

Park and Recreation Commission	Meeting Minutes
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Date: February 9, 2021

Place: Zoom Webinar

Commissioners Attending: John Bain, Nancy O'Connor, Clara Batchelor, Wendy Sheridan, Antonia Bellalta, Dan Lyons

Commissioners Absent: Jim Carroll

Staff: Erin Gallentine: Commissioner of Public Works, Leigh Jackson: Recreation Director, Jessica White: Parks and Open Space Assistant

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
Chairman's Welcome/Approval of the Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. O'Connor moved for approval of the January 12, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by J. Bain. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. 	
Introduction to Platform Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian Bradford, Jennifer Miller and Jeff Ward introduced themselves to the Commission. J. Miller and J. Ward introduced themselves. J. Miller explained exactly what platform tennis is and how the game works. It is a very social sport and the court is quite small. The rules are close to tennis and it is predominantly a doubles sport. It is a winter sport, multi-generational and is very easy to learn. She stated that people find the sport additive and people are staying to play year round. The platform tennis club has been around for ten years, it is a nonprofit and is the only open access paddle tennis club inside route 128. It is operated by a 7 person fully volunteer board. It is located at Pine Manor's College Campus. The demand is beyond their capacity. They started with 2 courts and have expanded to three. She stated that there are an upwards of 20 inquiries a week for people who want to join their club. She stated that they do not have enough space and time to bring in more members and this is why they are looking towards expansion. She stated that there are significant resources available to fund expansion or moving to a new site. Pictures of the Brookline Platform Tennis was shared with the Commission. She detailed the programs and described the facilities. She stated that there are strong players at the club, but the nature of the sport is the great players 	

	<p>play with beginners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local growth and demand- Boston area has 20 facilities- up from 12 ten years ago.<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All but three are country clubs and no municipal facilities.2. Thousands of local players- up 3 times from ten years ago.• Jeff Ward is the regions representative for the American platform tennis association (APTA) grow the game committee.<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fielding calls weekly2. Access to resources and funding.• Pictures of examples of platform tennis courts from the outside were shown to the Commission. He explained what the courts can be built on. The courts are small and don't take up a lot of space.• J. Ward stated that they did not want to be specific in a request or a need, they are looking for resources to potentially expand and wanted to get the Commission up to speed on the sport and the demand.• A. Bellalta heard that there is a great wait list of people wanting to join. J. Ward explained the current wait list and explained how he would like to change the wait list. He stated that they would like to have a first come first serve of locals. He stated that 1/3 of the members are from Brookline and a lot more from surround areas. A. Bellalta and J. Ward discussed the increase demand due to the pandemic.• C. Batchelor wondered how long the slots are. Jeff Ward stated that they generally allow 90 minute slots. J. Ward and C. Batchelor discussed the construction of these courts.• N. O'Connor asked J. Ward discussed the busy times/daytime hours, rates and fees.• W. Sheridan stated that what is unique about this sport is this facility is outdoors and a winter sport. She stated that this sport gives people all ages and abilities access to outdoor winter activities. She stated that what intrigues her is the ability of these facilities to be built in locations that are otherwise undesirable. She thinks we should entertain learning more about	
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	<p>this in the future and appreciates the introduction.</p>	
<p>Introduction of Alexandra Vecchio the New Parks and Open Space Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Bain welcomed Alexandra Vecchio. • E. Gallentine introduced A. Vecchio, the new Director of Parks and Open Space E. Gallentine detailed A. Vecchio’s background/past work experiences for the Commission. She stated that A. Vecchio will not only be looking at our network of parks and open space through the lenses of climate change and sustainability, but also at the same time will be helping all Public Works through this climate change framework. • E. Gallentine discussed the selection Committee that was involved in the hiring process of A. Vecchio. • A. Vecchio thanked everyone for the warm welcome. She is very excited about the opportunity. She discussed her current work at Mass Audubon. She is so excited to be working with such a high quality team and to work with the community members who are so vested and supportive. She is passionate about public parks and community green space. She is excited to be working at the local level. She stated that our parks and open spaces play such a critical role in community health, public health, quality of life, economic vitality of the community and community pride. She is excited to work with the staff and the Commission for the successful long term management of parks and open space. She is looking forward to capital projects on the horizon in Brookline and to get to know the Brookline Community. She thanked the commission for their time. 	
<p>Robinson Playground Design Review Presentation and Vote</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Waisnor presented the Commission with the final plan that was voted on by the Robinson Playground Design Review Committee. The full presentation is available on the Town Website. • N. O’Connor asked J. Waisnor if the add alternates need to be prioritized. J. Waisnor replied with a yes. E. Gallentine stated that what was discussed is that if we were to do the pergola, we could potentially do the 	<p>The Chair moves to except the Plan has presented here tonight. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. N. O’Connor moved to prioritize the add alternates as followed if funding was to become available,</p>

