

# Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### On-Line Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Monday, December 21, 2020



**Attending:** Chairman Magni, Commissioner Banks, Byron Dunker, Midge Connolly, Randy Johnson, Gloria Gavis, Beth Wilkinson, Mark Feldhusen

*Meeting began 7:04pm*

1. **Meeting Minutes – November - Approved**
2. **Introduction of new members, Gloria Gavis, Beth Wilkinson, and Randy Johnson**
3. **Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**
  - **Year-End Recap:**

2020 retirements: Bob DeRubeis, Kathy Brearly, David Mandatori, Tom Cahill  
Announced 2021 retirements: Judy Dore, Paul Lomer

    - Bob DeRubeis and staff have been very helpful during the transition

#### Recent work

Policies updated: courts and fields use  
Waban reservoir  
Cabot dog park sunshade  
Farlow Pond pump repair  
Cold Spring Trail improvements  
Supporting our daycare/afterschool partners

#### Programming/Culture

Holiday events: Halloween window art, Holiday lights  
Drive-in movie collaborative  
Orienteering program  
Athletes Unlimited and Senior Programs

- Ms. Gavis asked if the barriers and planters used for Alfresco dining will be collected. Commissioner Banks replied yes, the barriers belong to DPW and the planters and picnic tables belong to P, R & C. They will be stored and re-delivered to the same locations in the Spring. Paula Gannon has an inventory

#### Forestry/Maintenance/Beautification

Tree plantings, brush clearing  
Field improvements/ advising Fields Committee  
Playground accessibility surfacing  
Facilities inventory  
Tending to islands, parks, recycling signage

#### Initiatives

Fields Committee  
Field Fees being reviewed  
Successful IPM pilot, looking to expand  
Hardcourt inventory, improvement plan

### **Capital projects**

Playgrounds: accessibility projects moving forward

Gath Pool renovation

Northland: water park

Forte light improvements

Levingston Cove

#### **4. Committee Reports**

- Athletic Fields Committee
  - Mr. Dunker reported the presentation on fees created by Sheila Butts, Permit Manager was presented to the group. The group agreed the fees need to go up and the fees should go directly to field maintenance. Ms. Butts is working on recommendation for areas that can be upgraded right away for use, such as Old Cold Spring Park, Burr School and Oak Hill/ Brown Middle School
  - Commissioner Banks reported the Executive Office is supportive of the fields committee with the goal to bring a project forward in the spring.
- Community Preservation Committee
  - Apartment complex on Winchester Street near JCC has applied for 4 million dollars for low-income housing
- Open Space
  - Commissioner Banks reported the department is doing an internal audit of all areas with the Disability Commission for a report to be sent to the State for the Open Space Plan
- Urban Tree Commission
- Farm Commission
- Commonwealth Golf Course
  - Commissioner Banks attends the Committee meetings with Mr. Neville. Currently there is a new building project and the management contract will be expiring in 2021. A committee will be put together to review the contract before it is put out to bid. Mr. Johnson asked what the Commission's role is with the golf course. Commissioner Banks replied the golf course is on city land, parks & conservation, the Foundation manages the course. Chairman Magni stated there is grey area as to the Foundations control of the course
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG)
- Crystal Lake Working Group (CLWG)
- Arts & Culture
  - Commissioner Banks asked if there should be Commission representatives at other Commissions such as the Conservation Commission. Chairman Magni recommended members be appointed as needed.

#### **5. New Business**

- Reminder: Commission elections of Chair & Vice Chair during January meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11pm

Robin Mclaughlin

Commission Secretary