

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

**Minutes of Meeting
March 24, 2014**

PRESENT: Michael J. Retzky, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Vice Chairman
David C. DiCicco, Member
Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Matthew M. Toolan, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Mark Miskin, Needham Soccer Club
Cheri Ruane, Weston and Sampson
Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board Member
Connie Kaufman, YMCA Board Member
Katy Dirks, Needham Community Center
Jo-Anne Ochalla, Needham Community Center
Yasue Keyes, Needham Community Center
Dan Shapiro, Cricket Neighbor

Mr. Retzky called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting: March 10, 2014:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and it was passed.
- 2. Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Retzky mentioned the passing of Memorial Park Trustee Joe McSweeney.
- 3. Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the following:
 - Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco and Ms. Peirce attended the 2 day MRPA Conference last week in Sturbridge. Ms. Peirce received .7ceu credits toward CPRP certification.
 - Summer staff interviewing continues.
 - Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco attended the SPED Parents Meeting to share recreational opportunities offered for children with special needs.
 - Met with the new Senior Center Program Coordinator Joan DeFinis to work out scheduling the Monday Senior Exercise and Yoga Programs.
 - Volunteer applications and Rosemary Pool badges will be available April 1st.
 - The second Catalyst Skateboard Program for High School students has been cancelled due to low enrollment.
 - The Town Wide Clean Up event on April 12th will have 3 components: a Town Wide trash clean up, Rosemary Trail Clean Up with the High School Habitat for Humanity Club and the newly added the Bay Colony Rail Trail Clean Up.

4. Discussion Items

- a. **Rosemary Pool:** Cheri Ruane from Weston and Sampson reviewed the revised Rosemary Pool Feasibility Study information. The number of toilets and showers calculated on bather load and year round use of the building for recreational use was discussed. If the footprint is maintained there will be less permitting necessary. If the facility is moved to another location on site it require more complicated infrastructure which will require more permitting. If the pool is moved into the land a temporary coffer dam will be necessary which could cost an estimated additional \$3 million dollars. All the options will improve the water quality because of all the storm water treatment that will be included. Ms. Ruane indicated that a 13,000 square foot pool is average low in size and 21,000 square foot pool is on the average high side. Bather load numbers determine the number of toilets and showers required at each facility but are not calculated when building splash pads. The Commission would like to have a pool and a recreational facility that would accommodate a growing community. Ms. Ruane indicated Option 3B would not compromise what is great about the pool now but would improve the building to be used year round. Restoring the bank of the lake would be good for vegetation and natural habitats. Jo-Anne Ochalla from the Needham Community Center asked about the project timeline. Ms. Carey indicated the Commission is on schedule to go to November Town Meeting to ask for design funds. Depending on the options, Option 4 requires the most permitting and option 3 has minimal permitting requirements because the placement of the pool will not be changed. Janet Jankowiak, YMCA Board Member asked if moving the pool would impact the trees. Ms. Ruane indicated some trees may need to be removed but new replacement trees would be planted. In order to prepare for the second Rosemary Pool public meeting on April 7th each Commissioners reported the options they would support.

Mr. DiCicco recommends removing Options 1 & 2 from the list. He would support Option 3A with a 13,600 square foot pool, Option 3B or Option 4 or Option 3B with an Option 4 building design.

Mrs. Chaston recommends removing Options 1 & 2. She would support Option 3B and improving the building as much as possible with the funds available.

Mr. Jacob recommends removing Options 1, 2, 4B and 4C. He would support 3B with a slightly smaller zero-depth entry pool with an improved building.

Mr. Toolan recommends removing Options 1C, 2, 4B and 4C. He would like Option 1 to remain because if the site cannot be created for more year round use he would not support building the pool. He would like to have a paved parking lot that could be used for basketball or as a skating rink during the off season. He is in favor of flipping the site of the building and the pool.

Mr. Retzky recommends removing Options 1, 2, 4B and 4C. He supports Options 3A, 3B and Option 4. The Commissioners discussed the power point presentation for the Public Meeting and Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Jacob will assist the Director with planning for the presentation.

