

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

**Minutes of Meeting  
August 10, 2015**

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

**GUESTS:** Katy Dirks, Community Center of Needham  
Ross Donald, Town Meeting Member  
Joshua Solomon, YMCA Board

Mr. DiCicco called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – July 27, 2015:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 27, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Director’s Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Mrs. Chaston asked about the design consultants. Ms. Carey explained that the company could be used as an “on call” designer for some projects such as the boat launch design or athletic field design.
3. **Program Report:** The Commission reviewed the written report. Ms. Fink highlighted the well attended Friday Family Fun Nights at Rosemary Pool. She also encouraged the Commission to attend the last Arts in the Parks concert coming up that Thursday.
4. **Discussion Items**
  - A. **Rosemary Pool Design:** Ms. Carey said that BH+A had been issued the contract for pool design. Staff has been down to the pool to take photos and see the pool in use. At the PPBC meeting on August 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be a joint kickoff meeting with the Commission. Ms. Carey provided information about the different types of filter systems that the new pool could have, as well as disinfectants. She pointed out that whereas a DE filter is a bit harder to operate, it is very efficient and takes up the less space than a sand filter.
  - B. **Rosemary Pool Design Advisory Committee:** Several letters from interested advisory members were presented. The Commission will decide at the August 24, 2015 meeting as to who will make up the advisory committee. Ross

Donald, a Town Meeting member, was in attendance and announced that he would be willing to be on the advisory committee, however if he was not chosen, he would still attend the meetings. Ms. Carey proposed having a “Meet the Commissioner Night” at Rosemary Pool so that citizens can ask questions and share their concerns. Commissioners will let Ms. Carey know what day and time is best and she will let the public know.

- C. School Feasibility Study:** Ms. Carey stated that the PPBC is currently meeting and looking at a new schematic for the Owens property. She went on to say that the Town Manager will be having discussions with the Town of Wellesley about using some of their adjacent property for possible athletic fields and trails. The PPBC is still keeping Hillside and DeFazio as options.
- D. Newman/Eastman Projects Update:** Ms. Carey noted that the Eastman trail boardwalk is almost complete. The Newman fields are coming along well. The soil has been sifted, rough grading the soil has begun, and they are starting to begin work on the drainage and walkway. The multipurpose field should hopefully be completed around the time of school opening, with the diamonds finishing up later in September..
- E. Mills Field Project Update:** The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on August 11 to discuss the two interior parking lots. All legal abutters to the property have been notified of the hearing, and Ms. Carey notified the direct abutters with additional information. One abutter raised a concern with Ms. Carey that park space not be lost to parking.
- F. Fall Field Scheduling:** Ms. Carey is almost finished with the fall field scheduling. Ms. Carey addressed an email that she had received about spreading ashes at Walker Gordon. While there are no health concerns, the time and date that has been requested would be challenging. Ms. Carey will find out more information so the Commission can vote on it at their August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Carey will confirm with the Town Manager that there are no additional concerns, and Mr. DiCicco will discuss with a member of the Board of Selectmen.

**5. Action Items:**

- A. Special Event Request – Needham Soccer Club:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request of Needham Soccer Club to host the Needham Soccer Club 300<sup>th</sup> Jamboree on October 24, 2015 at DeFazio Field on the two synthetic turf fields from 12 PM to 9 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky and approved unanimously.
- B. Special Event Request – Charles River Center:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to approve the request of Charles River Center to host a Staff Appreciation

Day on Saturday, August 22, 2015 at Dwight Field from 11 AM to 5 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Toolan and approved unanimously.

**C. Special Event Request – Needham Booster Club:** Mr. Toolan made a motion to approve the request of the Needham High School Booster Club to host the 2015 NHS Booster Club Christmas Tree Sale on November 21<sup>st</sup> through December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Claxton Field from 5 PM – 9 PM Monday through Friday and 10 AM – 6 PM Saturday and Sunday. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and approved unanimously.

**D. Set Program Fees for Fall/Winter/Spring:** Ms. Carey outlined the recommendations, noting that all were either new programs or variations for programs that are held in the summer months. Mr. DiCicco asked Ms. Carey if she was comfortable with the recommended fees, and Ms. Carey stated that she felt they all covered the costs of the programs. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the fees for fall/winter/spring programs as recommended by the Director and Assistant Director and seen on Appendix A. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and approved unanimously.

**E. Fall Meeting Schedule:** The August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Town Hall at 6:30PM before the PPBC meeting. The meeting scheduled for Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> will be rescheduled for Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Topics for Future Agendas:** No topics to discuss.

**7. Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Retzky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerstel and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn G. Fink, CPRP  
Assistant Director