	<p>platform/seating and then the pergola being added a later date. She stated the security lighting was something that was discussed. E. Gallentine stated that the pergola was more of featured element of the design discussion and the pedestrian lighting was not such an emphasis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Batchelor asked J. Waisnor if there was going to be a fence around the hard court area. J. Waisnor stated the only fence will be the existing fence along Cypress Street and the fence along the abutters property lines. C. Batchelor and J. Waisnor discussed the dimensions of the field. • W. Sheridan wanted to applaud and thank J. Waisnor for all her work. It has been a long process with dozens of iterations of this design, at the end of the day she feels strongly that we ended up with the best design and feels it was worth all the effort. She is excited for the neighborhood to have this new park to look forward to in the future. She hopes the pergola fits into the budget. • A. Bellalta thinks the design looks great and wanted to commend J. Waisnor on all her work. • Anne Lusk addressed the Commission. She wanted to welcome Alexandra. She likes the design a lot, but she prefers to have the swing sets near the swing sets of the younger children. She would say if there is any money left she hopes we would consider the water pump with channels. • Arlene Mattison thanked everyone for another great park design. She is wondering why the basketball hoop is on that end of the hard court when Cypress Street is the noisier busier street. It would be further from the residents and adjacent to Cypress. She also wonders if there will be any bike racks. J. Waisnor discussed the bike racks. J. Waisnor discussed why the basketball hoop is where it is and why having it there prevents having to add a high fence along Cypress Street. • J. Waisnor would suggest the prioritization of the add alternates be as followed: pergola, site furnishing and lighting. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pergola 2. Additional Furniture 3. Lighting <p>Seconded by J. Bain. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</p>
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	<p>The Chat was read out loud for the record 1 of 2 Submitted on behalf of Ken Sexter from 185 - 195 High St Condos Dear Jessie, We appreciate all of the work that has gone into the park design. As communicated to you and Commission in previous correspondence, the residents of 185-195 High Street strongly oppose the proposed location of the hard court on Cypress St. We provided our reasons and attended a previous meeting at which the Committee voted that the best location for the hard court was to keep it where it is currently located at High St Place. It came as a surprise to us that this vote was not final and there was another vote taken at the subsequent meeting to move it to the Cypress St side of the Park. It is not only our condo building with 12 units and 30 residents that is opposed to the Cypress St location. There are a number of abutters close to the Cypress St side who were also unaware that a 2nd vote had been taken to move it from High St Place to Cypress St. 2 of 2 Submitted on behalf of Ken Sexter from 185 - 195 High St Condos As you know there are strong opinions on the location of the hard court and we don't believe that a fair process was followed by allowing a 2nd vote with many of us unaware that a new vote was going to be taken. We suggest there needs to be more research and discussion into the impact of the court location in terms of noise, lighting, and other issues before a final location can be determined and voted upon. Thank you, Ken Sexter, Head Trustee of 185-195 High St Condos, on behalf of the residents of 185-195 High St</p> <p>From Jennifer Miller to All Panelists: 06:59 PM Wonderful park design! Thank you very much to all involved!</p> <p>From Diana McClure to All Panelists: 07:00 PM What is the site furnishing that will need extra money - where would it be placed?</p> <p>From Anne Lusk to All Panelists: 07:06 PM My thanks to everyone for all of your patience and hard work!</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine stated that the meeting before last of the design review committee there was a vote to keep the court on the High Street Place side and part of that conversation continued where A Bellalta suggested that the pergola and hard court could be combined. W. Sheridan was worried about whether there was enough hard court space, and if there was enough she would be in favor of two hoops. The design discussion continued, and E. Gallentine stated that if the committee wants to revisit the design, this has to be brought back to a meeting with the same public notice. The same notification went out to the neighborhood for the last public design review committee meeting. She stated that the process was robust and the location of the hard court, which has been a tough conversation was originated by the neighborhood/community not the design team. • E. Gallentine stated that site furniture can be discussed. • J. Bain thanked J. Waisnor for her enthusiasm and the great work. • The Chair moves to except the Plan has presented here tonight. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. • N. O’Connor moved to prioritize the add alternates as followed if funding was to become available: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pergola 2. Additional Furniture 3. Lighting Seconded by J. Bain. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. 	
<p>Murphy Playground Design Review Presentation and Vote</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Waisnor presented the Commission with the final concept/design that was voted on by the Murphy Playground Design Review Committee. The full presentation is available on the Town Website. • C. Batchelor discussed the plant bed between the water play and older kid’s playground. She wonders if they will get destroyed from the kid’s running back and forth. J. Waisnor agrees and it will be looked at. • N. O’Connor stated that J. Waisnor has done an incredible amount of work on both designs and 	

