

Park and Recreation Commission	Meeting Minutes
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Date: June 8, 2021

Place: Zoom Webinar

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

Commissioners Absent:

Staff: Alexandra Vecchio: Director of Parks and Open Space, Leigh Jackson: Director of Recreation, Jessica White: Parks and Open Space Assistant

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION		
<p>Chairman’s Welcome/Approval of the Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Bain opened the meeting. • J. Bain moved for approval of the May 11, 2021 Park and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Seconded by J. Carroll. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. N. O’Connor abstained. 		
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>June 8, 2021 - Statement to Commission by Wendy Sheridan</p> <p>Dear Fellow Commissioners,</p> <p>I want to take a few moments to read a statement specifically related to our charge of policy making & fee setting for the Recreation Department. As I understand it, it is different from our task of acting as advisors only to the Parks & Open Space Department. Thus, my statements are in regard to Recreation only.</p> <p>After four plus years on this Commission I still do not have a written description of our charge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is our role exactly? • How are we expected to get involved? • Do we engage, study, advise, research? • How do we work with and support the Recreation Department to meet common goals and objectives? • When and where is our voice heard? • Is it “taken offline” or is it discussed at public meetings? <p>As I understand it, we are tasked specifically with policy making and fee setting. With this in mind, I began to do a little research to define and better understand policy development and implementation.</p>		

What is it? What does it mean? How does it apply to the duties and tasks assigned to this Commission?

In general, I learned that the policy implementation is typically a multi-pronged process. Generally, this ranges from problem emergence, to agenda setting, to consideration of policy options, to decision making, to implementation and finally evaluation. This definition was written by David Benson and Andrew Jordan in the International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Similarly, J. Shiffman, in the [International Encyclopedia of Public Health](#), states that, “The public policy process, in simplified form, can be understood as a sequence of four phases: agenda setting, formulation, implementation, and evaluation.”

Agenda Setting:

What is the problem?

We, as a Commission, have discovered over the last few years that we are at a crossroads in this town specifically regarding the demands on our fields, our indoor spaces, and our budgets. This Problem is known.

Policy/idea formulation:

How are we going to solve these problems? I ask, “What is the process and where is the forum for this conversation?”

Implementation:

How do we implement our policies? My understanding is this is the task of the department itself, including its staff and director. Implementation tasks become clear once there is agreement on policy formation.

Evaluation:

This. Is. Critical.

I believe this relates to our work because we should not just say “I think it works” or “I think it looks good.” The Commission needs to evaluate our current and future policies, and more specifically, the implementation of said policies. Is the implementation actually meeting the original intentions of the problem-solving policies?

So, fellow Commissioners, what are our priorities as related to Recreation? What do we value? How do we create policies that solve the problems of the demands for our fields, indoor spaces, and while being mindful of department budgets which directly relate to fee setting, all while supporting the town's values, ideals and needs? What is our philosophy and how are we going to solve problems with informed and vetted policy decisions?

I would like to focus on one issue/problem as an example.

Entry level recreation, and recreational offerings that are based in Brookline and support our residents are here to BUILD COMMUNITY. Youth recreation programs build friendships not only for the kids participating, but also the parents and caregivers cheering them on the sidelines. On our fields, you can feel the tangible heartbeat of what recreation is supposed to be. What it looks like. What it builds. It's value. In an effort to hire out services and programming to outside vendors I hope we don't inadvertently begin deteriorating our community based, volunteer run programs or make the cost so high that they are priced out.

I also believe our duty, or my duty at the very least, is to prioritize community over the increasing creep of big business into youth sports and recreation. When conversations and communication are taken offline, or discussed independently of one another, we end up on different pages of a book that we need to be reading together. This is not an attempt to "micromanage" the Recreation Department. Rather, it is to fully support the department and town's goals and needs. This is a big picture Commission issue. This is not a single issue about the Sports Vendor Contract Renewal (which I oppose by the way) nor a prospective rubber stamp vote to pass a Cost Recovery Plan without in-depth knowledge of the ramifications of the approval (which I also oppose). This is an issue about values and doing the right thing for Brookline. This is about identifying problems, agenda setting, policy creation, implementation, and importantly, evaluation.

