

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

**Minutes of Meeting
October 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

ABSENT: Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bud Sumner, Needham Little League
Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor

Mr. Robey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Park and Recreation Office at the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of September 27, 2010:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2010 meeting, and Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion. Mr. Retzky asked that a typographical error be fixed, changing the date of the Selectmen's meeting on Page 2 to September 28th. The motion, with the correction, was approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** Ms. Carey presented the report in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Nadler asked if there was information from DPW on the sink hole discovered at McLeod Diamond at DeFazio over the weekend. Ms. Carey said that several DPW staff members had inspected the sinkhole and that they were determining next steps. Mr. Jacob asked if the repairs were a Town or contractor responsibility. Mr. Retzky stated that it wasn't clear, as the original cause could have been created by either group. Ms. Carey noted that the Town Manager has made the repair a top priority.
- 3. Assistant Director's Report:** None presented.
- 4. Discussion Items:**
 - A. Senior Center Feasibility Study:** Ms. Carey noted that the Council on Aging met earlier in the evening to discuss the recommendations of the study committee, and the Selectmen were discussing the recommendations for the MTBA property, Greene's Field and Ridge Hill at their meeting this evening. It is expected that the Selectmen will vote on a single site to bring to Special Town Meeting in November.

- B. Storage for Community Groups:** Mr. Robey noted that the issue of out-of-season storage for the youth sports programs had been on-going for many years. Mr. Nadler asked if the proposed track storage container could be expanded to provide space for other groups. Mr. Robey did not feel the proposed location for the track container was appropriate for coaches driving in and out to access the equipment. Mr. Nadler expressed his concerns with temporary storage trailers. Mr. Jacob asked what other groups have asked for storage space, other than Little League looking for something temporary this winter. Ms. Carey said that Little League is the only one with an official request, but that all sports programs had expressed the need. Mr. Jacob suggested asking the Sports Council to help survey the groups on the need. Mr. Nadler asked if it was the Town's responsibility to provide storage for private groups. Mrs. Chaston felt it was the Commission's role to support the groups. Bud Sumner from Little League expressed the need for storage. Local storage areas that had been provided for their larger equipment were no longer available. They have some storage at Memorial Park and at the irrigation building at DeFazio, but not enough for their needs. The cost of renting a storage unit is about \$500/month, which is more expensive than a temporary trailer. Mr. Sumner also noted at the recent Sports Council meeting, sports groups prioritized their major issues, and the top 3 were storage, lights, and field conditions. Mr. Robey suggested that a survey from the Sports Council would be helpful. He also discussed the possibility of submitting a capital request for a permanent structure.
- C. FY'12 Operating and Capital Budgets:** Each Commission member discussed his/her priorities for capital funding. The consensus was that a request to purchase land will be an annual CPA request, though currently there was not a specific parcel in mind. Mr. Robey's priority list was # 1 Rosemary Pool; # 2 playground renovations; # 3 camp property building renovations; and # 4 Cricket building renovations. Mrs. Chaston's priority list was # 1 Cricket building renovations; # 2 Newman field renovations; # 3 DeFazio parking lot; # 4 new playground at Greene's Field; and # 5 Rosemary Pool. Mr. Retzky's priority list was # 1 Rosemary Pool; # 2 Cricket building renovations; # 3 Newman field renovations; # 4 DeFazio parking lot; and # 5 Mills parking. Mr. Nadler's priority list was # 1 Cricket building renovations; # 1A Rosemary Pool; # 1B Greene's Field playground; #1C Newman field renovations. Mr. Jacob's priority list was # 1 Cricket building; # 2 Newman field renovations; # 3 DeFazio parking lot; # 4 Greene's Field playground; and # 5 Rosemary Pool. Ms. Carey noted that she had already reviewed the projects with the Town Manager, and that there would not be much cash capital in the next fiscal year, partly due to funding being put aside for the Senior Center, but also due to the current economic situation. She noted that several of the Commission's priorities would be eligible for CPA funding if

the legislation was changed, so she encouraged the Commission to continue to seek support for that with the state legislature. She also suggested sharing funding concerns with the Selectmen and Finance Committee. Ms. Carey's two top priorities are Rosemary Pool and the Cricket building. The others are extremely worthy projects, but residents have other options for those services.

