

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
June 27, 2022**

PRESENT: Christopher Gerstel, Cynthia Chaston, Dina Hannigan

ABSENT: Michelle Geddes

STAFF: Stacey Mulroy, Fabien Desrouleaux, Kristen Wright

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00PM in the Multipurpose room at the Rosemary Recreation Complex.

1. Open Forum – Public Comment

Ms. Lindsay Page, and advocate for a town action park, asked for a status update on the pop-up skate park. Mr. Gerstel stated that it would be sometime in the next week and the Park and Recreation Department was coordinating with the DPW – Parks and Forestry team. Ms. Page asked about a planning meeting regarding all upcoming Park and Recreation projects. Ms. Chaston stated that the Commission was planning on meeting at some point this summer with members of the Select Board for a brainstorming session as there are a lot of competing interests. Ms. Page stated she would be happy to provide any documents to help support moving forward with building an action park in town.

2. Chair's Update

No update was presented.

3. Charles River Boat Launch

Mr. Gerstel stated that there would be meetings with the abutters and various boards in July to discuss the next steps for the project.

4. Director's Report

Ms. Mulroy reviewed the Director's Report.

Ms. Chaston stated she has received very positive reviews of the programming the Department is running this summer, especially regarding the fabulous staff.

The Commission discussed opening weekend at the Pools, the Park restrooms around Town and the Administrative Specialist position.

5A. New Commissioner Updates

In regards to the appointment of a new Park and Recreation Commissioner to complete Mr. Williams term, Mr. Gerstel stated that an interview panel consisting of himself, Support Service Manager Myles Tucker, Marcus Nelson from the Select Board, and Director of Park and Recreation Stacey Mulroy. Mr. Gerstel further stated that the interview panel has two leading candidates that they will be discussing at the next Select Board meeting.

The Commission decided to discuss the appointment of a member to the Rail Trail Advisory Committee at the next meeting.

5B. Outdoor Bathrooms & Porta-potties

The Commission discussed the various outstanding issues with the current outdoor bathrooms and the location that need porta-potties.

5C. Capital Projects

The Commission discussed the current design documents of McLeod Field and will be getting preliminary feedback from the user groups.

Ms. Mulroy discussed the current design documents of Claxton Field and an option to add walking paths along the perimeter, similar to the fields at Newman.

5D. CPC

Ms. Hannigan stated that she was unable to attend the June meeting. Ms. Wright stated that the CPC will be working on updating Needham's Community Preservation Plan and will be seeking feedback from the Commission on their project priorities that may be eligible for funding with CPA funds. Ms. Wright reported the next meeting will be in mid-July.

5E. Playgrounds & Facilities

Ms. Mulroy provided the Commission with an update on Greene's field. Ms. Mulroy stated that a single bid was received, and we are working with the vendor to get the contract in place for the work to begin.

Mr. Gerstel stated that at the meeting they will be holding with the Select Board, the Commission will also be discussing playgrounds.

5F. Facilities

The Commission discussed the dock at Rosemary Lake and the use of user group nets by the public. Ms. Hannigan stated that locks had been placed on some nets and the locks were cut or the nets were dragged out while still attached to the fence.

The Commission also discussed painting lines at the Pollard outdoor courts. Ms. Mulroy stated that the Department would provide the paint and volunteers from the main pickleball group would complete the painting. Ms. Mulroy stated that this could serve as a temporary homebase for pickleball groups. The Commission stated that with a primary location, they would be considering a badge fee for the use of the courts.

The Commission further discussed the action park and the location of the pop-up skate park at a parking lot in Pollard.

Ms. Mulroy stated that the Department was contacted by a resident that wanted to donate a gaga pit to the Town to be installed at Cricket Field. The Commission discussed involving DPW for approval of

a location that is not contrary to their field maintenance needs as well as submitting the approval for the donation to the Select Board before the gaga pit could be installed anywhere.

6A. Special Event Approvals

Charles River Regional Chamber – Harvest Fair

Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the Harvest Fair event be held by the Charles River Regional Chamber on Sunday, October 2nd, 2022 from 9:00am – 4:00pm at Greene’s Field Multipurpose Field with no fee. Ms. Chaston seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Needham Exchange Club – Summer Outing

Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the Summer Outing be held by the Needham Exchange Club on Thursday, August 25 from 4:30pm – 8:30pm at Greene’s Field Multipurpose Field with no fee. Ms. Chaston seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Charles River Center – Ellie Bloom Olympics

Ms. Hannigan made a motion to approve the Ellie Bloom Olympics event be held by the Charles River Center on Sunday, September 17 from 6:00am - 3:00pm at the DeFazio Track, Greenspace, and Pavilion with no fee. Ms. Chaston seconded the motion and it passed 3-0

6B. Meeting Minutes

Ms. Chaston made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 23, 2022. Ms. Hannigan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

7. Topics for Future Meetings

- Tennis Court Design
- User Group Fees (Sept/Oct)
- Project Priorities – Playgrounds and other facilities
- Shade Structures at the Pools
- Needham Exchange Club Day of Giving

8. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours

None presented.

9. Next Meetings

The Commission reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

11. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Ms. Hannigan moved to adjourn the June 27, 2022, Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:39pm. Ms. Chaston seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright
Recording Secretary