

Date: June 11, 2019, 6:00 PM

Place: Brookline Town Hall, Room 111

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

Commissioners Absent:

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

TOPIC	KEY POINTS/DISCUSSION	
<p>Chairman's Welcome Approval of Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Bain opened the meeting. J. Carroll moved to approve the May 14, 2019 Park and Recreation Minutes. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor. N. O'Connor abstained from voting. 	
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Public Comment 	
<p>Introduction of Recreation Athletes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Micah Barshay stated that this past weekend Recreation had the state games over at Harvard and Boston University. They had 12 volunteers in swimming, 9 volunteers in track, 17 athletes on the track team and 20 athletes in the swim team. He wanted to introduce the Commission to some of the athletes that were parts of both teams. He stated that not all the athletes/volunteers could be here tonight. The track athletes listed their names and the events they competed in. M. Barshay wanted to point out how much they appreciate the coaches and the work that they do. M. Barshay gave background into how the metal system works in Special Olympics. It is division based off of ability. The swim team athletes introduced themselves and listed the events they competed in. M. Barshay wanted to recognize the coaches and volunteers here tonight. The coaches and volunteers introduced themselves. M. Barshay discussed where the practices take place. J. Bain wanted to point out the great job that Micah is doing. M. Barshay stated that none 	

	<p>of this would be possible without the coaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N. O'Connor is very impressed with all the athletic endeavors. • N. O'Connor and M. Barshay discussed the suggestions that the next time the athletes come before the Commission they could be presented with some type of certificate/lanyard. • N O'Connor and M. Barshay discussed a police convoy. N. O'Connor suggested reaching out to the Community Service Division. 	
<p>Recreation Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G. Kelly presented the Commission with a Recreation Update • He stated that Leigh has decided to move the "Soule outdoor classroom" to CIP FY21. <p>The Brookline Town Golf Course</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Golf Course had a record May financially with approximately \$265,000 in revenues for the month. The Driving Range continues to be a revenue driver with spring range ball sales up 58% over the prior year. They are forecasting to finish FY19 with revenues of \$1,555,000. 2. Two Bocce Courts have been installed next to the practice putting green, which will draw new customers to the facility and increase the programming at the golf course. This is particularly of interest to help Recreation better serve the Active Older Adults, senior community, and the non-golfing community. The courts are multi-purpose and can host 4 'corn hole' teams at once, and potentially horse shoes in the future as well. Recreation is excited that they can better activate the grill on the green now by combining programming and food and beverage in this area of the course. There is currently no fee to use the Bocce Courts. N. O'Connor and G. Kelly discussed how this is advertised. W. Sheridan and G. Kelly discussed who will have access to these courts. J. Carroll wanted to mention that the little structure at the end of the 9 hole needs some maintenance. 3. This past week the Spring Four-Ball tournament took place on June 8th with 40 players. 4. Leigh Jackson and Tom Ellis will be visiting the US 	

Open golf tournament at Pebble Beach to gain additional insight. A detailed report of the visit will be coming next month.

5. The replacement of the roof is ongoing and scheduled to be completed by July 1st.

6. Leigh Jackson and Tom Ellis are currently discussing the purchase of “driving range” signage (the flag type that grabs the public’s attention at typical events and entrances), but due to end of fiscal year this purchase will need to be made after July 1. D. Lyons asked if they were purchasing new mats at the older section of the range, he wanted to point out that they are worn out. G. Kelly will bring this up to L. Jackson.

Leigh Jackson was the guest presenter for the June’s Age Friendly Cities Committee.

1. Chairman Bain attended and introduced Leigh as the new Recreation Director

2. L. Jackson introduced herself and the general senior citizen vision for the department to include working with the senior center on creating memorable intentional experiences for seniors to get to social, mental, and physical health.

3. Leigh took responsibility for incorporating the summer senior programs on the “adult programs” heading in the Recreation Summer Guide to include programs for seniors; this language is currently being used all over the country in programs like ours because it is more ‘inclusive’. She explained to Age Friendly Cities Committee members that this initiative was not communicated well, and that it wasn’t successful for the overall community.

5. Recreation uses the words “active older adult” to describe programs for the senior population in the Fall Recreation Program Guide. L. Jackson asked the Committee for input on whether or not the group agreed that this was good language to use moving forward; the group agreed it was good language to use moving forward. J. Bain stated that L. Jackson did a fantastic job and a lot of great ideas came out of it.

- A hiring update was given. G. Kelly detailed the job description of the Recreation Resource Manager. W. Sheridan understands that this position oversees the indoor

facilities and wonders if someone does this position for outdoor facilities/fields. G. Kelly stated that he currently does that now and is hoping for the Resource Manger to take it on. N. O'Connor and G. Kelly discussed the Assistant Recreation Director Position.

