

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

**Minutes of Meeting
June 22, 2015**

PRESENT: David DiCicco, Chairman
Matthew M. Toolan, Vice Chairman
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director

Christopher J. Gerstel attended the PPBC meeting this evening to represent the Commission.

ABSENT: Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Katy Dirks, Community Center of Needham
Connie Kaufman, YMCA Board Member
Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board Member

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting – June 8, 2015:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 8, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** Ms. Carey reported that a new site would be discussed at this evening's PPBC meeting which could possibly be a site for the Hillside School. The owners of Owen's Poultry Farm have approached the Town to discuss the possibility of a sale. Mr. DiCicco has spoken to some state representatives about the CPA funding. He has heard general support for adding some of the end of the fiscal year surplus to the fund, but not much support for the proposal to insure that the fund provides 50% matching funds to communities.
- 3. Program Report:** Ms. Carey reported that the program staff training is well underway, and the majority of training for the pool staff is complete. Due to the amount of hours Ms. Fink has been putting into the training sessions, Ms. Carey recommended that Ms. Fink not attend the Commission meeting this evening. Mr. Retzky asked what a typical percentage of returning summer employees is each year. Ms. Carey noted that the programs are usually about 75% returning and the pool is generally about 60%. The pool had less return this year, but the staff is just about full. Ms. Carey noted that all state requirements had been passed by June 22nd for the pool water quality, but the Health Department asked for double sets of results, so the pool will open a day or two late. She

noted that the late winter and the spring drought had placed the opening of pool in jeopardy, so that it is amazing that it will open during the anticipated first week.

4. Discussion Items

A. Rosemary Pool Design: Ms. Carey noted that proposals are due on June 24th, and then a decision will be made on which companies will be interviewed, scheduled for the PPBC's July 13th meeting. Mr. Retzky attended a two day seminar in Connecticut providing guidance on building pools. Most of the examples were for indoor pools. The major need for pools is providing Learn-to-Swim programs. Mr. Retzky reported that pools need to be built in a location where they will be used, as some have been built where there aren't enough users, or where the on-going maintenance hasn't been funded, so they have been closed down. The seminar presenter discussed the different needs of pool users. For an outdoor pool, if two pools are built for differing purposes, it is possible to enclose one for extended use, but that bubbles and glass enclosures were not recommended. Mr. DiCicco viewed a sample pool layout with four different sections. He asked how water temperatures were handled, as some uses required cooler water and some required warmer water. Mr. Retzky said if there was one pool, the temperatures had to be adjusted, but that it took time for the change to occur. He said that colder temperatures were preferred by swim teams, but that it was hard for young children to adapt to that without much body fat to protect them.

B. Rosemary Pool Design Advisory Committee: Mr. DiCicco stated that the Commission needed to determine how the advisory group would be appointed at the next meeting. He suggested that the core group not be too large, but to also find ways for the public to provide input through the process. Mr. Toolan would like to have representation from current Rosemary users as well as those who don't currently use the pool. Mr. DiCicco would also like to make sure that the process moves forward and that all information from the prior study not be revisited. He stated it was important to have estimates on operating costs, with estimates for the outdoor pool and possible indoor pool. Mr. Retzky agreed and suggested that the committee be advertised to get the most diversity of applicants, but to also invite others to attend meetings. Mr. Toolan felt it was important for the chosen members to show they are able to commit to the time frame and participate. Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Toolan will work on an update of Ms. Carey's draft for the next meeting. CCN member Katy Dirks noted that CCN is prepared to do fundraising to help raise funds to cover the difference between the outdoor pool and creating a portion as an indoor pool. YMCA board member Janet Jankowiak asked if the YMCA would be asked to be on the advisory committee or help in another way. Mr. DiCicco felt it was important to be part of later discussions.

- C. School Feasibility Study:** Mr. Gerstel will provide an update on this evening's joint PPBC/School Committee meeting on the Hillside project at the next meeting.
- D. Newman/Eastman Projects Update:** Ms. Carey reported that work is expected to begin later this week, once school is out of session, with erosion control put in place as a first step. Mr. Toolan asked about the installation of athletic field lights. Ms. Carey noted that none of the youth sports programs had expressed interest in them, and Mr. Retzky added that it would not be difficult to add in at a later date.
- E. Trash at Parks:** Ms. Carey and RTS Superintendent Greg Smith had a follow-up meeting with representatives from Big Belly. She explained the challenges with Memorial Park and its various points of entries, and hopes that the plan they provide will show an option that could help. Mr. Toolan noted that Big Belly's can have advertising wraps added, which could possibly be a source of revenue to help fund the lease program. Ms. Carey noted that non-advertising wraps would be considered for the Town Common, with historic photos added to create more of a connection to the National Register site.
- F. Community Preservation Proposed Legislation:** Ms. Carey was one of five speakers to the Joint Committee on Revenue at the State House recently. She also visited with staff from Rep. Garlick and Sen. Rush's offices, as well as with Sen. Ross.
- G. Commission Regulations, Policies, Goals:** Mr. DiCicco would like all members to be present for the discussion. Mr. DiCicco will ask to meet with Mrs. Chaston to prepare some of the information prior to the next meeting.

5. Action Items: None presented

6. Topics for Future Agendas: None presented

7. Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toolan and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP
Director