

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 8, 2012

*Background notes for Monday, June 11th
Park and Recreation Commission Agenda*

MAY 29th MINUTES

The final draft of the May 29th minutes will be on the June 25th agenda. There is so much happening in the office right now that we need a bit more time (and quiet) to finish and check for accuracy.

HILLSIDE/MITCHELL FEASIBILITY STUDY

It is expected that there will be representatives from the Cricket neighborhood at the meeting this week. Many attended this week's School Committee meeting when the consultants presented a variety of options for the futures of the Hillside School and Mitchell School. Letters sent to the Commission from Cricket neighbors are in the meeting packet, and neighbor Sue Owen has agreed to be a direct contact to the Commission for the neighborhood. I'll forward her the agenda whenever the feasibility study is listed, and have given her the link on the website to past minutes. Sue is working with the neighbors so that a few will speak on behalf of the group, to help coordinate the discussions.

SUMMER PREPARATION

This is our crazy time of year in the office. As the fiscal year comes to an end on June 30th, we are in the process of spending a good portion of our budget, and collecting a large amount of revenue. It's always a challenge to switch fiscal years in early summer, but we manage to get it done each year! The three supervisors at the pool, and the summer recreation supervisor are hard at work with our Assistant Director and Recreation Supervisor to handle all the pre-season tasks. The entire summer staff has attended an "all-staff" training, and discussed important issues, including providing safe programs and facilities (physical and emotional), personal responsibility, attitude, perception, and setting goals.

The pool pre-season work is coming to the final stages. The DPW Parks and Forestry Division handled all the cleaning and painting of the pool, and are now assisting us with some projects on the site. Public Facilities is overseeing the hot water heater replacement project. As this is written, we are still on track for opening on Monday, June 18th. The supervisors and maintenance staff have gone through training sessions, including safety training for handling chemicals and equipment. Their training is supplemented by staff from Public Facilities and DPW Parks and Forestry. Preparations are underway to train the lifeguards, swim instructors, booth staff and volunteers, and Police and Fire will perform a practice safety drill with the staff.

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The program directors have attended a regional training program offered by our state association, and Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco was one of the presenters. They are about to attend their specialized training program, and then create the training program for the counselors and volunteers. They will be ready to go with lots of fun and creative ideas that first meet the safety test, on June 25th.

All staff members will be working hard to try and find “raving fans” – the ones that are happy with the programs and the pool and take the time to share compliments. Right now, Park and Recreation staff members are Raving Fans of the pre-season work that has been done by DPW Parks and Forestry, and maintenance staff at Public Facilities-Operations. They all make our work so much easier!

The summer staff is hoping to work on an idea that will really display their creativity and fun personalities. I won't reveal the secret until it's done! ☺

FIELD SCHEDULING

The spring season is just about over. The two NHS varsity lacrosse teams and the two NHS varsity tennis teams are still in post-season play, so we wish them all the best as they try to reach the finals. The youth programs are in the final two weeks of their programs. After June 17th, the summer sports programs will be in action. Primarily the diamonds and synthetic turf fields will be in use, as the natural grass multi-purpose fields shut down for summer maintenance.
