

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 24, 2012

*Background notes for Monday, August 27th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

DIRECTOR'S SCHEDULE

I'm hopefully at the final stage of recovery from my wrist injury, as I prepare to have minor surgery to have scar tissue removed, so I'll be out of the office from Wednesday, August 29 through Monday, September 3rd. I anticipate returning on Tuesday, September 4th, continuing on a modified schedule until I complete my therapy.

The Assistant Director is on vacation, so will not be attending the Commission's meeting, so I will be taking the minutes. There will not be an official "Assistant Director's Report" at the meeting.

SUMMER

The summer programs came to a successful completion on August 17th, as the staff finalized all the cleaning and storage of materials. Just about every staff member has re-applied to return next summer, which is a tribute to the work that Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco has done with them, with Summer Recreation Supervisor Jackie Lusardi, from pre-season training, to setting the standards for work over the summer, mixed with having fun. All programs had numerous Raving Fans.

As this note is written, the Rosemary Pool staff is finishing their final day of the summer, and preparing all of the closing tasks. It takes weeks to get the pool ready but the final tasks will be done within a matter of hours on Friday night. Most are off to school or high school sports practice by Monday. Assistant Director Karen Peirce had them well-prepared for this final week, and Pool Supervisor Sam Parnell has everything set for the final tasks. The Pool has had a very successful summer thanks to the hard work that Karen and Sam put into everything. From the number of cupcakes I've seen down there, you can be sure the Pool staff has also had numerous Raving Fans.

ALY RAISMAN

Despite lots of challenges, the Town is ready to celebrate Aly Raisman and her achievements at the Olympics. A parade will leave the Town Common at 2 PM on Sunday, August 26th and conclude at Memorial Park for additional ceremonies, including performances, music, and light refreshments. Many individuals and organizations in Needham and in the region have really stepped up to make this a special day for Aly and her family. The Town's Support Services Manager Sandy Cincotta and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick have pulled together a great team of Town staff, and volunteers from the Needham Exchange Club to make this happen, without much advance notice and all the complications of working within Aly's new crazy schedule. The Park and Recreation staff has been in the middle of all the action. Cassandra, Nicole and Karen have been

answering phone calls for weeks, and Cassandra has helped with some of the publicity. Rosemary Pool staff member Bridget Chisholm painted the gift that Aly will receive from the Town. I've been working on the staff committee, and one of my favorite tasks has been reaching out to former Olympians who either grew up in Needham or live in Needham now. That's a fun task for such an Olympics fan!!

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The CPC will hold a summit with the Town Manager on Thursday, August 30th. Chairman Mike Retzky and Vice Chairman Cindy Chaston will represent Park and Recreation and will discuss potential projects for upcoming CPC applications. There are also expected to be representatives from the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Conservation Commission, Housing Authority and Historical Commission.

The Selectmen have submitted a project proposal to the Community Preservation Committee to renovate Greene's Field, including the addition of a new playground. The proposal is in the meeting packet for discussion at the meeting. I've also included the 2009 report on the Newman fields and Eastman Conservation area for your discussion.

At the Commission's first meeting in September, Friends of Woods and Water representative Sam Bass Warner has requested to meet with the Commission to discuss his vision for the trails at Rosemary Lake.

GREENDALE AVENUE

Please bring your calendars to schedule a tour of some of the Commission's properties along Greendale Avenue. If there are other properties you'd like to visit, we can schedule that, too.
