

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

**Minutes of Meeting
Monday, June 28, 2010**

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

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor
Scott Stevens, DeFazio Neighbor
Mark Francesconi, DeFazio Neighbor

Mr. Nadler called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Charles River Room located at the Public Services Administration Building.

1. Director's Report:

A. Report: Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.

2. Assistant Director's Report: Ms. Peirce indicated the summer programs are going very well and the staff members are working hard. One lifeguard resigned today due to other commitments. The Tennis Academy is going very well at the High School Courts. The new courts at Pollard started to be used for the Quick Start Tennis lessons and registration numbers are very good.

3. Action Items:

A. None Presented.

4. Discussion Items:

A. Field Scheduling: Discussion Points for Updated Regulations: Ms. Carey indicated the Park and Recreation Commission and the Memorial Park Trustees will need to review the field scheduling process together. Mr. Nadler suggested inviting all the spring users to the next meeting to get some feedback. Ms. Carey stated that spring field sports are most difficult to schedule but the fall is becoming increasingly difficult with more groups requesting field space. She also noted that more groups want to use Memorial Park for special events which then will displace the teams who are scheduled on the fields.

B. Senior Center Feasibility Study: The Senior Center Feasibility Study Committee has added 3 new options for consideration.

- MBTA parking lot in the Heights
- A partnership with Wingate at Needham
- The Emery Grover Building where the School Department Administration is currently located.

There has also been some discussion to build a smaller building on Greene's Field to leave space for athletic fields. Mr. Jacob noted that the baseball diamond at Greene's Field is used daily and the loss of another 60 foot diamond in addition to the one lost at DeFazio would be difficult for baseball. Although not much information is available on the 3 new sites Mr. Nadler noted at some point the Park and Recreation Commissioners will have to prioritize the sites. He would like to invite members of the Senior Center Committee to attend a Park and Recreation Commission meeting to share the plans so the Commissioners can better understand the process. Mrs. Chaston stated that if Greene's Field is the chosen location it must be renovated with recommendations from the Commission. She suggested keeping the topic on the agenda for future meetings and that a liaison from the Commission attends the Senior Center Feasibility Committee meetings. Mr. Robey and Mr. Retzky will try to attend some of the meetings.

C. Rosemary Pool Pre-Season: Ms. Carey reported Lisa Standley from the Conservation Commission has drafted a response to DEP's questions and hopefully the situation will be rectified before next spring. There is still some funding available in the budget for feasibility study if needed.

D. DeFazio Parking: Ms. Carey reported complaints from DeFazio neighbors regarding ball game parking on George Aggott Road and children being dropped off on Dedham Ave. Mark Francesconi, a neighbor indicated Dedham Ave. is a dangerous street to cross and he is concerned someone will get hurt. Scott Stevens, neighbor, noted people parking and leaving trash on the lawns. Bob Cohen, neighbor, gave a brief history regarding the no parking barrel he has had in his yard for many years. Two years ago the barrel was hit by a car. So he stopped putting the barrel in the street. One of the Lieutenants from the Police Department gave the neighbors resident parking signs but Mr. Cohen does not have any left. Mr. Cohen suggested putting a permanent metal sign up indicating parking for residents only. He also suggested putting a 7ft high fence up along Dedham Ave. to prevent people from crossing to the field. Mr. Robey suggested taking this issue to the Traffic Committee for review. The Commissioners are interested in hearing from other neighbors regarding fencing or other landscaping options to prevent the drop off and parking problems. Another concern raised was the grading of the DeFazio parking lot. Mr. Nadler noted in the past the parking lot was back bladed and it helped. Ms. Carey indicated the DPW did back blade the area this spring. Mr. Nadler thanked Mr. Francesconi and Mr. Stevens for attending the meeting.

E. Projects with DPW: Currently DPW is working on two field projects that include the netting project for the Memorial Field baseball diamond and replacing fencing, building dugouts and a batting cage at the Asa Small Diamond at DeFazio Park. A public hearing will be held with the Conservation Commission in July to

discuss grading for the batting cage. Last week, Greene's Field was closed to the public with snow fencing and signs were installed indicating the playground structure was closed and will be removed in the near future. It was reported that parents were putting children over the fencing and removing the fencing so their children could play on the structure. Emergency procurement permission was received and Steelco Fence Company installed a chain link fence to keep people off the structure. A definitive date for removal of the structure has not been determined.

F. Claxton Batting Cage: Ms. Carey reported that the Needham Booster Club is purchasing a batting cage to be installed at Claxton Field. Ms. Carey is scheduling a time to have the Assistant Parks and Forestry Superintendent to go and look at the proposed site.

5. **Minutes of Meeting: May 17, 2010 and June 14, 2010:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2010 meeting. Mr. Robey seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2010 meeting. Mr. Robey seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

6. **Adjournment of Regular Meeting:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49PM. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:49PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce
Assistant Director