- b. School Feasibility Study:** Nothing to report at this time.
- c. Town-Wide Facilities Study:** Mrs. Chaston, Mr. Toolan, Ms. Carey and representatives from the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Conservation Commission, Public Facilities, and Planning Board were in attendance with representatives from HKT to discuss the Town-Wide Facilities Study. There was some discussion about the logistics of building a school at the DeFazio Complex. Decisions also need to be made regarding the Hillside School. HKT suggested moving DPW to Claxton Field. Other suggestions were to trade a parcel at Ridge Hill for the Nike Site which the Conservation Commission was not interested in. The DPW site will need to be 6 acres. The order of events will need to be determined as there are facility needs at the School Administration Building, Police and Fire. The Town recently purchased a few parcels next to the Police and Fire Departments to add parking in that area. The list of parcels that could be acquired will be updated by the working group.
- d. Letter from the YMCA Board:** At the request of the Charles River YMCA a meeting will be scheduled with the Park and Recreation Director, Chair and Vice-Chair of the YMCA with the Executive Director and 2 YMCA Board members to begin a conversation to discuss opportunities for future joint partnerships.
- e. Soccer Club Tournament Fees:** Mr. Mark Miskin Executive Director of the Needham Soccer Club reviewed the letter he sent to the Park and Recreation Commission. He noted over many years the Soccer Club has donated a considerable amount of money and equipment to the Schools and Town Departments for youth sports programs. He asked that the Needham Soccer Club be exempt from paying the field use fees for the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament and to continue to make a donation of money and equipment after each tournament. In order to adhere to the mission of the Soccer Club they would prefer to offer an annual donation instead of paying a fee. Mrs. Chaston suggested an annual committed donation. Mr. Miskin noted that during the Field of Dreams Project donations were not made after the Tournament because the money went to the Field of Dreams project but he donations resumed in 2012. The Commission will look at the legacy category of fees and will work on a Letter of Understanding that would determine the amount of the donation which would be reviewed every 5 years.
- f. Little Free Library Boxes:** Discussed later in the meeting.
- g. Trail Projects:** Discussed later in the meeting.
- h. Harold J.A. Street III Trust:** Discussed later in the meeting.
- i. Spring/Summer Field Scheduling:** Discussed later in the meeting.
- j. FY' 15 Operating/Capital budgets:** Discussed later in the meeting.

5. Action Items

- a. **Addendum to Soccer Club Special Event:** The Volkswagen Car Company has offered to sponsor the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament. The Needham Soccer Club is requesting permission to have 3 VW cars parked in a restricted area of the DeFazio parking lot during the event. Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve 3 VW cars parked at the DeFazio parking lot during the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discussion Items- Continued

- f. **Little Free Library Boxes:** Ms. Carey shared the information received from Jeanne Carey from the Library Foundation of Needham regarding the concept of the Little Free Library Boxes. It was suggested one be placed at Greene's Field to enhance the playground area. The Commissioners reviewed the proposal but no decision was made.
- g. **Trail Projects:** The next Trails Advisory Group meeting was held on Friday, March 21st. Ms. Peirce is planning a Trail Steward meeting sometime in the end of April or beginning of May. The next First Saturday Walk will be held at Ridge Hill on April 5th. Andrew Bejian was granted permission from the Conservation Commission to complete his Eagle Scout Project at the Rosemary Trail. He will be clearing the meadow and putting up new signs.
- h. **Harold J.A. Street, III Trust:** Ms. Carey estimated \$4,000 would be needed for trail signs and posts. Since the Public Facilities Department is without a carpenter on staff at this time Mr. DiCicco is talking to people who may be able to volunteer to build the kiosks. Ms. Carey had an informal discussion about the Big Belly trash receptacle with the RTS Director. The Commission will make a decision about spending some of the trust funds on trail improvements at a future meeting.
- i. **Spring/Summer Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey reported a date to open fields has not been determined due to the snowy wet weather.
- j. **FY'15 Operating/Capital Budgets:** Ms. Carey reported the Finance Committee is finishing up their list of recommendations for Town Meeting. The League of Women voters meeting will be held on April 28th prior to Town Meeting beginning on May 5th.

5. Action Items

- a. **Addendum to Soccer Club Special Event:** Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- b. **Set Summer Program Fees:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the Summer Program Fees as listed in Appendix A recommended by the Director, Assistant Director and Recreation Supervisor. Mr. Toolan seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 6. **Topics for Future Agendas:** Trail Signs
Programming Overlaps

- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director