DEPT/BOARD: Recreation Commission Meeting

DATE: July 15, 2019

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Burlington High School – School Committee Room

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Call Recreation Commission Meeting to Order

Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2019

Public Participation

Director of Parks & Recreation Report

Parks Superintendent Report

Programming Report

Chairman’s Report

Subcommittee Report

New Business

Vote to approve contract for Simonds Park lighting project

Old Business

Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, pursuant to MGL c. 30A, section 21(a)(3).

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 12, 2019
Commissioners in Attendance:
Chair Kevin Sullivan, Commissioners: Kevin Sheehan, Tom Murphy

Staff in Attendance:
Director Brendan Egan, Interim Park Superintendent Bill Baker, Program Coordinator Kelly Lehman

Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm in the School Committee Room of Burlington High School at 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Absent:
Vice Chair David Norden, Commissioner Paul Raymond

Minutes:
Approval of Minutes:
No minutes to approve for June 24th, 2019

Public Participation
No public participation.

Director of Parks & Recreation Report

Field Maintenance / Fertilization
We continue to work with Tom Irwin on the fields; getting upper Rahenis, Veterans and Regan Park into program. We are doing soil analysis now and had those fields treated for weeds. 2 of the 3 fields are not irrigated. Next, we’ll overseed in August and get prepared for the Fall. We also did a weed spray at Wildwood and Simonds, which are both irrigated. Director Egan is working to set up a meeting with Tom Murphy and Steve Nelson from the Burlington School Committee to discuss the fertilization program with our representative from Tom Irwin.

Eagle Scout Project
Kristopher Poirier completed the Gaga Ball pit at Rahenis. He removed the grass, leveled the area, built the walls and spread stone dust for the surface. Kristopher provided the man power and support pieces and we bought the lumber and stone dust. It’s been a big hit with the playground program every day. The game consists of a ball and players. Kristopher completed this project for his Eagle Scout Project. He did a great job, was responsible for all aspects of the job. We’d like to invite Kristopher to our next meeting to thank him for all of this hard work.

Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)
The plan we submitted this past Spring has been approved and will allow us to apply for Dept. of Conservation and Energy grants through 2026. We’d like to thank Krista Moravec, from the Horsely Witten Group for keeping us moving forward and on track.
Rahanis Park Tennis Tournament
The Rahanis Tennis Tournament started back in 2003 to raise money for the park and for the courts. The 16th annual tournament was held this past weekend and our staff assisted in the marketing and registration for the event. We are currently in the midst of finalizing all expenses should have The final figures soon. The tournament committee would like to have some of the proceeds set aside for 2 scholarships for BHS students; 1 male, and 1 female.
Director Egan would like to invite members of the Tournament Commission to our next meeting to discuss the proposal and obtain approval.

Friends of the Dog Park
The Friends of the Burlington Dog Park, which was formed as an off shoot of the Dog Park Committee, decided at their last meeting to dissolve the group. They dedicated the balance of their funds go exclusively to the Dog Park. Director Egan thanked them for all the work they did to raise funds for the dog park, stating that they are a good group of dedicated volunteers; and thanked them for the time and energy and raising funds.
Chair Sullivan expressed his surprise they decided to dissolve the committee stating that they are such a nice group of people; and thanked them for a job well done. They helped raise just over $20K.
Director Egan added that the brick program was a great program, and the Burlington Goes to the Dogs Day has been a great day.

Ways & Means – Reserve Fund Transfer
Parks & Recreation went to Ways & Means last week and was successful in their request for a reserve fund transfer for $98,000 for a 16 ft large area mower. One of our mowers was damaged and we have been renting a mower for $1000 a week. This commission voted to proceed with purchase of a new Jacobsen HR800 series large area mower. We are looking at about 4-6 weeks for a new unit to come in, as the one unit they had in stock just went up to Canada.

The last conversation Director Egan had with the Insurance Company, they spoke of a settlement number of about $20,000. The rental company will provide a credit of half of the weekly rental fee. Both of these will go toward the purchase price of the new mower.
Director Egan thanked our Ways & Means sub-committee, Capital Budget, and the full Ways & Means for their support.

The DPW / Recreation Maintenance Building Committee met with the Conservation Commission to review the plans for the new buildings. The Commission provided us with feedback and asked us to come back to the August 8 meeting. This Thursday we will be meeting with the Planning Board.

Chair Sullivan asked if we treated Mitre for weeds. Director Egan said it couyld be added and he would get an estimate. Commissioner Sullivan asked if we can add Center School as well.

