

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
February 8, 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, Sports Council

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Newman School Conference Room.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of January 25, 2010:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2010. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
2. **Correspondence:**
 - A. **Town Manager's Overview of Operating Budget:** Ms. Carey shared the Town Manager's Balanced Budget Proposal presented to the Board of Selectmen on January 26, 2010.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce noted at this time 179 out of 185 February Vacation week program slots are filled. Most likely by next week all 185 slots will be filled. She also announced that the Ballet Programs will be moved to the North Hill Fitness Center starting February 11, 2010.
4. **Action Items:**
 - A. **Special Event Requests:** Discussed later in the meeting.
5. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Director's Report:** Discussed later in the meeting.
 - B. **Field Construction Update:** Mr. Retsky announced the field light testing at Memorial and DeFazio Parks was successful. By scheduling a house to house viewing in the DeFazio neighborhood MUSCO was able to adjust the fixtures to provide a noticeable improvement. Twenty six shields were replaced at Memorial Park to improve the lighting. A short punch list of tasks at Memorial Park will be

completed after the frost. The DeFazio scoreboard permit is almost complete. The scoreboard will be placed near the 3rd pole on Founders Field and will be protected by a net. Installation is scheduled for sometime in March. The Commissioners were pleased with the response from MUSCO to adjust the lighting. Mr. Robey suggested sending a letter of thanks and appreciation to Mike Barry from MUSCO once the Field of Dreams project is completed.

A. Director's Report: Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey announced the Newman tennis courts will not be available for use this summer due to the preconstruction work that will take place for the Newman School renovation project.

4. Action Items:

A. Special Event Requests: Ms. Carey presented the special event requests from the following schools: Eliot, Hillside, Mitchell and the Monsignor Haddad Middle School. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the special events requests as presented by the Director. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved. If a special event request is submitted from the Broadmeadow School, the Commissioners have authorized the Director to respond to the request.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the request to use the Newman Fields for the Relay for Life on May 15 at 8:00AM to May 16, 2010 at 12PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and the motion was approved.

Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Little League for Opening Day to be held on April 25, 2010 (May 2, 2010 rain date). Mr. Robey seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mr. Jacob recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the MLB Smile Boston Pitch Hit and Run event at Claxton Field on May 16, 2010 from 12:00PM – 3:00PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the Charles River Healthy Kids Day on April 17, 2010 at Greene's Field from 9:00AM-2:00PM. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the request from Cub Scout Troop 23 for a Model Rocket Launch on Claxton Field, March 20, 2010 (March 27 rain date) from 12:00PM -5:00PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Ms. Carey will notify the pack that they must secure a permit from the Fire Department and she will request an insurance certificate from the group prior to March 20th.

The decision on the request from the Needham Boys Lacrosse team for tryouts on March 10th and 11th is deferred until the February 22, 2010 Commission meeting.

The decision on the request from Needham Boy's Lacrosse for Friday night games under the lights is deferred until the February 22, 2010 Commission meeting.

The request from Needham Girl's Lacrosse to host a preseason clinic at DeFazio Field # 1, March 22-26, 2010 was denied due to the joint light policy constraints.

The decision on the request from Rocket Lacrosse for a series of lacrosse clinics was deferred until the February 22, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Track Club for a special event Youth Classic on July 16 at 2:00PM – 8:30PM and July 17, 2010 from 7:00AM to 6:00PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Along with the permit they will be given a reminder to keep any amplification under control.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Track Club for the Great Bear Run at Pollard Field on May 16, 2010 from 12:00PM -1:45PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Track Club for Team meets on June 30 (rain date July 1), July 28 (rain date July 29) from 3:00-PM -8:00PM at the DeFazio track. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Ms. Carey will request a parking plan be submitted prior to the events.

Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request from the Walker Home Charity Walk at DeFazio Park on September 12, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston. Mr. Jacob amended the motion to not include exclusive use of the parking lot. A vote was taken and the motion was approved 3-1, as amended.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Soccer Club for the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament excluding the use of Healy, Warner and McLeod Fields. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved at DeFazio Park

Mr. Nadler suggested bringing in different groups to discuss clinics, fees, and tournaments and how they affect the Park and Recreation Commission policies.

C. Athletic Field Lights Adjustments: Mr. Nadler stated the Athletic Field Lights Committee will review when lights are on in the spring at their next meeting. Neighbors of DeFazio and Memorial Parks will be invited to the meeting.

D. DeFazio Storage Building Update: Ms. Carey described the storage building as 20 feet by 40 feet to be located near electricity and to provide access to the track. The Commissioners questioned the size and location of the storage building and requested moving the building away from the Carleton Pavilion area for aesthetic reasons. Ms. Carey will contact Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick to set up a meeting to discuss the Commissioners concerns regarding the size and location of the building.

E. Field Scheduling Update: Mr. Nadler, Ms. Carey and Mrs. Chaston reviewed the Spring Field Requests. Many groups had conflicts so Ms. Carey will speak to the groups to try and alleviate the conflicts. She will also schedule another meeting with the High School Athletic Director to confirm the High School sports spring field use.

F. Senior Center Feasibility Study: Mr. Nadler spoke to Senior Center Exploratory Committee Co-Chairperson Jim Healy to discuss the Park and Recreation Commission members thoughts on the Senior Center location. Mr. Healy indicated it would be helpful to know what locations the Commission would support. Ms. Carey met with Co-Chairperson Denise Garlick and member Colleen Schaller to review the Rosemary Complex Facilities Plan. Mr. Nadler suggested the Commissioners think about this topic and discuss writing a letter to the Senior Center Exploratory Committee at the next meeting.

G. Private Open Space Parcels of Value: Mrs. Chaston volunteered to represent the Commission at a meeting on March 4, 2010 to discuss open space, and will let the Town Manager know that she's willing to serve on a study committee for the land recently purchased from the Volante family.

H. Commission Important Issues: None Presented.

I. Other Business: Mr. Robey and Ms. Carey met with members of the Conservation Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection on February 3, 2010 at Rosemary Lake to discuss the proposed drainage improvements.

6. **Adjournment:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:24PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 10:24PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director