

**Date:** April 9, 2019, 6:00 PM

**Place:** Brookline Town Hall, Room 111

**Commissioners Attending:** John Bain, Clara Batchelor, Daniel Lyons, Wendy Sheridan and Nancy O'Connor, Jim Carroll

**Commissioners Absent:** Antonia Bellalta

**Staff:** Erin Gallentine, Parks and Open Space Director, Leigh Jackson, Acting Recreation Director, Jessica White, Parks and Open Space Assistant

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
<b>Chairman's Welcome Approval of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Bain opened the meeting. J. Bain asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes.</li> </ul>	<p>N. O'Connor moved to approve the February 12, 2019 Park and Recreation Minutes. Seconded by Dan Lyons All in favor.</p>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Public Comment</li> </ul>	
<b>Brookline Therapeutic Recreation Program Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Jackson stated that she is so happy to have Micah Barshay on their team. He has been an intern in the past and is now back with Recreation full time.</li> <li>• M. Barshay has been on the job two months and is so excited to be working within the town of Brookline. Micah Barshay introduced himself to the Commission. He listed his work, school and personal background</li> <li>• He discussed his work with the Special Olympics</li> <li>• He recently hosted a meet and greet and the members and their family members are excited with what is happening within the Therapeutic Program. He stated that parents report that in addition to the Special Olympics and outing on the town many are looking for additional fitness programs. He stated that we have beautiful parks around town that would be perfect for biking, walking and other forms of physical activities that could be offered at a very low cost. He stated that He is also looking at incorporating new programs such as visual arts, dance, reading, outdoor recreation and more</li> <li>• He is working on recruiting part time staff.</li> <li>• He plans to get high school students involved in volunteering.</li> <li>• J. Bain stated that the commission is happy to have M. Barshay aboard.</li> </ul>	

- C. Batchelor asked how many participants in a year M. Barshay would have in the Therapeutic programs. He stated that there are over 100 athletes in the Brookline Recreation Special Olympics Basketball Program and over 200 total within other activities.
- James Carroll asked M. Barshay to explain some of the comments he is hearing from his meet and greet, and asked him to discuss any challenges he may be facing. M. Barshay stated that people were commenting on the staff and how happy they are with the individual attention their child receives. He stated that one of biggest challenges is the website/registering for programs.
- N. O'Connor asked M. Barshay if he has any ideas for new programs. He stated that he ran a walking club, bowling club and arts and crafts club that were very popular. He would like to see those added.
- D. Lyons, M. Barshay and W. Sheridan discussed the current and past staffing.
- W. Sheridan and M. Barshay discussed the challenges with finding Part Time staff.
- J. Carroll thinks it would be a wonderful idea to invite a few of the members of the Therapeutic community, see how they are doing and ask them how they feel the programming is doing. M. Barshay thinks that is a great idea and would love to do something like that.
- J. Bain and M. Barshay discussed how the part time staff is evaluated. This is something that M. Barshay is working on.
- D. Lyons asked if it was possible to have an internship from a local college, he thinks it's possible and would love that. L. Jackson discussed Town HR restrictions on formal internships. She is working on this with HR.
- W. Sheridan asked M. Barshay if he has ever partnered or reached out to similar groups with similar missions in the area. He stated that the only partnership he has is with Newton Parks and Recreation. He discussed his goals with this partnership.
- The Commission thanked M. Barshay for coming to present.

