

Park and Recreation Commission	Meeting Minutes
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Date: February 9, 2016, 6:00 P.M.

Place: Brookline Town Hall, Room 111

Commissioners Attending: John Bain, Nancy O’Connor, Daniel Lyons and Jim Carroll

Commissioners Absent: Antonia Bellalta, Clara Batchelor Jean Stameris

Staff: Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director, Lisa Paradis, Recreation Director, Jessica White, Parks and Open Space Assistant.

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
Chairman’s Welcome Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Bain opened the meeting and asked for any edits to the minutes of the January 2016 meeting. 	Dan Lyons moved for approval of the January minutes. Seconded by Nancy O’Connor All in favor.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public Comment. 	
Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. Gallentine outlined the Election of Officers process. She stated that shortly after the New Year the Commission should hold an election to nominate and vote the Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming year. She would like to suggest that the Commissioners write down their nomination for chair and vice chair and hand it back to her. E. Gallentine will announce each nominee and ask if the Commissioner accepts the nomination. E. Gallentine announced an unanimous vote to nominate John Bain as Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. John Bain excepted the nomination. Dan Lyons moved to nominate John Bain as Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. Seconded by N. O’Connor. All in favor. The vote came in unanimously to nominate N. O’Connor as Vice Chair to the Park and Recreation Commission. N. O’Connor accepted the nomination. James Carroll moved to nominate N. O’Connor as Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. Seconded by John Bain. All in favor 	<p>Dan Lyons moved to nominate John Bain as Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. Seconded by N. O’Connor. All in favor.</p> <p>James Carroll moved to nominate N. O’Connor as Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. Seconded by John Bain. All in favor</p>
9th School Study Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kara Brewton addressed the Commission; she thanked the Commission for inviting her. E. Gallentine stated that K. Brewton has been the point person to the School Committee and Board of Selectman; she has been fielding all of the comments and suggestions regarding identification of a site for a 9th elementary school in Town. Kara Brewton and Erin Gallentine attended a South Brookline Neighborhood Association meeting last week and E. Gallentine listed some highlights of that meeting. A lot of ideas are out there and K. Brewton is 	