	<p>she puts a touch of the neighborhood in each design. She stated that J. Waisnor outdid herself and it's a park that is very near and dear to her heart.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● J. Bain wanted to thank both the design review committee and volunteers that took to time to add input to this design. ● J. Bain moved to accept the plan for Murphy playground as presented here tonight. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. ● J. Waisnor, S. Landgren and K. Weatherseed are working on a community engagement plan. They have put together a model to think about how we can get through the public design processes by reaching as many people as possible. They are putting together a tool kit for community engagement. E. Gallentine stated that we are trying to add as many needs and method by which we can engage with the community and doing an assessment of vulnerable communities in this neighborhoods. 	
<p>Capital Improvement Projects Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● S. Landgren presented the Commission with a quarterly major projects update. <p>Projects to Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Athletic Master Plan/ Needs Assessment ● Brookline Reservoir ● Cypress Street Playground ● Larz Anderson Lagoon Structures ● Larz Anderson Roadway ● Lynch Center-Brookline Ave ● Ridley School-Turf Replacement <p>Strategic Master Plan/Athletic Field Needs Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Master Plan Update process that began with GreenPlay May 2019 ● Due to document size, now have two final documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>2020 Strategic Master Plan Update</i> ● <i>2020 Athletic Fields Needs Assessment and Master Plan</i> ● Received final PDF's and edible versions end of January 2021. Covers of the two documents were shared with the commission. S. Landgren shared a few highlights of the documents. ● Town Staff are making some final adjustments 	

