

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 11, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Brian S. Nadler, Chairman  
Philip V. Robey, Vice-Chairman  
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member  
Thomas M. Jacob, Member  
Patricia M. Carey, Director  
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

**ABSENT:** Christopher R. Dollase, Member

**GUESTS:** Bob Cohen, Resident  
Mike Retsky, Needham Sports Council

The meeting convened at 6:00 PM at the Charles River ARC.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of December 14, 2009:** Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2009 meeting. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved
- 2. Correspondence:**
  - A. Cultural Council Initial Grant Approval:** Ms. Carey shared a letter from the Needham Cultural Council recommending a grant of \$800 for the Summer Arts in the Parks Programs. The letter indicated the funding is contingent on the status of the Massachusetts Cultural Council FY2010 budget. Final notification will be sent in February.
- 3. Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported that she and Ms. Carey have started interviewing for summer staff positions. The Aardvarks and Other Mammals program in partnership with Parent Talk began last week in Dover without the minimum number of registrations in the 9:30 class but as of today the minimum number has been met. The 10:30 class is full. Senior Billiards registered 13 players for this season. The Nashoba Valley Ski/Snowboard program began on January 9<sup>th</sup> and the program is full. Ms. Peirce will be meeting with Needham High School student Ben Kerrigan and his father on January 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss skate boarding. Ms. Peirce is working on moving the ballet program from the Hillside School cafeteria to North Hill. She will attend the Needham in Motion Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> and the Substance Abuse Forum on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

**4. Discussion Items:**

**A. Director's Report:** Written report submitted prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chaston asked if the Horsford Pond and Reservoir lights will be restored this season for evening ice skating. Ms. Carey was uncertain about the timing for the Horsford location but indicated the Reservoir lights should be restored this season. Mr. Jacob asked if the Newman Fields will remain open during the Newman School renovation. Ms. Carey indicated the plan is to have the fields remain open during construction. Mr. Robey asked where the February Commission meetings will take place. Ms. Carey is working on getting a permit to use the Newman School conference room.

**B. Operating and Capital Budgets:** Ms. Carey shared the Operating Budget request. Mr. Nadler indicated that he and Ms. Carey attended the Finance Committee meeting last week to present the budget request. Ms. Carey shared a revenue update as requested at last year's budget hearing. Mr. Nadler suggested the Park and Recreation Commission be more proactive and vocal highlighting facility improvements needed and the amount of annual revenue generated by the department.

**C. Field Construction Update:** Mr. Retsky indicated once the sidewalk is repaired at Memorial Park and the swale is repaired at DeFazio Park the project will be completed. He expects those repairs to be done in the early spring. MUSCO will adjust the DeFazio Field lights in late January. Mr. Nadler asked for 2 weeks notice to get the information out to the DeFazio abutters of the exact date MUSCO will be doing the light adjustment. Mr. Retsky noted the Sport Council is expecting to turn over the Field of Dreams project to the Town of Needham in the next few weeks. The Founders Field scoreboard will be delivered in approximately 6 weeks. It will be 4.5 ft x16 ft. The top 1.5 ft will have the Middlesex Bank name on it and the bottom 1.5 ft will name Founders Field. The building permits will be in place prior to the installation. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Retsky for all of his hard work on the field projects.

**D. Athletic Field Lights Advisory Committee:** Mr. Jacob noted the Athletic Field Lights Advisory Committee has not met since November. The two priorities for the committee will be the light adjustment at DeFazio and monitoring noise at DeFazio and Memorial Parks. Mr. Nadler indicated that committee member Paul Kelly was to submit a list of neighbors who indicated the light spillage is affecting their homes. Mr. Jacob will contact the Chairman of the Field Lights Advisory Committee Scott Brightman to get the list prior to the date of light adjustment.

**E. Preparation for Field Scheduling Summit:** Ms. Carey anticipates additional requests from Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, and Little League through changes they are making to their programs, as well as new requests from Fast Pitch Softball and an adult Ultimate Frisbee group. After some discussion it was

decided that Mr. Jacob should not be present during the Field Scheduling Summit due to his current position as president of Little League.

**F. Commission Important Issues:** None Presented.

**G. Other Issues:** Mr. Jacob was contacted by Selectman Denise Garlick to talk about the Senior Center Study. Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Robey will be meeting with Colleen Schaller, member of the Senior Center Advisory Committee to talk about the Senior Center Study. The consensus from the Commissioners is that Greene's Field should remain green space and not be considered as a viable site for the new Senior Center.

**5. Action Items:**

**A. Request: Filming at Horsford Pond, Sarah Colt Productions/WGBH:** Ms. Carey shared a request from Sarah Colt Productions to film at Horsford Pond during the week of February 15-19, 2010. Ms. Carey has discussed the possibility of there not being ice on the pond during that week. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request to film at Horsford Pond the week of February 15-19, 2010. Mr. Robey seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**6. Adjournment:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:03PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robey and the meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.

The Spring/Summer Field Scheduling Summit was held after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS  
Assistant Director