**Discussion of Labyrinth/  
Beautification for Soule  
Early Childhood Center**

- L. Jackson is excited to let everyone know they have a project in mind at Soule. Recently some of the Commissioners got to walk the property with Gina Tzizik. L. Jackson wanted to point out the exceptional job she is doing at Soule. About a year ago, L. Jackson has asked G. Tzizik what we could do to enhance the space, G. Tzizik has had a dream and L. Jackson thinks we are now in a position to honor that dream.
- L. Jackson stated that Soule Child Education is near Soule playground, it has a u shaped back patio area that we are looking as a small enhancement project. This space is within the building area and currently in use. They are utilizing it as a multi-purpose area for all classrooms and events. G. Tzizik is interested in making it look more professional and make it feel like an extension of the interior building.
- L. Jackson presented the Commission tonight the initial concept of the project; it will be an abbreviated design review project/public process. She stated that it fits/relates within the building structure itself. In May she will come back and present the three bids for the work and in June they will be ready to make a recommendation to the full Commission on who should be selected to complete the project.
- G. Tzizik envisions a natural landscape that is extended and makes an outdoor classroom in the U- shape area. They could use the space for story time, parent picnic/parent nights/ essentially an outdoor classroom. She pictures a nice natural landscape. It will require removal of the pavement there, creating a brick outlay with a grassy surface. A very natural space/small project
- J. Bain asked if there was any thought about having pavers donated by student parents. L. Jackson thinks that is a great idea and she will bring that up. C. Batchelor stated that if it is for design go for it, but if it is for fundraising they really break even and never raise money.
- W. Sheridan stated that her son went to Soule and this project was discussed back then with the newly formed PTO and it's a long time coming. She stated that this is a 10 plus year project G. Tzizik has been wanting. W. Sheridan discussed

	<p>how much this area is used. She is really excited about this and it will be a huge asset to this program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D. Lyons and L. Jackson discussed the size of this area.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Recreation Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Golf Course is open for the season. The driving range opened to large crowds the first 2 weekends.</li> <li>• The roof project at the golf course was discussed.</li> <li>• The 2019 CIP filter project was discussed. The pool is shut down this week and will reopen the 15<sup>th</sup>. They are taking out the old sand in the filters and they are putting in clean sand after replacing a few parts. This will be a 2-3 phase project. The vendor/subcontractors for the project were discussed.</li> <li>• There are to new full-time staff members. Kevin Mitrano is going to run BREC Summer Camp and RAFT. They are on track with camp registration. L. Jackson gave information into his extensive background. This is a year round position. N. O'Connor has met with him. W. Sheridan stated that we are in need of energy within RAFT and she is very excited about this hire. Patrick Rossi is the new BREC Sports. L. Jackson gave information into his extensive background.</li> <li>• Brian Bacon announced that he is leaving Brookline Recreation; he was the Resource Manager/Ops Manager.</li> <li>• Flag football registration is going well. They are up to 108 players down to years in the past</li> <li>• Brookline Youth Baseball has roughly 77 players this year, aged 12 - 17. Babe Ruth in Brookline has roughly 40 players, aged 13 - 17, 3 teams. Permits for both teams were delayed by a month due to challenges coordinating schedule requests.</li> <li>• Soccer registration is going strong this year; there are 852 players this year. The Skyline synthetic turf was discussed. E. Gallentine discussed the maintenance on this field. This field is in the CIP and it 5+years out.</li> <li>• Lacrosse is going strong.</li> <li>• L. Jackson wanted to point out how amazing all the volunteers are for lacrosse/soccer. W. Sheridan stated that the girls Lacrosse program is seeing a good turnout but the boys' lacrosse has a</li> </ul>	

