

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
July 8th, 2024 @ 7:00pm

Present: Christopher Gerstel (Chair), Cynthia Chaston (Member), Dina Hannigan (Member), James Rosenbaum (Member), Stacey Mulroy (Director), Hannah Corrigan (Assistant Director), Dominic Stanganelli (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Michelle Geddes (Vice-Chair)

Call to Order

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:03pm, July 8th, 2024.

1. **Open Forum Public Comment**

None.

2. **Meeting Guests**

None.

3. **Chair's Update**

None.

4. **Director's Report**

The pools are up and running. We had to pick up a few parts after this previous weekend, but operations are running smoothly.

The first public meeting for the Active Recreation Feasibility Study has been tentatively planned for September 9th, 2024, at 6:00pm. Cataldo will be starting construction at Clacton in the upcoming weeks and the field will be closed starting this week. We have received a draft approval for the Needham High School tennis courts from the Planning Board and are now waiting for final documentation.

Our next Arts in the Park, featuring Southern Rail, will take place on July 18th, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Memorial Park Gazebo.

5. **Discussion Items**

Chris reiterated previous decision to have Legion baseball be submitted as special event requests for the Memorial Trustees to vote on. Park and Recreation's joint policy with the Trustees will still be evaluated at a later date.

Chris directed the conversation to concern over the inconsistent messaging on dog policy signs at parks. Stacey would like to keep dogs completely off of playgrounds as poured-in-place surfacing is liable to be damaged by dogs on top of other concerns, such dogs getting off leash. She will work on dog policy for next meeting.

Stacey re-explained, at Chris' request, why we decided to move to allow personal flotation devices. We have a limited stock for the sake of economic equity, but strongly encourage folks to bring their own. Staff will be re-trained appropriately. Once approved, the policy will take effect immediately. Dina asked what the protocol will be when supervisor finds an inappropriate device. Stacey replied that we can offer one of ours (of

which we have approximately 40) and offer advice on where to buy approved flotation devices.

Stacey went to the Broadmeadow and Mitchell schools as that is where camps are taking place in order to inspect playgrounds. All swings in town have been updated or replaced by park ranger, Wu. Stacey will be working to replace sandbox sand, though in the future, will be looking to remove and replace sandboxes with other, more hygienic playground elements.

Chris brought up user group concern over Carleton Pavilion updates. Chris' contention is that the structure has outlived its useful life and a complete teardown and replacement may be the best path forward. Stacey brought up that since it is a permanent structure, the Building Department would have to be consulted first.

Chris went to the Traffic Safety Committee regarding parking concerns on George Aggott Road and Sutton Road on behalf of the Park and Recreation. Permit parking is not an option in the area. The Commission concluded that communication with user groups is the most we can do with this issue. The Public Safety Department will put up signs on both roads, but the exact verbiage is as of yet unknown.

6. Action Items & Approvals

6A. Special Event Approvals

Norfolk Lodge

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Dina

Vote: 4-0

Field Hockey Coach's Meeting

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Chris

Vote: 3-0, Dina abstained

6B. Policy Approvals

Personal Flotation Devices, checking with town management about insurance

Motion: Chris

Second: Dina

Vote: 4-0

6C. Fee Approvals

None.

6D. Previous Meetings' Minutes

Minutes of 5/29/2024

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Chris

Vote: 3-0, Dina abstained due to previous absence

Minutes of 6/26/2024

Motion: Chris

Second: James

Vote: 3-0, Cynthia abstained due to previous absence

7. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours

Exchange Club did a great job on 7/3 with fireworks.

8. Topics for Future Meetings

None.

9. Next Meetings

- Monday, July 22nd, 2024
- Monday, August 12th, 2024
- Monday, August 26th, 2024
- Monday, September 9th, 2024

10. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Chris

Vote: 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm, July 8th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dominic Stanganelli
Administrative Assistant*