Parks Superintendent Report
The Crew was busy preparing for the 4th of July fireworks and concert by trimming branches and weeding and mulching flower beds on the Common. They set up and removed the snow fence at the High School before and after the fireworks; put out additional trash and recycling bins; and fixed ruts from damage due to ground being wet when they delivered portable toilets for the lahey 5K.

The staff has repaired ramps at the skate park, replaced the sunscreen in all of the dispensers in the parks, delivered mulch to the playgrounds that need it, trimmed and placed additional barrels in the parks that will be used during summer programming. They placed a storage box down at the pickle ball courts and cut back growth in that area.

The Dog Park is getting onto the weekly schedule for maintenance, repairing water fountain buttons and the stone dust walkways.

The ballfield renovator has been out a bit more now that baseball play has slowed; and the new zero turn mower has been a great addition for the grass cutting crews.

Chair Sullivan spoke highly of seeing the crew providing extra attention to details pulling weeds by Center St and Winn Street.

Chair Sullivan asked Director Egan to speak to the incident at Wildwood. Director Egan received an email from the Burlington Police Department that a 20 year old person got burned on a slide / steps at Wildwood Playground. They could not share her information due to HIPAA laws. Director Egan has asked the Police to have the family contact him and asked to identify the piece of the equipment that caused the burns. Channel 5 called Director Egan and he reported that the Parks & Recreation Department didn’t have a comment at the time but that they were working with the Police Dept. Sullivan asked if Director Egan could provide an update as to how the individual was doing when he is able.

The slide at Wildwood is a newer plastic version approximately 5-8 years old. A conversation ensued about putting up temporary signs warning park attendants to the danger until more permanent signs can be made; and re-visiting the shade structure request. est.

Director Egan and the Commission wish the injured individual a quick and full recovery.

Programming Report

Director of Programming Kelly Lehman presented
The Burlington Pride Softball tournament is this weekend. Milford, Natick, and Melrose will be joining us. The first pitch is at 8:45, and games begin at 9.
The Summer Programs have started; many are full. Parks Place is busy at Wildwood with about 50 kids; other parks are busy as well. The weekly concert and movies have started; Tuesday we have family shows; Wednesday nights we hold our movie series and we have had a great turnout.

The fitness area at TRW is open and many people have been using it. It’s an exciting, great addition.

We have Celebrate Burlington planned for Saturday, August 3rd and we are looking for volunteers; 11-4 o’clock on the Common.
Direction Egan asked Chair Sullivan if he would be interested in throwing out the 1st pitch at the Burlington Pride Softball event and Sullivan agreed.

Chair Sullivan mentioned how busy Wildwood Park is on Monday nights with the pickup basketball program for kids entering 5th through 8th grade.

Commissioner Sheehan inquired about setting up a booth during the baseball games to raise money for Mary Cummings Park, selling raffle tickets to a Red Sox game. After discussing the Commission agreed that this would not be allowed right now and that if they were going to agree to it in the future there would need to be some rules created first.

**Chairman's Report**
Chair Sullivan mentioned that the grand opening of the Fit Court went well; and stated that he hopes the Community Preservation Act goes through.

**Subcommittee Report**

**Sculpture Park**
Commissioner Sheehan stated that the committee is trying to decide on what part of the Common they would like to display a sculpture.

**New Business**
Director Egan spoke about 3 bids we received for lighting project at Simonds Park. The lowest responsive bidder was Siemens Mobility, Inc in the amount of $98,720. Director Egan recommended that the Committee vote to accept the bid from Siemens Mobility, Inc in the amount of $98,720. Commissioner Murphy made the motion to accept the bid from Siemens Mobility, Inc; seconded by Commissioner Sheehan. The equipment will be in by the end of August and ready to install right after Labor Day with an October 4th completion date.
Chair Sullivan asked for a vote on motion
VOTE: 3-0-0

**Old Business**  - nothing

**Executive Session**
For purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation because to discuss it in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair declares so declares, pursuant to MGL c. 30A, section 21(a)(3).

Vote to go into Executive Session and return only to adjourn the meeting.

Tom Murphy – aye
Commissioner Sheehan – aye
Chair Sullivan – aye

General Session adjourned for Executive Session at 7:45pm.

Adjournment
Chair Sullivan asked for a motion to adjourn; Tom Murphy so moved; seconded by Commissioner Sheehan.  Vote 3-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 12th, 7pm at School Committee Room at Burlington High School.

Respectfully submitted,
Terese Castellano