	<p>to documents for printing and web posting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Landgren will obtain limited printed copies for staff, commission and as needed • The full documents will be available on the Parks and Open Space website and printed copies – March, depending on printing timeline <p>Brookline Reservoir Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 12, 2020 MWRA 48” Water Main Break • David G. Roach & Sons-Contractor who previously performed recent work is making current repairs • Began repairs January 12, 2021 • Work being paid for by MWRA • Completed riprap • Work now on hold due to weather • Anticipate completion April 2021 <p>Cypress Street Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bid Opening – June 2020 • Heimlich Landscaping & Construction Corp • Engineers Estimate • Low Bid • Total Project Budget • Post bid opening delays due to project funding as relates to the overall High School project • Received approval recently with anticipated start of construction March-April 2021 • Anticipated completion August 2022 • Pictures of existing conditions and the plan was shared with the Commission <p>Larz Anderson Lagoon Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bid Opening - August 19, 2020 • Post bid opening delays due to selection of contractor • SumCo Eco-Contracting LLC • Mobilization - March 8, 2021- footbridge, causeway and Tempietto. J. Bain and S. Landgren discussed possible elements that can be saved from these structures • Substantial Completion – November 30, 2021 • Drawings of the Tempietto, bridge and causeway structures were shared with the Commission. <p>Larz Anderson Roadway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMDG/ Environmental Partners currently working on design 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal to bid the project for Construction this year • Pictures of existing conditions were shared with the Commission • W. Sheridan wanted to know if there was any consideration on if this was to be constructed this fall and next winter, there is temporary structures for the rink units taking up space and with the new roadway where would those go. She wants to be thoughtful about what is going there next winter. S. Landgren stated that it needs to be part of the conversation. N. O'Connor and S. Waisnor disused lighting/signage. S. Landgren stated that there will be a walkway along the edge that gets you to the lot, it will be lit from the edge of the parking lot down to the entrance. There will be lighting spaced all the way up to the top. S. Landgren stated that by design they will try to make it desirable for one way traffic only. He stated that we are trying to address massive wash out area/address drainage along the roadway. L. Jackson and E. Gallentine discussed how in this project they are looking to light the entrance. <p>Lynch Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the areas directly abutting the Lynch Center Building • Includes courtyard • A layout and materials plan was shared with the Commission. • The drainage issue were discussed. <p>Ridley School Turf Replacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2018- Synthetic Turf Field installed • September 2019-Multiple failures noted • September 2019-Shaw Sports Turf made repairs • September 2020-Additional significant failures found • September 2020-Shaw Sports Turf made repairs • September 25, 2020-Memo to Shaw documenting systemic failures • October/ November 2020-Negotiation with Shaw for full turf replacement • Replacement planned for April 2021 during School vacation 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the work will be covered under the warranty. 	
<p>Rink Feasibility Study Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the Commissioners have received a copy of the Rink Feasibility Study Draft. <p>E. Gallentine dicussed and detailed the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LARZ Anderson Ice Rink Task Force /feasibility Study Committee • Discussion of Ice Rink Deficiencies /Opportunities • Review Options for Ice skating Rink Repair Improvement or Replacement. • Advisory Committee Support • Temporary Refrigeration System @ Existing Facility costs • Request for Proposal; for Consulting Services • L. Jackson stated that this very exciting, the temporary ice is doing very well, she would advocate to be able to do this next season and work it into budget. She think the timeline looks good. She took note on Newbury College as a potential location as well and wonders if that should be discussed. She is very supportive and wants to continue ice in Brookline. E. Gallentine stated that Newbury College was looked at and an Ice rink and parking don't work well on that site. She thinks a pool could fit into future concept but a rink was not large enough to fit there. A. Bellalta wonders if it is possible to leave a space there if something else comes up. • W. Sheridan feels like the draft is in a great place and captures everything we are looking for. E. Gallentine stated that we may find we put it out to bid and it is way above what we are looking for, we may need to scale back. She thinks it's a good point to add flexibility if during the process some opportunity comes to our attention. W. Sheridan stated that in the task number 7 part b: market analysis phase wording. She wonders if it should say "construction and or operation". She wants to make sure we are not being too narrow in 	

