

Needham Park and Recreation Commission Field Summit Meeting ~ January 9, 2012

The Field Summit Meeting convened at 7:32PM at the Public Services Administration Building in the Charles River Room.

Chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission Tom Jacob welcomed the guests to the meeting, introduced the Commissioners and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He briefly explained the purpose of the meeting shared all of the forms and new Parks and Athletic Fields Joint Policy changes. Mr. Jacob introduced Commissioner Brian Nadler and Dave DiCicco, Memorial Park Trustee to review the new policies as approved by the Park and Recreation Commission and under review by the Memorial Park Trustees. Mr. Nadler noted the increase in the number of field users and increase in the number of field events warranted the policy review. An increase in clinic/camp fees has been approved and will continue to go towards the athletic field capital improvement account. A new appeals process has been implemented as well.

Park and Recreation Director Patty Carey reviewed how to schedule a special event request and how to file a waiver. Anything that falls outside of the scope of games and practices requires a special event permit request be submitted. If a current group is starting a new program, adding divisions or new age groups within their program a new form is required to be submitted. The High School Athletic Director will schedule games and practices after school and before the youth groups come on to the fields at 6PM and will contact the sports groups if extra time is needed on a weekend or evening for practices.

High School sports and special events are plugged into the schedule before youth sports are scheduled. The Commission tries to share the burden of displacing groups caused by special event scheduling as evenly as possible.

Mr. Jacob announced he is working on creating a committee to look at the problem of trash at parks and fields. Trash removal schedules and procedures will be reviewed with Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen to help find solutions to the trash problem. Mr. Jacob encouraged the sports groups to educate the players and coaches to clean up after themselves every time they use a field.

Another issue discussed was parking. Cusick, DeFazio, Avery and Broadmeadow fields have had parking issues that affect the neighbors and public safety. All user groups must be respectful of neighbors and access for safety vehicles. Permits may be revoked if rules are not followed.

At this time the groups divided into multipurpose field users and baseball diamond users to discuss the spring scheduling and determine the field space needed for each group. After the meeting the groups will submit their field requests in writing and Ms. Carey will schedule all the fields and notify the groups in March. The meeting ended at 9:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen A. Peirce Assistant Director, CPRP
Field Summit Meeting Attendance
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