	<p>We must be engaged as a Commission to support the continued betterment of recreation in our town. I respectfully ask our Chair, that we schedule a working meeting for further discussion of this important issue.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
<p>Recreation Update</p>	<p>Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town Meeting – L.Jackson stated that she attended and the Rec FY22 budget was approved. ▪ L. Jackson discussed the final decision made with IT for the best way to contact commissioners via email. This request came from prior to Town Meeting, during RFP and RFQ processes. L. Jackson explained where this “contact Commission” directions are located on the Park and Recreation Commission website and how the community member will now be able to send an email to through this “shared” email to the Commissioners. This is a way for the community to engage with the Commission. N. O’Connor wondered if we were going to be a test case for all boards and commissions; she wonders if we are being penalized. L. Jackson stated that no one is being penalized. C. Batchelor asked if L. Jackson and A. Vecchio will read the emails first before sending. L. Jackson stated that it is the plan and can be discussed further. J. Carroll feels that a lot of this was born out of the Vine Ripe situation with the selection of a new vendor. He stated that for him it opens the door that this become a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year sounding board. Anyone at any time with any issue can start bombarding everyone with emails and he is uncomfortable with that. He stated that this is a volunteer situation; there are regularly scheduled meetings where people are always welcome to come and comment. He doesn’t want to start getting emails every time someone has an issue. J. Bain agrees with J. Carroll. He stated that we have always welcomed public comments and have never shut anyone down at a meeting. He understands there were 300 emails regarding the Vine Ripe 	

