

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes 3/8/22

Park and Recreation Commission	<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Date:** March 8, 2022

**Place:** Zoom Webinar

**Commissioners Attending:** John Bain, Nancy O’Connor Clara Batchelor, Wendy Sheridan Ames, Antonia Bellalta, Theresa Mooney, and Jon Pan

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Staff:** Alexandra Vecchio: Director of Parks and Open Space, Jessica White: Parks and Open Space Assistant, Justin Lawson: Golf Course General Manager

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION		
<b>Chairman’s Welcome/Call meeting to order</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Bain opened the meeting.</li> </ul>		
<b>Approval of the Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N. O’Connor moved for approval of January 11, 2022, and February 8, 2022, Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes. Seconded by J. Bain. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. C. Batchelor was absent from voting.</li> </ul>		
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public Comment.</li> </ul>		
<b>Preliminary Ice Rink Feasibility Study Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W. Sheridan Ames stated that the Town received the final Ice Rink Feasibility Study Report from KMDJ. She stated that it is quite comprehensive and is still available in a digital version. All the Task Force members had the opportunity to review it before the February 16th meeting. At the Meeting the Task Force reviewed general thoughts on the report and possible recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Commission. There is a lot of information that the Task Force felt still needed to be absorbed, so the Task Force will be meeting again. The next meeting will include a public comment at the start of the meeting, and it will also include a possible vote on the recommendation from the Task Force to the Park and Recreation Commission.</li> </ul>		
<b>Jack Kirrane Ice Rink 2022-Season –Discussion, Public Comment, and possible vote</b>	<p>Please see the attached presentation here presented by A. Vecchio and L. Jackson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting Files Link</b></p>	W. Sheridan Ames moved to fund the existing contract for the temporary	

