

Recreation Commission Meeting

6/13/2023

Zoom

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

Commission Attendees: Paul Cowing (chair), Dave Lind (Vice Chair), Cortney Eldridge (Secretary), Josh Gould, Anthony Ferrante, Steve Warner

DATE: August 3, 2023

TIME: 12:30 PM

Town Attendees: Brandon Fitts, Heidi Barberio

Guests:

Age Friendly Action Committee (Judy Morrison)

Payson Park Music Festival (Tomi Olson)

Asian Music Festival (Michael Gao)

Call to order 5:34pm

Review and Approve April 24th and May 1st Meeting Minutes

- April 24th
 - Approved as amended: Steve Warner, Dave Lind, Anthony Ferrante, Cortney Eldridge, Paul Cowing
 - Abstain: Josh Gould
- May 1st
 - Approved: Dave Lind, Anthony Ferrante, Cortney Eldridge, Paul Cowing, Josh Gould
 - Abstain: Steve Warner

Age Friendly Action Committee (AFAC): Judy Morrison

Age Friendly Action Committee was put together about one-two years ago; to figure out what areas in Belmont that need to be revised to be friendlier to all ages (including/especially seniors). Came from World Health Organization; supported by AARP. In Belmont, after a two-year assessment, the Action Committee was goaled with four areas: Outdoor spaces, Communications, Housing, and Walkability. Judy, Tim Flood, and Paul Cowing have been involved.

Idea is for inclusive and easy access for all ages – Zero to 100 – walking or wheeling. Asking for age-friendly representation in programs or gropus (AFAG – Age Friendly Action Group); request that somebody from the AFAG is invited to meetings to represent/incorporate guidelines.

Communications out: send an email to let the AFAC know what's coming up. When somebody is presenting at Rec Commission, ensure/suggest the folks reach out to the AFAC.

Discussion:

- Any towns doing this correctly/well?
- Cambridge – See, Click, Fix

Permit Requests

Payson Park Music Festival: Tommasina (Tomi) Olson

Festival will be held at the Underwood Hill this year because Payson Park is under construction this summer. No permit has been submitted yet.

12 Concerts, each on Wednesday Nights. Wednesday June 14th through August 30th and four kiddie concerts: July 7, 14, 21, 28. (Note due to the thunderstorms forecast for 6/14, the concerts will start June 20th.)

Discussion

- Electric? Yes, that's available there.
- Ok honoring last year's fee.
- How will the bathrooms work? Recreation Department and Pool Staff can help with accessing Underwood Pool bathrooms.
- Clarifying fee this year is the same as last year (no changes)? Correct.

Motion: Move that Payson Park Music Festival be permitted to offer concerts through the summer/fall of 2023 with dates as presented (with rain dates as necessary) at the bottom of Underwood Hill, contingent upon festival obtaining liability insurance and submitting formal permit, at a rate of \$25/hour for field permit, with a maximum cost of \$50 per concert.

Unanimous Approval: Anthony, Cortney, Josh, Steve W, David, Paul

Asian Music Festival: Michael Gao

The third year we're doing this. Sunday June 18th, 2023 from 3:00pm through 9:00pm with the performances running from 6:30-8:30pm. Rain date July 2nd.

Discussion

- School has provided electricity and is in support; port-a-potties all set
- Clarification on where food trucks will be: no food trucks
- Clarification on whether police detail needed: not necessary – under threshold
- Confirmation that insurance is available: confirmed
- Note to update rules/requirements page (references Arlington; Brandon/Heidi noted)

Motion: Move to grant a field permit at Winn Brook for 3pm to 9pm on Sunday June 18th and a rain date of July 2nd. Event timing is 6:30pm to 8:30pm at a fee of \$25 per hour for a total of \$50.

Unanimously approved: Anthony, Cortney, Josh, Steve W, Dave, Paul

BYBA Summer Program: no presenter

- Wants to use the Town Field basketball courts
- Normally we charge \$10 per person
- Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs 5-8pm from June 20th through July 20th

Discussion:

- Town Field is the only current functional/usable courts in town; this does not leave a lot of time/locations for residents in the summer
- PQ's basketball courts are unplayable and unsafe (and will be under construction starting in the fall)
- Recreation Department/Commission is unclear on whether we have done this in the past
- BYBA was unable to attend so Recreation Commission/Department will discuss when they are able to join

Field/Project Updates (Brandon Fitts)

Payson Park

- Has been mobilized, fencing has gone up, playground equipment has already arrived; hoping for fall reopening!

Grove Street

- Done walkthroughs with Belmont Youth Baseball, Friends of Grove Street, and Town (e.g., DPW); fields should be coming offline fairly soon; should be under construction in the summer
- Project itself should not be too long but growing/establishing the grass means baseball teams miss a few seasons (e.g., spring, fall)
- Basketball courts will also be replaced; timing coming for construction schedule (going out to bid soon)

PQ Park

- Once Town Field is done, Tim at WDG will move over to PQ Park
- Basketball court will be replaced in kind
- Going out to bid and likely that construction will be in the fall

Town Field

- Ribbon cutting on Thursday (6/15) 4:30-6:30pm!
- Minor finishing touches required; parkour section will not open yet; DPW is keeping an eye on progress

Upcoming meeting topics:

- Rink
- CPA-funded (field) renovations – e.g., JV field at the High School and priority of other recreation (even if not rec dept) outdoor space
- Off-Leash Dog (moving to future meeting)
- Upcoming meeting: July 31st 5:30pm Zoom

Commission Roles & Responsibilities in the Coming Year

- Suggest rotating chair and vice chair each year to spread the load
- Rotate somebody else in to other positions (e.g., CPC, secretary)

- Steve Colello is resigning from the Commission – is moving overseas
- Will continue with current structure through the fall – Dave would like to not do Vice Chair *and* CPC; Paul can stick on as Chair for a term; Cortney can change positions after her stint as co-president of PTA is over, will keep secretary for now; Steve offered to step in next year for secretary