	<p>pull all of it together in a way that people can talk about in a linear logical way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E. Gallentine stated that the Park and Recreation Commission needs to be part of this conversation, they need to share their input with the Board of Selectman and School Committee, if there are properties that are impacted because of repurposing or because of a change in use during the day they need to explain the impacts of each for the Joint Committee’s consideration. Each site would have a different impact if it were to be used. She thought it would be helpful today to have a conversation about where the Town appears to be at this moment, what looks realistic in terms of areas, what areas are being looked at, if there are any outstanding questions and find out how the commission can be helpful and engaged in this process.• K. Brewton discussed the classroom capacity account study.• The Joint School Committee and Board of Selectman did not take an official vote but did what they called a first reading, meaning this is where they think we are heading. The three sites they are looking to study further are Baker School (she described this parcel of land), the Baldwin School and the Stop and Shop Site. The first two are Town owned parcels.• K. Brewton stated that we have to make sure the Baker has no restrictions. K. Brewton discussed the Baker Parcel and potential options for design of the space. There however has been nothing decided.• K. Brewton discussed the Baldwin School site. The fields and playgrounds in this area were discussed. This site was taken off early in the BSPACE discussion because of redistricting concerns, but enrollment has changed and we are still at it. L. Paradis discussed the tennis court at the Baldwin Site and how they might have federal grant money attached to them. N. O’Connor and K. Brewton discussed how in order to make the Baldwin site work you would need to expand the footprint of the existing building. K. Brewton stated that the current thinking is that the 9th school will not be seeking state funding. N. O’Connor and K. Brewton discussed the property lines and ownership of this potential site. D. Lyons and K. Brewton discussed what this school is being used for now. J. Bain asked when they were looking at the Stop and Shop and wondered if there was any consideration to look at Saint Mary’s School. K. Brewton can’t remember it being part of the discussion. There was discussion that in order to make the Baldwin site work there would need to be some enhancement of underutilized space on the grounds. L. Paradis is assuming they would be	
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	<p>looking for shared use of the athletic fields as well as the gym.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nancy O'Connor and K. Brewton discussed redistricting.• K. Brewton discussed the impact of bussing.• The traffic at Baldwin was discussed.• There was discussion around the existing Baker School and adding an additional School. E Gallentine stated that a lot of consideration has to be given to existing teacher parking and drop off which is already congested. Traffic on Beverly Road and Newton Street was discussed.• E. Gallentine stated that Heath Street would need to be assessed for traffic demand and impacts; it is narrow and curvy. L. Paradis stated that the other way from Hammond the lights are weird.• N. O'Connor wanted asked a question regarding Putterham Woods and if there is still a traffic issue on the Hammond Street side and does that area back up to the fire station and K. Brewton responded with a yes. A possible relocation of the firehouse was discussed.• J. Bain sated that there was a lot to take in last Thursday and wanted some clarification on taking down a piece of the Baker School, and the second part of the question is how much of the ballfield might be impacted with this scenario. K. Brewton doesn't have the answer to either of those questions. L. Paradis stated that the ballfield is really a single field now so here is a some wiggle room there. She thinks that it would not impact the permitting. E. Gallentine stated that it would be beneficial to keep as much of the rectangle field as possible and not overlap the soccer field with the baseball infield. L. Paradis stated that it would be a tough loss as it is the only baseball field in South Brookline.• E. Gallentine asked if Amory is off the table. K. Brewton sated that nothing is off the table, but these are the three that have risen to the top. They want to develop a scope with the Building Commission to do further studies on these three sites.• K. Brewton discussed the amount of money each of these studies will cost.• The funding for these sites was discussed.• K. Brewton discussed the new Subcommittee to the Advisory Committee that is called the Long Range Planning Subcommittee.• D. Lyons asked K. Brewton which of the three sites is most feasible. Speaking for herself (and not representing either the Board of Selectmen or School Committee), all of the sites are extremely difficult to	
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	<p>execute and politically challenging. All of those factors may mean that the easiest option is to continue to do nothing (thus continuing to increase classroom size). The second easiest would be reusing Old Lincoln once it becomes available. N. O'Connor agreed with her. K. Brewton also stated that every month we are not making a decision is still effectively making a decision (referring to increased classroom size) as enrollment pressures continue to rise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• J Bain and K. Brewton discussed the student increase projections.• E. Gallentine and K. Brewton discussed Pine Manor and what that would potentially look like. The Commission discussed the parcels of land that have been sold off.• N. O'Connor and K. Brewton discussed taking property by eminent domain.• D. Pollak addressed the Commission. He stated that the Building Commission was very receptive to getting a study done this year to get some serious focus and understanding on the 3 sites.• K. Brewton discussed having a public hearing in March with the Park and Recreation and discussing the three sites especially the first two (Baldwin and Baker). She thinks it would make sense to have a conversation inviting some neighbors and get some questions answered. E. Gallentine wondered if it is the Park and Recreation Commission inviting the public or is it the Park and Recreation with the Board of Selectman and the School Committee inviting the Town. This is very much for the entire Town to consider and vote on. She wondered if it was actually a joint meeting. D. Pollak stated that we want to have this conversation with Park and Recreation and Conservation. He stated that, speaking personally, he thinks at a high level we have some catching up to do and he isn't sure who is taking the lead on that. He discussed some history of the 9th school. He stated that this 9th school is a great challenge , but at the same time is an amazing opportunity. D. Pollak wanted to stress that we will do this so much better if we do it together than if we are at cross purposes.• D. Lyons, D. Pollak and K. Brewton discussed why Old Lincoln was not one of the three sites. The value of it as swing space was discussed.• D. Pollak discussed why these three sites were chosen to look at further.• The Commission, K. Brewton and D. Pollak discussed past properties that have come up that could have been potential 9th school property locations, and what the process is to go about purchasing something like that.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D. Pollak discussed the Dane Park Location.• D. Pollak does not think that we can bring this 9th school process to Town Meeting and then bring an expensive override vote to the voters without being able to say that we looked at the property that the Town already owns that says in the deed you can build a school on this, before we go out and purchase land. He believes that we really need to have a community conversation.• E. Gallentine discussed the second High School. She stated that there have been a few ideas for a new high school and described a few options. D. Pollak and E. Gallentine discussed where the potential 2nd High School conversations are at right now. He discussed the number of High School students now and what we will be seeing in the future. He believes that we should build facilities to meet our strategic needs for High School education for about 600-800 kids not 2600 kids, we would have to look at what these facilities are and how much we would have to change at the existing High School.