	<p>contract. He stated that he doesn't have email, there are meetings to make public comment. J. Carroll understands about Vine Ripe, he is not criticizing anyone opinion or right to express it, but once you open the door to have an open forum then there will be another issue coming up. He stated that if you read these emails, are you then obligated to respond, evaluate and plan something on the agenda item? That is his major concern. A. Bellalta has a similar concern, but she thinks we need to be aware of these emails coming in. She thinks this information is trying to be shared with us to help implement policies/regulations and we can't do that if we don't know about the complaints or praises. She thinks we should somehow be told what is going on. For example, the emails from Vine Ripe that the Commission never saw. She thinks we need to stick it out as a commission to evaluate things. C. Batchelor asked if we are answering as an individual or as a commission, she thinks it does open a can of worms if we are responding to emails. N. O'Connor agrees with everything everyone is saying. She talked about how J. Bain/ The Commission always acknowledges people at past meetings. She discussed the emails for Cypress, the petitions and she thinks it's a conversation for another evening. She wants to know if we are the only board/commission doing it, but also wants to make sure we do it right. J. Bain stated that in the past people have come to the meetings and spoken. He thinks these individuals should come to these meetings to express their issue and have a dialogue with the Commission. D. Lyons wanted to weigh in and agree with others, that this could become unwieldy. He agrees with N. O'Connor that the way E. Gallentine used to handle emails was perfect. He feels uncomfortable with this. W. Sheridan would ask that until the issue is resolved that maybe we hold emails and have the emails go to the Commission in bulk with the agenda/ meeting information once a month. C. Batchelor thinks that's a great idea. She would like to push pause on this. L. Jackson will meet</p>	
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	<p>with A. Vecchio and it can be discussed further. C. Batchelor asked if the link can be taken down. L. Jackson stated that she cannot commit to taking down the link. She would suggest putting this item on the next month's agenda to discuss and vote on. W. Sheridan thinks if they are held in bulk and dispersed to the Commission with the monthly agenda, that could be a short term solution if and when the link is taken down. She would like to confirm that these letters will be part of public record once dispersed. C. Batchelor would like to know if these letters will get some sort of reply. J. Carroll agrees with W. Sheridan and maybe put them as an agenda item to review emails that have come in the past 4 weeks, and if there is an important issue, it could always be a special meeting. He doesn't think anyone is opposed to engaging on these issues, but he doesn't think it is wise to get a continual barrage of emails throughout our daily lives. C. Bachelor and A. Vecchio discussed setting up some type of automatic response to anyone that submits an email. L. Jackson stated that it will be an internal process on deciding who is pooling the emails and sending out to the Commission. J. Carroll stated that if there are any important emails, which demands any immediate attention, please feel free to put it in an email to the Commission. He stated that other than that, he thinks he can wait 30 days. A. Vecchio stated that we receive countless emails from the public on a daily basis, many of those are easily resolved at a staff level. However, she feels if it becomes a frequent flyer issue, then it's something that comes before the Commission under an update on the agenda. She stated that we can make sure the language is clear that this message is specific to commissioners rather than a general inquiry. C. Batchelor would like to request that before any link is live or anything else happens we should discuss it as a commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Jane Flanagan town meeting member and a member of the Town Meeting Member Association addressed the Commission. She stated that the comments around commissions	
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	<p>and boards being more accessible by webpage was actually intended in the sense that people don't understand who is a volunteer and who is an employee of the Town. The whole volunteer status and the fact that people can come to public meetings and make public comments is not really well understood. This is something she is bringing up. She stated that there is a handbook sent out to understand how the Town works. She thinks this is an issue that needs to be addressed so people understand how the Town works, the difference between volunteer positions/paid positions and that you can sign up at all meetings and make a public comment. She supports the Commission in their hesitancy to be that available and thinks it puts the Commission at risk for meeting law violation. She thinks this needs a greater discussion with the TMMA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning is underway for Fall Programs ▪ Town of Brookline/Rec - Sports Contract Extended 3 more years for Viking Sports ▪ Recreation is in the process of working on initial draft of Golf Course Master Plan. This will come to the Commission for input via email in the coming days. ▪ Aquatics Assistant Director Update was given. Interviews are underway ▪ Soule Director – Review of applicants begins this week <p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Weston and Sampson Completed Aquatic Filter Project Feasibility Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tyler is working with Building Dept on next steps ▪ Tennis Vendor Update-NetResults has shown great improvements with communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facebook Page is live ▪ Website is updated ▪ Instructional net up ▪ Target: July - Online scheduling Waldstein- Play Local Software ▪ Amory Online payment onsite - July ▪ L. Jackson will be meeting with Friends of Amory to discuss concerns they still have. <p>Programs</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pickle Ball-Currently offered 3 days a week – Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. The June registration numbers: 432/440 (98% filled) Rec is Coordinating additional beginner opportunities for fall season. ▪ BREC Soccer Update-BREC soccer is concluding this weekend 6/12. We had 663 kids participate this season with 50+ parent volunteer coaches. ▪ NFL Flag Football Update-NFL Flag Football is also concluding this Friday, where we had 113 kids signed up. The kids really enjoy playing under the lights at Brookline Ave. ▪ Archery – On the Mark Archery-Our spring session of archery run by On the Mark Archery was a huge success with 2 sections selling out with 12 kids each. We are offering a summer session! ▪ Youth Lacrosse Concluded with record numbers on the girls side, 250 girls, 167 boys! Youth Lacrosse concluded this past Sunday, with record numbers on the girls side! We had 250 girls and 167 boys sign up. ▪ We look forward to our fall registration which opens on July 14th. Our programs will continue to expand as restrictions loosen. ▪ Fall Registration – Opens July 14, 2021 <p>Aquatics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Back to new normal plan! Effective Tuesday, June 1:Locker Rooms are 100% open. All showers, changing stalls, bathrooms, lockers are available. Front Doors unlocked during operational hours. The Public can come in to use bathrooms/locker rooms. Masks are not required if you are fully vaccinated. <p>Effective Monday, June 14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reservations will continue by reservation time, not by lane. ▪ 1-hour time slots ▪ Each time slot will allow for (a minimum of) 3 swimmers/lane. ▪ Swimmers may need to circle swim. ▪ Speed signs will be utilized to assist swimmers when choosing a lane to swim in. ▪ A pool schedule with pool availability will be made available for the public 	
