

Holliston Park Commission Meeting Minutes
Jan 28, 2015

Present: Kristen Hedrick, Paul Healy, Inge Daniels, Melissa Kaspert, Art Winters

Heat at Flagg

Ms. Hedrick stated the heating boiler is cracked, however it is covered by warranty. The process of exercising the warranty is underway. The building has been without heat for many days over the past month.

Eagle Scout

Bennett Medeiros and Charlie Paradie came in to discuss cleaning and marking trails at Patoma Park. Trails would be re-routed where erosion has occurred. The scouts will assist in cleaning trails and Mr. Medeiros will mark trees with spray paint. He will also create a trail map to be added to a kiosk. The work will take 2-3 weekends beginning in early spring, possibly in March. The kiosk will look like a picture frame and be attached to the old bathhouse. Additionally another map will be placed at the large kiosk located in the parking lot. Ms. Daniels requested that contours be added to the trail maps. Ms. Hedrick stated the Park Department should be contacted prior to beginning work.

Budget

Ms. Hedrick discussed the upcoming budget cycle for FY16. It was noted that the department should be given a 1% cost of living increase and a 1.5% over increase. Mr. Nemet's salary is split between Highway and Schools and the formula for his increase is different. A line was added for longevity pay. Ms. Hedrick will meet with Ms. Zeamer to discuss the budget, prior to meeting with the Finn Com. Ms. Hedrick stated that the Stone Report findings indicated that the Town's employees were underpaid which accounts for the increase in salaries.

Ms. Kaspert made a motion to accept the FY16 budget appropriation for \$100,548 that has been provided. Mr. Healy seconded. All in favor.

Revolving Account Report is showing a balance of \$200,315. Ms. Hedrick reviewed balances of prior years. Ms. Hedrick explained that money has been allocated for various upcoming planned expenses, such as summer staff. After much discussion Ms. Hedrick stated the Commission is decided to allocate funds to projects. Ms. Hedrick stated there is plan to apply for money from the CPC for playground equipment for Stoddard Park and the Park Commission should pay for the equipment, although the cost of the install has yet to be determined. Project #1: Install of playground equipment \$6,000. Project #2: Additional Parking at Stoddard (the tree have already been removed) \$4200 Project 3#: Additional Tables and Benches. Project #4: Dog Park \$4,000. Mr. Healy said we need dugouts. Ms. Daniels said baseball is paying for those. Projects # 5 & # 6: Goodwill Tennis Courts and Basketball courts are a priority for the camp programs. Mr. Healy recommended designating \$20,000 for tennis courts and \$10,000 for the basketball court. Ms. Daniels said the remainder of money should be allocated for bleachers at the Goodwill Tennis Courts. Project #7: Benthic Mats \$5,000 . Project # 8: Bleachers for Goodwill Park \$6,000.00. Ms. Daniels stated that Stoddard needs to be re-graded.

Ms. Hedrick stated a quote had been received for playground equipment improvements at Stoddard, where there needs to be more for the younger age groups. Ms. Hedrick presented some of the ideas for new equipment upgrades, including bobble riders, a cozy dome and play panels. Ms. Daniels expressed concern that the "cozy dome" and the placement of panels creates a visibility issue.

Director's Report

Application and Job descriptions are on the web. Plans for hiring are underway. Minimum wage has been raised to \$9.00 per hour and all the wages must be recalibrated based on that. Program fees will have to go up a little bit based on the increase. Summer programs will be offered for registration on Thursday Feb 5, the remaining programs will be up by Feb 26, and the final round of programs: Great Get-A-Ways, swim lessons, or any additional programming and will be up in April, May or June. "Cheryl Cohen Mosaics" has been a new exciting program that has been received well. Additionally, "Fencing" will be added as an afterschool program for the spring session.

Cole Flagg Update

Ms. Kaspersn stated she and Art Winters met with Rep Carolyn Dykema and stated that Ms. Dykema is in support of the idea of a home for Parks & Recreation and Youth & Family Services. She advised that in asking for a large sum of \$8.2 million, people need a lot of time and exposure to the project before they buy into it. Ms. Dykema recommend that the Friends of the Senior Center be included in the conversation as they are in need of improvements also. She recommended that it would make more sense to combine a package of building needs for seniors and Park & Rec to be presented at the fall Town Meeting. Ms. Kaspersn stated we need the support of the seniors. Ms. Dykema stated a "Friends" group must be organized to publicize the need for the new building. Ms. Dykema felt that going to Town Meeting this May is very soon and not enough ground work has been done. There was much discussion about the cost of the debt of an 8.2 million dollar building to each household in Holliston. Ms. Kaspersn said Mr. Dykema feels that this spring Town Meeting may be too soon to present the project. Ms. Daniels stated that it does not make sense to make a package deal presentation with the Senior Center building improvements. Ms. Hedrick stated that there had been much discussion about this idea during the Community Center Task Force Meetings. There was discussion about how much longer the Flagg Building will last while waiting for the building to be complete. Ms. Kaspersn stated there must also be an air quality test, however she was told by the superintendent that the School Department would not pay for it. Mr. Healy wondered why the Senior Center would want to risk gambling for \$1 million for their improvements when the Park and Rec building would cost \$8 million. Ms. Daniels stated it makes sense to put the project on hold, however it feels very disheartening. Ms. Kaspersn stated it could still be presented at Spring Town Meeting but without a vote. Ms. Hedrick stated the Spring Town Meeting may not be a good time as there are other controversial topics. Mr. Healy stated he is concerned about tying in the needs of the Senior Center to our building. Ms. Hedrick stated that information on the project can be passed out at Park Day and Celebrate Holliston. Emails can be sent out to promote the idea. Ms. Daniels stated a "Friends of Park & Rec" needs to be organized to fundraise for the new building. Ms. Hedrick asked of the status of the asbestos quote. Ms. Daniels stated that it should still happen, and it should be done as soon as possible.

Ms. Kaspersn made a motion to do option one from the PNEC Asbestos quote dated Jan 25, 2015 in the amount for \$2150.00. Mr. Art Winters seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Hedrick stated a vote must be taken on the project allocations previously discussed in the meeting and reviewed the list of projects and dollar allocations:

Allocate \$16,500 set aside for the future of Park and Rec, \$16,000 set aside to install playground equipment for younger kids, additional parking \$4200, additional picnic tables for \$4,000, dog park for \$1,000, tennis court replacement for \$20,000, basketball replacement for \$10,000, benthic mats for \$5,000, Goodwill Tennis Court bleachers for \$6,000. Ms. Daniels stated that with the exception of the bleachers at Goodwill all of the improvements on the list are for Stoddard Park. Ms. Daniels stated so moved. All in favor.

Mr. Healy stated that all of these projects should be flagged as "most likely".