

BELMONT RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Present: David Kane, Anthony Ferrante, Anne Helgen, June Howell, Jay Marcotte, Mary Bradley, Matt Sullivan, Lynn Findlay, Ann Beré

Friends of PQ Playground: Jean, Cabral, David Beavers, Mike MacGillivray

Payson Park: Tomi Olson

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Friends of PQ Playground showed us a Combined Concept Plan. There were 3 different underground storage plans. The 2-Year Storm is what they will go with. There will be an exercise course for adults (Maple Street side), a walking path, tot lot and older kids playground. It was brought to CPC and will go back. It was suggested that they go talk with all sports groups and see if they can get some donations, possible business' to help fund some of the project. CPC would like a letter from the Recreation Commission endorsing the project. David will draft a letter.
- ❖ Payson Park - Tomi Olson would like a letter supporting a hatch to protect the musicians for the summer concerts at Payson Park. She did research and brought copies of the hatch. The concrete pad is already there. Tentative budget would be \$50,000 (building - \$15, 000, electrical - \$10,000 and labor- \$20,000). It will be tucked in a corner that does not impact the tee ball at the Park. She will check with musicians that it will work for them and check with the neighbors what they feel about this. Looking for the Recreation Commissions support.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- ❖ Off leash program - June created a booklet for the program. It lists the rules, where you can go, etc. Payson Park is a dog-free park and this will be added to booklet. New signage is needed at parks. Voting will take place on the 13th of new regulations. Commission members gave thoughts and ideas on booklet.

- ❖ Strategic Plan Update - Staff operation plan shows priority and when it should be started. Software was already implemented. It is a 3 year plan with some things done now and some working on implementing.
 - Priority #3- a financially viable future-is perhaps the most important goal outlined in the plan and will require the support of the Rec Commission, as well as the cooperation and support from the School Department and the BOS. Challenge – cooperation, scheduling priorities, fee structure & how to recoup costs.
 - Field fees – Dave, Anne and June and will try to meet with sports groups to introduce them to the consultant's recommendations. This will be a forum for Rec Commission and Rec Dept. representatives to provide an initial overview of the plan, including recommendations on changing field permitting, and to hear the leagues express their ideas and concerns. One idea: permit fees could be put in a revolving fund for maintenance of the fields.
It will be “baby steps”. Need to have figures for what it costs to do upkeep when meeting happens with sports groups.
 - The Selectmen need to talk with the schools so everyone is on the same page and the scheduling of fields can be from one place to make it more efficient.
 - Field permitting – should have all sports groups come in once a year and talk about their programs (# of kids/ trends/ something about their program) That will help with how the fields are permitted and how much time the groups need and when the fields are empty and can be used by other groups looking for field time.
 - School gym is done on the school end and you pay for a custodian. Recreation is not involved with that.

FINANCIAL

- ❖ Fees - Need to set fees for next year. There have been lots of increases this year. Custodians went up 4%, minimum wage went up twice. Revenue in place now. Talk of hockey fees and what Valley paid through Belmont Youth Hockey last year. Sports schedules are needed for all teams/sports in order to schedule the permits better. Jay mentioned the Grand Summary that Jamie from 110% gave out. June will send it out to all members and we will table the fees until we see that.

- Sport program asked that their fees not go up. Their fees have not gone up in years. Belmont/Watertown/Arlington/Waltham are all considered residents in this program.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- ❖ Approved minutes from October 18, 2016
- ❖ Tabled updates on Grove Street walking path & Tennis Courts until the December 6th (pool rules and regulations/changes only) meeting.