

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 8, 2010

*Background notes for Monday, January 11th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MONDAY'S MEETING

Reminder...the Commission meeting will be at 6 PM on Monday night, so that the Field Scheduling Summit can be held at 7 PM. In order to have a larger space, the meeting and field scheduling summit will be held at the lower level meeting room at the Charles River Center (a.k.a. Charles River ARC).

FEBRUARY MEETINGS

The Commission meetings will be moved to other locations in February, as Town Hall prepares for its move. The Commission's final meeting at Town Hall will be on Monday, January 25th. The Commission's first meeting at the Public Services Administration Building (PSAB) will be on Monday, March 8 in the Charles River Room on the first floor.

FIELD SCHEDULING SUMMIT

The summit is scheduled to begin at 7 PM following the 6 PM Commission meeting. As noted before, several groups have expanded their programs, and there are also some new groups requesting space, so I anticipate it will take some time working out all the conflicts.

PUBLIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (PSAB)

Town Hall will close on Thursday, February 11 at 5:00 PM. The movers will begin their work that Friday and over the weekend. PSAB will re-open on Wednesday, February 17 as the temporary Town Hall. I will be at PSAB on that Saturday giving guidance to the movers, which will help us get everything starting in the right place! It will be a challenge over the next few weeks, staying fully operational while we pack. As an example, the cabinets that hold up our front counter might need to move out before we do, to go into storage at Ridge Hill. We might need to have a make-shift counter for a week or so! But – the inconveniences are worth it as we'll have a wonderful new office in just over a month!!

OUTDOOR SKATING

The Boston Globe did a story on outdoor skating that featured information provided by Parks and Forestry Superintendent Lance Remsen. The Needham Channel subsequently filmed a story with me this week at the Reservoir about safe skating. The snow has slowed the freezing process, so there hasn't been much good ice, yet. Only a few areas have 6 or more inches of black ice. The electrical connection to the lights at the

Reservoir was removed during construction and hasn't been restored, but it is hoped that it will be done this winter. The lights are used on weekends and school vacations when there is a reading of 6 or more inches of black ice and a good skating surface. The Horsford Ponds at the Town Forest had electricity, but the connection was damaged last February and hasn't been restored, yet.

NEWMAN RENOVATION

The work at Newman is expected to begin in late June 2011. At that time, we'll lose use of the tennis courts. The Superintendent of Schools has been asked to include me in some Newman planning meetings, so I can make sure that we'll still have access to the athletic fields, and also be kept up to date on the final status of the tennis courts. I have received a request from the Transportation Coordinator asking if the DeFazio parking lot can be used for the buses during the renovation, but am working with other department managers to find a solution that is better suited than DeFazio which is heavily used for 9 months of the year, and is already handling surplus parking from DPW and PSAB.
