

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

**Minutes of Meeting
February 23, 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: Bob Cohen, Resident
Tom Jacob, Candidate

The meeting convened at 7:00PM at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room located in Town Hall.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting February 9, 2009:** Ms. Peirce noted that the following changes need to be added to the meeting minutes:
 - Add David DiCicco, Memorial Park Trustee to the guest list
 - Page 2 D. Field Construction Update-an s needs to be removed from Mr. Jacob's name.
 - Page 3 H. Other Business- Mrs. Chaston stated she was not in attendance at the Finance Committee meeting. The correct name of the Chairman of the Board of Health is Peter Connolly not Michael Connolly.Mr. Robey made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the amended minutes from the February 9, 2009 meeting were approved.
- 2. Financial Report:** None Presented.
- 3. Correspondence**
 - A. Public Meeting on Athletic Field Lights:** Ms. Carey shared the information regarding the Public Meeting to be held on February 25, 2009 with the Memorial Park Trustees and the Park and Recreation Commission to invite the public to comment on the use of athletic field lights during the fall 2008 season at Memorial Park.
- 4. Assistant Director Report:** Ms. Peirce reported that the February school vacation week programs were very successful. All but one program was filled. A confirmation letter was received from the Cultural Council confirming an \$800 grant to be used towards the Arts in the Parks summer series. All Arts in the

Parks performers have been scheduled and one more is needed for the Children's Theatre series. Michelle Zimmerman has accepted the Summer Recreation Supervisor position and Kim Fitzgerald accepted the Assistant Recreation Supervisor position for the summer of 2009. Ms. Carey and Ms. Peirce will continue interviewing applicants for summer positions.

5. Discussion Items:

A. Director's Report: None Presented.

B. Operating and Capital Budget Update: Ms. Carey shared a copy of a letter from the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has recommended not funding the organic fertilizer program as requested by the Parks and Forestry Superintendent but will consider it if more funds become available. Instead, DPW will continue to use the synthetic fertilizer on the natural turf fields. Ms. Carey will speak to Mr. Remsen to review the difference between organic and synthetic fertilizer products which she will share the information with the Commissioners

C. Community Preservation Update: Ms. Carey announced that the Town Manager withdrew the Trails Coordinator position from the CPC project list. The Conservation Commission will attend the next CPC meeting to discuss the accessible trails project at the Reservoir. Senator Scott Brown and Representative Lida Harkins have both signed on to the CPC legislation to amend the Community Preservation Act to ensure lasting success, broadening CPA participation and clarifying allowable uses to promote sustainable communities.

D. Field Construction Update: No changes reported.

E. Field Scheduling Update: Ms. Carey reported that most of the field user groups have been able to work out the field use conflicts. One of the areas that still need to be scheduled is Claxton Field and Ms. Carey is working with the groups to complete the schedule.

F. Board of Health Field Testing: Mr. Nadler attended the Board of Health meeting held on Friday, February 13th. Although synthetic turf testing was not listed on their agenda, he asked some questions about the testing process. Mr. Nadler reported that the Board of Health members are pursuing testing to collect data to develop a baseline. They are monitoring information coming from the states of California and Connecticut regarding synthetic turf. Mr. Nadler asked how they were planning to disseminate information once the testing was completed. They assured him that they would work closely with Ms. Carey on the test results before anything is disseminated. The funding they requested was to hire an environmental company to do the testing although it is not clear at this time who will be doing the testing. Mr. Nadler suggested the Commission have a joint meeting with the Board of Health. Mrs. Chaston suggested this topic be discussed when the Town Manager is present at a Park and Recreation

Commission meeting. Mr. Nadler indicated to the Board of Health he was not at the BOH meeting on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission. He indicated to them that both boards have common interest in providing safe fields. Mrs. Chaston thanked Mr. Nadler for attending the meeting. Mr. Jacob expressed concern that the BOH is not testing natural turf fields to see how it compares to the synthetic turf testing results. He also noted that the Park and Recreation Commission should be aware of the procedure the BOH will use to test the fields.

G. Commission Important Issues: Mr. Nadler will report on his progress at an upcoming Commission meeting.

H. Other Business: Ms. Carey announced that the Sports Council will be coming forward with recommendations for naming requests at a Commission meeting in March. She suggested moving that meeting to a larger venue.

6. Action Items:

A. Special Event Requests: Mr. Dermody made a motion to approve all of the Spring/Summer 2009 Special Event Requests as presented by Ms. Carey in a memo dated February 23, 2009 and included as Attachment A except the Olin College Ultimate Frisbee Tournament on April 4, 5 at DeFazio and the Girls Lacrosse Clinics on March 17-26 at Memorial Park. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Ms. Carey will be recommending that the Needham Soccer Club place a portable toilet at Cricket Field for the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament.

7. Adjournment: Mr. Dollase made a motion to adjourn the meeting 8:01 PM. Mr. Dermody seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director