• D. Pollak discussed the idea of building a science academy/facility. He discussed the idea of keeping the freshman together and then providing options at the upper levels. He talked about building an athletic campus.• J. Bain and D. Pollak discussed the Unified Arts Building and its usage.• N. O'Connor discussed the freshman campus and how she thought it would be successful. She stated that we don't have enough field space now for the High School and couldn't imagine how we would accomplish that with a second High School.• D. Pollak discussed Putterham Meadows Golf Course, but when there was back in forth in S. Brookline with the driving range, it raised the question in his mind about whether there have been conversations about more recreational use of playing fields at Putterham. He asked the Park and Recreation if they have considered it. E. Gallentine stated that this was brought up in the past, she discussed the history of this idea and the strong opposition push back during the Park, Open Space and Recreation Master Planning process. L. Paradis stated that it is seen functionally as an 18 hole golf course, but it has enormous use for running, walking, dog walking, cross country skiing and a whole host of other activities. It is a very large park and open space.• D. Pollak stated that every inch of land in Brookline has a use and every use has a value.• The Commission discussed Zoning restrictions.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine wondered how we would continue this conversation and what the next steps would be. She wants to move forward together to address these community needs. • J. Bain discussed school sports. He stated that if we expand the school and not the open space with it we are depriving a whole group of people who want to use the open space. • E. Gallentine stated that we maybe could have a staff meeting first to look at each site and go overs its usage. • Runkle was discussed. • J. Bain thanked K. Brewton and D. Pollak for coming tonight. 	
<p>School-Recreation Partnership 2015 Review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Battite addressed the Commission to update them on the status of the Recreation-School Department partnership • M. Battite reviewed the Brookline Recreation and the Public Schools of Brookline Mission statements. <p>This partnership (Recreation and the School Department) is defined by:</p> <p>A. A long Collaboration for the delivery of high quality services, programs and resources to the residents, students and the community at large.</p> <p>B. Dedication</p> <p>C. Shared respect</p> <p>D. Support of Change and Growth</p> <p>E. A positive and transparent relationship</p> <p>F. Is essential in order for both agencies to coexist and is core to how we do business.</p> <p>This collaboration takes places year round and includes shared resources and facilities and the delivery of services.</p> <p>The Brookline Summer Partners Committee</p> <p>-FY 15 was year 4 of this initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team meets every 4-6 weeks (She discussed the makeup of this team). • Facilities, transportation, food services, nursing, early education, extended school year, METCO, BACEP, custodial, ELL, Recreation, Aquatics and Admin Staff from each agency • Create opportunities <p>-Families; more options/wrap around care/inclusive environment</p> <p>-Employment</p> <p>-Service to the community</p> <p>-Employment opportunities</p> <p>- Year 3of the Food Service Program. She stated that this has changed the lives of the families who are going to this program. These children have access to a healthy lunch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced service to the camps 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A source of revenue and employment to the Food Services Department.• Most importantly, provides family with an affordable, healthy lunch every day. <p>-Extension of existing school program, including the Free/Reduces Lunch Program</p> <p><u>Environmental Education</u></p> <p>-Visited the BEEP classrooms to offer a seasonal series</p> <p>-Annual visits to each kindergarten class continue with the Parks and Open Space bulb planting initiative</p> <p>-Science program with the BCF Grant and STS for at risk boys living in the public housing</p> <p><u>Recreation Therapy</u></p> <p>- 3rd year of LEADS internship through Rec Therapy</p> <p>School Year FY 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing Transportation <p>-Afterschool students to Eliot with PSB school bus</p> <p>-6th year</p> <p>-Cost Saving</p> <p>-Improved experience for students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A seat at the table. This is the most important part. We are invited to all of these and that is a compliment. <p>-PSB Wellness Committee</p> <p>-PSB Connections/Early Childhood (0-8) years</p> <p>-PSB 21ST Century Learning Design/Educational Visioning Workshop/BHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing our message <p>-Shared Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The PSB annuals KIDS fair is advertised in the winter program guide and monthly e-newsletter.• The middle schools provide time in class from RAFT registration and marketing to the 6th grade classes system wide. <p>M. Battite listed the use/shared use of the facilities for FY15.</p> <p>M. Battite discussed the use of the Tappan facility. This is still an area Recreation is looking to maximize the use of the space.</p> <p>Looking ahead to FY16 AND FY 17 they are hoping to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Improve the scheduling and maintenance support to the Tappan Facility.2. Continue to work with the PSB Central Administration for the school year reservations of the elementary schools.3. Create out of school time opportunities for the upper Devotion campus (5th-8th graders). She is very excited they looked to Recrr4eation for this.4. Continue participation in the Out of School Time Planning with the BCF, BTC and STS.5. Expand private school partnerships. This is something that is	
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	<p>looked at every year.</p> <p>6. Create and inventory for available financial aid to streamline access and availability.</p> <p>7. Strengthen Communication-better define expectations, goals and processes. Recreation is excited about the new Operations Manager at the School Department.</p> <p>M. Battite went through some highlights from Recreation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Over 200k in camperships to the Park School (2000-2015.) 2. \$4500 in summer camperships to Beaver Summer Camp (2015).This program is different than the Park School. 3. Summer 2016-Brimmer and May joins our efforts and plans to place 2-4 youth workers. This program is a lot smaller. E. Gallentine and M. Battite discussed how long these camperships run. 4. Over 100 Students transition into day camp after their summer school and ESY Services. This creates an awesome inclusion environment. 5. Steve and Kate’s camp-secured 110 camp days, \$5k in scholarships and over \$1k in supply donations. This is fantastic because they opened a week before of us and three week after us and these are days these children would have essentially been home. 6. New Equipment-cost share approach/Timing system at pool and scoreboard at rink. These have all been well received by all the user groups. 7. Sharing our message-Guidance Counselors, Team Facilitators, PTO’s etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N. O’Connor and M. Battite discussed the locations that the STS boys visit while participating in the environmental education program, the team makeup of the Brookline Summer Partners Committee and the rink rental fees. They discussed the Steve and Kate’s camp. • J. Bain and M. Battite discussed how the camperships work. L. Paradis stated that their Lacrosse program would not function without the Parks School. N. O’Connor stated that they have always been a great partner. 	
<p>Tennis Court Recycle Ball Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Paradis stated that this is a request to approve some tennis ball recycling containers at the courts at Amory, Baker and Waldstein. They are just to support a recycling program to get the balls recycled. They will take care of the pick-up and the bins hold about 200 balls. We would like to start this in the spring. There will be no impact on this to the parks department. D. Lyons moved for approval of the Tennis Court Recycle Ball Program. Seconded by N. O’Connor. All on favor. 	<p>D. Lyons moved for approval of the Tennis Court Recycle Ball Program. Seconded by N. O’Connor. All on favor</p>