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	<p>During June, EKAC will utilize Saturdays for in-services and training for lifeguard staff to prepare for summer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ June 12th: Lifeguard Recert for EKAC ▪ June 19th: EKAC Pool Staff Orientation/Staff Meeting to review updated/new pool policies and procedures. ▪ June 26th: Master’s swim meet <p>She has received many emails about this and wanted to share this information with the Commission.</p> <p>Effective Tuesday, July 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Early Bird Swim available on Tuesday & Thursdays from 5:30am-6:30am ▪ Master’s swim practice on Tuesday & Thursday will run 6:30am-7:45am. ▪ Weekday swim lessons will resume. ▪ Aiming to have water aerobics begin this week (pending instructor) <p>Effective Saturday, July 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reopen full day Saturdays – start of new Sat swim lesson ▪ Lessons will run 9am-1:30pm/2pm ▪ Adult Lap Swim (by reservation) 9am-3pm in Lanes 2-5 ▪ Adaptive Swim & Special Olympics from 3pm-4pm <p>GOAL: Effective September 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resume Sunday operations ▪ If possible, reopen on Sundays once Asst. Aquatics Director is on boarded. ▪ Resume Sunday swim lessons <p>A New Aquatics Staff Team Photo was shown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amanda Wong (Director) ▪ Michael Larkin (Supervisor) ▪ Karen Szeto (Front Desk) ▪ Lloyd Lovering (Head Custodian) <p>After School Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are wrapping up the year at ASP, • We currently have 32 spots filled out of 40 for next year! We have a couple families on financial aid and vouchers in the fall. • Chess Wizards ended last week and everyone loved it! <p>Summer Camp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current camp enrollments: 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ -Chestnut (K-1): 511/600 (85%) ▪ -Coolidge (2-4): 519/600 (86%) ▪ -Washington (5-8): 326/405 (80%) ▪ -We also have 34 registered for Camp Kennedy (Afternoon extension program in collaboration with Schools) ▪ Still hiring! L. Jackson discussed the staff shortage. <p>Track & Field Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ -Concluding season on 6/15 ▪ -Currently have 20 athletes (ages 7 to 11) and have 20 athletes on waitlist ▪ -Looking to expand offerings for fall season <p>Summer Concert Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirmed four dates and bands at Fisher Hill Park: 7/21, 7/28, 8/11, 8/18 ▪ Concerts will run from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM ▪ G. Kelly discussed the Voucher Updates, G. Kelly stated that the BEEP Program has made a design that they would no longer offer vouchers, but he wanted to let everyone know that Recreation has always historically offered vouchers for after school and summer camp programs. He stated that when the pandemic hit and these programs were shut down Recreation opted out of the voucher program. He stated that Recreation is back in the system to be voucher recipients. He just wanted to let the Commission know that Recreation does take vouchers for after school and summer day camp programs. He stated that the Soule Early Child center has never taken vouchers, but that is something that is being researched. <p>Parking Lot: Golf Course Master Plan- Leigh and Justin Golf Course Club House Master Plan Cost Recovery Assessment Update – potential fee increase , Future Meeting CAPRA – New Policy (3) Vendor Update – Sports/Tennis Invite Pickle ball to meet Commission Summer Concert Series</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Batchelor would like some clarification from L. Jackson on inviting pickleball to come before the Commission. L. Jackson stated that she would like to introduce the Commission to some very active volunteers and leaders of 	
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	<p>pickleball.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A. Bellalta wanted to talk about recreation and scheduling. She asked if L. Jackson will eventually go back to having walk-ins at the pool or will it stay reservations. L. Jackson stated that this is in discussion. She stated that it will go from reserving a lane to a time slot. She stated that it helps to manage the reservation and amount of people, but it is a software in development. She stated that one aspect is the ability to have people come in and immediately get a spot. A. Bellalta asked if it is better for L. Jackson to have it scheduled. L. Jackson stated that she is getting feedback on both sides. A. Bellalta hopes the master plan update is an RFP update. L. Jackson replied with a yes.• W. Sheridan wanted to go on the record that she didn't support the 3 year extension of the contract for sports vendor. She wanted to point out that she is very familiar with Play Local app that Recreation is considering for the tennis court reservation system. She thinks that Recreation needs to be careful and make sure before it goes live that you understand the problems associated with it. She stated that in particular you can book courts and not show up. Additionally, she stated that play local has an option where there is a fee for nonresident that is paid through the app. She thinks that you might consider that, otherwise the courts could be booked by those who are not residents. She knows the resident/nonresident discussion is a bigger conversation that needs to be had, but would like Recreation to consider all this before going live.• D. Lyons asked if they do book an appointment are they responsible for paying whether or not the show up. L. Jackson stated that she will invite Tyler to the next meeting to provide an update to the Commission. W. Sheridan stated that it's a terrific program, but right now there are no fees charged for the tennis courts, but you can book remotely and not show up. She thinks Recreation needs to decide if there is a fee for nonresidents.• J. Carroll has a question about summer camp.	
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	<p>He notices the percentages are pretty high and wonders if the numbers are based on previous years? He wonders if it's a normal amount. She stated that it is based on last year. He asked if the current numbers are going to be ok with all the open positions. He wonders if those summer camp regulation numbers are able to be supported. L. Jackson stated that we are on hold for any more participants until the staffing catches up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Batchelor asked L. Jackson to roughly summarize Viking sports responsibilities within the Recreation Department. L. Jackson stated that the contract is long and complex, but she will send it to the whole commission. She stated that essentially they are the sole proprietor for sports programs outside of Recreation. • Susan asked the Commission for an update on the Commission's plan for appointing a member to the CPA Committee. N. O'Connor stated that the chair would assign someone to the Committee. A. Vecchio stated that the chair will appoint someone from the Park and Recreation Commission to sit on the committee. Susan wondered if the Commission knew the timeline for the startup of that Committee. A. Vecchio knows that it was a town meeting warrant article, and she did not remember where it landed, but she will follow up with everyone on the Park and Recreation Commission and Susan to make them aware of time lines to start the CPA Committee. 	
<p>Cost Recovery Project Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Beneficiary of service model- Staff Draft from 3-25-21 was shared • A Beneficiary of service model- Commission Draft from 3-25-21 was shared • A Beneficiary of service model-Hybrid Draft from 3-25-21 that the Commission and staff put together was shared. • A Beneficiary of service model- Draft from 4-7-21 was shared. • A Park and Open Space & Recreation Financial Sustainability Strategy from 2021-2023 was shared. • A Golf Course Infrastructure Investment 	

