

Needham Park and Recreation Commission Field Summit Meeting ~ January 14, 2013

The Chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission Mr. Mike Retzky welcomed everyone and introduced the Commissioners, staff and Memorial Park Trustees. Everyone in the room introduced themselves and indicated the name or their organization. (See Attendance below) Mr. Retzky asked if any of the Commissioners had any comments.

Mr. DiCicco reviewed the permit process and noted the increase in 3 season sports without an increase in available field space. He also recognized Mr. Al Shapiro for his years of service and efforts with the Needham Girls Softball Program. Mrs. Chaston mentioned the Finance Committee is recommending a fee increase in field maintenance fees to help cover a short fall in the budget. Mr. Retzky noted alternative revenue generating options should be reviewed. Mr. Jacob noted he understands that many organizations are still paying off the loan payments for the Field of Dreams project but he wanted to discuss the Finance Committees recommendation to the user groups to get their opinions of a user field maintenance fee increase. One audience member identified sponsorships at fields as a revenue generator. Another suggested phasing in the fee increases over a period of time. Another stated he would be open to a minimal increase for 2014.

Ms. Carey informed the group that the number of hours the fields are permitted has grown from 42,000 hours to 57,000 hours. She also noted that groups are working with the Parks and Forestry Department by not using fields when wet or frozen, moving goals to other areas to reduce wear on the goal areas during practices and obeying parking rules at fields. Ms. Carey asked that the sports organizers communicate with coaches to find out when fields are available for other permit holders to use, wear gentle footwear, move practice areas around the field and report all concerns to Parks and Forestry or to the Park and Recreation Department. As the Director of Park and Recreation Ms. Carey is responsible for scheduling the fields and as the Director of Parks and Forestry Ed Olsen is responsible for the maintenance of the fields. Ms. Carey reviewed a document created by Mr. Olsen to help users understand maintenance and how it contributes to safe field conditions. Ms. Carey clarified the fees charged for special events for clinics scheduled outside of the sport season.

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 9:00PM.

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ATTENDANCE

Carey Stenberg	128 Lacrosse Club/ Rocket Lacrosse
Bob Cohen	Resident
Dora Tavel –Sanchez	Resident
Eric Goldstein	Temple Beth shalom/Temple Aliyah Softball
John Hrones	Needham Track Club
Michelle Geddes	Needham Track Club
Bill Gallagher	Needham Frisbee Club
Marc Stiller	Needham Baseball and Softball
Bill Monahan	Needham Baseball and Softball
Sabatino Sodano	Needham Soccer Club
Ben Cole	Adult Soccer
John Walsh	Boys Youth Lacrosse
Al Shapiro	Coed Adult Softball
Jane Knights	Coach Pitch Baseball/Needham Summer Baseball
John Kingston	Needham Junior Football
Bob Toto	Needham Legion Baseball (Post 14)
John Gallelo	Memorial Park Trustee
Carolyn Fanning	Needham Girls Youth Lacrosse
Sarah Smith	Needham Girls Youth Lacrosse
Jen Kelly	Charles River YMCA
Micah Hauben	Needham High School Athletic director
Mike Retzky	Park and Recreation Commission Chairman
Cindy Chaston	Park and Recreation Commission Vice Chairman
Dave DiCicco	Park and Recreation Commission
Tom Jacob	Park and Recreation Commission
Andrea Shorthose	Park and Recreation Commission
Patty Carey	Park and Recreation Commission, Director
Karen Peirce	Park and Recreation Commission Assistant Director