

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Minutes of Meeting June 9, 2008

PRESENT: Christopher R. Dollase, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chair
William R. Dermody, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Philip V. Robey, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident
Steve Scherneck, Needham Junior Football
Mike Retzky, Needham Junior Football

The meeting convened at 7:05PM in the Selectmen's Meeting room located in the Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting:** None presented.
2. **Financial Report:** None presented.
3. **Correspondence:** Ms. Carey shared a letter from a student, Beth Abrahamian, regarding an idea to have a dog park in Needham. Ms. Carey replied in writing thanking her for her idea and highlighting some of the issues pertaining to dog parks.
4. **Assistant Director's Report:** Discussed later in the meeting
5. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Needham Junior Football Request- Steve Scherneck and Mike Retzky:**

Mike Retzky indicated that Junior Football would like to donate money to replace the light poles at Claxton field so that Junior Football can use the field more effectively after dark in the fall. He has done some research with Lizer Electric Company and he has met with Parks and Forestry Superintendent Lance Remsen and has an estimate of the project cost at \$3500. Lance Remsen indicated he may have approximately \$2000 and some materials and supplies to assist this project. Mr. Dollase indicated that in the future in-season sports should have priority on the fields and Junior Football should be at Memorial Park. Mike Retzky would prefer to have practices on Memorial Park Field because it is set up as a football field which Claxton is not. Mr. Dermody made a motion to approve the donation to replace the light poles at Claxton field. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

4. **Assistant Director's Report:** Mr. Dermody requested a list of the summer staff members. Ms. Peirce gave an update on the summer staff hiring and staff training schedule for the programs pool and volunteers.
 - B. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.
 - C. **Field Construction Update: Ms. Carey** reported that the Memorial Park renovation is moving along. Lights and drainage will be installed soon. The company is ready to move over to DeFazio Park to begin construction there. The Babe Ruth League is will continue to use Field # 9. Mike Retzky and Jim Mitrano are doing a great job running the weekly construction meetings. Mr. Robey asked if someone was taking care of the McLeod plaque. Ms. Carey said the DPW was taking care of it.
 - D. **Rosemary Pool Spring Projects:** The DPW has finished the exterior piping. The new asphalt is down and the delivery people have been great about staying off the asphalt while it settles. The filter room overhead door has been replaced. The Town plumber has repaired the elements in the handicapped bathrooms. The butterfly valves have been adjusted and oiled and the dam valve has been tightened. The electrician at Hillcrest electric has replaced the interior lights in the main part of the building. The carpenter is scheduled to replace the exterior doors. The split rail fence in the parking lot will also be replaced. Mr. Dermody suggested the Commission host a pool rededication and invite all of the DPW staff who have helped get Rosemary Pool ready this year.
 - E. **McCracken Property Update:** Ms. Carey reported that the McCracken property has been sold. They new owners lawyer has spoken to the Town Manager.
 - F. **Commission's Annual Goals and Important Issues:**
 - Mrs. Chaston- Open Space
 - Mr. Dollase- Recreation
 - Mr. Nadler- Fields and Facilities
 - Mr. Dermody- Funding
 - Mr. Robey- Operations & CommunicationMs. Carey will review the Annual Goals and Important Issues for an upcoming meeting. Mr. Dermody asked if the Commission is ready to take a position about the Town Hall renovation at the upcoming Town Hall Summit. Mr. Dollase noted that the Commission took a position to support Option 1 for Town Meeting and he recommended the Commission stick with support for Option 1. Mr. Nadler brought up the role of the Community Preservation Committee is to review the applications for CPC funding but he would like to be viewed as a CPC member representing the views of the Park and Recreation Commission. He would like to inform the CPC members that the Park and Recreation Director and the Commissioners agree the great hall would not benefit the Park and Recreation programs. Ms. Carey indicated it is not a voting Summit, it is a Summit to share ideas. Ms. Carey has a list of questions that she prepared regarding the use of a great hall. She will forward the list to the Commissioners prior to the Town Hall Summit.

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G. **Other Business:** Ms. Carey will have details regarding the upcoming Field Summit ready for the Commission later in the week. Issues to be discussed are fall and spring seasons, future needs, Health Department concerns and rules for using the synthetic turf fields regarding beverages, trash and animals. Mrs. Chaston indicated she will be meeting with the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Lisa Standley from the Conservation Commission on June 11th to discuss the plans for the Trail Study to be presented to the Town.

6. **Action Items:**

A. None presented.

7. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:50 PM. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director