	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2198">https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2198</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Vecchio and C. Batchelor discussed the deadline for not renewing the chiller rental contract.</li> <li>• N. O’Connor asked A. Vecchio if the price for a new chiller and condenser is just another Band-Aid, or if it would add 20 years onto the life of the rink. A. Vecchio would say it's stronger than a band-aid, but we know that that would be an investment in getting the original system back up and running. However, the infrastructure and slab are very old and outdated. It's hard to predict how long that would last.</li> <li>• J. Bain stated that the \$375.00 reimbursement/day for the loss of the chillers does not seem fair. A. Vecchio and J. Bain discussed the breakdown per day of the rental fee. W. Sheridan Ames thinks that this season was a failure of a subcontractor’s mechanical equipment. She does realize that impact of weather is real and 60 degree days in February hurt ice in general, but she thinks it was multiplied by the fact that we were operating on one chiller- we lost some of the ice space which couldn't rebound before the job. She hears John's point that is \$375 a day refund feels lackluster in terms of the overall losses of this season. However, the Commission’s decision to move forward with the fix, which was \$17,000 for the pinhole leak, worked. She has heard that we had some of the best ice we've ever had at Larz Anderson this season before the mechanical failure. She is hesitant to make a decision about next season because of the mechanical failure of someone else's equipment. She does think it's important for the Commission to know what the cost might be not only for the replacement of the new chiller system and condenser but also what the cost might be for the replacement of the piping and the slab at a minimum. She thinks it's</li> </ul>	<p>refrigeration system for one more year. She hopes that as a commission and as a task force, we work together to move forward with the feasibility study and design development of a new facility that meets the needs and concerns of all constituents and residents of the town of Brookline. Seconded by Nancy O'Connor. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</p>
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	<p>important we have that number because she wonders if that investment can offset these annual costs that we're spending for X number of years until we potentially have a new facility. She appreciates all the work both the Recreation Department and the Parks and Open Space Division have done to provide all this information. She does think there is a little more information the Commission needs to decide whether to keep it open or close it. She doesn't see any difference between the decision this year or the decision to open, and it was successful until a contractor's mechanical equipment failed. She would love to consider reopening again and she would also love to see if we can get an estimate for the cost to repair the piping and slab at a minimum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A. Vecchio stated that we can request an updated quote along with the inclusion of the replacement of slabs and piping. She is not sure how long that would take to get.</li><li>• A. Bellalta stated that it's obvious that this is not just a mechanical issue, the ice rink is very old. And she feels that unless we do major renovation and repairs to it, we're going to continue to have something happen along the way. She stated that the weather is not going to change, it seems like we're just getting warmer and warmer. She feels that this needs to be done right. It might not just be the repairs, but it's also fixing that scorching sun that's beating down on the ice that takes away 50% of the ice time.</li><li>• C. Batchelor stated that her concern is that this facility is so old and we have to stick with this contractor for another three years if we decide to open it and she feels that the town's going to be throwing good money after bad. She stated that if we do build a new ice rink in this location, we will be without an ice rink for a few years. A. Vecchio discussed a timeline for building a new rink. She understands how much people love the rink, she loves the rink but is concerned about just pouring</li></ul>	
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	<p>more and more money into a 50/60-year-old rink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• J. Bain stated that he would be in favor of giving it another year, given the fact that there is already funding in place. He stated that there was a mechanical shutdown and the weather was against us. He is in favor of having it again and if it doesn't work out for us in one more year, then at least the community will realize that the time has come where the Jack Kirrane Rink needs to be shut down and either be rebuilt or replaced.</li><li>• N. O'Connor stated that we're a long way from a rink at the moment. Two years ago, we had the presence of mind to say let's get a five-year contract and see how far we can go with it and she thinks that last year was amazing and this year's closure was a combination of issues. She would like to know what the rest of the public thinks. She stated that we don't have money or a design for this rink, what we do have is a preliminary feasibility study. She stated that this is going to take a thoughtful process, and there are many steps. She thinks that this past season wasn't terrible and would like to see if the public has anything to say.</li><li>• J. Pan stated that he agrees with what everyone has said. He is a father of three hockey players and has been to Larz many times. It is a beautiful place and it is sad to him if we can't operate it to its potential. He thinks it would be irresponsible of us to decide to close it without having either intermediate or long-term alternatives. He stated that we are only on the feasibility portion of a potential new rink. He also doesn't like having to spend over \$100,000 a year renting chillers, but he does think it would be irresponsible to leave the town without any options. He thinks we as a town have to make tough decisions and this has to be planned for. He doesn't think we should just give up and leave the town and all the residents with no options. He would also want to hear from the public.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• James Carr addressed the Commission. He is a former member of the Planning Board. He partially grew up in Brookline and spent a lot of his life here, and feels that the rink is the crown jewel of the community. He stated that it would be a terrible thing to see it go away. He stated that there are some major challenges, but with not having a budget for planning and design, he thinks it is critical that it be addressed. It sounds like, to him, that it will take a while to put together a good plan and he thinks there's a lot of opportunity for innovative planning for an outdoor ice rink for the 21st century and factoring in global warming and sustainability. It does seem to him there are opportunities for some innovations, thoughtfulness, and the ability to create a rink that will be a crown jewel for Brookline in that location. He stated that no other community in the area or anywhere that he knows of has it.