

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

*November 4, 2025*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the meeting room located at 17 Irving Street, Arlington, MA on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Commission Members:** Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, and Josh Fenollosa. Recreation Director Natasha Waden and Assistant Director of Recreation Courtney Duggan were also present. Phil Lasker, Scott Walker and Program Director Jeff Jamgochian were not in attendance.

**Anticipated Speakers:** Lauren Corsino – Arlington Hockey Club, Peter Caradonna - Arlington Brewing Company

**Members of the Public:** Paige Albright, Liz Reisberg, Elaine Crowder, Matt Enos

**Preliminary Matter:** Commission Chairperson Jen Rothenberg took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

October 28, 2025 – Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the minutes, as amended, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 3-0.

### **Special Events/Requests**

**Arlington Hockey Club Winter Classic** – Lauren Corsino submitted a request to host a beer and food event in Ed Burns Arena parking lot and grassy area on the three weekend days of the tournament, 12/21, 12/27 and 12/28/2025.

Ms. Corsino and Mr. Caradonna explained the event plan and possible locations for the Arlington Brewing Company beer tent and food trucks. The Commission discussed property jurisdiction, alcohol at public events and food truck policies.

The Commission discussed

- Previous events that were held on town land without approval
- Alcohol service at other rinks and on town property
- Whether serving alcohol on DCR property was permissible under the terms of the lease
- Protocol and possible placement of food trucks – basketball court, other ADA accessible location, Board of Health approval

The rink and parking lot are leased to the town by DCR and the Commission agreed that they do not have the jurisdiction to approve the event. Ms. Waden will contact Town Counsel, the Select Board and DCR.

Ms. Canniff made a motion to deny the event request, recommending a new request to include food trucks only, pending DCR review, with the potential use of the basketball court or other ADA accessible space. Ms. Mayer seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

## **Discussions**

**Pickleball Noise Complaints** – Multiple complaints from Grove Street abutters. Ms. Waden has researched ways to mitigate noise, including acoustic panels, vegetation and quieter equipment options now being offered by pickleball manufacturers.

Ms. Canniff – Pickleball noise is affecting Grove Street abutters 13 hours per day, 365 days per year. Many of the abutters are living in affordable housing and cannot afford to move. Ms. Rothenberg noted that Crosby abutters will likely have the same issues and complaints. Mr. Fenollosa also stated that property value would decrease due to the proximity to the courts.

Ms. Canniff – Also stated that through her research she has discovered that many cities/towns have banned pickleball on public outdoor courts due to noise complaints. Pickleball players use private/indoor courts. It was noted that in 2018-2019 Arlington Recreation hosted open-play pickleball two evenings per week in the Hardy School gym. A per player fee was charged to cover the janitorial and staffing expenses.

Ms. Waden – Will reach out to pickleball community and abutters from Grove St and Crosby to join a subcommittee to discuss noise mitigation. One or two Commissioners will be a part of the subcommittee.

Ms. Rothenberg – Recommended adding the topic to the next agenda and discuss the possibility of locking the gated courts through the winter.

**Leslie Ellis School – Use of Reciprocal Space** – Ms. Waden shared the “Access Easement Agreement” which states, in part, that Leslie Ellis grants access easement to Town and users “for the purpose of vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress over the access easement to the Town Recreational Parcel and area indicated as “Town Parking Lot on the plan”.

Leslie Ellis states that through the agreement, they were awarded exclusive use of Crosby field and playground from 8am – 3:30pm everyday at a rate of \$1000 per year. Nothing has been found in writing regarding exclusive use or the amount of the fee. Ms. Waden will contact Leslie Ellis to provide a copy of the substantiating documentation.

The Commission discussed “exclusive use”. It was noted that no other school in Arlington has exclusive use to town property for an entire school day and that even during school hours, town property is shared with the public. In years past, Arlington Recreation had discussed permitting/scheduling park and playground use to preschools who were monopolizing the parks and playgrounds during the day and advertising them as their outdoor space. The effort was met with resistance at the time. The Commission noted that continued overuse decreases equipment’s usable life. The Commission also stressed the need for a maintenance fund and plan.

Ms. Canniff had to leave the meeting at this time. Abiding by public meeting by-laws, the meeting continued but no voting is permitted for the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Waden will invite Leslie Ellis to discuss the permit, annual fee and scheduling exclusive use.

**Invasive Removal Form/Application** – Ms. Waden and Ms. Duggan completed a draft of the form/application, based on the Town of Weston’s, for review. Ms. Waden outlined the required information: applicant information, location details, project details (specific time frame, use of chemicals, restoration plan if applicable), color photos and/or sketches and process for approving requests.

Ms. Rothenberg – Who would be paying for the work? Who is liable? She recommended consulting ConCom about requests involving chemical use.

Mr. Fenollosa - Applicants should be required to identify who is doing the work (self, subcontractor, etc)

Ms. Mayer – How many people/volunteers are expected at each event? Ms. Waden said that Land Stewards are required to sign waivers that cover themselves and everyone volunteering/working with them.

Ms. Duggan will incorporate the additions discussed this evening and distribute an updated copy to the Commission for review.

Ms. Crowder (ARMI) – Noted that negotiations with disposal companies are affecting yard waste removal. The application should include a clear disposal process. Ms. Waden and Ms. Bongiorno are consulting C. Milan.

### **Capital Plan Updates**

**Menotomy Rocks Park** – Fencing is up. Opening anticipated for spring 2026.

**Crosby Court Design** – Public survey is posted on the Recreation website. Activitas will share the results at the Commission meeting on November 18, 2025.

**FY27 CPA Application** – N/A

### **Director Updates**

**Department Updates** – N/A

**Staff Updates** – N/A

**Program Updates** – N/A

### **Field/Playground Updates**

- **Cutter Reinhart** – Ms. Waden stated that she heard from several Commissioners individually after the last meeting regarding their concerns about not having an updated playground inspection on record. Ms. Mayer noted that all discussion about a topic that had already been voted on must be held during public meetings.

### **Correspondence Received**

**Poets Corner** – Abutter requesting a progress update on Poets Corner, expressing disappointment in the current state of the park/playground. There are no current updates.

**Parallel Park Fence** - Abutter expressed disappointment that the fence was not replaced as a part of the project. Ms. Waden replied to the individual and explained funding limitations. Another individual sent an email stating that they were disappointed in the length of time the project took and with the finalized playground (no slide).

**Grove Street Court Concerns** – Email regarding concerns about individual monopolizing court reservations and escalating conflicts with the individual at the courts.

### **Comments and Items for Future Meetings**

- Review Commission Charter
- Special Event Policies - Ms. Duggan is continuing to work on the policy. Will share with Commission for review and feedback.
- Adoption of Donation Policy – Need to take a formal vote to adopt, no quorum tonight.
- Tennis/Pickleball Court Closures
- Cutter Reinhart Inspection
- Invasive Application Review

### **New Business**

- Ed Burns Parking Lot Study – User group discussion
- Mr. Fenollosa - Signs posted at Crusher Lot were part of a science class scavenger hunt
- Owl died from strangulation by fishing line at Spy Pond

### **Public Comment**

Elaine Crowder – Thanked Ms. Waden and Ms. Duggan for their work on the Invasive Removal Application. She made the following recommendations:

- Flexibility to engage volunteers
- Disposal policies
- Use of GIS maps v sketches (include resource areas and buffer zones)
- Deemphasize chemical use on public land/open space
- Add native plants to restoration

Ms. Rothenberg called for the meeting to adjourn at 9:05pm.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Anderson.