- Summer Camp is in final planning stages and hiring almost complete. Recreation has scheduled a 2-day staff training for all camp staff the last week of June 2019.
- The High School Expansion project has moved to a cost cutting phase, due to being significantly over budget, due to cost of resources. Nancy O'Connor stated that there are a lot of things being cut to reduce the 9 million dollars that they are over budget. J. Bain stated that there are new drawings for the atrium/room that the Commission suggested for Tappan. N. O'Connor detailed what they will be doing for the entrance, and described how they plan on pivoting the dance room and weight room to accommodate what the Commission wanted.
- J. Bain discussed the tour E. Gallentine gave of the construction that is underway at the Brookline Reservoir. The construction at the Reservoir was discussed amongst the Commission.
- Leigh Jackson met with Andrew Bott, Brookline School Superintendent back in May to express the interest of the Commission to update the Recreation's 1995 Agreement between Parks and Recreation, and the School System. L. Jackson learned that the plan is to begin conversations on the School side in June.

Amory Tennis Courts are open for pass holders and Net Results is offering programming.

1. Parks and Recreation met with Friends of Amory end of May to address any community concerns.
2. The Friends group reported that they are still having problems with vendor Net Results in terms of communication about how rain conditions may or may not be affecting daily play, opening hours.
3. The Friends group also requested more time in

	<p>the early morning to play, and they'd like us to consider opening prior to 9am to better serve the community (including seniors – who reportedly find it too warm for their health as the day moves on). This time change was discussed amongst the Commission. This is something that will need to be brought up to the neighborhood. The group would also like Recreation to consider leaving more courts open after 6pm, claiming that the process by which Net Results shuts down courts prior to sundown to begin sweeping the courts In the summer isn't serving the community well.</p> <p>4. Leigh plans on meeting with the vendor to again address these community concerns with vendors to see if we can get to a better place for the community's sake.</p>	
<p>CIP Review</p>	<p>Park and Recreation Commission Capital Planning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital Asset Conditions assessment 2. Safety and accessibility 3. Life cycle analysis 4. Preliminary cost estimates 5. Public input and user needs 6. Commissioner site visits 7. Advertise & Public Hearing 8. Vote of the Park and Recreation Commission anticipated at the September 2019 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Parks and Open Space Division Capital Improvement plan timeline was detailed for the Commission. Items in the CIP can move as the Town balances the budget. • E. Gallentine discussed the funding/conditions structures assessment for the Tempietto, Causeway and the pedestrian bridge. E. Gallentine presented pictures of the current conditions at Larz Anderson. The FY2019 scope of work was detailed for the Commission. The roadway and parking lot work was detailed. She stated that major goal that came out of the public master plan process was to separate the pedestrians from the vehicular movement and parking. It is to provide clarity between hierarchy of movement and provide a pedestrian path through the park. The Auto Museum Board of Trustees would like to meet with the commission and discuss 	

how this work will affect the museum. The scope of lighting for this project was discussed. The Auto Museum lease was discussed. A. Bellalta and E. Gallentine discussed the art/structures that were placed at Larz Anderson up on the hill. The conditions of the walls were shown to the Commission. E. Gallentine is most concerned about the historic lack of investment in the park and the crisis that the current structures are in. The disarray of the Temple of Love was detailed. W. Sheridan asked if E. Gallentine has considered having a fundraiser for a specific area/project within Larz Anderson. E. Gallentine stated that we have inquired about that with the Friends of Larz Anderson, but they are not able to take this on. However, E. Gallentine thinks there are some projects that are the type that would work for fundraising. The Division does not have the resources to manage a significant fundraiser, but would be willing to work with partners and stakeholders to support an initiative such as this. J. Carroll expressed concern and wondering whether existing funds for the roadway should be shifted to the walls. E. Gallentine stated that the funds were already voted for specific purposes and design/engineering was underway. There still needed to be design/engineering for the remaining work and that it is critical that the FY21 work remain in place to complete this much needed work.

- Robinson’s Design Review Process will start in September. C. Batchelor stated that there is talk that as of 2020 fiber is no longer acceptable safety surfacing. E. Gallentine stated that we have been looking into this, and she wasn’t sure that would happen because most communities would not be able to meet that requirement due to expense. E. Gallentine will continue to monitor this. J. Carroll asked E. Gallentine if we will be considering a dog park in this design, E. Gallentine stated that we can talk about that during the process. E. Gallentine stated that

we should look into safety surfacing and possible Dog Park funding for this project.

