

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

**Minutes of Meeting
February 11, 2008**

PRESENT: Christopher R. Dollase, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chair
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Philip V. Robey, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

ABSENT: William R. Dermody, Member

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident

The meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Board of Selectmen's meeting room located in the Town Hall.

1. **Minutes of Meeting January 28, 2008:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2008 meeting. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the minutes from the January 28, 2008 meeting were approved.
2. **Financial Report:** None Presented.
3. **Correspondence**
 - A. **Needham Unplugged 2008 Calendar:** Ms. Peirce shared copies of the 2008 Needham Unplugged activity calendar highlighting ways for residents to have fun without electronic entertainment.
4. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported that all of the Arts in the Parks and Children's Theatre performers have been booked. Approval has been given for the Arts in the Parks concerts to take place on the Town Common this summer. Parent Talk has offered to sponsor the Children's Theatre program by donating \$1500. Ms. Peirce and Ms. Carey are currently interviewing for summer positions and hope to have all the supervisory positions filled in the next week. With help from the summer arts and crafts staff, Ms. Peirce has redesigned the summer arts and crafts programs. KidzArt will replace Razzle Dazzle. KidzArt will engage children ages 4-7 years old for 2 hours of creativity using a variety of art mediums. Some of the themes include The Wonderful World of Paper, Puppeteer Playworld and Sculpture Art. For children ages 8-13, Art Express will replace Arts and Crafts Workshop. Art Express will be offered for 4 weeks, 3 hours a day incorporating art exploration creating scapbooks, jewelry, mosaics and sculpture. The February Vacation Programs have the following registration numbers:

ThunderCats Sports	3/days	30 children	FULL
Spinning Bees Frisbee	1/day	30 children	20
Science Wizardry	1/day	30 children	FULL
Spy Adventure	1/day	30 children	FULL
Basketball Clinic	3/days	30 children	17

5. Discussion Items:

A. Director's Report: Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey reported that she has a meeting scheduled this week with the landscape design professor from MIT to discuss the Camp Property assignment. Mrs. Chaston received a packet of information regarding this project from Mr. Sam Bass Warner. Ms. Carey reported that the Finance Committee voted 5-1 to recommend funding for the track and natural turf field at DeFazio Field. Ms. Carey will have informational literature available for the March 3rd Special Town Meeting. One handout will highlight the track and natural grass field project at DeFazio and the other handout will provide an overview of the entire field project at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park.

B. Budget Updates: Operating and Capital: Ms. Carey shared the fiscal year 2009 proposed budget document prepared by the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. The theme of the document is Sustainability through Stewardship. The Commissioners were very impressed with the new layout of the document. Ms. Carey noted there was discussion about the Cricket Field Building renovation that is listed under the capital budget. There are questions as to whether the location is the ideal location for a year round Park and Recreation building. Parking and the size of the completed facility would be potential issues.

C. Field Study Update: Ms. Carey is working on the Spring Field Schedule and will bring concerns regarding field space to the next Commission meeting. Ms. Carey met with Mark Miskin from the Needham Soccer Club this morning to discuss the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament and some concerns raised at recent meetings from people associated with the club about the project.

D. Other Business: None Presented.

6. Action Items:

A. Request: Needham Summer Swim Team Annual Request to use Rosemary Pool: Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the annual request from the Needham Swim Team to use Rosemary Pool this summer. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion. Mr. Nadler asked if the swim team pays a fee to use the pool. Ms. Carey stated the Swim Team members must each purchase a pool pass and the team pays \$5 per member to the Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was approved.

B. Request: Youth Sports Organization Special Events: Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the special event request from the Charles River YMCA to use Greene's Field for Opening Day of Soccer/Healthy Kids Day on May 12, 2008. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the special event request for Needham Girls' Softball Championship Games to be held on June 14, 2008. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the special event request from Needham Little League to hold Opening Day on April 27, 2008 at Greene's Field and DeFazio Park. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Ms. Carey received an informal request from Needham Summer Baseball for the Annual Baseball Tournament. Ms. Carey told Ms. Knights that DeFazio would not be available due to the field construction. A formal request, without DeFazio, may be submitted.

C. Request: Parent Talk Barn Babies: Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the special event request from Parent Talk to host Barn Babies on May 4, 2008 at the DeFazio Tot Lot. Mr. Robey seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

D. Request: Needham Women's Club Dog Show: Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the special event request from the Needham Women's Club to host a Dog Show at the Claxton Field Quarry area on June 18, 2008. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Robey made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:36 PM. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director