	<p>Strategy from 2021-2023 was shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• G. Kelly stated that there are fewer categories in the golf course's continuum but they are the same categories, they just don't utilize all the categories that the combined Recreation Department and Parks and Open Space Division does, so they have.• G. Kelly stated that we met with Parks and Open Space & Recreation staff and came up with cost recovery goals for each category. He stated that at the bottom left of continuum is usually community events and as you go up to the top of the continuum it is more individual driven events. He stated that when you get into figuring out cost recovery goals they have to be low to high on the continuum. This meant a couple of categories had to be moved to fit within that guideline. This was also done for the golf course. The Rentals category is a work in progress. He presented a few examples of the work in progress.• G. Kelly discussed future steps.• W. Sheridan stated that she is thankful to everyone for their efforts to get this right so we have a sustainable budget model for the future. She is also thankful that the rentals category was reconsidered. She felt strongly that it was misplaced on this continuum and could have had inadvertently negative effective on community based programs. She encourages Commissioners to understand the implications of accepting the cost recovery and target for subsidies going forward. She stated that we are making a decision now that will have future impacts. In particular she stated that the Parks and Open Space Division has added their maintenance cost into some of the overall cost recovery numbers. She doesn't understand the numbers, because there have been no actual numbers provided to Commissioners, but she thinks that we have to know if the addition of those numbers could have a significant ramification to 100 percent cost recovery target for certain categories. She thinks we need to understand the financial implication on the people renting these spaces based on real numbers that have now been added to the costs	
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	<p>that were never there before. She stated that the top half that needs fewer subsidies needs to balance the bottom half that has high subsidies, otherwise it is not balanced. She feels like we need real numbers to understand the implications of the vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• C. Batchelor thought that the ones that have higher subsidies are not paid for, because they have to be self-funded but in reality the town is the one subsidizing the lower activities. A. Cassie stated that down at the bottom where you have open space/ open access, ultimately that is folks going to playgrounds for free and are at the 0 percent revenue model. He stated that all the costs are on the Town's end. He stated that as you go up the continuum you make your way to more privatized. He stated that the whole nature of the continuum is looking at them as separate items and not putting these things in one bucket and coming out with zero dollars. He stated that as we are looking at these break out continuums- "it's this looking Russian doll effect, where we have this continuum and we take rentals make a continuum out of that and figure out where those percent's lie." He stated that we want to Talk with 110 percent and see if that is the direction we want to go. G. Kelly and A. Cassie have spent a lot of time pulling out numbers seeing where they fit and its something that can be working on internally between the two organizations to come up what models we thinks we will need moving forward.• A. Bellalta has a question regarding the shared economic impact. She stated that a lot is about Recreation tonight, but there is also this side of open parks. She asked if Alexandra gets some of these fees to maintain fields better. She is wondering if we are going to have some type of shared funding for all of this. She knows that the parks and fields are getting smaller and smaller with all the additional uses in the fields and parks. We need to find more fields and money to maintain the fields A. Cassie described how he put some of the Parks and Open Space numbers together.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. O'Connor stated that in the partner rentals/vendors the 0-10 subsidy and the 90-100 cost recovery are very strong numbers. She is very curious as to these partner programs if we are getting the 90-100 cost recovery for those partner programs and wonders if a financial analysis for this. The answer is no. It seems to her like we are subsidizing a profit company. 	
<p>Golf Course and Vendor Update</p>	<p>J. Lawson presented the Commission with pictures of the work done on holes 1 and 2.</p> <p>Presentation Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A year in review 2. Pillars of Focus 3. What's Next 4. Financial Update 5. Golf Instruction 6. Rounds Update 7. Food and Beverage Experience <p>Accomplishments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Orientated Culture • Safe COVID-19 Operational Environment • Financial Stability and Success • Deferred Property and Clubhouse Maintenance • Significant Golf Course Continuing Improvements • Pace of Play is now 4 hours 15 minutes • Curb Appeal • Customer Service • Cost Recovery Budgeting Model <p>Pillars of Focus</p> <p>Course Conditions Food and Beverage Customer Service Pace of Play</p> <p>Collectively create the experience- resident and guests will have the desire to come back for repeat business</p> <p>What is next?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Plans- guidance for next 5-10 years • Merchandising • Special Events • Long Term Food and Beverage- current vendor on a one year contract 	