</li><li>• Avi Urbas addressed the Commission. He wanted to thank everybody that's here for their efforts. He is a member of the Task Force. He stated that a new rink is years away and we don't have a funded plan in place to bridge us from here to there. He is a little discouraged to hear that we're talking about a year-by-year process of potentially paying \$100,000 and hoping that it works out. This is a multi-million dollar asset and assets of this size require interim funding, and he feels that we are probably a little behind on the investments in the infrastructure and the chillers. He stated that it does make sense to him that the town would be standing ready on periodical funding, not for \$100,000 but for the amount of money it takes to keep the system running. If we're going to need five to seven years, it might make sense to start investing in some level of chiller replacement, and certainly some piping and infrastructure. He doesn't think we can get by and hope one year at a time. There are about 15,000 visitors for this rink and they're suffering from downtime having to</li></ul>	
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	<p>travel to other places and having to pay double for private rinks. He stated that we don't want to make skating something for the wealthy. He stated that we rely on the Town to keep the continuity of these services running, and he would encourage the town to come to ask for that money. He stated that we have to be asking immediately for the money to move the feasibility process into the next phase and we need to accelerate that process. It needs to go to Town Meeting for design development as soon as possible. He doesn't think that looking for \$100,000 a year is the right level of investment that these users in this asset require. He would encourage the commission to up the level of spending to what is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nadine Gerds, Town Meeting Member, addressed the Commission. She stated that it has been fabulous having this rink, particularly over these two years of the pandemic for her as a senior skater. She thinks it is a facility that if we can find the interim funding to keep it going, that would be great. She is thrilled to see the planning for the long term because skating at large at Larz Anderson is beautiful. She hopes the Town can find the resources to keep it going next year until the planning is done, and the new rink is up and running.</li><li>• Anders Peterson addressed the Commission. He is a 20-year user of the rink, and multiple generations in his family use the rink. He wants to echo the support for finding a short-term or midterm option. He agrees with prior speakers who've said that the spot is unique. It is a community asset for Brookline. He hopes for something to be done to sustain and modernize the current rink or design for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century outdoor rink. He hopes that the treasure is kept.</li><li>• Paul Donovan addressed the Commission. He is a longtime resident. He wanted to start by saying thank you to the Commission for all the work they have done through the years for the children,</li></ul>	
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	<p>families, and Brookline Youth Hockey. He stated that Larz Anderson is essential to Brookline Youth Hockey, is our home rink, and is the lifeblood of our program. He is hoping that we can figure out a transition to a permanent solution with as little disruption as possible. He stated that it's a precious gem for so many families, it has been that way for his family for 20 years and he is deeply grateful for everything the Town has done to make that possible. He stated that scrambling and paying a premium for rink time at private rinks is expensive and is a significant burden on average Brookline families. He respectfully asks that the Commission find a solution that combines both an interim solution and a long-term solution. He wants to express his gratitude for everything everyone has done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matthew Gifford addressed the Commission. He is a South Brookline resident and has two children who learned to skate at Larz. He wants to echo the sentiments about the value of Larz and the value to his kids. He would hate to see a time or even a short period where the rink was not operational. He would not want to deprive those kids of that asset. He would strongly urge the Commission to please consider finding a way to piece it together until there is a long-term plan.</li><li>• Kathryn Britton addressed the Commission. She wanted to thank the Town and the Commission's efforts. She wanted to echo all the prior very thoughtful comments. She is a longtime user of the rink, as well as her family and two children. She wanted to echo everything everyone has said about the need for both short-term and long-term solutions and especially meet the need for planning and budgeting for both.</li><li>• John Hebert addressed the applications. He has been listening to the discussion about all of the costs associated with the current system, the cost of the chillers, the various breakdowns, and the increasing impact of global warming, and so on.</li></ul>	
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	<p>He stated that one of the things that has not even been mentioned is that these costs pale in comparison to the construction costs that are associated with building the two rinks that are in the feasibility study. He stated that the cost of those two rinks ranges from \$36 million to \$51 million. It seems to him that the judgment of building even one ice rink that uses conventional refrigeration in the face of rapid global warming is questionable at best. He stated that constructing, operating, and maintaining a complex with two refrigerated 85 foot by 200-foot ice rinks seems to fly in the face of logic and common sense. The one thing that has not been considered by the feasibility study or in the feasibility study is a new synthetic ice technology that is called Gleiss. He stated that it should be considered as a means to save on costs, reduce carbon footprint and extend the skating season year-round. For example, a synthetic commercial-grade Gleiss surface measuring 5 feet by 200 feet, nominally costs \$370,000 and that is one 100th of the cost of just constructing the facilities that you're describing. It requires modest maintenance uses zero electrical energy and lasts for 12 years. He thinks the Commission could consider installing glycerin this year while it's warm, let people use it, and see if it is something that would be acceptable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paul Henry addressed the Commission. He appreciates the thoughtful discussion. He is a neighbor of the park. He lives in Jamaica Plain and use to be a resident of Brookline. He thinks the rink is a crown jewel, but from his perspective, the more important crown jewel is Larz Anderson Park. He is very much in favor of refurbishing the existing rink and whatever the 21st century way of doing it is and he is opposed, along with many other people, to building a large complex up there. He feels that it would change the nature of Larz. He stated that Brookline is very committed to open space and feels that we need more rather than less</li></ul>	
