

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

January 13th, 2025 @ 7:00pm

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

Call to Order

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, January 13th, 2025.

1. Open Forum Public Comment

None.

2. Meeting Guests

None.

3. Chair's Update

None.

4. Director's Report

The Department has seen 585 total registrations and just under \$90,000 in revenue since opening Winter and Spring program registration on December 4th, 2024. The average capacity of programs is 30%, with 24 programs seeing more than 70% capacity. Out of 121 programs, only 3 were canceled due to insufficient registrations.

In the upcoming year, the Department will explore the possibility of keeping tennis courts open year-round, weather depending. Until a formal decision is made, however, the 2025 court badges will remain active for the same period as 2024 – April through October. The Department has continued to work with Weston & Sampson on specific details and dates regarding the 2025 pool opening. Hannah has been working to redefine our swim lesson programs and add more aquatic programs for different age groups.

Online applications for both camps and the Rosemary Pools are now available online. Our full-time staff is creating a more robust training program for all summer staff, and we hope to involve members of the Commission, as well as folks from other Town departments, to join and participate.

Questions posed by the CPC regarding the Action Sports Park and Eliot School renovations have been answered and returned for consideration. Our first presentation to the CPC will occur on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025. This year's

operating budget is increasing by 2.8% and Stacey has a tentative meeting with the Finance Committee on February 5th, 2025.

Work at Claxton is continuing as weather permits, with concrete laid and the walkway subgrade stone layer partially installed. Irrigation work is on hold due to ground freezing, and Cataldo will shift to fencing and backstop installation is temperatures do not improve. Electrical panel work will also see a pause until the freezing temperatures give way.

5. Discussion Items

With the Field Summit coming up, Dina raised concerns about user groups swapping permitted time amongst themselves, with the Commission all agreeing that it shouldn't be allowed. Stacey stated that the field user manual states that any permitted field time changes must receive Departmental approval. The Commission unanimously agreed that they must explore updates to the rule and what recourse the Department can take against those who violate it. The Commission went on to review the Field Summit agenda.

Stacey brought attention to the fact that Needham High School will be unavailable for Tennis Academy, our largest summer camp program in terms of both attendees and revenue. The Newman School tennis courts are an option, but there is concern surrounding their proximity to the school as summer renovations will see the removal of hazardous waste, such as asbestos. The Commission asked about the actual risk level, to which Stacey replied she would consult with the Town's Public Health nurses and the Scholl Department. In order to further mitigate risk, Stacey raised the idea of truncating the program to half-day one.

Stacey recommended cuts to seasonal pool pass prices and raises to daily passes in an effort to boost membership. Changes to daily passes will also likely include the removal of the family maximum and late-night pricing. In addition to a reduced rate, the Commission was in agreement on the idea of early-bird pricing, citing success in past years. Stacey replied that we are open to it and will explore how to automate the early bird pricing in our MyRec system.

6. Action Items & Approvals

a. Special Event Approvals

None.

b. Policy Approvals

None.

c. Fee Approvals

None.

d. *Previous Meetings' Minutes*
Minutes of 12/09/2024
Motion: Cynthia
Second: Dina
Vote: 5-0

7. **Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours**

None.

8. **Topics for Future Meetings**

Off-leash dog policy and athletic space improvements from Town Managers.

9. **Next Meetings**

- Monday, January 27th, 2025
- Monday, February 10th, 2025
- Monday, February 24th, 2025

10. **Adjournment of Business Meeting**

Motion: Cynthia
Second: Dina
Vote: 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm, January 13th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominic Stanganelli

Administrative Assistant