

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

**Minutes of Meeting
July 13, 2015**

PRESENT: David DiCicco, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Christopher J. Gerstel, Member
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Robyn G. Fink, Assistant Director

ABSENT: Matthew M. Toolan, Vice Chairman

GUESTS: Amy Hurley, Community Center of Needham
Y. Keyes, Community Center of Needham
Ross Donald, LCRA
Christopher Coleman, Assistant Town Manager

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Needham Library.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting – June 22, 2015:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 22, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
- 2. Director's Report:** Mrs. Chaston asked if it was known who had cut the grass at Walker-Gordon. Ms. Carey said that Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen had spoken with Needham Baseball and Softball and they had not authorized the mowing, but they were looking into it.
- 3. Program Report:** Ms. Carey gave an update on the fecal accident that happened Saturday, July 11th, at Rosemary Pool. The pool was re-opened on Sunday, July 12th, at 1:30 PM after the pool's chlorine was raised to the appropriate levels to kill off any bacteria. Ms. Fink spoke about the raving fans that she has met while at the pool. Many patrons are impressed with the way the facility is run and the friendliness of the staff. Mr. Retzky wanted to thank Needham Community Center for their recent donations of pool supplies. Ms. Fink also spoke about the Friday Family Fun Night that the Needham Sharks hosted at Rosemary Pool on Friday, July 10th, that was very well run and had lots of attendance.
- 4. Discussion Items**
 - A. Rosemary Pool Design:** Mr. Retzky will be attending the PPBC meeting in the place of Mr. Toolan tonight. Mrs. Chaston made a motion that Mr. Retzky be the temporary user representative on the PPBC for the purpose of

interviewing and choosing the designer for the Rosemary Pool project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Carey presented a handout that Project Manager Hank Haff had put together with five major questions that will be asked of all of the designers along with additional clarifying questions for each group. Mr. Toolan and Ms. Carey had provided input on the major questions.

B. Rosemary Pool Design Advisory Committee: Mr. DiCicco and Mr. Toolan met to discuss the makeup of the advisory committee. Mr. DiCicco reported that they both feel it should be no more than seven people as their purpose would be to develop information for the Commission, but not be a voting committee. Mr. Retzky said that having representatives from the Town boards would be helpful as they will have input that can effect what is decided for the pool. He went onto say that the committee needs to be advertised so people will know about it. Mrs. Chaston pointed out that the meetings will be public therefore allowing anyone who is not chosen to still come to the meetings. Ms. Carey said that most of the Town boards have expressed interest in having a board member or staff person on the committee. Mrs. Chaston suggested sending a letter to the boards and groups asking for one representative for the committee. Ms. Carey suggested having a night with the Needham High swim coaches so they can express their opinion, but they wouldn't be the ones representing the School Department, as that representative should be chosen by the Superintendent or School Committee. The Commission discussed having residents on the advisory committee, and just consulting with the other Town boards and departments. At this time the advisory committee will be made up with a representative from Carter Children's Center, Community Center of Needham, and the Needham Sharks as well as a senior with a season pass, a family with a senior pass, a family who is not a member, and a family/person with physical challenges or other special needs. Assistant Town Manager Christopher Coleman suggested adding the Council on Disabilities to the Town board list. Ms. Carey said that two Commissioners should be apart of the committee, with one serving as chair. The question was raised as to what the expectations of attending meetings, time commitment, and the night of the meeting would be. Mrs. Chaston feels that the night of the meeting should rotate as different Town boards have regularly scheduled night meetings already. Mr. Retzky suggested waiting until the committee was formed before deciding those things. Ms. Carey read the proposed charge of the committee, which the Commission approved of. Ms. Carey will change the composition of the committee and then will post on the website.

C. School Feasibility Study: Mr. Gerstel provided an update on the joint PPBC/School Committee meeting on the Hillside project. He said there was the concern of traffic, flood plains, and a lack of fields in putting Hillside

School at Owen's Farm. Ms. Carey said the fields currently at Hillside would likely be kept for public use, depending on the re-use of Hillside.

- D. Newman/Eastman Projects Update:** Ms. Carey reported that the project was moving along and is set to be completed by the beginning of the school year. There is a meeting every Friday at 8am at Newman. Mr. Gerstel will attend the meeting this week. Ms. Carey pointed out that the Newman and Eastman projects are being done by the same contractor, which makes the progress on both projects much smoother.
- E. Fall Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey provided a copy of Needham High School's request for fields in the fall.
- F. Commission Regulations, Policies, Goals:** Mr. DiCicco would like all members to be present for the discussion. Mr. DiCicco asked that it be tabled to the next meeting.

5. Action Items:

- A. Special Event Request – NHS Girls Soccer:** The request is for a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The team received an award last year for their fundraiser. Ms. Carey said that Park and Recreation will move its Junior Tennis Lessons on that day to accommodate the request. Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the request of Needham High School Girls Soccer to host a tennis event on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 8 AM to 8 PM at Needham High Tennis Courts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- B. Special Event Request – CRC Ellie Bloom Olympics:** The request is for an annual event. Ms. Carey said there were no major conflicts as they were just requesting use of the track. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request of The Charles River Center to host Ellie Bloom Olympics on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 6 AM – 2 PM at the DeFazio track and Carleton Pavilion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- C. Special Event Request – Walker School 5k Run and Walk (2016):** This request has been submitted more than a year in advance. The Commission discussed the challenges of approving something so far in advance, without having more knowledge of conditions at the time. The consensus was that the request should wait for their review until the Spring/Summer requests are submitted. Mr. Retzky made a motion to table the review of the Special Event Request from the Walker School until the first meeting in January 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** Mrs. Chaston reminded the Commission about the request from the Memorial Park Trustees to meeting jointly. Mr. DiCicco will get in touch with the Trustees as they are not meeting over the summer to set up a date for the fall.
- 7. Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM. The members all attended the PPBC meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn G. Fink, CPRP
Assistant Director