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	<p>open space. He stated that Brookline is very committed to climate action and to build a highly energy-intensive large facility up there with a lot more parking spaces and cars and trying to get to goal net-zero carbon emissions doesn't seem to fly to him. He feels that the park would be less safe with more cars going over the top of it. He stated that there would need to be environmental studies on the impact of the water and the chemicals of the Brookline./ Boston area. He stated that the Auto Museum has lots of events. He stated that the surrounding Boston residents were not notified of this process was happening until very late in the process. He lives within 100 yards of the park and never received any official notice. He is concerned if Brookline builds such an expensive rink that they're going to want to pay for it, and there is going to be a lot of pressure to have user fees- to essentially commercialize the new facility. He does not feel that this is the right priority to build such a large facility but he is all in favor of refurbishing the existing rink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Richie Iskra addressed the Commission. He learned to skate at Larz. He stated that there is a proud hockey tradition in Brookline. He thinks everybody knows that hockey started on ponds and lakes and to skate outside in nature is quite the opportunity and experience. He knows that with climate change, it's not as easy to find ponds and lakes around here to skate on, and so a rink that has a refrigeration system seems to him to be the best cure to that ill. He stated that hockey is a regional sport and he would want it to be accessible to everybody, no matter their identity, no matter their financial identity. He thinks that keeping it going in the short term is important, but also to think about keeping it in the long term. He knows the sun damages the ice, but it also enlivens the skater, and when you're skating there at night under the moon it is also beautiful. He wouldn't want to see any roofs over it but would love to see</li></ul>	
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	<p>it preserved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bob Allen addressed the Commission. He wanted to take this opportunity to refocus things a little bit. He feels that the question really before us is what we do for next year. He appreciates our neighbors and friends from Boston, giving their opinion about what the future of the rink should be, but he does think that it is important that the people here in Brookline set our priorities. He knows about the traffic on Avon Street, but arguably, if we can build a high school on Cypress Street, we can set up a process that will keep our neighbors in Boston happy also. He does think that there'll be a long process and he is all for continuing that process at an expedited rate to try to look to the future but in the meantime, as President of Brookline Youth Hockey, he can say without a doubt that the loss of Larz Anderson will be devastating to the program. He feels that what you do have to do is provide a service to the town of high quality at an affordable cost. He appreciates the conversations about fees from a financial standpoint, that shouldn't be the discussion, it should be what's best for recreation in this Town. He stated that we always come up with the money. He stated that this will shut down the entire hockey program. He would certainly support moving forward at least this upcoming year because he thinks we need to see where this process takes us.</li><li>• Andrew Fischer addressed the Commission. He feels that the Town can use this opportunity to replace the older rink with a covered open-air rink. He feels that it would be an improvement over the current open-air rink and will also allow a solar-powered rink with solar panels on the rooftop sufficient to keep the ice cold, provide significant savings in energy costs, and reduce carbon emissions by using solar energy rather than fossil fuels to build a net-zero hockey rink. Alternatively, he stated that it is also feasible to build and would</li></ul>	
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	<p>provide cost savings to do this with an indoor rink. This has been done successfully in Woodstock, Vermont, where the solar power heats the enclosed rink, as well as freezes the ice. Brookline can continue as the environmental leader in Massachusetts by building the first net-zero rink in Massachusetts, whether enclosed or open. He feels that we should keep this opportunity to continue to lead in modern green technology. He feels that keeping in the essence of Larz Anderson Park is a state-of-the-art Fossil Free rink, rather than a \$15 million sports complex. He thinks accommodations could more easily be afforded during the down period of construction of a rink if we're building a fossil-fuel-free rink, rather than the kind of complex some people are proposing. He would support that as a town meeting member.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peter Senopoulos addressed the Commission. He stated that he appreciates the thoughtful dialogue. In attempting to solve this problem, he views this as two issues. The number one issue is a short-term solution and then your long-range solution. The short-term solution is it's going to be a mechanical analysis of the rink, you will also have to drill down on the legalities of that contract. He thinks that it's beyond the scope of the Commission to figure that out tonight, but feels it needs to be looked at. He thinks we need to see if we can open it up next year and get these kids out there skating. He stated that you've heard his opinion on the mega sports complex. In the feasibility study in the comments that came in, they were 50 that were emotionally against that and there were not any in favor. He would invite the public to take a look at some of those comments. Larz has its historical value issue. He thinks we should restore the rink as soon as possible with modern energy-efficient climate-friendly equipment, and also shading techniques. This will stretch out this season more reliably and will avoid a year-long ht, delay in legally</li></ul>	