- E. Gallentine stated that we have design money for Murphy Playground and the design review will start in the spring. The actual funding for the project is a few years out, it had gotten bumped due to consolidation of construction at Harry Downes Playground. Current conditions of Murphy were shared with the Commission.
- E. Gallentine wants to take a good look at the entry points into Schick Playground, they are in very poor condition and she wants to make sure there is enough money to rebuild or refurbish. There have been complaints about partying in this park at night; the police have been doing regular checks.
- E. Gallentine stated that the Town has done a master plan/planting plan with the neighborhood at Griggs park. She stated that they have been systematically trying to remove invasives and replant. She is planning for a healthier diversity of plants on site. L. Jackson and E. Gallentine received an email from a woman who wants to donate an outside ping pong ball table at Griggs, she also had another request for a donation at Eliot. E. Gallentine stated that it would have to be Commercial grade and acceptable for outdoor public use. A conversation with both the Commission and the neighborhoods needs to happen regarding placement. She told the Commission that this is that can be discussed over the winter. A. Bellalta wanted to point out how amazing the Adirondack chairs are at Emerson.
- Boylston Street Playground is coming up for renovation.
- E. Gallentine stated that Skyline Park is one that we should maybe thinking about a partnerships and moving forward with the Synthetic Turf Replacement. She isn't sure we are able to make 5 years. E. Gallentine believes that we should be thinking about replacement every 10 years as we plan the CIP for the future and we are beyond that at

Skyline. E. Gallentine discussed the yearly maintenance of the synthetic turf and the material that is being taken from Downes to use at Skyline. She stated that the rest of the infield and entire carpet at Downes is going up to a facility in Maine, where it is being repurposed. There is a market for other communities /facilities to reuse. The crumb rubber was discussed. Coconut husk infill the same as Coolidge Corner will be installed at Downes.

- E. Gallentine stated that we are looking to rebuild the courts at Amory. The parking needs to be constructed. The improvements made to the courts this year was detailed.
- Soule Playground has been pushed out. Pictures of the current conditions that need to be addressed as a site renovation were detailed. The parking in the rear needs to be expanded. E. Gallentine stated that maybe there is a group here that would invest in their neighborhood park.
- The proposed capital improvement plan was presented to the Commission. Please see attached.
- Riverway Park has been floating in out years. The Muddy River Restoration project was discussed.
- Lincoln, Heath, Baker and Lawrence School Grounds placement on the CIP was discussed.
- E. Gallentine also discussed upgrades to outdoor ice rink in the CIP. The current rink needs work on the Refrigeration system. This work was detailed for the Commission.
- N. O'Connor asked if the school grounds/playground can be rolled into an override. E. Gallentine stated that not one of these schools are up for big capital projects. N. O'Connor wonders where you would start this conversation. W. Sheridan stated that issues like this have been brought up to the PTO's.
- Monmouth Street Playground is coming up and needs to find a place in the CIP.
- The Commission discussed the indoor/outdoor feasibility study. N. O'Connor

	<p>stated that if we have this indoor outdoor pool, she thinks we need to start talking about a skating rink/recreation center. She thinks we need to get the conversation started. She would like to find a place for a skating rink/covered and get it on the table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putterham Woods tree damage was detailed for the Commission. E. Gallentine stated that we need a master plan for this area. An aerial shot of Putterham Woods was shared with the Commission. The ledge and wetlands in this area was pointed out. • L. Jackson asked E. Gallentine if she could add Soule outdoor classroom to list of CIP. Gerry and Leigh have asked to come up with an outdoor classroom concept. A. Blair is looking at preliminary budget numbers for it. There is a holding spot in the CIP for this project. E. Gallentine can't commit to doing this in-house right now. A survey will need to be done. E. Gallentine sees this as needing a full design review process. The holding place value was detailed and discussed amongst the Commission. • Arlene Mattison and E. Gallentine discussed the Muddy River Project. Possible grant opportunities were discussed. 	
<p>Open Space Plan Letter of Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Support draft letter for the 2019 Open Space Plan was shared with the Commission. • The Commission signed and supported the plan/letter. 	
<p>Canada Goose Management Policy Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine presented the Commission with an updated Canada Goose Management Policy Memo. She stated that it is a significant problem that is not only local or regional, but is a multi-state problem. There are many complaints about feces and park users stating that they are unable able to enjoy the park. E. Gallentine listed the tactics, within the Town's authority, that are used to manage this problem. The Town is doing everything legally permissible with the exception of pyrotechnics and euthanasia. E. Gallentine receives complaints for not doing enough and also receives calls about how it's inhumane to disturb the geese or addle the 	