	<p>The FY21 Budget and YTD of the green fees, cart rentals, concessions, Pro Sop Merchandise, Handicap Fees, Camps and Clinics, Advertising Revenue, Club Rentals, Clubhouse Rentals, Golf Range Balls and Investment Income was shared with the Commission.</p> <p>FY21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Record Breaking• Exceeds Budgeted Revenue• All Improvements accomplished through operations• Expense Transparency <p>Golf Instruction</p> <p>May Golf Clinics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ladies clinics (32)• Junior Clinics (96)• Adult Clinics (31) <p>Summer Golf Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 weeks of week long golf camp• 18 Juniors per week• Quality over quantity <p>Special Olympics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 week program (23) <p>A golf rounds update was shared with the Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A food and beverage update was provided to the Commission. The days and hours of the club house (bar), clubhouse (grill/kitchen), beverage cart, turn pavilion and Range Pavilion were detailed. Organized events, special events. All the different touch points. There are so many incredible facilities, they are engaging a high percentage of golfers coming through the golf course.• W. Sheridan noticed that Dexter South field had 147 rounds and she wondered if there is a partnership with them. J. Lawson stated that they pay at Junior Golfer Hours through the school.• A. Bellalta wanted to congratulate J. Lawson on the great job surpassing the revenue and seeing that a larger community is being brought in at the golf course.• J. Bain discussed the fabulous lunch and	
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	<p>service he has had at the golf course. J. Lawson discussed the raining of the club house staff. He discussed future plans for adding to the menu. J. Bain stated that Mel Kleckner was impressed with the operation at the golf course and he thinks it would be a good idea to invite the Select Board to come and see what is happening at the golf course. J. Bain has not heard one negative thing about the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• N. O'Connor is curious where J. Lawson is at with the US Open and curious how it will affect the parks and the golf course. She asked where we are at with the master plan. It is her understanding that the golf course master plan was going to be underway so that the club house master planning could start for July. J. Lawson stated that we have started working on the draft, it will be shared with Commissioners for input. The club house one will be right beyond that. He can't comment too much on the US Open. Leigh Jackson and J. Lawson are working diligently every single day, it will become public, he thinks, possibly by the next commission meeting. L. Jackson and J. Lawson have discussed inviting the Commission to a meeting when it does come time to share details. N. O'Connor understands that it has to be confidential, but she would like to be clear that decisions are being made but not with any input from the Commission. She wants to make sure that the Commission will not be held accountable for any decisions made. J. Lawson replied with a yes.• J. Carroll stated that an important part of the RFQ was the marketing plans, and wondered if J. Lawson had any specific discussions about the plan for that. J. Lawson will share with the chef Alex has a huge twitter and Instagram following. The word is getting out and people are starting to come just for the food. J. Lawson has been working to tighten up their virtual presence. He stated that they are doing more marketing than has been done in the past.• D. Lyons wanted to compliment J. Lawson on all the improvements made. He stated that people are so happy with the professionalism of the entire staff.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Batchelor would like to add one thing to J. Bain’s comment about having the select board out at the golf course. She thinks it would be so helpful if it could be done officially. She thinks to educate the select board, let them know what’s going on there, services provided, she thinks would be good for the commission. She thinks we just need to formally invite them. • N. O’Connor stated that before the driving range was built we did have a time where multiple people came to the golf course to see the whole course. She thinks is a great idea and it reminded her that she thinks that all the boards and commissions should have an outing. L. Jackson definitely supports this invitation. 	
<p>Ice Rink Feasibility Study Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Vecchio stated that the ice rink feasibility study contract has been awarded to KMDG. She discussed the team makeup. It is a large team with a wide variety of skills and experience. The public process will kick off this June. KMDG will lead this June meeting. The meeting will be advertised far and wide. The first public meeting is to set the stage for the work to date and to think about what are the pieces the community wants to make sure are included in this ice rink. It is to think about the components of the ice rink and will be less focused on the location itself. The next phase is thinking of location and how we want to approach this. It is not feasible for KMDG to access the whole Town Of Brookline for locations of the ice rink. She stated that so we will look to the Commission, the public and staff to narrow down this list. She envisions handing over KMDG a short list in terms of locations. She knows we are looking at Larz both in the existing location and down the hill at the DPW storage facilities, as well as envisioning the rink outside of Larz. A. Vecchio stated that we could make this location short list an item on the July meeting and have the public weigh in or have an additional separate meeting and invite the public. This would not decide on a location, but 	