	<p>good amount of room left. W. Sheridan discussed where and what fields the games/practices are for lacrosse.</p>	
<p><b>Vote to establish Athletic Field Needs Assessment &amp; Master Plan Task Force</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J. Carroll moved to establish the athletic Fields Needs Assessment Task Force. The Task Force will be made up of the Full Park and Recreation Commission, and Bob Cook, Planning Board, Elizabeth Mitchell, Green Space Alliance and Helen Charlupski, School Committee. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor.</li> </ul>	<p>J. Carroll moved to establish the athletic Fields Needs Assessment Task Force. The Task Force will be made up of the Full Park and Recreation Commission, Bob Cook, Planning Board, Elizabeth Mitchell, Green Space Alliance and Helen Charlupski, School Committee. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor.</p>
<p><b>Vote to establish Subcommittee to update Field Use and Allocation Policy and a Vote to establish Subcommittee to update School, Park &amp; Recreation Partnership Memorandum of Understanding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E. Gallentine recommends that the Subcommittee for the Field Use and Allocation Policy be the same Subcommittee tasked with reviewing the School, Park and Recreation Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. They will be looking at field use but it will tie in with the indoor space use as well as the overall partnership. N. O'Connor moved to combine the Subcommittee for the Field Use and Allocation Policy and the Subcommittee for the School, Park and Recreation Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. Serving on both subcommittees will be J. Bain, W. Sheridan, J. Carroll, D. Lyons and N. O'Connor. Seconded by W. Sheridan. All in favor.</li> </ul>	<p>N. O'Connor moved to combine the Subcommittee for the Field Use and Allocation policy and the Subcommittee for the School, Park and Recreation Partnership Memorandum of Understanding. Serving on both subcommittees will be J. Bain, W. Sheridan, J. Carroll, D. Lyons and N. O'Connor. Seconded by W. Sheridan. All in favor.</p>
<p><b>High School Project Coordination &amp; Streetscape Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E. Gallentine prefaced the next item on the agenda, by stating that the Town has hired a very talented architect team to work on the High School renovation/expansion. She stated that she, her staff and Commissioners have provided input on streetscape design and she is looking forward to coordinating both projects for the long term benefit of the Town. The intent is for the Cypress Playground Renovation Project and the High School Expansion and Renovation Project to be well coordinated, seamlessly integrated and overall well thought out functional, maintainable</li> </ul>	

and sustainable designs.

- Sam Lasky, Architect from Rawn Associates, introduced himself and the members of his team.
- Three main topics tonight are as followed; the plaza at new Brookline Hills MBTA Stop, Tappan Streetscape and temporary installation and use of utility poles in Cypress playground.
- He stated that there is opportunity to coordinate here.
- A recap of the 5 projects for the High School expansion project was detailed. He stated that the first project is 111 Cypress Building; the project crosses the MBTA tracks. Another piece of the project is about creating a front porch/cafeteria. He stated that after school a lot of students spend time hanging out on closed Greenough Street and crossing to Cypress Field. They are looking to create an amenity that would give people a place to hang out. The Science classroom wing project piece was discussed. S. Lasky stated that is used as a main door, they plan on making this an accessible entrance. The Tappan Gym renovation project was detailed. A community room/waiting room at this location was detailed.
- Existing Conditions of the route to the MBTA station from Davis Avenue was shown to the commission. In order to get the right to build over the T-Tracks the Town is getting an easement to use the property and in exchange updating the Brookline Hills MBTA Station. He stated that they have heard feedback at public meetings that a lot of commuters come across Cypress Playground from Davis Avenue and want easy access to the MBTA. He stated that in conversation with the MBTA they have expressed concerns over having an MBTA station adjacent to the school building. They have safety concerns. He stated that we have been showing limited access fence, the MBTA likes that. S. Lasky stated that it is not welcoming to walk into a fence and people were asking if this was the only way to do this. He that they have been discussing, with the co-chairs and with the MBTA, reducing some of the teacher parking spaces , putting an enlarged plaza and removing some of the fencing that was shown to the MBTA previously in order to create a more permeable access to the platform.

The MBTA's short answer was it seems like a better design. He stated that this design seems promising; the School Committee will take up the question of eliminating parking spaces. There are lots of moving parts to this conversation. S. Lasky stated that they are also looking at adjusting the location of the crosswalk near the field.

- N. O'Connor and S. Lasky discussed where the MBTA tunnel is and where the new platform location will be. The covered canopy of the platform was pointed out. S. Lasky stated that setting the platform more west was safer than trying to move more of the platform underneath the building. The area of the tracks beyond the platform itself will be fenced in a way to keep people off.
- The new standard for the platform is to raise the platform 8 inches above the track level. The Brookline Village Station was shown.
- Plaza rendering proposed alternate designs were shown and discussed amongst the Commission. There is not a final design.
- E. Gallentine stated that the changes in this design to date is very responsive to the public meetings, this will better accommodate the multi direction that people are trying to move through that space.
- Tappan Streetscape design alternatives were discussed. He stated that E. Gallentine and her team were looking at design ideas and had some observations in regards to maintenance, making sure that what is put in here will be long lasting and easy to maintain/easy for snow removal. Josh stated that the previous design took the Tappan Street sidewalk from 6 feet wide and made it 15 feet wide, 4 feet of which was dedicated to tree and benches. The grey benches were to be granite. He stated that we did hear E. Gallentine say they were not pleasant, sitting on stone benches is very cold and that feedback is registered. The proposal was to do red brick along edge because it would be tying street scape to the building. He heard that would be difficult to maintain, the benches were not comfortable and difficult to plow around. The idea was to push the seating to the back, have the same 15 ft. corridor, keeping street trees and grade (4 by 8) and a

