

**Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
August 26th, 2024 @ 7:00pm**

Present: Christopher Gerstel (Chair), Michelle Geddes (Vice-Chair), Cynthia Chaston (Member), James Rosenbaum (Member), Stacey Mulroy (Director), Hannah Corrigan (Assistant Director), Dominic Stanganelli (Administrative Assistant)

Absent: Dina Hannigan (Member)

Guests: Bob Baker, Kevin Sheehan

Call to Order

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, August 26th, 2024.

1. Open Forum Public Comment

Bob Baker began by thanking the Commission for allowing the disc golf feasibility study to go forward and explaining that he and a number of disc golf professionals toured the Town Forest. Bob received pricing quotes of approximately \$7,000 for design and \$29,000 for construction, excluding labor. He estimates a 48-hour construction time for baskets. The disc golf course would have no scheduling and be a play-as-you-go fixture in the Town Forest.

2. Meeting Guests

See above.

3. Chair's Update

None.

4. Director's Report

Summer Camp programs saw 691 unique campers, with 1,131 total registrations. Of the 691 unique registrations, 642 were Needham residents, while 46 were non-residents.

The Rosemary Pools closed to the public on September 25th. The splash pad will remain open through September, weather permitting. The Needham High School Girls Swim Team will utilize the lap pool for practice in the upcoming week. Field permitting requests for Fall have been sent out.

The first Public Meeting regarding the Active Recreation Feasibility Study is scheduled for September 9th, 2024 at 6:00pm. We have requested a list of abutters for all relevant properties in order to inform them of the upcoming meeting. Claxton Field has officially been closed and renovation by Cataldo has begun. We are currently working with Fuss & O'Neil on the DeFazio Playground design and Stacey plans to bring together all working groups to discuss options. An application for the Needham High School tennis courts has been submitted to the Community Preservation Committee.

5. Discussion Items

Chris asked about the rollout of our flotation device policy. Stacey replied that folks are generally thankful for and receptive to the new rules. A few folks had unapproved

flotation devices and staff provided appropriate ones and handed them flyers with guidelines for approved devices.

Stacey stated that her and Ed Olson of the Parks and Forestry Department have met to discuss Broadmeadow and Eliot School field renovations. The Broadmeadow School lower diamond is frequently flooded. For the Eliot School, we are looking at a new turf field, a playground with poured-in-place surfacing, and new basketball courts. Michelle asked about the various non-operational bubblers around town. Stacey replied that we are working on a temporary fix to get them running, with a permanent fix coming down the pike in the form of water bottle fillers. Some pipes have broken due to the length of time they have been offline.

Chris inquired about costs relating to the earlier emergency closing of the Rosemary lap pool. Stacey replied we are getting close but waiting on final numbers. Total costs will likely be less than \$12,000, not factoring in cost of water.

6. Action Items & Approvals

6A. *Special Event Approvals*

Denial of Reiss Birthday Party w/ Knucklebones

Motion: Chris

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

Denial of First Circle of Learning Center Fall Festival

Motion: Chris

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

6B. *Policy Approvals*

None.

6C. *Fee Approvals*

None.

6D. *Previous Meetings' Minutes*

Minutes of 7/8/2024

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Chris

Vote: 3-0, Michelle abstained due to absence

Minutes of 7/22/2024

Motion: Chris

Second: James

Vote: 4-0

7. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours

None.

8. Topics for Future Meetings

Dog and Court Policies.

9. Next Meetings

- Monday, September 9th, 2024
- Monday, September 23rd, 2024

10. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Motion: Chris

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm, August 26th, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dominic Stanganelli
Administrative Assistant*