

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
July 12, 2010**

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

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident
Ben Cole, Needham Soccer Club
Mark Miskin, Needham Soccer Club
Sabatino Sodano, Needham Soccer Club
Anne Cimini, Girl's Lacrosse
Susanne Leslie, Needham Young Girls Soccer
Al Shapiro, Girl's Softball and Adult Softball

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Charles River Room in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. Minutes of Meeting: None Presented.

2. Directors Report:

A. Report: Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chaston asked about the Nike Site visit with the School Committee. Ms. Carey indicated an RFP was being reviewed for a short term lease possibly 1 acre or less for the Community Farm. Mr. Nadler stated the Sports Council met with the School Committee architect to look at the possibility of the Community Farm and some fields at the Nike Site. There is a School Committee meeting on July 13th and Mr. Jacob will try to attend.

B. Correspondence: ZBA Hearings, Pickering Street Construction: Ms. Carey shared two notices of hearings at Charles River Landing, LLC, and from David Valdina, 262 Rosemary Street. Both notices were sent because the properties abut Riverside Park and Rosemary Lake respectively. She reviewed the communication from DPW to all abutters on Pickering Street and Garden Street of the upcoming construction project to replace the water mains. Users of Greene's Field, Little League and the YMCA will be notified.

3. Assistant Director's Report: Ms. Peirce shared the recent Eagle Scout Project final report from Alex Osborn. The project was to clean up, measure and paint eight Quick Start Tennis Courts at the Pollard Tennis Courts. She also highlighted summer registration numbers noting registrations have been healthy this summer.

4. Discussion Items:

A. Review of Spring Use of Fields: Mr. Robey welcomed the representatives from the user groups who attended to comment on the spring use of fields.

- Al Shapiro from Needham Girl's Softball and Adult Softball stated both groups worked very well with soccer this year. The High School fence was left up a little longer than in the past but it was not a problem.
- Anne Cimini from Girl's Lacrosse stated they had a great season were able to include 42 second grade girls using Cricket Field. She indicated the issue of trash at the fields. She was unsure if there needed to be more barrels placed at the fields or the pick up schedule be adjusted to accommodate the overflowing barrels. They did not have any problems with heat on the synthetic turf fields but she did mention crossing the fields at DeFazio could be dangerous. Mr. Jacob suggested a public meeting be arranged with DPW and field users to discuss the trash issues.
- Susanne Leslie from Needham Young Girls Soccer indicated they had 132 girls (30 families) on the wait list for the fall. Hillside is not large enough to accommodate the program any longer and they would like to have more field space.
- Ben Cole announced he is the outgoing field scheduler for Needham Soccer. In the spring he rescheduled 175 games due to the weather and other conflicts. There were many days when the High School teams overlapped leading to late start times for Needham Soccer. He suggested the high school schedule the fields until 7:00 or 8:00 instead of 6:00. Hillside was underwater ½ the time this spring and Newman was unplayable due to the rain. The Mitchell Field is only dirt in the spring. They used the upper field at the High School for U14. They shared well with Boy's Lacrosse having an ongoing dialogue during the season. The teams are all working to minimize the lights being on when no one is on the field.
- Sabatino Sodano the incoming Needham Soccer Club field scheduler asked about the allocation of the fields by the number of players. At Memorial Park he had 4 teams using the space every night and it was very crowded. Mr. Jacob noted the difficulty putting together all the pieces of the field scheduling puzzle as many factors need to be considered. The Commissioners will be looking at ways to prioritize field allocations.
- Mark Miskin from Needham Soccer recently talked to the High School Athletic Director already to do a better job communicating about scheduling in the fall. He noted that Healy Field will be open in the fall

and he is concerned about foul balls from Warner Field being hit on Healy Field.

Mr. Nadler asked for any suggestions regarding the Field Summit process. Mr. Sodano recommended having the Field Summit after the fields have been allocated. Mr. Jacob reiterated that the process has gotten a bit more complicated since the new fields have come on line and the request forms will need to be updated to help make the process a little more scientific. Mr. Shapiro noted that softball has worked with soccer to create a 6v6 field space at softball fields. Mr. Robey also noted that each sport is expanding and that the Commission is trying to accommodate everyone but it is becoming more and more difficult each year. The Commission is very aware of all the groups needs. He would also like to see Newman be created into usable space coinciding with the school renovation.

B. Summer Update: Ms. Carey reported on the difficulty scheduling space in schools during the summer months. Many other groups are now vying for indoor space. This is an issue that she will bring to the attention of the School Superintendent in the fall. She reviewed the closing of Rosemary Pool by the Health Department as a precautionary measure. There were some questions regarding the increase in testing the past 2 years and who sets up the guidelines. Mr. Robey stated the Commission will address this in the future and he recommended the Park and Recreation Commission meet with the Board of Health to discuss.

C. Appointment to Youth Commission: Ms. Carey announced the Youth Commission Park and Recreation representative position is vacant and needs a replacement. She mentioned that there is someone who has expressed an interest in the position. Mr. Nadler suggested having a monthly report from the representative highlighting the Youth Commission activities. Ms. Carey will invite the potential representative to come to an upcoming meeting.

D. Senior Center Feasibility Study Update: Ms. Carey noted the Senior Center Feasibility Study Committee is struggling to make final recommendations as 3 new options have recently been added for review. A final decision is uncertain at this time.

E. Open Meeting Law Guidelines and Commission Communication: Ms. Carey shared the packet of information regarding the Open Meeting Law Guidelines and all members signed and submitted the certificate of receipt form to Ms. Carey.

F. Political Signs at Parks: Ms. Carey brought this issue to the attention of the Commission due to the upcoming political elections. Mr. Robey briefly reviewed the current sign policy. Political signs cannot be left at public parks.

G. Needham 300: The Needham 300 Committee will be scheduling a variety of activities from November 2010 to November 2011. It was suggested that Park and Recreation seek photos of Rosemary Lake before the pool was built to display at the pool next summer.

5. Action Items:

A. Appointment to the Community Preservation Committee: Mr. Nadler made a motion to nominate Mr. Retzky to represent the Park and Recreation Commission on the Community Preservation Committee. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mr. Nadler offered to attend the next meeting with Mr. Retzky.

B. Special Event Request: YMCA: Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the special event request from the YMCA to host Aloha to Summer on September 10, 2010 at Greene's Field from 5:30-7:30PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

C. Update to Special Event Request: Walker School: The Walker School submitted an updated special event request for additional signage for the Walk for Walker to be held on September 12, 2010 at DeFazio Field. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the updated special event request from the Walker School. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

D. Special Event Request: Ellie Bloom Special Olympics: Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the special event request from the Charles River Center for the Ellie Bloom Special Olympics to be held at the DeFazio Track on September 25, 2010 with a rain date of September 26, 2010 with the set up time being 7:00AM instead of 6:00AM as requested. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion to approve the Ellie Bloom Special Olympics with a 7:00AM set up time and the motion was approved.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mrs. Chaston thanked the Park and Recreation summer staff for providing great face painting services on July 4th and 5th. She also thanked Ms. Carey for attending on July 4th to assist with the Health Department inspection of the kitchen and the synthetic turf field.

7. Adjournment: Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 9:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director