



## **Parks and Recreation Board Meeting**

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday August 6, 2019

**Location:** Nicholas Ward Meeting Room, 221 Main Street, Boylston MA

**Time:** 6:30pm – 8:07

**Members Present:** Eric Hoffses, Drew LeBlanc, Claudine Underwood, Ali LeBlanc-Board Members, Karen Barber (former coordinator), Robert Perry (Center Court abutter), Kathy Richard (Historic Commission member), residents

The meeting commenced at 6:30pm

Review and vote to approve minutes from meetings held on 2<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**A motion was made by Claudine to approve the minutes as is, seconded by Eric, Yes – Ali, Claudine, Drew. Abstain – None, No – None**

### **Boy Scout Projects**

Hillside Trails have been halfway cleared and upgraded. The remainder is scheduled to be completed this month. The board thanks Jack Stille for his Eagle Scout Service Project to benefit our community!

Jakob Lavallee has begun his fundraising and received approval to fix up the snack shack. More information to follow shortly.

### **Coordinator position**

Crystal Byron will begin next week as Boylston's new coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department. The board welcomes her and approves her proposed schedule of 8AM to 2PM Monday through Thursday with 2 "flex hours" to be used as she sees fit. She will record these hours on her timecard with a brief description of where/when they were worked.

### **Open Board Position**

There is an open position on Boylston Parks and Recreation now that Bonnie Johnson has submitted her resignation. Interested parties must fill out an intent to serve form at the town clerks office, also available on the website. The board as well as Board of Selectmen vote to appoint. Kathy asks what would be expected. Drew states duties include monthly meetings,

various volunteer opportunities, and participation in community events. Karen explains that the volunteer would be appointed only until the next town election in spring.

### **Center Courts**

Ali moves to authorize spending in an amount not to exceed \$2000 for the purchase of installation materials such as sand, concrete, sonatubes, plywood, and marking paint. Seconded by Claudine. All in favor, no nays and no abstains.

Ali amends the former motion for an amount not to exceed \$5000 for loam and wood chip.

Ali moves to authorize spending in an amount not to exceed \$6000 for the purchase and delivery of certified wood chip for the playground fall zone. This material meets federal law for ADA accessibility. Claudine seconds the motion. All in favor.

Ali reports that the expenditure thus far on the park has come in \$4500 under budget. The build is scheduled for August 30, 2019 and we need volunteers with wheelbarrows on that day and also on Labor Day to help move woodchips.

The board discusses the landscaping needs to finalize this phase of the project. We determined we will need to seek bids from landscapers for removal of the tennis fencing, poison ivy control, removal of ground tree stumps, 3" depth of loam, and grass seed spread over the areas outside the playground and basketball court. Claudine will contact Bob Bourassa, per Karen Barber's suggestion, to determine if we can store the fencing for future use. Eric will contact landscapers to request quotes for the work.

The board members are seeking input from various town organizations to determine whether the park has an official name and if not, whether we can work with the select board to name it.

Claudine suggests choosing a name to honor Jake Cochran, Boylston resident who passed away on 9/11. Claudine will follow up on these queries and report back next month.

Robert Perry, abutter, states his support of the play area, ice rink, and a tennis court. He is concerned about general noise, foul language, misuse of the area, the lack of tennis options in town, the lack of communication from the board to abutters. There is much discussion. Eric states that the website should be improved to increase community awareness of ongoing projects. We will follow up with the new coordinator next week to improve this. Drew explains the difficulties of communicating through social media as elected officials. Kathy suggests posting agendas on Burbio.

Ali suggests plantings to control noise and increase privacy for abutters. She explains the costs associated with the court, the methods employed to poll the community, and the variety of design options that were considered. Ali describes the design elements that were taken into consideration to address the historical location concerns as stated by Bill Manter from the historical commission, and safety/misuse of the space.

Claudine explains that since the elected board has limited resources, an outside group of citizens with a special interest in tennis could be formed to conduct fundraisers and solicit sponsorship.

Kathy Richard asks for specifics on how this might be accomplished. A group could start an account dedicated to tennis interests in town, and set a target amount. When reached, they could approach the board to obtain approval for the placement of a tennis court on the proposed site.

Karen suggests that the ice rink should not be placed on a tennis court, basketball court, or up at Hillside because of parking and grading. The board will discuss the placement of the rink in October. Karen recalls the online polls and in person Visioning Day efforts. She recalls that the estimates to replace the tennis court were upwards of \$100,000. Drew asks Kathy, Historic

Commission member, about the possibility of a future pavilion. Kathy says the commission would be open to working with the board on something like that as it is appropriate for the park.

Kathy concurs with the general consensus that a tennis court would be a welcome addition for use by adults and seniors, especially. Drew talks about the lighting upgrade plans and that the board will take into account any light pollution and weigh that against safety concerns. The board and guests agree that lighting, multiuse courts, plantings, and walkways should be considered in the next stages of the project.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:07

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison LeBlanc