

**Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
October 16th, 2024 @ 7:00pm**

Present: Christopher Gerstel (Chair), Michelle Geddes (Vice-Chair), Cynthia Chaston (Member), Dina Hannigan (Member), Stacey Mulroy (Director), Hannah Corrigan (Assistant Director)

Absent: James Rosenbaum (Member)

Guests: Bob Baker (Disc Golf), Mark Howe (Disc Golf), Erik Bakstran (George Aggott Road)

Call to Order

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, October 16th, 2024.

1. Open Forum Public Comment

Mark Howe addressed the Commission, voicing his support for a disc golf course in the Town Forest. He went on to discuss his son's growing interest in the sport and what he believed to be the benefits of bringing disc golf to Needham, emphasizing the inclusivity of the sport. Bob Baker asked about the timeline for having the previously proposed disc golf course designed, to which Stacey replied that it likely will not go in front of the Community Preservation Committee this year due to the large volume of other projects already being submitted for consideration. Cynthia added that the Commission wholly supports the disc golf project and would like to move things forward in 2025.

Erik Bakstran approached the Commission to ask about updates regarding the large volume of traffic on George Aggott Road, across from DeFazio Park. Chris met with the Traffic Safety Committee, who will be creating signs to manage on-street parking after further consultation with area residents. Stacey added that the Department is communicating with user groups in an attempt to ease congestion in residential areas.

2. Meeting Guests

See above.

3. Chair's Update

None.

4. Director's Report

We are halfway through the Fall season and have reached out to our user groups for their player rosters. Once received, we will invoice each group for their Field Fees. If groups use athletic lights, we will bill those fees separately at the end of the season. There was some fence damage at Memorial Field. DPW and NPD are investigating the cause as we also research the cost to fix the fence. A group from Perry Park has contacted the office about upgrading the playground. Stacey will meet with them and let them know that it is already on our Capital Plan and how that process goes.

We have submitted a Capital Project for Design for FY26 for the Active Recreation Feasibility Study. Claxton has been officially closed and Cataldo has started construction. At our last meeting, the Commission requested that we pump the breaks on the DeFazio Playground project. Since that time, Stacey has spoken with Town Management and PPBC regarding the Pollard Middle School project and the potential

sites that the designers will be researching. The DeFazio Tot Lot area is one of the spots that they will consider for the school and/or potentially the lay down area for the project. Stacey recommends that we pause this project until we have a better understanding of where the Pollard Middle School Project will be located. Chris Gerstel has agreed to speak at Town Meeting if any questions arise regarding the Needham High School Tennis Court project. Barry Coffman, from FinCom, will be presenting the project. Stacey will be meeting with him this week to go over any questions he may have. Our CPC liaisons are Paul Dawson and Keith LaFace.

5. Discussion Items

See Director's Report.

6. Action Items & Approvals

6A. Special Event Approvals

Horsford Pond Geocache Meet-Up

Motion: Chris

Second: Dina

Vote: 4-0

6B. Policy Approvals

None.

6C. Fee Approvals

None.

6D. Previous Meetings' Minutes

Minutes of 9/9/2024

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

7. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours

None.

8. Topics for Future Meetings

Michelle raised concerns about parking at DeFazio and would like to explore permit restrictions in regards to the number of cars allowed per event.

9. Next Meetings

- Monday, October 28th, 2024
- Wednesday, November 25th, 2024
- Monday, December 9th, 2024

10. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm, October 16th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dominic Stanganelli
Administrative Assistant*

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