

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

**Minutes of Meeting
January 26, 2009**

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

GUESTS: Tom Jacob, Candidate

The meeting convened at 6:03PM at the Broadmeadow School Performance Center.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting January 12, 2009:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the minutes from the January 12, 2009 meeting were approved.
- 2. Financial Report:** Ms. Carey presented the financial report for December 2008. There were no significant changes from the last report.
- 3. Correspondence**
 - A. None Presented.**
- 4. Assistant Director Report:** Ms. Peirce attended the Needham Youth Commission Patrick Forde Good Person Award prior to attending the Commission meeting. Clyde Weihe "Solar Sam" was honored as the Good Person of the Year. Over the years Solar Sam has visited many recreational programs teaching children about solar powered machines and providing a fun learning experience for hundreds of children.
- 5. Discussion Items:**
 - A. Director's Report:** A written report was submitted prior to the meeting. In her report Ms. Carey added the two policies related to the naming of fields. At an upcoming meeting the Needham Sports Council will be presenting some name recommendations for review related to DeFazio Park. Once the Commission reviews the recommendations the names will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee for their approval. Ms. Carey is working with the Needham Channel to televise the Commission meeting when the recommendations are made to provide more community input to the final votes of the three boards.

B. Rosemary Pool Schedule: In her Director's Report, Ms. Carey encouraged the Commissioners to begin a conversation regarding staffing and scheduling at Rosemary Pool. The Commissioners discussed the length of the season and the impact of closing dates on the public and on the staff members. The Commissioners encouraged the Director and Assistant Director to look into flexible staff scheduling which may help to hire enough staff to cover the entire 10 week season. Recommendations for pool scheduling will be presented at a future meeting.

C. Field Scheduling Update: Ms. Carey received the High School Sports schedule from the Athletic Director John Palmer. Mr. Palmer has requested 2 nights for the Girls Softball Team to play under the lights at Claxton Field. There were also requests for varsity teams to practice on Saturdays and Sundays. Ms. Carey recommended Mr. Palmer take into account the youth schedules on the weekends and schedule the varsity practices either before or after the youth sports. Once Ms. Carey receives the special event requests from all of the schools she can move on to the youth and adult spring field scheduling. Ms. Carey has forwarded a special event request from Olin College to the Memorial Park Trustees. They would like to host an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament at Memorial Park in the spring.

D. Updates from Town Manager: Mrs. Chaston and Ms. Carey recently met with Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick to share a few concerns from the Park and Recreation Commission. Currently the Senior Center Committee is discussing locations for a new Senior Center. Locations they have considered include Perry Park, Greene's Field, Ridge Hill Reservation and DeFazio Park. Mrs. Fitzpatrick told Mrs. Chaston that a representative from the Park and Recreation Commission is welcome to attend the Senior Center meetings. Also the minutes from each meeting can be requested. Mrs. Chaston also indicated that the Park and Recreation Commission would like to advocate for an increase in the Parks and Forestry budget. Ms. Carey also informed Mrs. Fitzpatrick about the possibility of transferring some land to the Park and Recreation Commission jurisdiction. Land to be considered will include Perry Park, Avery Field, Dwight Field and Greene's Field. Ms. Carey also mentioned that one of the proposals for the Newman School renovation included using tennis courts as a parking lot. Mrs. Chaston wrote a letter to the PPBC Chairman indicating the impact that decision would have on the community members who use the tennis courts, playing fields and playground area.

E. Commission's Important Issues: Mrs. Chaston asked to add the Commissioners Important Issues to the agenda for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

- F. Other Business:** Mr. Dermody announced that he will not seek re-election to the Park and Recreation Commission. Mrs. Chaston and the other members thanked Mr. Dermody for his years of service to the community as a Commissioner.
- 6. Action Items:**
- A. Special Event Request: NE Orienteering Club:** Ms. Carey received a request from the NE Orienteering Club to host an Orienteering Meet on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 9:00 to 3:00 in the Town Forest. Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the request to host an Orienteering Meet on Saturday April 4, 2009 at the Town Forest. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Dermody made a motion to adjourn the meeting 6:59 PM. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 6:59PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director