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	<p>challenging this huge mega project. He stated that if significantly warmer climate locations can host an outdoor rink, then why can't Brookline? He thinks that the Commission should want to drill down with experts in this field. There's been a lot of new technology around for the last 70 years. He wonders if there is a dedicated account where you can accept donations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pete Friedman addressed the Commission. He thinks that two things need to be addressed here. Number one is a solution for next year. This was a really difficult year. He has been involved in Brookline youth hockey for a long time, and he feels that we must have a steep path to be able to rely on for the kids to be able to practice and take advantage of. He stated that number two is while we solve that problem we have to make sure that we're looking forward and he thinks that it's imperative that whatever funding is required to be able to look at a longer-term solution is addressed because we don't want to be in the situation two or three or four years down the road.</li><li>• Amy O'Connell addressed the Commission. She is a Boston resident. She is all for the restoration of the hockey rink. She thinks that it's a wonderful park, but she wishes that the Brookline people would give a little more care to the Boston people and it's upsetting to her that she is only hearing about this now. She feels that letters should have been sent to the Boston people; so many people live by this park. She knows nothing has been decided, but people in the area should have been notified if there is potential for building some large complex with an additional rink. She wishes that there would be some more welcoming to the Boston people and maybe reaching reach out to people who live here or send letters out to the people who live here so they can be aware.</li><li>• Nafeseh Masoumi addressed the Commission. She would like to also echo the last comment. She is also a Boston resident and neighbor of Larz</li></ul>	
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	<p>Anderson. She stated that she received information about this meeting today. She stated that we are neighbors of this park and the ones that will be receiving all traffic, the voices, pollution, and everything. She feels like it would have been at least nice to involve the people who actually will be on the receiving end of a lot of the issues. She wanted to comment on how they will be challenged with all the construction and not receive the benefit. She talked about how when she visits the rink she pays full price, not the Brookline resident rate. She feels sad to say she just received this today and it upsets her that he couldn't join this. She hopes that the Commission is considering the voice of the neighbors from the Boston area that are neighboring this park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A. Vecchio wanted to remind folks that the question that's being discussed right now is not the long-term ice rink feasibility study, but if we will be opening the rink once again for the 2022 2023 season.</li><li>• T. Mooney and A. Vecchio discussed the notification process for the ice rink feasibility study. A. Vecchio stated that we sent out through US postal mail over 400 letters and that included letters to Boston residents as well. She stated that we notified people via email from different Boston organizations who have expressed interest previously and we ask that they distribute the information. A. Vecchio stated that for a design review process we notify abutters within a 300-foot radius for something like this. It is her understanding that we don't typically send out you US postal mail notifications regarding non-design and non-project-based questions.</li><li>• T. Mooney stated that given the ice rink was only open for about half the amount of time that it was expected to, what alternatives were used for Brookline Youth Hockey when it was closed. L. Jackson stated that we did not provide an alternative option for recreation. However, she</li></ul>	
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	<p>would be more than happy to follow up with Mr. Bob Allen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• C. Batchelor stated that everybody loves the rink and she understands we have to keep it going, but every year we vote another year, which she will support and vote for this year, but to do it every year and not even have the feasibility study or the next step of this process, is short-sighted of the commission. She feels that we have to get the feasibility study going and feels very frustrated that we have done this the last couple of years but we don't put in the budget. She understands that maybe there's no money to study this and no money to replace it or make a new rink. She will support this but she is very frustrated that this comes up every year and everybody talks about it's a long process but feels that we are just kicking the can down the road.</li><li>• W. Sheridan Ames stated that she feels C. Batchelor's frustration because for two years we have worked on this task force to get to where we are today. But despite saying that we talk about this every year, neither the departments nor the commission put this in the CIP when we knew that this facility was failing and stated that this should have been in the CIP a decade ago and it wasn't. She stated that she has spent the last few days going through all the reports that sit on her bookshelf for the Parks and Recreation Commission and she went back to 2008 close to when she started on this commission, and it discussed the needs for the rink in the Larz Anderson CIP budget. She stated that as a commission, for whatever reason, we did not prioritize this. She stated that it took a catastrophe at the rink for us to put this at the top of our list of priorities. She stated that she can commit to making her best effort to make a recommendation from the task force and hopefully with the support of the task force to move this preliminary feasibility study forward to the Park and</li></ul>	
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	<p>Recreation Commission and to be an active proponent of finding funding for necessary next steps to get this beyond feasibility and into design development. This way it becomes a tangible project and is no longer just a creative idea that we all hope will happen someday. She feels that it is our duty as the Parks and Recreation Commission to support recreation in the town of Brookline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W. Sheridan Ames moved to fund the existing contract for the temporary refrigeration system for one more year. She hopes that as a commission and as a task force, we work together to move forward with the feasibility study and design development of a new facility that meets the needs and concerns of all constituents and residents of the town of Brookline. Seconded by Nancy O'Connor. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>MBTA Green Line Station Updates</b></p>	<p>Please see the attached D Branch Station Accessibility Improvements presentation here:  <b>Meeting Files Link</b>  <a href="https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2198">https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2198</a></p> <p>Desiree Patrice – Deputy Chief of Green Line Transformation          Andres Achury – Sr. Director, Green Line Transformation          Ben Weinstein – Project Manager, Green Line Transformation          Mark Shamon – GLT Design Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no vote or action needed today. The MBTA is here to engage in a dialogue that they feel is critical to the project’s success in Brookline.</li> <li>• J. Bain thanked everyone for the presentation. J. Bain asked if this will include new coverings for the general public and asked if there will be any enhancement on lighting. B. Weinstein stated that the project includes improving the lighting and stated that they are also considering improving the shelters at the stations. He stated that right now they are going through an assessment to be able to assess the condition of the shelters and if the</li> </ul>		