	<p>wording. She stated that there are towns like Newton that are looking to do a rink and wonders if there is an opportunity to partner with Newton to serve both towns. She wonders if that scope is too broad, but would like to see some type of language like that. E. Gallentine stated that she thinks W. Sheridan means if we were to build and put out to bid the management of it. E. Gallentine stated it is a small change that will allow for some flexibility and conversation about different ways rinks are run. However, E. Gallentine isn't sure how deep we can go realistically.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E. Gallentine would recommend that the selection committee be a subset of the full Ice rink subcommittee task force for the consultant review. 	
<p>Recreation Update</p>	<p>Rink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Sports at the rink are back on at 50% capacity ▪ Opening opportunities for residents only ▪ All public skate reservations are full on nights and weekends ▪ Everything is going smoothly and very well <p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget FY22 ▪ Golf Course Food and Bev – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No response on initial RFP ▪ RFQ –issue date 2/10/2021. The Commission discussed the difference between the RFQ and RFP. ▪ Tennis Vendor – 2/9/2021– Open Bid Date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 bidders; committee meetings begin 2/17/2021 ▪ Cost Recovery Project – Starts 1/19/2020 – Underway (all good) ▪ CAPRA – Accreditation Project underway - paused until post CR <p>Amilia Program registration & Facility Software</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major Roll Out (Underway) ▪ Nature Camps: Tuesday, February 9th (almost full at 2pm) ▪ Summer Camps and Larz Anderson Wedding Venues: Wednesday, February 10th ▪ All other spring sports and activities: Thursday, February 11th, 2021 <p>Aquatics</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aqua Aerobics classes have started. • Socially Distance Group Lessons have started. • All COVID Protocols are running smoothly. <p>Golf Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food & Beverage Concession will go out to RFQ on February 9, 2021. ▪ Snow conditions have provided Nordic opportunities at the Golf Course, 40/day ▪ Golf Course Cleanup Day will be held late March weather dependent. <p>Parking Lot- future Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Golf Course Master Plan- Leigh and Justin ▪ RFQ– Food And Bev – Award of contract, March Meeting ▪ RFP – Tennis Contract – Award of Contract, March Meeting ▪ Cost Recovery Assessment Update – potential fee increase , March Meeting ▪ Public Schools of Brookline and Park and Recreation Commission MOA- this might be pushed out further given the schools needs and time <p>W, Sheridan and L. Jackson discussed snow shoeing at the golf course. W. Sheridan asked if it is residents from multiple towns and L. Jackson responded with a yes. W. Sheridan would want to reiterate that she feels strongly that the Commission should be involved in the golf course master plan for that vote that was taken in Nov of 2019. She wants to know what L. Jackson is going to procurement with, because it was a robust discussion with the Commission at multiple meetings and she wants to make sure we are all on the same page before anything is committed to. L. Jackson agrees and has that same thought. W. Sheridan is interested in the content that is going to procurement. L. Jackson stated that we are in a process of internal conversation not content. N. O’Connor stated that Justin was talking to golf course architects a few months back and she is curious on where we are with that. L. Jackson stated that she thinks he was sharing how excited he is about the master plan and he anticipated very different architects who would be able to help at the golf course, but she stated that we haven’t even started a serious</p>	
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Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes 2/9/21

	<p>conversation about the master plan. L. Jackson stated that we decided that we would do the hiring of the architect and then we would bring the Committee together to work with the Architect. She stated that the project has not started and there has been no hiring. A. Bellalta stated that if you are expanding the building or doing renovations to club house and a Master Plan for the Golf Course and hiring an architect for the building and a landscape architect/golf course planner it would be good to have an interface between the two so there are no missed opportunities. She stated that it is all part of a big plan, and which is why we would like to see an overall master plan with building and grounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ J. Bain wanted to applaud J. Lawson on a terrific job. He stated that he is very excited about the golf course. ▪ L. Jackson and N. O’Connor discussed snow shoeing. 		
<p>Parks and Open Space Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine stated that she wants to fill the Commission in on a Fun partnership with Emerald Necklace Conservancy. She stated that we are doing a lights in the necklace temporary art installation. It is a light installation around 6 of the bridges, they are on a timer and is a small intervention that is all solar powered. All this is being managed and paid for through support for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. A map of the lights were shared. The 6 bridge locations were detailed. The lights will run from February 13, 2021- March 13, 2021. 		
<p>Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No New Business. 		
<p>Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Batchelor moved to adjourn. Seconded by A. Bellalta. All in favor. 		

Next Meeting: March 9, 2021

Location: Zoom Webinar

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes 2/9/21

A true record

Attest **Jessica White**

Date: 2/9/21