

MINUTES

Recreation Commission Meeting

January 22, 2018

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman Paul Aries

Recreation Commission Attendees:

Joyce Cannon, Sheila Moylan, Paul Tucceri, Paul Aries, Lynn Connors, Mitch Katzman, Elizabeth Phillips, Ann Delaney, and Bob Phillips via cellphone.

Recreation Staff Attendees:

Nicole Banks Recreation Director, Rich Adams (new Business Manager), and Jodi Steverman (new Administrative Assistant)

Minutes approved:

It was moved by Sheila Moylan, and seconded by Joyce Cannon to approve the Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2017. Consent agenda passed unanimously.

Commission Member Reports:

- Nicole Banks reported on the Westwood Open Space and Recreation Committee that she is on with Ann Delaney. A survey was distributed to Westwood residents and over 600 responses were received (see attached survey report). Included in the survey were comments about the playgrounds, the land purchase of the First Parish land (5 acres), and the potential for an ice skating rink in Westwood. Paul Aries addressed the skating rink idea specifically stating that the Recreation Commission should be united on not having a skating rink located in downtown Westwood to avoid traffic and space issues. The idea of a skating rink located near University Station was discussed by the Commission members.
- Ann Delaney reported that there will be an Open Space and Recreation Visioning Session on February 1, 2018 at 6:45 PM at the Thurston Middle School Cafeteria. There is a link available for attendees to register ahead of time (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/westwood-community-workshop-and-vision-session-tickets-41719876273>). It is hoped that many attendees will register ahead of time, but preregistration is not required. The session will be in a roundtable format.
- Jodi Steverman and Rich Adams introduced themselves to the Commission.
- Sheila Moylan reported on the June Street Playground Committee. There was a meeting with Nancy White, Nicole Banks and the Disability Commission and the members were pleased with the preliminary plans. They will now go back to fundraising, design and then the playground will go out to bid. Michelle Miller, the Town Procurement Officer is assisting with this process. The cost is coming in around \$45,000 and \$30,000 has been raised to date.
- Via cellphone: Bob Phillips addressed the complaints (10) regarding Field Use, and he proposed adding the following changes to the field policy:

“Before renting fields to outside groups, field availability for recreational use by

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Westwood residents should be considered.”

Discussion followed. Nicole added that the Fields page on the Westwood Recreation website contains an updated calendar for people to reference if they are looking for available space. Paul Aries suggested that some education and marketing materials be put together to direct people to the field calendar as a resource. He suggested “Looking for a Place to Play?” as the tag line. The marketing and education around fields will be discussed at a future Recreation Commission meeting.

Bob Phillips addressed an issue in paragraph 2 of the current Fields Policy where it states that anyone requesting field time “will be granted permits”, and a suggestion was made to change will to may. Taryn is currently reviewing the Field Policy for clarification and simplification. The policy will be shared with the Recreation Commission for review and approval at the February meeting.

Director/Staff Report:

Rich Adams shared a new reporting format for program statistics that can be used to assess programs from a financial perspective (pages 19-22 of the meeting packet). Paul Aries noted the increase in Performing Arts revenue, and recommended an increase in Performing Arts the offerings. He suggested looking into school music programs or Boston colleges and Universities, like Emerson, and reach out to the Westwood Public Schools for resources and facilities.

Bob Phillips asked about the prior discussion regarding the 10% discount during March into Summer, and requested that the Recreation Department look into remaining competitive with pricing as well as holding spots for Westwood Residents. Discussion followed regarding the rate review that is in process for the 2018 summer season.

Fields/Facilities Update:

Nicole provided a review of the Recreation Capital Projects (pages 23-24 of the meeting packet) and shared that the work to be completed in October for repairing tennis courts. The Commission discussed court lighting, and Nicole stated that both the lighting and the pickleball courts at Sheehan Elementary School are currently a priority.

Westwood Recreation ICC Use Overview:

Nicole served on the Islington Center Task Force (pages 25-26 of the meeting packet) and she was asked to compile and submit an overview of the Recreation Department’s use of the ICC space in Islington. At the January 16th Planning Board meeting, (watch on Westwood Media Center) the latest development plan was presented. The current plans call for the ICC recreation space (currently 6,000 sq. ft.) to be replaced with an open 2,000 sq. ft. space in the basement addition to the repositioned Wentworth Library. Despite the 2,000 sq. ft. space being “purpose-built” and comprising a more open floor plan, the overall reduction in space is of concern to the Recreation Department.

Nicole reported that the developer and town are in discussion to determine a payment amount that the town will need to build a new 4,000 sq. ft. addition onto the repositioned Wentworth Library. A portion of this space will likely house the Department of Youth and Family Services offices. Nicole will inquire about the availability of space in this building to house a dedicated

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recreation space for programming. The Islington Center Task Force's next meeting is being held February 7th, at ICC at 7:00 PM, and it is an open meeting. On February 13th a Public Hearing will be held at Sheehan School at 7:30 PM.

Public Comment: N/A

Events Update:

- Fireworks: Cold clear night, great show, and less people outside due to the cold. The sponsors were Roche Brothers and Rockland Trust
- March Into Summer: Scheduled for Saturday March 10th, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Wegmans is the sponsor. Please sign up for your volunteer shifts; volunteers are needed from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- Westwood Day: Date set for Saturday, September 29th, and the Friday night game is Westwood vs. Norwood.

Next Meeting Dates:

The Commission reviewed the 2018 calendar to select tentative meeting dates.

- Monday, February 26, 2018, 7:00 PM at Carby Street

Moved by Joyce Cannon, seconded by Mitch Katzman to adjourn the Recreation Commission meeting at 8:47 PM

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Connors