- D. Field Permits, Clinics, Special Events – Discussion Points:** Mr. Nadler has met with Mr. Jacob and consolidated issues and discussion items with Mr. Jacob. They will be meeting with Memorial Park Trustees Dave DiCicco and John Gallelo and hope to have something to report at the end of November.
- E. Needham 300:** Mr. Robey provided additional information on the opening weekend of events on November 5th and 6th.
- F. Community Center Concept:** The Commission reviewed synopsis documents from the recently formed citizen committee promoting a Lifelong Community Center concept. Mr. Robey and Ms. Carey met with representatives. Ms. Carey has provided them with information from the prior Community Center Study Committee, and a list of New England municipal community centers for a survey. The committee has also been provided information on the CPA legislation to provide support for its passage. The scope of the concept is large, raising a concern among the Commission members about having the ability, at this time, to support the concept while dealing with other priority projects. Mr. Jacob suggested letting the group know that the Commission didn't currently have the resources to assist with all the research. Mr. Robey and Ms. Carey will work on a response.

5. Action Items:

- A. Special Event Request – Soccer Club:** Ms. Carey reported that a clinic for the Soccer Club's members with the High School teams had been done in the past and it was during Soccer Club permitted time, but that she had requested that it be submitted as a special event request as it wasn't a typical practice or game. The fees collected go to the High School soccer programs. Mr. Jacob suggested that this type of request should be studied during the upcoming discussions about fees for special events and clinics. Ms. Carey noted that the clinic would not be a more extensive use of the fields than a regular game day. Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the request of the Needham Soccer Club to hold a clinic with Needham High School soccer team members on Sunday, October 24, 2010 with a raindate of Sunday, October 31, 2010 from 12:30 PM – 4:15 PM at DeFazio Park. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and was unanimously approved.

B. Special Event Request – Needham 300 Old-Fashioned Field Day

Addendum: Mr. Robey asked Mr. Jacob to oversee the discussion. Ms. Carey noted that the Needham 300 committee was requesting to add additional items to their original request that was already approved by the Commission. They were requesting 2 portable toilets, a bouncy house, and permission to hang a sign at Greene's Field for a week prior to the event. Ms. Carey said the first two requests had been approved for other groups in the past, but that the sign had not been approved, though short term signs for events at a particular park had been approved. Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the additional requests from the Needham 300 committee to place a bouncy house, a Needham 300 event sign and install 2 portable toilets, with one day prior to and one day at the conclusion of the event for set-up and removal. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion. The Commission discussed the motion, and the consensus was to try and work on the sign issue, allowing it to be put up for this special town-wide activity. Mr. Nadler withdrew his motion. Mr. Nadler made a motion to amend the original special event permit for Needham 300's Old-Fashioned Field Day to allow for installation of an inflatable bouncy house, placement of two portable toilets, and permission to hang a sign promoting the event up to one week prior to the event, and that all be removed from Greene's Field by the next business day. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion. Mr. Jacob called for the vote and there were 4 in favor and 1 abstention, and the motion passed.

C. Request: Booster Club Christmas Tree Sales at Claxton: Ms. Carey stated that this was an annual request and that most details had been worked out in prior years. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request of the Needham Booster Club to utilize Claxton Field for the sale of Christmas trees from November 12th through January 15th, within directions set by the Director of Park and Recreation. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

D. Eagle Scout Project – Town Forest: Ms. Carey noted that Assistant Director Karen Peirce had reported on this project concept at the last Commission meeting. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout project proposed by Scott Clemens to build a bog bridge in the Town Forest, under the guidance of a Conservation Commission permit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nadler and was approved unanimously.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mrs. Chaston asked that Rosemary Pool be on future agendas.

7. Adjournment: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and passed unanimously.

- 8. Executive Session:** Mr. Jacob made a motion at 8:40 PM for the Park and Recreation Commission to move into Executive Session under Exception 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation. The Commission will not return to open meeting following the Executive Session. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion. Mr. Robey asked for a roll call vote. Mrs. Chaston, Mr. Retzky, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Jacob and Mr. Robey voted in favor of moving into Executive Session and the regular meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM and Mr. Robey called the Executive Session meeting into order. *Minutes recorded separately.*

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Director