



Regular Meeting of the Longmeadow Board of Park Commissioners

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Location: Zoom Meeting

Longmeadow, MA 01106

**Present:** Chair Rakas, Vice Chair Horowitz, Commissioner Berke, Commissioner Rintoul and Director Jarvis

- I. Public Participation-** Dr. Marc Haber spoke as a Little League coach and expressed concerns over outside use of Turner Park citing community issues concerning crowding/parking, COVID-19 compliance and inequity in field allocation and the desire to have (1) baseball sponsored association in town rather than (2).

Gina Pantuosco spoke as a Longmeadow Soccer Association (LSA) coach and expressed concerns regarding issues concerning her team placement, significant communication issues within the LSA Board and allegations of gender discrimination by the VP of Travel and other Board members.

Amie Tracy spoke as an LSA parent and shared concerns regarding female athlete discrimination, request for consideration to evaluate current by-laws to be updated to create checks and balances to avoid overuse/misuse of power; specifically, by the VP of Travel position.

Eric Tracy spoke as an LSA parent to ask for by-law review and express concerns over gender discrimination.

Aleks Mitreski spoke as an LSA Board member and expressed offense at allegations of gender discrimination and affirmed no gender bias. He apologized for the error in team placement and stated it was not intentional he was one of 18 Board members who reviewed prior to submission.

Brian Kellher spoke as Registrar for LSA and apologized for the incorrect team submission.

Michael D'Angelo spoke as an LSA Board member and offered character reference for the LSA Board member who is accused of gender bias.

Dr. Lynn Pantuosco-Hensch spoke as LSA President about the need to evaluate and update the flawed by-laws; citing the example of lack of power by the President to act on certain issues due to current wording.

- II. Approval of the August 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes** - A motion was made by Commissioner Rintoul to accept the August meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Horowitz. Individual roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously, without descent.
- III. Community Preservation Committee Update-** Commissioner Rintoul stated the CPC has ongoing discussions on open-ended, existing projects with particular attention to Wolf Swamp and Blueberry Hill School field improvements.
- IV. Parks & Recreation Department Financials-** Director Jarvis reported that FY20 end financials are being finalized and shared the August Town Manager report for review.
- V. Old Business**
- a. **Wolf Swamp Project update** - Director Jarvis reported that the project was awarded and under the review of the AG.

- b. **Adult Center/COA Building Update-** Director Jarvis has continued to send out weekly reports on the construction and informed the Board the pickle ball courts are currently being laid out.
- c. **Open Space Plan Update-** Public comment period ends 9/17 and the final committee meeting is scheduled for 9/23.
- d. **Skate Park discussion-** Commissioner Berke reported the group is meeting and still vetting locations and park amenities and structures. The desired footprint is similar to (2) tennis courts.

**VI. New Business**

- a. **Next meeting-** 10/13 @ 6pm via Zoom
- b. **Longmeadow Baseball Association-** Jeff Evans and Dave Steinberg spoke regarding use of Turner Park. LBA is allocated use on Saturdays and Wednesdays only and hope to continue the current arrangement where Longmeadow hosts other community teams and is reciprocated by Longmeadow using field in other communities. Commissioner Horowitz volunteered to interview Mr. Evans and Dr. Haber (Little League) to understand the objections.
- c. **New Chair/Vice Chair-** Vice Chair Horowitz made the motion to select Chair Rakas as continued Chair and Commissioner Berke as Vice Chair. Commissioner Rintoul seconded the motion. Individual roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously, without descent.

**VII. Announcements-** None

**VIII. Adjournment-** A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Horowitz, and seconded by Commissioner Rintoul. Individual roll call vote was taken and the motion was carried unanimously, without descent.

**IX.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bari B. Jarvis, Recording Secretary*