concrete sidewalk. They are proposing that the strip that runs along the tree grade edge be finely graded and soft cut. The two bench options that have been looked at for Tappan UAB and Cypress were discussed. The first option is 3 long benches integrated with seat wall, blue bikes moved to the integrated plaza by Brookline Hills MBTA Station and this option would add more bike racks. They are trying to get as many bike racks in as possible. Proposed option 2 calls for same design but with only 2 benches.

- Josh stated that they are looking at different furniture options.
- The street scape at Tappan gym: previous vs proposed designs were detailed. He stated that they have pushed benches to back of sidewalk at UAB; perhaps it wants to be longer benches like at Tappan. Josh stated that the entire planting in front of UAB will be refreshed and aesthetically pleasing. The ramp upgrades at UAB were detailed. C. Batchlor thanked them for incorporating a lot of our requests. She stated that she had hoped that the walk they would be rebuilding could parallel the sidewalk, that way there wouldn't be a wedge planting. He stated that the slope from bottom of stairs is located to 4.5 percent and they don't want to have to rebuild the stairs, it is a technical grading issue. C. Batchlor stated that it is nice the benches got pulled back but asked if they thought about cutting them into that space. She stated that sidewalk gets backed up with people and people toes who are sitting on the benches' will get stepped on. She asked if they thought about having the benches' pushed into the landscaping and maybe having benches looking at each other. C. Batchelor stated that we also discussed having cut-ins to offer gathering areas. He stated that they have. He stated that one idea was to have a little park-let seating option (this was pointed out). E. Gallentine stated that she thinks that area would have a greater impact and be more useful as a seating node, and have more bike racks be installed flush against side of gym building. This is an opportunity for a bike parking area.
- The drop off lane was discussed.
- The travel lane is not being narrowed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N. O’Connor and W. Sheridan agreed that since the Tappan athletic complex is being pulled forward, that outdoor gathering spot is being eliminated and they would advocate for seating spots wherever possible.</li> <li>• The tree grates were discussed.</li> <li>• Potential bike rack locations at the new building were pointed out.</li> <li>• E. Gallentine stated that the design included irrigation for the trees and structural soil, a lot of thought has gone into that design. She stated that in regards to Furnishing, the Design Review Committee and the Park and Recreation Commission will be putting their mind towards that as well to create synergy</li> <li>• E. Gallentine stated that right now the whole mass of the gym and that little light by pool is dark at night. She wonders if there will be an improvement in terms of lighting on Tappan Street. The MBTA lighting was discussed. The architects will make sure there will be no shadowing. E. Gallentine discussed the ornamental lighting that will be included in the Cypress Playground design from Dana Street to Tappan.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Consideration of request for temporary installation and use of utility poles in Cypress Playground to support the High School Expansion and Renovation Project</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andy Jonic is here tonight to discuss the Tappan street power lines/ temporary location to support the High School expansion and renovation project. He stated that permission from the Commission will be needed in order to assist with the construction of the Cypress building. He stated that during construction the building gets too close to the power lines at Tappan and Cypress and in order to not get into those problems the easiest solution to a complicated problem with power lines is to run temporary lines across Cypress. He stated that the proposal is to string new primary/ secondary wires across, put in two new poles across the park close to the pathway at Dana Street (temporary), run power lines to Davis and put a new primary line up to the corner of Davis. They will work with E. Gallentine to have it removed by May 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021. E. Gallentine stated that the intent for the playground renovation project is to go out to bid in the winter, start construction spring of 2020</li> </ul>	<p>N. O’Connor moved to allow for temporary installation and use of utility poles in Cypress Playground to support the High School Expansion and Renovation Project; the placement, installation, removal and schedule of the poles are subject to E. Gallentine’s approval. Seconded by the Chair. All in favor</p>