	<p>would narrow down the scope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N. O’Connor asked that in this discussion or vetting of places, will these meetings be run by Commission/staff, which is separate from KMDG. A. Vecchio responded with a yes. • W. Sheridan reminded everyone that a fair number of Commissioners do serve on the task force and there is also a possibility of having a staff-hosted task force meeting. She thinks if we have a meeting outside the feasibility study meeting, she thinks we might miss people following one and not the other. • J. Carroll stated that one big concern that people had was that KMDG didn’t have a good market analysis aspect of their team and he wonders if she brought that up to them and wonders if they able to satisfy concerns in the area. A. Vecchio discussed with them the fact that they brought a lot of important strengths to the table around public process/engagement, a deep understanding of Larz and that this is a beloved rink with a strong community investment. She stated that the team brings in a lot of technical knowledge and experience. She thinks that they were made very much aware of concerns and there was a candid conversation on how this would be addressed throughout the whole process. • W. Sheridan would like to agree with A. Vecchio that knowing their first meeting is to set the stage shows that they have heard concerns brought up. She thinks to start off with that rather than locations is a good sign they heard us. • A. Bellalta wanted to clarify this is not a done deal that this is at Larz. A. Vecchio thinks it makes sense to set up a separate public meeting or a meeting that is led by the task force and make sure that all commissioners are invited to participate and that will allow for public comment and input. 	
<p>Park Art Guidelines Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A. Vecchio shared with the Commission the last iteration of public art guidelines. She is bringing this up now because we have been approached with the possibly of adding additional public arts to the parks. She stated that before we approach that specific case, she 	