	<p>assessment requires them to change the shelters then they will be replaced. However, they are waiting for the assessment to make sure the right decision is made at all these stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N. O'Connor stated that she heard improvements are being made on the T side of the property, but that nothing would be on the park side. She does see a path in the illustration, and she is curious if there will be an opening in the fence where you're coming into the park. She wonders if we will be responsible for paving the path that meets the rest. B. Weinstein stated that they intend to bring the path up to the intersection of T property and the Town of Brookline property at Waldstein Park. Their hope for this meeting is to start the conversation on coordinating that intersection and hoping to discuss the coordination to join that path. N. O'Connor stated that she is hearing that they want to stop at the fence and have Brookline do anything else that connects it. B. Weinstein replied with a yes.</li><li>• M. Shamon stated that we are here to coordinate the location where we would meet at the fence line. The design project itself is staying, as was said before, on the MBTA side of the fence. They would break into the fence to meet whatever could be built on the park side, they are a little bit concerned about moving on to the park side for various reasons. They feel that the Town is in a much better position to both design and construct on the park side.</li><li>• N. O'Connor suggested putting something in our budget to connect the pathway to its ends. A. Vecchio replied with a yes.</li><li>• C. Batchelor stated that the MBTA has envisioned this path going into the park, and she wondered if they could provide the survey information to the point where they envision this path. She wonders if they could do some preliminary studies and do an accurate survey to show that it can be done the way it is shown in this illustration. M. Shamon stated that they don't have any survey to this point on the park side, but it should be achievable to obtain the survey.</li><li>• J. Bain thanked the MBTA for their presentation and commitment to updates.</li><li>• N. O'Connor is concerned about what the cost is</li></ul>	
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	<p>to us and if it can be added to the budget. A. Vecchio will follow up with the MBTA on what would be needed on the Town's end and get a quote for such work.</p>	
<p><b>Recreation Update</b></p>	<p>Please see the attached presentation here:  <b>Meeting Files Link</b>  <a href="https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2198">https://www.brooklinema.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2198</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain asked L. Jackson if she filled out any applications for aid from the Brookline Community Youth Fund. L. Jackson stated that they have applied again this year as they did last year for summer camp. She stated that they teamed up with the Brookline mental health center asking for funds to help send children to camp who might need support. L. Jackson asked for \$38,000, the same as last year.</li> <li>• N. O'Connor thanked L. Jackson for an excellent report. L. Jackson and N. O'Connor discussed Recreation's financial aid policy. L. Jackson stated that they start at a 25% subsidy and then they go up to 35%. She stated that financial aid is vulnerable right now, and it's in the revolving fund. This means that it fluctuates with the cash receipts that are received from all recreation programs in the revolving fund. It was greatly impacted during COVID. N. O'Connor feels like this is not a great time to study this issue, because it's not the usual healthy average revolving fund. She hopes that eventually we can get more funding because \$38,000 doesn't seem to be very much at all. She hopes that there are opportunities for grants, and if it's important to the town, she hopes that we don't just depend on the revolving fund, but rather depend a little bit on the general fund because it depends on the health of that revolving fund. She looks forward to the discussion.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L. Jackson stated that the golf course is hosting a safety and health plan for the US Open, which will take place next Monday at 6 pm.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Town-owned Athletic Field and Court Use Policy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Vecchio stated that the subcommittee did meet again to address some of the questions from last month’s Park and Recreation Commission Meeting.</li> <li>W. Sheridan Ames stated that she is a member of that committee that recently met to review the questions presented by the Commission at our last meeting. One question was in regards to men's softball and the percentage increase from one season to the next because they exist as of non-resident 100% resident rate. This means that they fall under a higher rate category and the structure of the fees. The subcommittee recommended that we delay the institution of the \$10 per hour fee for lighting. One reason is that recently in the last year or two, we removed them for Cypress field which is under renovation, which is having a significant upgrade to the technology of the lighting. This new system should be more energy-efficient and thus cost less in comparison to the Brookline Avenue fields which is an older technology. She thinks that the committee recommended that once we have the ability to analyze the differences in cost we should do that and also consider upgrading the lighting at Brookline Avenue in the future to more energy-efficient lighting. The subcommittee is recommending that we hold off on adding that \$10 fee per hour for the men's softball at Brookline Ave until September 2022. This is the end of their season, at which time Cypress will come online. She stated that this means that we will have from September to the start of their spring men’s softball season to have a sense of what that new technology costs the Town. The second item that the Commission brought to the Subcommittee’s attention at the last meeting was Brookline youth</li> </ul>	<p>N. O’Connor moved to accept the subcommittee's recommendation for updated fees and text and that lighting will not be charged until September 2022. Seconded by C. Batchelor. All 1 in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</p>

