come down after tournaments and there will be no tents on the turf fields.

Mr. Stern made the motion to update the tent language to the field permit application. Mr. Cecchinelli seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0

- Update on programs
 - Athletes Unlimited and the Over 55 programs continue to run virtual programs.
 - The Summer Fun youth program is running at Lower Falls Community Center.
 - Farmers Market is open on Saturday and Tuesday at NSHS
 - A summer concert and drive-in are also scheduled
 - Fall: we are waiting for the school plans before decisions can be made for internal programs, renters, and daycares in the buildings
- Crystal Lake/Gath Pool and swimming at Coves
 - Crystal and Gath are closed, signs are posted. There have been issues with keeping the parking lot fire lane clear. Mr. Stern asked if there have been any incidents in the beach area. Commissioner Banks replied yes, staff is checking the area daily.

- Mr. Stern mentioned the traffic issues and narrowing of streets from people using the lake, including Beacon Street.
- CPC projects: fields/pool/bathhouse
 - Levingston Cove is moving forward
 - Crescent St Park Expansion: the housing portion has been dropped from the plan. Discussion has been focused on a park only expansion with improved access, no playing fields. Mr. Dunker stated the land was surplus, is it P & R land? Commissioner Banks commented the re-use committee transferred to P, R & C Dept.
 - Forte field renovation will be presented to the Commission once a plan is in place. Currently the department is working with a developer to retrofit the lighting.
 - Gath Pool: there is a need to look at the pool for renovations or replacement. There is a friends group supporting renovation of Gath Pool. An assessment would be the next step.
- Farlow Pond
 - Currently there is a broken irrigation pipe, the cost to repair is \$4,000.00. Once repaired the pond can be filled and tested. In the future the pond will require a surface repair
- Tennis -Clay courts
 - Courts are up and running
 - Mr. Stern reminded the commissioner to have the netting removed at the end of the season.
- Golf course
 - Dan Green a representative from the Conservation Commission has joined the committee. The Commissioner and Mr. Neville met with him to update last week.
 - Mr. Figler asked if Sterling Management has adjusted the policy for the state program that allows youth to experience golf. Commissioner Banks stated Mr. Osgood did not have an answer at the last meeting. Mr. Neville responded that Sterling Golf manages other courses and is much more liberal with the hours at those courses for this program. Mr. Neville will update at next meeting
- OLA dog parks

- The council approved the wording to allow the P, R & C Department to have civil ticketing authority. This requires the Police union approval.
- Cabot Park: the canopy shade will be installed in the fall next to the tennis courts. Mr. Stern asked if the structure will be permanent. The poles will be permanent the shade will come down
- Hunnewell Park: designing layout changes to expand the area
- Commission reappointments
 - Executive Office manages the appointments.
 - Commission elections are in January

2. New Business

- Mr. Cecchinelli stated the Open Space Committee received a provisional acceptance of the plan thru 2027.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03pm

Robin Mclaughlin

Commission Secretary