	<p>and line up for an opening in September 2021. The work will need to happen around the temporary poles, but can be accommodated if properly planned. She discussed possibly doing construction in phases. She thinks it is very important to support the HS renovation project in this way, this could be very expensive if they are not allowed to do this and she needs to figure out a way to work construction around this. She is hoping that we will refine the design enough prior to when the poles go in. She thinks we can work with this; it's doable and recommends the Commission's approval of this temporary installation.</p>	
<p><b>Article 18: Dog Control Bylaw Public hearing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman John Bain opened the public hearing to review Article 18. The Commission discussed the warrant article and the primary goal to 1.) clarify the distinction between licensing one's dog and registering one's dog for the green dog program and 2.) allowing DPW staff, Park Rangers, to issue citations. The Park and Recreation Commission agreed that they would like to write a letter to Select Board and Advisory Committee to show support of the Article 18: Dog Control Bylaw Public Hearing. The Commission discussed all of the work to date that the Green Dog Subcommittee is doing and what is yet to come. C. Batchelor and E. Gallentine discussed some possible ramifications if the fines are not paid.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Park and Open Space Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E. Gallentine went in front of the Select Board tonight where the Brookline Reservoir park project was awarded and executed. E. Gallentine discussed the significant tree removal required by the Office of Dam Safety. She detailed the trees that Town is allowed to keep. She has spoken with Mass and Wildlife to request that they not fill the Reservoir with fish this year. W. Sheridan thinks there should be signage/ A-frames at the park explaining the tree removals. The Gatehouse work is starting this month. The Comfort station project was detailed.</li> <li>• Playground layouts/concepts and circulation options are underway for Cypress. The next public meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• The Community Room/potential design waiting area at the Cypress Playground was discussed. L.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Jackson would like the support of the Commission to advocate for more “park-lets”/ more seating around Tappan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Brookline Avenue update was given to the Commission.</li> <li>• A Linden Square donor is interested in donating 10-15 thousand dollars. He loves this park, wants to honor his wife and the Town Staff. E. Gallentine is looking at doing a mini upgrade of this park with new plantings and in-house trades work; she detailed what this would entail.</li> <li>• The Waldo/Durgin Project in Coolidge Corner was discussed. Their two community proposals are to improve the front of Coolidge Corner Library and the other is to expand the current little plaza at corner of John and Green (it abuts an 11 car parking lot. The plan is to take 11 spots and move them into Waldo/Durgin parking garage and remain public parking. Those spots will turn into a little park-let. Possible ideas/uses for this location were discussed.</li> <li>• The Putterham Meadows Friend Group has mobilized. T. Brady went out to look at the area at Putterham Woods and stated that the conditions are a public safety hazard. There needs to be a vision/restoration for this space.</li> <li>• The Athletic Needs Assessment and Master Plan Consultant Interviews are this Thursday.</li> <li>• Harry Downes Playground contractor, schedule and play equipment were discussed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W. Sheridan and E. Gallentine discussed that the location where the bridge used to be over route 9, on the far side across from the fire station, is part of the Gateway East Project.</li> <li>• L. Jackson has sent out an invitation to the Out of School Time Luncheon. She has been invited to sit on a panel with Steps to Success and Teen Center to discuss Out of School time. There will be a panel discussion during the luncheon at The Teen center on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She wanted to make sure the Commission knew that they were all invited.</li> <li>• L. Jackson started that she is going to be speaking on Recreation at the Age Friendly Cities Committee in May ; she is excited about it. She is actively working with the Library and Senior</li> </ul>	

	Center on a project to see if they can collaborate more and 1 <sup>st</sup> part is to work to see if they can create a shared resource, comprehensive list of programs for seniors/55 plus across a calendar year.	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D. Lyons moved to adjourn. Seconded by J. Carroll. All in favor.</li> </ul>	

**Next Meeting: May 8, 2019 Location: Town Hall, Room 111**

**A true record**

**Attest Jessica White**

**Date: 4/9/2019**