	<p>baseball and how they support the Challenger program. Although the subcommittee thinks it's terrific that a partner program supports the Challenger program the subcommittee felt that they should encourage the partner programs to support similar types of programs under their budget. It is difficult for the recreation department to not charge based on decisions made by other nonprofits. The subcommittee recommended that we continue to bill Brookline youth baseball at the agreed-upon hourly rate and if they choose to provide free programming for their Challenger Program, the subcommittee supports that and thinks it is a great decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N. O' Connor stated that in terms of softball the previous policy had a resident rate for programming at 75% and we changed it with a year and a half worth of discussion to a 100% residency rate.</li> <li>• N. O'Connor moved to accept the subcommittee's recommendation for updated fees and text and that lighting will not be charged until September 2022. Seconded by C. Batchelor. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Parks and Open Space Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Vecchio stated that she is so grateful to all of the DPW staff including the Parks and Open Space Team that works hard during these winter months to keep the streets and sidewalks and park grounds and ice rink clear and accessible for everybody</li> <li>• She stated that spring is coming and we are making our transition into spring operations. At this time, all of the fields are closed due to wet conditions.</li> <li>• A. Vecchio discussed the Parks Stories Program.</li> <li>• A. Vecchio stated that we will be partnering with the Brookline Teen Center to design and construct the next parklet.</li> <li>• A. Vecchio stated that the DPW capital subcommittee hearing for both the operating and capital budgets with the advisory capital</li> </ul>	

