

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

January 27th, 2025 @ 7:00pm

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

Absent: Dina Hannigan (Member)

Guests: Kate Fitzpatrick (Town Manager), Katie King (Deputy Town Manager), Dave Davison (Deputy Town Manager/Director of Finance), Maeve Newman (Park and Recreation Intern)

Call to Order

Mr. Gerstel called the meeting to order at 7:08pm, January 27th, 2025.

1. Open Forum Public Comment

None.

2. Meeting Guests

Katie discussed off-leash dog areas – areas of interest have been narrowed down to Mills Field, Hillside School Trail, and Rosemary Trail. Cynthia raised concerns over what past feedback from the Mills-adjacent community about the noise level. Chris piggybacked with concerns about overcrowding on residential streets in the area. Chris likes the idea of Rosemary since it is currently underutilized but is concerned about parking due to the high influx of activity in the Summer. Management will be discussing primarily Rosemary with the community.

Dave addressed the Commission regarding the athletic facility stabilization fund – created in 2012 in order to maintain at-the-time new facilities. He recommended rolling pool maintenance funds into this fund and would like to know how folks would like to direct pool revenue towards this fund. Cynthia voiced her favor of dedicating a percentage. The Commission unanimously agreed and will work on drafting a letter of support.

3. Chair's Update

Chris had no additional updates.

4. Director's Report

Since January 1st, the Department has had 286 registrations for a combined revenue of over \$26,000. Our Spring Program Update will be posted on Friday, January 31st and it will include USTA Tennis Lessons, Bollywood Dance, the Champions Golf League, and more.

The Action Sports Park and Eliot School Renovations were presented to the CPC on January 22nd, and the Department is awaiting next steps. The Financial Committee presentation of our operating budget will take place on Wednesday, February 5th. Stacey presented 2025 Summer Camp price increase recommendations. The proposed fee increase is 2% across the board, with 3% for the KidzArt Half-Day program. See vote below.

5. Discussion Items

Stacey met with the Public Health Department, who recommended against running any programs at the Newman School due to hazards associated with asbestos removal. Stacey further recommended not running an abridged version of Tennis Academy in Summer 2025 and resuming in Summer 2026. The Commission unanimously agreed.

6. Action Items & Approvals

a. Special Event Approvals

Needham Youth Field Hockey Coaches' Meeting

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

Needham Youth Lacrosse Clinic, Contingent on Insurance Clarification

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

NSC Memorial Day Tournament

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

NSC Youth Play

Motion: Michelle

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

NSC Youth Camp

Motion: Chris

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

NSC MAP Youth Camp

Motion: Michelle

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

NSC MAP Pre-Season Conditioning

Motion: Chris

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

NSC High School Girls Clinic

Motion: Chris

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

NSC High School Boys Clinic

Motion: Chris

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

NSC High School Girls League

Motion: Michelle

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

S. Williams vs. Eliot PTC Kickball

Motion: Chris

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

Exchange Club 4th of July Celebration

Motion: Chris Second:

Michelle Vote: 3-0, Cynthia abstained

b. Policy Approvals

None.

c. Fee Approvals

2% Camp Fee Increase (3% for Half-Day)

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Chris

Vote: 4-0

d. Meeting Minutes of January 13th, 2025.

Motion: Cynthia

Second: Michelle

Vote: 4-0

7. Issues Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair within 48 Hours

None.

8. Topics for Future Meetings

Trails Update from Hannah and off-leash dog park

9. Next Meetings

- Monday, February 10th, 2025
- Monday, February 24th, 2025
- Monday, March 10th, 2025
- Monday, March 24th, 2025

10. Adjournment of Business Meeting

Motion: Michelle

Second: Cynthia

Vote: 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm, January 27th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dominic Stanganelli

Administrative Assistant