<p>Recreation Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February continues with many exciting and fun winter activities including the February vacation programs, extended public skate and stick hockey at the rink, snow shoeing at the golf course, RAFT skate night and the continuation of ski and snowboard lessons and night, winter swim session and dolphin swim tea,. • One of the biggest age groups we are seeing new interest is the over 55 groups. The walking groups and day trip groups were discussed. • The aquatic center has been very busy. • Recreation therapy is going very strong. • The Soule Center was recently visited by the representatives from the Tally Foundation who found our program to be high quality and inspiring through our curriculum supplies and classroom design and the staff and space. Recreation is looking forwards to the opportunity to work with the Foundation in the near future. L. Paradis is hoping to get some funding from that. Financial aid for Soule was discussed. The commission discussed how you would go about finding out who was in need of this financial need. 	
<p>Park and Open Space Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine discussed Article 97 and the many inquiries that have come up regarding the protected status of various parcels. The Park and Recreation Commission has committed itself to protecting the parks and open spaces in the community. To support that goal, the Division has commenced a process with staff and representatives from the Conservation Commission, to review the deeds, acquisition, land plans and Town Meeting votes on every parcel under the Commission’s jurisdiction. They will seek Town Counsel’s opinion on each parcel and then prepare a report as to the protected status of each parcel. 	
<p>Parks and Open Space Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Larz Anderson Design Review Meeting is scheduled for March 22nd. • The Emerald Necklace Bike/ Pedestrian contract will be awarded and executed in the next month and she hopes to start construction in the spring. E. Gallentine discussed what would be done in-house for this project. • The River Road Industrial Island Zoning Committee was discussed. • The Dukakis Dedication work will be done during the spring/summer • Hickey Triangle will be under construction this spring. N. O’ Connor and E. Gallentine discussed the work that will be done for this project • E. Gallentine hopes to have Pierce School bid out within the next 3 weeks. She discussed phased construction and closings. • There is a Green Space Alliance Coffee Hour tomorrow 	

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	in Room 11.	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No New Business.	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• J. Bain moved to adjourn. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor.	

Next Meeting: March 15, 2016 Location: Town Hall, Room 111

A true record

Attest Jessica White

Date: 2/9/16