	<p>subcommittee is scheduled for March 16th at 530 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain and A. Vecchio discussed the Larz Anderson Roadway Project.</li> <li>• N. O’Connor stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting is March 10<sup>th</sup> aT 5:30 PM.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Design review Golf Course Landscape Master Plan Study Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Lawson stated that since our last update, they have had two committee meetings. They've been very informative, it's all part of the public outreach and existing conditions phase of the master plan process. Those meetings were held on February 9th and March 2nd. They are the finality of our US Open restoration phase, which will kind of take place immediately after the US Open. There was a lot of great dialogue with the community. The golfer and town residents’ survey has had overwhelming responses. It is impressive feedback. At the last committee meeting, there were opportunities for discussion about other recreational opportunities that could be considered by the design team without sacrificing the ability to feature 18 hole golf course. The survey will remain open until March 15. The next meeting is on March 16<sup>th</sup> at</li> <li>• A. Bellalta stated that discussing all the different activities that could be at the golf course was very interesting and animating. She stated that Arlene Mattison came and spoke. A. Bellalta stated that there were some ideas of bringing in some children's programs with the ecological aspect of the golf course.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. Batchelor wondered if A. Vecchio could make an announcement that we pay non-town rates in other towns and the city of Boston doesn't notify us when they're doing major projects within a block or two of our town. She thinks A. Vecchio needs to remind people that 400 letters were sent out regarding the Rink Project.</li> <li>• N. O’Connor stated that we want to be good</li> </ul>	

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	<p>the folks that are a stone's throw away from us because we want to have to make sure we have a good project and not impact their properties negatively. She is sorry that they're getting some information late. The vote/discussion tonight was to figure out what we are doing next year in terms of the rink, it had nothing to do with the overall project that we've been discussing for a year and a half or more. It was her understanding that the Jamaica Hills Association had quite a listserv of folks that they've been notifying and at every meeting we have had somebody from the Jamaica Plain Hills neighborhood. It helps us with our discussion/decisions and feels that we are grateful to have them. But to C. Batchelor's point, N. O'Connor stated that we're not notified of Boston projects, but we'll do the right thing and continue to try to notify as best we can.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain and A. Bellalta feel as if we have been sensitive to the abutters.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain moved to Adjourn. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor.</li> </ul>		

**Location: Zoom Webinar**

**A true record**

**Attest**     Jessica White    

**Date: 3/8/22**