	<p>eggs. This is a population problem everywhere. She stated that we are doing the best we can to manage our resources with the authority and resources that we have .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine stated that the swan population is a new problem. There was a project at Sergeant Estate and they had a couple of swans that relocated to Larz. The human swan interaction is very problematic. The swans at the Reservoir were discussed. She stated that the swans are aggressive and do a huge amount of damage. The commission needs to know the program and be supportive. She stated that in the future the Commission may want to reach out to the Select Board and Board of Health to inform them of this program, as well as the importance of this program. The addling of nests for both water fowls was discussed. Addling does not eliminate population growth, but is a tool to help manage it. • Francis Morris from Oakland road extension addressed the Commission. He stated that he walks around Levertt Pond and there are dozens of people who feed the geese. E. Gallentine stated that there is signage, fencing and they have informed the animal control officer. E. Gallentine stated that the Park and Recreation Commission agreed to open a few sections of the fence, because water fowl were getting caught on the fence. She stated that we will continue to work on that. E. Gallentine suggested getting this on the Park Ranger’s radar. • The Commission supported the Canada Goose Management Policy Update that included adding the swan population. 	
<p>Park and Open Space Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Gallentine presented the Commission with a Strategic Plan /Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment and Master Plan Update. The Commission will be receiving information shortly regarding schedules. She stated that the Park and Recreation Departments are putting together information that will go out to user groups. The extended scope was approved by the Select Board that will now 	

include all indoor/ outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

- The Green Dog Subcommittee will be meeting next week for a debriefing.
- A Harry Downes park update was provided. The park is fully under construction, the synthetic turf has been pulled up and they are working on all site preparation. The laser grading is scheduled for July 8th, then they are moving right into pad/infill and carpet. She stated that the Town is pleased with the schedule to date. E. Gallentine discussed the feedback and dismay about the tree removal. She stated that through the public process, an assessment was done of every tree and there was pruning on all trees remaining. The majority of trees that came out were due to poor conditions. There were 4 trees removed not due to health conditions. Two were removed because of the water play and the other two were removed to accommodate the accessible pathway. These trees are being replanted elsewhere and the Town is replacing far more trees than what was removed. There will be 10 species of trees planted, this will provide for diversity and the next generation of trees. She stated that this has caused hardship and she wonders if there is a way this can be shown more explicitly in the public process. That way people are prepared.
- Corey Hill Playground gates are in.
- E. Gallentine stated that the fields are Cypress is going to stay pretty close to their current configuration. Weston and Sampson took a very close look at the standard recommended sized fields for the different sports. E. Gallentine detailed these standards. She stated that we get many phone calls about softballs hitting, homes, cars and people. The trajectories/heights of these balls vs the proper size/height of netting/fencing was detailed. Different sizes of fencing and netting examples for Cypress was shown to the Commission. E. Gallentine stated that if you are allowing men's softball

	<p>to stay there, then netting has to be installed as the recommended minimum size of the field is beyond the park boundaries. E. Gallentine has spoken with Town Counsel. W. Sheridan thinks the netting can be well done, while protecting the integrity of the fence line. E. Gallentine showed the Commission where the Town is with the design for Cypress. This was also provided to the high school and they will be showing this latest design at their meeting tomorrow. This is the combination of the concepts that was talked about at the last public meeting. E. Gallentine and N. O'Connor discussed the fields that men's softball currently uses and possible locations in the future they could use if no longer permitted at Cypress Playground.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookline Reservoir Park construction pictures were shared with the commission. • A storm water separation update for Brookline Avenue Playground was discussed. • The Willow Pond Dredging Study was discussed. • Carlton Street Footbridge and Gateway East are both moving forward. • Plans are being worked on for the Baker School tennis courts regarding resurfacing. • Youth Baseball is looking for permission to put in a temporary batting cage at Eliot Field, along the third baseline. E. Gallentine asked for specs/plans and further details. She stated that this is something she cannot do without proper notification to the neighborhood. They also asked for permanent electrical out at the back stop. N. O'Connor thinks putting a batting cage on 3rd base side will be odd looking, she could see it in the middle closer to chestnut side. E. Gallentine is also worried about how temporary it will be. • A Town Meeting Summary was given 	
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Sheridan stated that a question came up about whether it is a conflict of interest that she is both the Director of Brookline Youth Lacrosse and a Park and Recreation 	

	<p>Commissioner. She was advised to reach out to Town Counsel (which she did), and they advised her to reach out to the State Ethics Commission. She stated that the State Ethics Commission offers free and anonymous legal advice. She was advised to fill out a specific disclosure, she submitted that to the Select Board and they voted to fully approve the disclosure. She did this specifically to be able to fully participate in the new Task Force. Her advice is if you are actively involved in programs/activity and serve on a committee/subcommittee involved in decisions about that program or activity, you should reach out to the State Ethics Commission for advice.</p>	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Bain moved to adjourn. Seconded by D. Lyons. All in favor. 	

Next Meeting: July 9, 2019 Location: Town Hall, Room 111

A true record

Attest Jessica White

Date: 6/11/2019