	<p>wanted to see if the policy as it currently stands is what the Commission is comfortable with or if the Commission is looking to amend this policy. She stated that there has been a lot of temporary art, but there is particular case of permanent art installation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A. Bellalta thinks we should define what public art is carefully and clearly. She thinks the temporary art at Larz was a great opportunity. She definitely feels like there should be an expert on a committee who defines what public art is. She thinks we need to clarify what the intention of public art is in Brookline. A. Bellalta discussed memorial plaques. She thinks the most important thing in proceeding ahead is refining what the guidelines are. A. Vecchio and A. Bellalta discussed the operational maintenance perspective of art installation. A. Vecchio stated that there would be an art committee that would review the piece itself to see if it's appropriate.▪ C. Batchelor thinks that the Park Art Review Committee should be a standing committee ready to serve as needed. She thinks it would be nice if people came and said they would like to honor someone and then you could send out an RFP to artists. She thinks we should decide we want an art piece and then go about selecting an artist to create it. She thinks that the donation should include installation and maintenance.▪ J. Bain and A. Vecchio discussed the difference between temporary vs permanent. J. Bain stated that donations are great but should include the installation. He also wonders if once the art is removed if the artist does anything to restore the grounds. A. Vecchio stated that typically who we are working with then offers to help restore it.▪ A. Vecchio stated that is it worthwhile for the Commission to consider establishing a park art review committee, which would include artists and Commissioners to take up the review of current policies and think about this holistically, or is that something that the commission would do and determine the roles for park art subcommittee and moving forward they would	
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	<p>be the one selected to tasked with review of as the public art requests come in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ N. O'Connor thinks that when we wrote this last iteration it came from folks coming to the Commission who were looking to have bits and pieces put in the parks and the Commission felt like they were not well-versed in that area of expertise. She wanted the people choosing this art to understand space and design. She feels like there needs to be some type of a standing committee. She thinks a great idea, but it is a lot of work on someone's time.▪ W. Sheridan wonders if we might consider collaborating with the Brookline Commission of Arts on something like this. A. Vecchio stated that in the guidelines there would be a representative from there who would serve.▪ C. Batchelor would like to serve on that Committee.▪ A. Vecchio is hearing that these guidelines need an update and she wonders if this commission would like to do it as a whole or have that subcommittee assign to help lead that process.▪ W. Sheridan supports the subcommittee reviewing the language and then bringing a final draft to the commission to vote and accept. A. Bellalta agrees.▪ A. Vecchio stated that she has been thinking holistically about community engagement and communication for Parks and Open Space. She thinks we could think a little bit more collaboratively and purposefully about using public art as an engagement tool for folks who maybe aren't already invested/ visiting parks and open space as some of our other constituents. She stated that it sounds like we will figure out the best subcommittee and these will be questions posed to consider and then return to full commission for additional input and vote.▪ A. Vecchio stated that the Commission should let her know if anyone would like to serve on this subcommittee and she will work on getting people from the arts onboard.	
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<p>Parks and Open Space Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPW Week – A big success! Two parklets were opened and pictures were shared with the commission. There has been an outpouring of public support for these parklets. She wanted to thank all the staff for all their hard work getting these parklets designed, built and maintained. • Pictures of the Emerson Garden cleanup were shared. • The Coolidge corner library cleanup was discussed. • She stated that we are thinking about partnering and caring for small green open spaces. Not under commission but has overlap. She means roundabout, medians, traffic island and stated that we are thinking work with the public in particular private companies to help care for and maintain areas. She stated that any signage in these areas would go before the Select Board for a vote and would be shared at a future Commission member. • A Green Dog Subcommittee Meeting - June 7, 2021 overview was given to the Commission. • Trash Requests & Litter Control- there are a lot of requests for additional trash barrels and receptacles. She stated that we are trying to figure out how to address this issue. It is difficult to just add trash cans. There are over 210 trash receptacles we are responsible for. She is thinking of launching an Educational campaign that creates buy-in to this shared space and it takes everyone to keep it clean. This involves carrying out litter • Juneteenth – June 19, 2021 – Town of Brookline is hosting a celebration day and that will include a parade starting at Ridley and ending at Brookline Avenue, It will be a daylong event with music and food trucks happening at Brookline Ave playground. She just received word that the office for community engagement is asking that staff boards and commission come and engage with the public. She will pass along more details as they come in. • A. Bellalta wanted to ask a question about parties and the number of people that take place at certain parks. She wonders if people 	
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	<p>are pulling permits. A. Vecchio stated that we have a record of anything permitted, but people do have unofficial gatherings that are not tracked. A. Bellalta wondered if even temporarily we put up signage about requiring a permit for parties and maybe suggest signage about carrying out trash. A. Bellalta thinks anything over 8 people needs a permit. J. Bain stated that it's a public park and thinks its small potatoes charging people for a permit for birthday party or small class party in a public park, but he also feels they should be picking up after themselves. He stated that most of these parks are people's back yards. He doesn't think we should be charging for that. N. O'Connor hears what J. Bain is saying, but there are times where three people want that one table. It is more for reservation purposes. She stated that the barrels are a nut show. She stated that the barrels are not always easy to find. She thinks it's a big concern around the youth sports, there is no place to put the stuff and it's easier to just leave it. She thinks it's all about education and thinks that there might be a need for a separate sign.</p>		
<p>Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Park and Recreation Commission meeting in August. ● J. Carroll would like to revisit the conversation about the diversity of the commission and propose to start a subcommittee and explore what possibilities are out there to help out with this situation. He would like to see this on the September meeting. 		
<p>Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● J. Bain moved to adjourn. Seconded by N. O'Connor. All in favor. A roll call vote was taken. 		

Next Meeting: July 13, 2021

Location: Zoom Webinar

A true record

Attest Jessica White

Date: 6/8/21